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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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World Summit for Children
Sommet Mondial pour les Enfants

Reference Book

ADDENDUM

The Secretariat has received several requests for copies of two 1989 documents produced by UNICEF in the early stages of the idea for a world summit for children. These documents -- "A World Summit for Children" and "Why a World Summit for Children?" -- traced the stimulus for the idea and the evolving concept, and put forth UNICEF's perspectives on the value of a world summit and the objectives which such an unprecedented meeting could help to achieve.

While these documents are now dated by the subsequent decision to call a World Summit and the preparations which have occurred during 1990, Governments may still find them useful as background information. It is suggested that they be inserted into Section 5 of the REFERENCE BOOK of Preparatory & Reference Documentation on the World Summit for Children which has previously been distributed to all participating Governments.

Please Note:

Several versions of both documents were issued over the course of 1989 and early 1990. The attached copies are the last versions.

Why a World Summit for Children?

A UNICEF Perspective

"A review of the progress and potential of immunization, oral rehydration, antibiotics, breastfeeding, birth spacing, and strategies for improving nutritional health, shows that effective solutions to the most important causes of illness, malnutrition and death among the children of the 1990s are available and affordable today.

"UNICEF believes that they add up to a case for making the 1990s into a "Decade for Doing the Obvious". And it is in search of a commitment to do the obvious on a sufficient scale that UNICEF has proposed a World Summit for Children. For it is the commitment of a nation's leaders, the awareness of a nation's people, and the mobilization of a nation's organized resources, which can put today's solutions into effect on the scale required."

THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S CHILDREN, 1990

United Nations

NEW YORK

Statement by the Secretary-General of the United Nations

"I am very pleased to announce that a World Summit for Children will be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 29 and 30 September 1990.

"Six Heads of State or Government - Prime Minister Brian Mulroney of Canada, President Mohammed Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, President Moussa Traoré of Mali, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari of Mexico, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan and Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson of Sweden - have taken the initiative of calling for this extraordinary meeting of Heads of State or Government of all countries. Their proposal was endorsed by the UNICEF Executive Board at a special session in late December. The United Nations stands ready to assist the six Initiating Governments, and UNICEF will provide secretariat support. I am issuing invitations for this historic meeting.

"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 human society. It is intended to stimulate new initiatives throughout the world."

Javier Pérez de Cuéllar

United Nations - New York
8 February 1990

UNICEF's perspective on the World Summit for Children

UNICEF welcomes the World Summit for Children as a unique means for securing for children a level of consideration and protection essential to their survival and healthy development as the next generation of nations. The overall aim is to put children and their families high and firmly onto the agenda of the 1990s.

The need for that requires little elaboration. If present child mortality levels continue in the decade about to begin, some 150 million children will die before they reach their fifth birthday. Many times that number will not develop normally in mind or body because of frequent ill-health, persistent malnutrition, absence of basic community services, lack of early stimulation, illiteracy and lack of basic learning skills inherited from parent to child, and the absence of both challenge and opportunity within their lives. This deserves to be treated as one of the most important issues of the 1990s both because of the sheer scale of the human tragedy it entails and because of the fundamental disinvestment in development which it represents.

The new factor inviting dramatic action at this time, however, as the last years of the 1980s have demonstrated, is that the great majority of those children could now be protected at an affordable cost. But moving from "could" to "will" depends on a new order of awareness of the possibilities, and a correspondingly new commitment to do what can now be done.

No one seriously debates the importance of protecting the lives and health of children. But as so often happens at all levels of human affairs, the immediate has subverted the important. The illness and malnutrition of literally hundreds of millions of children, and the resulting deaths of approximately 40,000 each day, never seems to be considered an immediate issue. That is why any one major airplane crash in the decade of the 1990s will almost surely attract more attention than the deaths of 150 million young children as a consequence of gross poverty and under-development. And that is why it is sometimes necessary to consciously and seriously create a device for reasserting the priority of the important over the immediate.

Continuation of present trends and initiatives to protect the health of children could be expected to save the lives of possibly 25 million of those 150 million. A successful Summit could so improve the health of children as to double the lives saved to more than 50 million, and to reduce population growth as well as parents become confident that their first children will survive.

Beyond basic survival, the healthy development and stability of children is endangered in virtually every society. Economic deprivation and environmental stress are devastating the fragile family and community structures which provide the framework for child-rearing. The effects can be seen in the increasing numbers of children adrift in society - children suffering from homelessness or neglect, children vulnerable to exploitation, abuse, and drug-related crime, children whose schooling, or lack of it, has failed to impart to them the basic skills and basic literacy needed for future adult life. Here too, as many national leaders recognize, only their own engagement in strategic policies designed to reverse current trends can redetermine priorities in favour of the child and the well-being of the coming generation.

