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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*

**6**

COVER SHEET

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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

## Statement of Agreement on the World Summit for Children

Their Excellencies Prime Minister Mulroney of Canada, President Mubarak of Egypt, President Traore of Mali, President Salinas de Gortari of Mexico, Prime Minister Bhutto of Pakistan and Prime Minister Carlsson of Sweden have agreed to call a World Summit for Children, to be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York in late September 1990, to enhance political commitment for the benefit of children, nationally and internationally.

Personal Representatives of the six Initiating Heads of State or Government have consulted among themselves and with other Governments and with the Secretariat of the United Nations Children's Fund. They concluded their exploratory discussions with a meeting in Geneva on 12-13 November 1989, which agreed to the following elements as the basis for a World Summit of Heads of State or Government on Children.

### Purpose

The purpose of the World Summit for Children is to bring attention and promote commitment, at the highest political level, to goals and strategies for ensuring the survival, protection and development of children, as key elements in the socio-economic development of all countries and human society. The aim is to stimulate new initiatives in all countries, and among the international community, to address those issues that most critically affect children for the decades ahead. The meeting will result in a Declaration of commitment to achieving these goals in the 1990s. The Initiators believe that the Summit also can accelerate ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Experience in recent years with the approaches known generally as the "Child Survival and Development Revolution" has demonstrated that dramatic progress can be achieved in reducing child deaths and improving child health and well-being. The necessary mobilization of multiple sectors of government and society to achieve this progress invariably requires the personal and active involvement of national leaders. It has also been demonstrated that this improvement in the survival of children through the involvement of parents contributes to a subsequent greater voluntary reduction in births.

### **World Summit for Children**

The growing impact on children of several critical global problems - notably war and violence, poverty, debt, degradation of the environment, and drugs - must also be a major concern of all political leaders. These issues present a challenge which demands concerted international action.

The Initiators would view a new commitment by the world's leaders to protect the lives of children and to promote their well-being as a reaffirmation of the obligation under the Charter of the United Nations "to save succeeding generations". Making the survival, development and well-being of children a focus and a test of successful development efforts would affirm that the ultimate purpose of development is to enhance human capabilities and the human condition.

#### Date and Venue

The World Summit for Children is called for Saturday evening and Sunday, 29-30 September 1990, and, if necessary, Monday morning, 1 October, prior to the convening of that day's session of the General Assembly.

#### Invitations

The Initiating Heads of State or Government, through their Permanent Representatives to the United Nations, have requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations to extend invitations on their behalf personally to all Heads of State or Government of Member States of the United Nations (participating in the General Assembly) and its specialized agencies, with special encouragement to the Heads of State or Government of the Member States of the Executive Board of UNICEF. It is hoped that the invitations can be extended at the earliest possible date to allow all States to take full advantage of the available preparatory period.

#### Facilities and Secretariat

The Initiating Heads of State or Government welcome the agreement of the Secretary-General to make available for the Summit the facilities and services of the United Nations, and to provide a secretariat through the Secretariat of UNICEF and the United Nations Department of Conference Services, under the responsibility of the Executive Director of UNICEF. They further welcome the agreement of the Executive Board of UNICEF to this proposition, and accept the recommendations enumerated in its Resolution of 22 December 1989.

#### Planning Committee

A Planning Committee for the World Summit for Children is constituted of Personal Representatives of the Initiating Heads of State or Government, as well as of such additional States as the Planning Committee, in consultation with the Secretary-General, may determine. The Personal Representatives of the Initiators shall facilitate the work of the Planning Committee.

Review by the Executive Board of UNICEF

The principal policy recommendations regarding the agenda and proposed substantive product of the Summit will be shared with the Executive Board of UNICEF for review and comment.

Draft Agenda

The draft agenda for the Summit includes the following:

1. Opening of the Summit, election of two co-chairs, adoption of agenda.
2. Statement by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
3. Address by the Executive Director of UNICEF.
4. General discussion of Objectives for the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s.

[Several possible formats for the structure of the general discussion have been suggested, including: (a) 5-minute plenary statements by each participating Head of State or Government, or by representative Heads of State or Government; (b) a free exchange of views on key issues, in either closed or public session; or (c) some combination of the above.]

5. Adoption and signing of a World Declaration for the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s.
6. Conclusion of the Summit.

