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Notes

Preparatory & Reference Documentation on the World Summit for Children: this reference book contains background & preparation material for the World Summit in Five Chapters: 1-The Planning Committee; 2-Schedule & Program of the World Summit for Children; 3-draft Declaration of the World Summit for Children and draft Plan of Action; 4-Report of Meetings; 5-UNICEF Executive Board

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Number of images without cover

JOHN MANFREDI

John Manfredi

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29-30 September 1990
United Nations • New York

World Summit for Children • Sommet Mondial pour les Enfants • Cumbre Mundial en favor de la Infancia

مؤتمر القمة العالمي من أجل الطفل • Всемирная встреча на высшем уровне в интересах детей • 世界儿童问题首脑会议

2nd Meeting of the Working Group on Format

New York - 22 May 1990

SUMMARY RECORD OF DISCUSSION AND DECISIONS

Opening Discussion

The Chairman referred the members of the Working Group to the Draft Summary Record of Discussion and Decisions of the 1st meeting of the Working Group on Format (CF/WSC/1990/WGF-006) which was distributed prior to the meeting, and to the documents distributed at the opening of this meeting: Discussion Points for the Format of the World Summit (CF/WSC/1990/WGF-007) and Possible Schedule for the World Summit (CF/WSC/1990/WGF-008).

The representatives of France, the United Kingdom, Italy and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics commented on the use of the term "Head of State or Government" in the documents distributed at this meeting and in the draft summary report of the 1st meeting of the Working Group on Format. The representatives noted that their Governments were not able to commit at this time to participate at the Head of State level. Representatives requested the term "Head of State or Government" not be used in any of the documents under consideration by the Working Group on Format.

The representative of the United Kingdom asked that paragraph 1 of the report of the 1st meeting of the Working Group on Format be amended to reflect that it was the United Kingdom which first mentioned that it cannot make a commitment on whether its Head of State or Government can attend the Summit.

The Chairman noted that while some delegations had mentioned they could not make commitments at this time on participation of their Head of State or Government, no decision was taken on use of the term during the 1st meeting of the Working Group.

World Summit for Children

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics read the strongly supportive comments of President Gorbachev in his letter to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

The representative of Mali reminded the Working Group of the origins of the Summit. The representative noted that the six Heads of State or Government that were the initiators of the Summit extended their invitation to other Heads of State or Government. The representative noted that this was made clear during the annual meeting of the UNICEF Executive Board in April 1990. The representative stated that it was not up to this Working Group to call into question the participation of the Heads of State or Government. These comments were supported by the representatives of Canada, Pakistan, Senegal, the United States of America, Netherlands, Mexico, Egypt, Ecuador and Sweden.

The representative of Senegal proposed that Heads of State or Government be requested by the Initiators to make commitments in "principal" that the Summit be attended at the Head of State or Government level. Therefore if the Head of State or Government cannot attend it will be understood that their high level designate will be treated as a Head of State. The representative proposed that the wording of the documents be put in the conditional tense "ought to".

The representative of the United States stressed the need for a format, Declaration and Plan of Action that dramatizes the tragedy of millions of children in the world and in this way leaders will want to attend the Summit. The representatives of the United Kingdom, Ecuador, France and Sweden agreed with the comments of the representative of the United States.

The representative of Egypt noted the comments of France and the United Kingdom still need to be taken into consideration before discussion of the format of the Summit.

The Chairman commented on the importance of the discussion and that the Working Group had not taken a decision on the level of participation at the Summit. The Chairman noted that the meeting will be a Summit and thus needs to be given the content and meaning of a Summit level event. The Chairman suggested that the question of what will happen if a Head of State or Government cannot attend should be discussed later and that the issue should not impede the task of the Working Group on Format. The Chairman suggested the Working Group affirm the concept of a World Summit of Heads of State or Government.

The representative of France suggested that the meeting be considered a World Summit of Heads of State or Government "in principle".

The representative of Mali endorsed the wording proposed by the Chairman, and suggested that if a particular Head of State or Government cannot attend, that issue should be dealt with later.

The Chairman proposed to the Working Group on Format that the words "Heads of State or Government" be used during its deliberations and be kept in the text of its documents.

The Working Group on Format agreed to use the words "Heads of State or Government" during its deliberations and in its documents.

Discussion of the Format

The Chairman called the attention of the Working Group to the document titled Discussion Points on the Format of the World Summit (CF/WSC/1990/WGF-007). The Chairman noted that the comments of the Working Group on the document would be taken into consideration and then the document will be submitted to the Planning Committee.

The Working Group conducted a detailed discussion on the matter of format with a total of 40 interventions by Representatives of Bangladesh, Canada, France, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Pakistan, Sweden, Senegal, Uganda, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

While the Working Group reached agreements on several items, final decision on the important issue of whether all or some Heads of State or Government will be able to speak in public session, and the notion of an open exchange among participants, were deferred pending more knowledge of the number of participants. The Working Group agreed that the sessions should be designed to attract maximum media coverage. The Working Group agreed that some sessions and/or dinner or luncheon should be closed to allow for private discussions.

The Working Group on Format agreed to the following in reference to the paper on Discussion Points on the Format:

- paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11 and 12: to be recommended to the Planning Committee;
- paragraph 6, sentence 1: to read "The impact of the Summit is achieved principally by the joint commitment and action of the great assembly of world leaders to meet the fundamental needs of the children of the world";
- paragraph 6, sentence 2: to be merged with paragraph 7 and become its first sentence;
- paragraph 7: to leave the matter of closed and open sessions for further consideration by the Planning Committee;
- paragraph 8: to replace the word "could" with the word "should" in both sentences 1 and 2;
- paragraph 8: to add that all Governments should produce a 1-2 page summary of their national policy paper for compilation and publication by the Secretariat;
- the Secretariat should distribute a revised document and make amendments prior to the next meeting.

Discussion of the Schedule

The Chairman called the attention of the Working Group to the document titled Possible Schedule for the World Summit (CF/WSC/1990/WGF-008). The Chairman noted that the comments of the Working Group on the document would be taken into consideration and then the document will be submitted to the Planning Committee.

The Working Group extensively discussed the matter of the schedule, with a total of 25 interventions by representatives of Bangladesh, Canada, Egypt, France, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mali, Netherlands, Pakistan, Sweden, Senegal, Uganda, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

The Representatives gave particular attention to several concerns including possible formula for identifying speakers, the desire for a compact and meaningful schedule, the need to communicate to the world through the media and a lively exchange on appropriate ways of associating children with the World Summit.

The Working Group on Format agreed to the following:

- a reception and dinner should be held on Saturday, 29 September (the Secretariat to recommend an appropriate time for each);
- the Summit meeting itself should be compact, held on Sunday, 29 September, beginning with an opening session at 9:30 AM;
- the Secretariat should brief the Working Group on arrangements and protocol issues;
- the Secretariat should provide more information or options on specific activities and topics during each session;
- the Secretariat should distribute a revised document as soon as possible.