It is not so much the business to be transacted by the leaders of the world sitting at one table to discuss the needs and opportunities for children that will make the difference in deaths averted and lives built, but the very fact that the leaders are doing so. Their attention to the agenda for children - to the largest generation ever to live on the earth - would give new credence and immediacy to that agenda, providing the foundation for establishing goals for public policy in all areas impinging upon child survival, child health, child learning, and contemporary threats to the erosion of childhood. By identifying with the cause of children and family life, national leaders will establish a new priority to be attached to children in national policy and launch an unprecedented mobilization globally and within each country, galvanizing the collective strength of government and public institutions, of media and business, of professional associations and voluntary movements, of religion and moral leadership.

The momentum for such a mobilization can only come by capturing the attention and the serious engagement of the world's political leaders and the political forces which surround them. This is another way of defining the World Summit for Children. Only something as dramatic and unprecedented as a summit meeting of world leaders to discuss the subject of children could significantly upgrade the priority which the world will give to children, conferring a sense of immediacy and urgency on the world's most fundamentally important issue: its future.

The objectives of the World Summit for Children

The specific objectives through which the World Summit for Children can achieve its purposes include:

1. Engaging the attention and commitment of leaders

To apprise political leaders themselves of the current dimensions of the problem and of today's potential for financially affordable and politically attractive solutions. Sharing the experiences of the successes of the second

half of the 1980s is an important part of this process. Only in the context of a summit could these issues be presented in such a way as to begin to create the consensus that achieving certain basic goals through doing the easily do-able for the health, nutrition and education of children is a matter of national pride and a priority concern of national leaderships.

2. Galvanizing public support

To draw worldwide media attention to the problems and the potential of social mobilization to contribute to solving problems. Only the unprecedented nature of the Summit for Children can create the "magnitude of consciousness" which can lend immediacy to the undeniably important, and thus raise public awareness of today's new possibilities and how they could contribute to overcoming these problems through low-cost means such as use of oral rehydration therapy against the diarrhoeal dehydration still taking the lives of 7,000 children daily and the vaccination of children against six diseases still taking the lives of another 7,000 children daily.

UNICEF and its partners will make every effort - before, during, and after the Summit - to encourage the widest possible awareness in all countries among the public at-large and especially among leadership constituencies in the media, business, medical and health communities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community institutions, etc.

3. Summits at every level

To stimulate equivalent national and regional meetings of other leaders - religious leaders, business leaders, media leaders, leaders from the fields of education and health, from non-governmental organizations, from community organizations and women's movements, etc. - to consider the issues being raised at the Summit and to help mobilize the wide range of resources necessary - far beyond those of government alone - to give reality to a new priority for children in the 1990s.

This will take considerable effort on behalf of UNICEF and its partners in all countries. But the Summit meeting of world leaders will make it possible to stimulate hundreds - perhaps thousands - of regional, national, or local meetings and actions on the issues. In this way, the attempt will be made to generate a sense of world-wide participation in the Summit, making it not an isolated, stand-alone event but the indispensable centerpiece - the "critical mass" - of a much wider new involvement in the cause of children. Indeed, the Summit can give birth to a worldwide movement for children.

4. Convention on the Rights of the Child

To boost the new Convention on the Rights of the Child and to help establish it as the accepted minimum standard for all civilized nations. The Convention as adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in the closing days of the 1980s, but it will not begin to make a significant difference to the millions of children who are abused or exploited or neglected until politicians, press, and public in all countries become concerned about whether

or not it is being observed. In the attempt to lodge the Convention in the world's conscience, the World Summit for Children could achieve at the beginning of the 1990s what might otherwise take the whole decade.

5. Readily do-able opportunities

To agree on a set of useful and do-able child-related goals to be achieved by the year 2000. If such goals were few in number, realistic, and addressed to universal concerns, then they could be extremely powerful levers for improving the lives of children over the next ten years. The evidence for this is the highly effective use which has been made of the goal of universal immunization by 1990 (helping to lift immunization coverage from approximately 10% in 1980 to almost 70% by 1989). The year 2000 is, of course, a much more powerful "date" to aim for; a limited set of basic goals, agreed to by world leaders, supported by the wider processes discussed above, and publicized to a worldwide public, will be powerful advocacy tools throughout the decade.

Various sets of goals already exist but they generally suffer from the disadvantages of being too detailed and insufficiently established to be capable of acting as strong levers for action. (Using UCI-1990 again as an example, until UNICEF put its full organizational and advocacy strength behind this goal, which was first articulated in the 1970s, little improvement in immunization levels had occurred, and few if any considered the 1990 target date as anything more than a dream.)

Basic goals such as those proposed by WHO and UNICEF in the past year [attached] in the fields of child survival, health, nutrition, and education, if agreed upon at the Summit for Children, could become widely accepted as the 1990s begin. They will then be useful tools for mobilizing support throughout the decade and, as with the immunization goal, they could be used with increasing leverage as the year 2000 approached. These goals should include the halving of 1980 child mortality rates and the eradication of polio. Achievement of the former would require that mortality reduction rates in 1990s be more than double those of the 1980s, and would result in saving more than 50 million child lives. Achievement of the latter would mean that eradication of polio would join the eradication of small pox as gifts of the 20th century to the 21st.