Participation of all sectors of society

In the process of preparing for the Summit, all sectors of society are encouraged to consider their possibilities for contributing to the improved survival, protection and development of children. Important work in this field can be done by international organizations and institutions, non-governmental organizations, the media and professional associations, community organizations and public leaders, as well as authorities of government at various levels. The Initiators welcome efforts by UNICEF and other institutions to encourage this participation, and in various ways to seek to derive maximum benefit for children as a result of the call for the Summit.

Financial contributions toward the costs of the Summit

All Governments and non-governmental organizations and institutions are encouraged to contribute to the financing of the Summit and related activities, according to their means. The early pledges by Canada (C\$250,000), Egypt (US\$75,000), Mali (US\$57,500), Mexico (US\$75,000), Pakistan (US\$50,000) and Sweden (US\$200,000), as well as pledges by NGOs, are noted with appreciation.

Budget and administration

The Initiators note the Estimates prepared by the Executive Director of UNICEF for a Budget and plan of administration for the preparation and organization of the Summit. They request the earliest possible review of this Budget by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and its advice to guide the Planning Committee and the UNICEF Executive Board in the establishment of the Budget. Voluntary contributions to this Budget by all Member States and non-governmental sources are encouraged.

The Initiators welcome the decision of the Executive Board of UNICEF to authorize supplemental expenditures in support of activities related to the Summit, and to appeal for voluntary contributions to finance those activities.

The Initiators further request the Executive Director of UNICEF to propose a workplan for the Planning Committee, particularly including identification of those issues which can be addressed by a working group in New York to be designated by the Planning Committee, and those issues which should be reserved for action by the formal Planning Committee.

originally agreed:

Geneva  
13 November 1989

updated:

New York  
8 February 1990

ADDENDA

1. Request to the Secretary-General

The Personal Representatives propose that the Permanent Representatives of their Governments to the United Nations meet with the Secretary-General on Monday, 20 November, to present their request. They ask Ambassador Fortier of Canada to organize this meeting.

The Permanent Representatives should consult with the Secretary-General on: (a) the draft letter of invitation which they have approved; (b) proposed composition of the Planning Committee; and (c) appropriate procedures for the suspension of the General Debate of the General Assembly during the meeting of the Summit; and (d) the provision by the United Nations of facilities and services for the Summit proceedings.

2. Letter of Invitation

The Personal Representatives agree to the appended draft letter of invitation, to be addressed by the Secretary-General to Heads of State or Government.

3. Establishment of the Planning Committee

The Personal Representatives propose, subject to agreement with the Secretary-General, that the Heads of State or Government of the following countries be invited to designate Personal Representatives to join them as members of the Planning Committee:

China, Peoples Republic  
India  
Indonesia  
Ireland\*  
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics  
United State of America  
Venezuela  
Zimbabwe

\* as President of the European Community at the time of the first scheduled meeting of the Planning Committee (January 1990)

4. Meetings of the Planning Committee

The Personal Representatives call the first formal meeting of the Planning Committee for Friday, 12 January 1990. They anticipate that the full Planning Committee should formally meet at least three times prior to the Summit. They anticipate that preparatory work for the Planning Committee shall be undertaken by representatives in New York, who may also be delegated responsibilities by the Planning Committee. They also propose that the Personal Representatives of the Initiators should meet immediately prior to each meeting of the Planning Committee, to facilitate the work of the larger group.

The Personal Representatives ask Ambassador Yves Fortier to organize preparations for the first meeting of the Planning Committee, and to chair that meeting.

5. Consultations with other Governments

The Personal Representatives and their colleagues will endeavour to assist other Governments to understand the purposes and objectives of the Summit and to join them in supporting its preparation and in encouraging the fullest participation by Heads of State or Government in the Summit, and will do such other work as may assist and facilitate preparations for the Summit.

6. Conclusion of exploratory discussions

The Personal Representatives express their sincere appreciation to all individuals who have contributed to the exploratory discussions on the proposal for a World Summit for Children, and have helped to shape the present plan of action. They particularly express their appreciation to Minister of State Javed Jabbar of Pakistan who, at the proposal of Minister of Health Abdoulaye Diallo of Mali, effectively chaired and guided their final exploratory meeting.