Within the context of these global goals, the Summit can be a stimulus for individual national goals and commitments - whether (by developing countries) plans of action to achieve the particular measurable goals, or (by industrialized countries) to undertake particular commitments to assist countries, in achieving the larger goals (e.g. a pledge of necessary research for improved mass-applicability technologies, etc.).

6. The principle of "First Call"

One of the greatest priorities for UNICEF and its partners in the 1990s, corresponding to one of the greatest needs of children, is the establishment of the principle that protecting the lives and the normal development of the very young should have "first call" on society's concerns and capacities. The

equally important extension of that principle is that children should be able to depend upon that commitment in good times and in bad. That principle, as relevant to the industrialized nations as it is to the developing world, is the subject of the opening chapter of the 1990 State of the World's Children Report. In UNICEF's view, the establishment of that principle as a tenet of our common civilization could do more than anything else to change the story of what will happen to many millions of the world's children during the new decade and the new century which will follow. Such a change in the global ethic for children will not be easy to achieve. We believe that the espousal of that principle by the first-ever World Summit could make a unique contribution to that essential task.

How the World Summit links to real improvement in the lives of children

The idea of the World Summit for Children should not be perceived as only a two-day meeting of several dozen leaders, but must be recognized as a total concept with many elements surrounding and being stimulated by the meeting itself - globally and within individual nations.

The following examples illustrate the mix of possibilities that will be developed and encouraged in relation to the Summit.

1. National Plans of Action for the 1990s

UNICEF country offices will encourage government counterparts to: (a) examine the situation of children in their country and prepare a National Plan of Action for the 1990s to close any gaps between present situation and the goals established in the Strategies for Children in the 1990s; and (b) to include in their examinations, and in the National Plans, anticipated new opportunities for cooperation and collaboration with other countries and the international system in the common effort to achieve the 1990s goals for all children.

2. Achievement of UCI-1990

Despite the progress made in raising immunization levels from some 10% in 1980 to nearly 70% in 1989, thereby saving the lives of some 6,000 children daily, approximately 7,000 children still die daily because of vaccine-preventable diseases. The Summit in late September is a compelling impetus for countries with lagging immunization programmes and weak infrastructures to strengthen and accelerate their efforts to achieve Universal Child Immunization by the end of 1990, so that the Head of State/Government will not be in the position of reporting "failure" when the Summit convenes.

3. Achieving the ORT breakthrough

Oral rehydration therapy, invented 20 years ago and available at a cost of only 10 to 20 cents per treatment against the single biggest killer of

children, is still only partly used, with some 7,000 children still dying daily from diarrhoeal dehydration. At the moment, less than 20% of doctors and 10% of health workers have been trained to use ORT despite unanimous expert acknowledgement that it is "potentially the most important medical breakthrough this century". Less than 30% of the developing world's families are attempting to put it into practice.

4. Entry-into-force of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

Beyond general encouragement for national ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the September 1990 Summit allows sufficient time to use the occasion of the Summit as a target date for ratification by the first 20 countries. The goal of certifying the Convention's entry-into-force at the time of the Summit - and the desire of countries to be among those who have made it possible - will be a powerful boost for early consideration of the Convention, propelling it to implementation long before what could be expected through normal processes.

5. Basic Education for All

In follow-up to the March 1990 World Conference on Education for All, the Summit can focus on particular action plans emanating from that Conference - such as universal primary education by the year 2000 - which require highest level support and engagement in order to ensure their implementation.

6. Stimulation of new initiatives

The high visibility nature of the Summit will prompt governments - especially among the industrialized countries - to consider new initiatives which they might propose or offer as part of their contribution to the success of the Summit. The low-cost/high-return approaches that are integral to the Child Survival and Development Revolution - for both developing and industrialized societies - offer a plethora of specific "pending needs" which could be attractive to donors and extremely important to achievement of the 1990s goals. Examples include:

- The need for a marketable self-destruct syringe/needle for vaccinations and other inoculations. A country(ies) could pledge the necessary research and development effort to produce such an instrument by 1992.
- The need for a one-dose multi-immunization oral vaccination. One or more countries could pledge the necessary research and development effort to produce such an oral vaccine during the 1990s.
- The need for a reliable, durable child weighing scale, produceable in most country contexts. A country(ies) could pledge the necessary research and development effort to produce such a scale by end-1991.
- The opportunity to pledge specific participation in the Debt Relief for Social Investment scheme established by the Inter-American Development Bank in association with UNICEF, to allow indebted countries to apply scarce resources to child survival and community development needs.

7. Enlistment of new constituencies for children

The Summit, unlike any other possible event, can be the stimulus for a vast array of consciousness-raising and commitment-motivating activities related to children, similar to the spontaneous impact of the International Year of the Child in 1979. Among possible examples:

- The World Conference on Religion and Peace has called a summit of religious and ethical leaders in July 1990 to establish an inter-religious strategy for translating the goals of the Summit into practical action within the world's religious and ethical traditions. The meeting may also call for worldwide religious observances on the eve of the World Summit.
- The United States National Commission on Infant Mortality plans a national convocation, relating to the Summit, in which it would invite Ministers of Health and other disciplines from other countries (developing and industrialized) to share their experiences and lessons with public health and political authorities in the United States as part of the Commission's efforts to provide leadership and guidance to U.S. states and communities on reducing infant mortality and morbidity.
- Heads of State/Government, governors and mayors are be encouraged to organize national, provincial and community "Summits for Children" - combining governmental authorities with leaders from the medical and health professions, business, the arts and popular culture, and political, social and religious movements, etc., in developing strategies to apply global and national goals at their respective levels. Newly inaugurated Mayor David N. Dinkins of New York City, who dedicated his administration to children, is expected to shortly call a New York City Summit for Children for early September 1990.

8. Enhancing the "broader context" of global affairs

The willingness - and political capacity - of governments to take unusual actions in behalf of children should, in relation to the Summit, be exploited to enhance the broader context of global affairs, making it easier for governments to find common ground and collaborative opportunities in other sectors and issue-areas. Examples of opportunities include:

- A Western Government and an East European Government might join together in pledging a joint research effort to produce one of the technologies suggested in point 5 above.
- The Summit could agree to a statement of principle regarding special assistance to children and families caught in conflict situations (eg, the "Days of Tranquility" in El Salvador and Lebanon and the "Corridors of Tranquility" for Operation Lifeline Sudan) which would enhance the moral force and thus facilitate the acceptance of such initiatives in future situations.

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GOALS FOR CHILDREN AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE 1990s

The following goals, formulated through extensive consultation, at country and regional levels and in various international fora including the relevant bodies of the UN (e.g., WHO, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF) and several international meetings including the World Conference on Education for All, attended by virtually all Governments and a large number of non-governmental organizations, are recommended for implementation by all countries where they are applicable, with appropriate adaptation to the specific situation of each country in terms of phasing, standards, priorities and availability of resources. Achievement of these goals is essential to full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which is the ultimate objective of programmes for children and development.

I. Major Goals for Child Survival, Development and Protection

- Between 1990 and the year 2000, reduction of infant and under-5 child mortality rate in all countries by one-third or to 50 and 70 per 1000 live births respectively, whichever is less.
- Between 1990 and the year 2000, reduction of maternal mortality rate by half.
- Between 1990 and the year 2000, reduction of severe and moderate malnutrition among under-5 children by half.
- Universal access to safe drinking water and to sanitary means of excreta disposal.
- By the year 2000, universal access to basic education and completion of primary education by at least 80% of primary school age children.
- Reduction of the adult illiteracy rate (the appropriate age group to be determined in each country) to at least half its 1990 level with emphasis on female literacy.
- Improved protection of children in especially difficult circumstances.

- Growth promotion and its regular monitoring to be institutionalised in all countries by the end of the 1990s.
- Dissemination of knowledge and supporting services to increase food production to ensure household food security.

3. Child Health

- Global eradication of poliomyelitis by the year 2000.
- Elimination of neonatal tetanus by 1995.
- Reduction by 95 per cent in measles deaths and reduction by 90 per cent of measles cases compared to pre-immunisation levels by 1995, as a major step to the global eradication of measles in the longer run.
- Maintenance of a high level of immunisation coverage (at least 90% of children under one year of age by the year 2000) against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, measles, poliomyelitis, tuberculosis and against tetanus for women of child bearing age.
- Reduction by 50 per cent in the deaths due to diarrhoea in children under the age of five years; and 25 per cent reduction in the diarrhoea incidence rate.
- Reduction by one-third in the deaths due to acute respiratory infections in children under five years.

II. Supporting/Sectoral Goals

1. Women's Health and Education

- Special attention to the health and nutrition of the female child, and pregnant and lactating women.
- Access by all couples to information and services to prevent pregnancies which are too early, too closely spaced, too late or too many.
- Access by all pregnant women to prenatal care, trained attendants during child birth and referral facilities for high risk pregnancies and obstetric emergencies.
- Universal access to primary education with special emphasis for girls, and accelerated literacy programmes for women.

2. Nutrition

- Reduction in severe as well as moderate malnutrition among under-5 children by half of 1990 levels.
- Reduction of the rate of low birth weight (2.5 kg or less) to less than 10%.
- Reduction of iron deficiency anaemia in women by one-third of 1990 levels.
- Virtual elimination of iodine deficiency disorders.
- Virtual elimination of vitamin A deficiency and its consequences, including blindness.
- Empowerment of all women to exclusively breast-feed their child for four to six months and to continue breast-feeding with complementary food well into the second year.

4. Water and Sanitation

- Universal access to safe drinking water.
- Universal access to sanitary means of excreta disposal.
- Elimination of guinea-worm disease (dracunculiasis) by the year 2000.

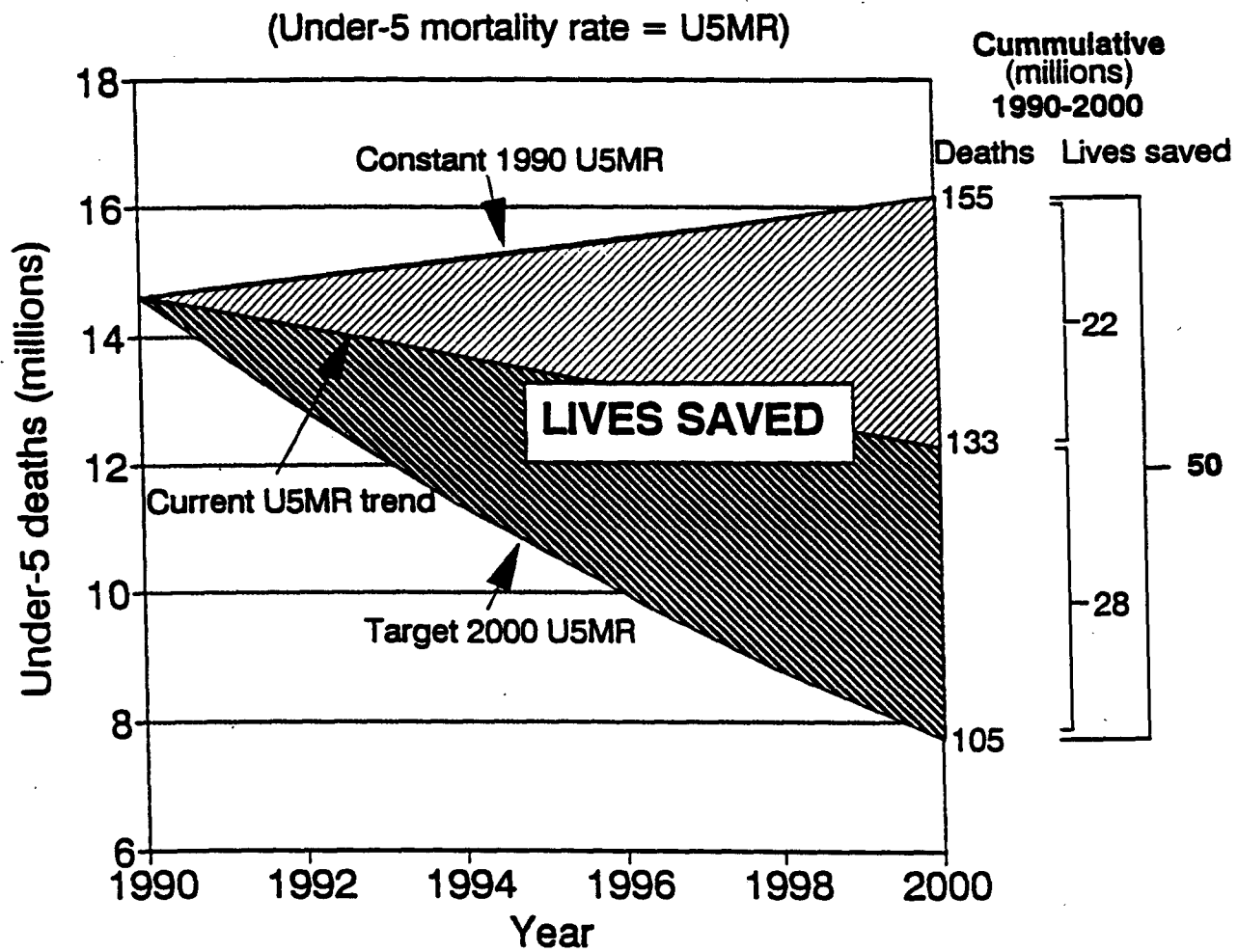
5. Basic Education

- Expansion of early childhood development activities including appropriate low-cost family and community based interventions.
- Universal access to basic education, and achievement of primary education by at least 80 per cent of primary school age children through formal schooling or non-formal education of comparable learning standard, with emphasis on reducing the current disparities between boys and girls.
- Reduction of the adult illiteracy rate (the appropriate age group to be determined in each country) to at least half its 1990 level, with emphasis on female literacy.
- Increased acquisition by individuals and families of the knowledge, skills and values required for better living, made available through all educational channels, including the mass media, other forms of modern and traditional communication and social action, with effectiveness measured in terms of behavioural change.

6. Children in Difficult Circumstances

- Provide improved protection of children in especially difficult circumstances and tackle the root causes leading to such situations.

Saving children's lives in the 1990s



Target 2000 U5MR

Between 1990 and the year 2000, reduction of under-5 mortality rate in all countries by one-third or to 70 per 1,000 live births, whichever is less

A World Summit for Children

A growing consensus exists among Governments that a representative World Summit for Children should be convened. Ninety Governments - more than half the Member States of the United Nations - have endorsed the proposal first raised in UNICEF's State of the World's Children, 1989 in December 1988.

This paper traces the stimulus for the proposal of a World Summit for Children and the current consensus of ideas and conclusions on its purpose and organization.

In summary, the following parameters are anticipated:

- That the World Summit for Children will be a representative gathering of leaders of the world's nations, employing the list of members of the UNICEF Executive Board as the basis for participation;
- That the Summit will be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York;
- That a Summit held in 1990 could have the greatest beneficial impact on such immediate goals as achievement of Universal Child Immunization by the end of 1990, early ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and substantive contribution and guidance to international and national development and socio-economic strategies for the 1990s.

Several Governments are currently in consultation on the best procedure for moving forward to convene a World Summit for Children.

I. The Case for a World Summit for Children

An evolving history of leadership for children

The idea of a Summit for Children arises from the several experiences of recent years in which serious consideration of the needs/opportunities of children at the highest levels of regional international relations have been an important part of processes of increasing and accelerating actions for children within countries. Attention to children at three successive South Asian (SAARC) summit meetings, three successive African (OAU) summits, and summit-level action in Central America and the Arab States, provided not only opportunities for great public spotlights on child survival initiatives, but they also: (1) required each government to "get its own house in order" on programmes for children, so that it would not be seen as lacking among its peers; (2) generated the momentum for further accelerated interventions for children in each participating country; and (3) provide a continuing mechanism for "monitoring" delivery on the commitment which each government has made.

The USA:USSR Summit in Moscow (May-June 1988), which promised attention to the needs of children external to the two countries involved, has provided leverage for strengthening the involvement of the two governments in supporting child survival programmes worldwide. That leverage has been successfully followed-up with the USSR's dramatically increased pledge to UNICEF's General Resources for 1989 and responsiveness to consideration of other suggestions which UNICEF has offered.

Anticipating the forthcoming Convention on the Rights of the Child, to be considered by the United Nations General Assembly this year, the Summit of Seven Major Western Industrial Nations in Paris (July 1989) stressed "the rights of the child...require special protection".

Thus, a World Summit for Children would be an opportunity to take a giant step further at the highest level of leadership commitment to and identification with the needs of children. The very fact of a "summit for children" is so out-of-the-norm and unusual that the leadership gathering alone would be of enormous consciousness-raising value. In addition to having the several impacts identified above with respect to the regional and bilateral summits, whether or not a World Summit produced a detailed plan of actions for children, it would create a far greater awareness of needs and opportunities than currently exists, and would thus, in much the same fashion as the International Year of the Child in 1979, create a positive, stimulative environment not only among governments, but also among non-governmental organizations, the business sector, media, etc., and the public at-large - an environment which could be exploited into widescale additional interventions for children.

Objectives

"Parents and families, properly supported, could save two-thirds of the 14 million children who die every year - if only they were properly informed. Immunization alone could save 3 million lives, and another 3 million deaths a year could be prevented by oral rehydration, a simple and cheap technology."

Hiroshi Nakajima, MD
Director-General
World Health Organization

The central objective of a World Summit for Children is to mobilize practical action worldwide to achieve the readily possible two-thirds reduction in child deaths and to secure for children a permanent position of priority on national and global political agendas so that progress in their survival, protection and development can be sustained. Accelerated immunization and oral rehydration therapy programmes are already saving the lives of some 7,000 children daily; with the help of strong leadership from a Summit, this could be doubled at low financial cost in 2-3 years and doubled again during the 1990s - and population growth slowed as well as parents gain increased confidence that their first children will survive.

The Summit can serve as the focal point and critical mass for the generation of a substantially increased level of political and popular will to attend to the critical needs of children and the current and evolving opportunities to address those needs, and the mobilization of national and international resources to do so. A World Summit will not only require Governments to prepare themselves with updated action plans for their children and their assistance for the children of other countries, but will also stimulate the public awareness and attention which can lead to increased non-governmental participation (by individuals, organizations, business, community groups, institutions and the media) in efforts to improve the situation of children.

Impact

As was noted at the Paris Roundtable on Today's Children = Tomorrow's World, "An issue is not seen to be important unless important people are seen to be addressing it. Children must be seen to be important."

In many countries, child survival and development programmes have achieved dramatic results, but continued impetus is needed to sustain and even further accelerate those efforts. In some countries, rhetorical commitment to child survival and development efforts has been made, but serious implementation of those efforts has not yet been mobilized. In many countries, awareness of low-cost opportunities for improving the condition of children and protecting their health and well-being - and the long-term economic and social benefits of modest investments now - has not yet been widely achieved. No single

action could more effectively communicate to national publics and to government bureaucracies the importance to each nation's future of measures to ensure the survival, protection and development of children than the extraordinary and virtually unprecedented occurrence of a gathering of the world's most powerful leaders to address children's needs.

Beyond the meeting itself, government authorities and non-governmental organizations and institutions can be encouraged to use a World Summit as the stimulus to a multitude of activities aimed at capturing attention and motivating action. In many ways, a World Summit for Children can have a multiplier effect similar to the International Year of the Child in 1979.

Children in a global context

The suggestion of a World Summit for Children has enjoyed a positive response from over a score of Heads of State/Government. First among them was Prime Minister Carlsson of Sweden, who issued a public statement declaring: "I share the opinion that the issue of the child must be given priority in the context of international cooperation. Children's issues must be dealt with in the economic, social and cultural reality in which we all live and strive. I therefore agree...that the time is ripe to consider a summit to discuss the situation of the child." Other Heads of State/Government who have endorsed the idea of a Summit for Children, and additional Governments which have also indicated support, are listed on the attached.

Inter-governmental and international gatherings which have added their voices in support are led by the 1989 Summit of Francophone Countries, in which the leaders of 41 French-speaking nations (meeting in Dakar on 26 May) called upon all states to "redouble efforts for the survival, protection and development of the child" and endorsed "the idea of a world summit for children". The centennial congress of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (Budapest, March 1989), with 500 parliamentarians from around the world, unanimously urged "Heads of State and Government to convene a summit meeting on children's problems, set concrete goals and take positive action to protect the children of today who will make up the world of tomorrow". In follow-up to the IPU Resolution, the Australian Senate and the United States House of Representatives have adopted Resolutions of support, and a similar Resolution, endorsing "the call for a representative World Summit on Children at the earliest opportunity to provide a forum for governmental leaders...to commit to concrete plans of national action and international cooperation to reduce the scale of preventable childhood deaths nationally and globally", is now before the United States Senate.

In addition, the proposal has enjoyed very positive media support. Canada's national Globe and Mail editorialized: "UNICEF suggests that the time may have come for a summit of world leaders to apply more urgent remedies. Would anyone argue that it was overstating the case?", and Le Monde (Paris), in the first of two editorials supporting a Summit, asked: "Who would not support it?".

The idea of a World Summit for Children obviously seems compelling in its own right. But, as Secretary-General Pérez de Cuéllar observed in a public statement endorsing the State of the World's Children Report: "Children do not live and grow in a world unto themselves. They live in our world, and their survival and growth is dependent upon the health of our societies. ...the state of the world's children is linked to growth and development, just as the well-being of children is essential for sustained economic and social progress." While the situation of children cannot be separated from the situation of the world at-large, three other precepts also relate to any consideration of the value of a Summit for Children. First, countries have demonstrated in the past several years that important progress can be made for children despite adverse economic and political circumstances - even despite war and the consumption of resources that total war demands. Therefore, protection of the lives and livelihood of children should not be dependent upon better times in general. Second, we have also demonstrated in the past several years that countries and communities are prepared to agree on actions for children even if they disagree on virtually everything else. Thus, even conflicting forces in El Salvador, Lebanon, Uganda, Afghanistan and elsewhere have agreed to cooperate - or, at least, not interfere - for the benefit of the urgent needs of children. This gives rise to a third precept: the possibility that creating opportunities to agree and cooperate on children can contribute importantly to creating environments of agreement and cooperation on a broader range of difficult issues - whether the ideological/strategic issues that separate great powers; economic issues which separate North and South; or political issues that separate conflicting forces.

The question might be asked: "Why a Summit for Children instead of a Summit on the Debt Crisis, or on the Environment, or on Trade?" The answer is not "instead of", but why not a beginning of summit-level commitment to issues upon which world collaboration can make a difference? And if we are to begin, why not begin in a sector which is ripe for collaboration because it is ripe for success? And why not begin with those whose future is the fundamental concern of every government, because they are the future?

1988 brought a new sense of possibilities to the world: possibilities of the lessening of global tensions; possibilities of resolution of regional conflicts; possibilities of reductions in armaments and the consequent savings of resources; possibilities of increased reliance on multilateral institutions; possibilities of serious global attention to the environment, to sustainable development, and to amelioration of the debt crisis. 1988 also brought a new sense of creativity and boldness in international leadership.

The whole decade of the 1980s brought new possibilities for improving the condition of children. Might not 1990 and the decade of the 1990s see the possibilities for children opening the door toward realizing the even greater possibilities for the world at-large?

II. Organizing a World Summit for Children

Participation

Consensus exists that a Summit would not be all-inclusive (ie, 159+ Heads of State/Government participating). Rather, most thinking has assumed a more manageably representative group, of approximately 40-50 participating countries. The most viable formula for producing a relatively representative but manageable group of country participants seems to be to accept the membership of the UNICEF Executive Board as a somewhat randomly representative collection of countries (41), which is well-balanced among developing and industrialized countries, and geographically diverse. Since a Summit would not formally be a meeting of the Executive Board, this formula could be flexibly interpreted to include any additional countries which particularly take initiative to convene the Summit or whose participation is considered particularly necessary or appropriate due to the country's leadership role with respect to children. [A list of the 1989/1990 membership of the UNICEF Executive Board is attached.]

Format

A two-day schedule seems appropriate for a summit meeting focussed explicitly on children. This will allow presentations on the general situation of children worldwide; representative experiences illustrating opportunities and means for improving the situation of children; informal discussions; acceptance of a prepared plan for actions for children (either general or specific); and a public conclusion to the meeting.

Documentation

The following existing documents - representing the experience and operational knowledge of the world's international and national authorities on development for children and common objectives adopted by multilateral governing bodies - can serve as the principal documentation to stimulate national preparation for a World Summit for Children:

- Strategies for Children and Development in the 1990s, as adopted by the UNICEF Executive Board (April 1989)
- the draft Convention on the Rights of the Child, as reported by the Economic and Social Council to the United Nations General Assembly (May 1989)
- The State of the World's Children, 1990

Country preparation

Within the context of the above documents, each country could share with the Summit an overview of its national plan(s) of action with respect to addressing the needs of children and its cooperation with other countries and the international system in addressing the needs of children worldwide.

Possible "products"

The principal formal product of a World Summit for Children might be endorsement by the leaders of the Strategies for Children and Development in the 1990s (or a condensation of its principal themes) as a global plan of action, with particular reference to its quantifiable sectoral and specific goals (eg, Universal Child Immunization by 1990, Universal Basic Education by 2000, etc.). The leaders might particularly identify a few key political goals (eg, a worldwide effort to eradicate polio).

A World Summit could also address special attention to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and thus give a powerful boost toward the Convention's early entry into force.

A World Summit for Children might also agree to encourage all countries (and appropriate sub-national and community jurisdictions within countries) to convene National (and sub-national/community) Summits for Children, involving governmental, private and civic leaders in active planning and collaboration to improve the situation of children within the context of the national plans for action and the global strategies.

Examples of additional or elaborative undertakings of a World Summit for Children could include:

- the leaders might agree to a statement of principle regarding special assistance to children and families caught in conflict situations (eg, the "Days of Tranquility" in El Salvador and Lebanon and the "Corridors of Tranquility" for Operation Lifeline Sudan) which would strengthen the acceptance of such initiatives in future situations. (The leaders might also initiate explorations of means for relieving the situation of children in other kinds of especially difficult circumstances.)
- the leaders might agree to incorporate Debt Relief for Child Survival/Social Investment schemes within their debt relief strategies, and might make specific pledges to such schemes (eg, the Inter-American Development Bank/UNICEF plan).
- the leaders might review the results of the World Conference on Education for All (which will be held in Bangkok in early March 1990), and extend their high level mandate to the Education for All/Education for Life initiatives evolving from that Conference.

In general, a World Summit should be seen as an occasion for high level agreement on both:

- objectives/actions which are definitely accomplishable within the coming decade; and
- objectives/actions which the leaders agree to have explored and developed.

Process

The most practical approach for calling a World Summit seems to be similar to that used for the Cancun Summit and other ad hoc international gatherings: that a few Heads of State/Government take a personal initiative in calling a summit-level meeting. It is proposed that an initiating group of six or so Heads of State/Government ask the Secretary-General of the United Nations, with their endorsement, to issue invitations for a summit meeting. The Initiators, through designated Personal Representatives, would serve as an on-going management committee for the planning and organizing of the meeting, in consultation with other governments as appropriate.

Venue

While there would be symbolic value to holding the World Summit for Children in a developing country, a consensus has emerged that the costs and complications of the meeting ought to be kept to a minimum, and that use of a United Nations facility would best serve this concern. Moreover, there is strong support for identifying this initiative closely with the United Nations, and drawing upon the strengths of the international system in support of an extra-institutional endeavour. Hence, it is proposed that the meeting be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York, at a time of minimal conflicting demands upon the facilities and services.

Timing

Several key objectives encourage the scheduling of the World Summit for Children in 1990:

- the opportunity to impact on the final stages of the campaign for achievement of the United Nations goal of Universal Child Immunization by the end of 1990;
- the opportunity to promote early consideration and ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which is expected to be adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1989, and which will then require ratification by Member States;
- the opportunity to relate to and strengthen such other initiatives for children as the Education for All/Education for Life strategies emanating from the World Conference on Education for All in early March 1990;

-- the opportunity to secure priority attention to children in international and national development strategies for the 1990s, many of which will be in the final stages of preparation in 1990.

Given that much of the necessary preparatory substantive work for a Summit for Children is already in progress, and that the facilities and support services of the United Nations are already available (thus drastically reducing the necessary concurrent attention to logistical and "hosting"/protocol arrangements), a shorter lead time than might otherwise be required seems feasible.

Costs of the Summit

Given the choice of United Nations Headquarters as the venue for the Summit, with its availability of established facilities, support services, staff and security, the overhead costs of the meeting should be minimal. The Government of Canada has pledged \$250,000 toward these expenses; several similar contributions would likely be sufficient to cover all basic costs.

Stimulating action for children everywhere

Government authorities and non-governmental organizations and institutions will be encouraged to use the World Summit for Children as the stimulus to a multitude of activities aimed at capturing attention and motivating action for children. Regional, national, sub-national and community Summits for Children should be encouraged, either in preparation for the World Summit, or to plan follow-up implementation of its agreements. Leadership groups from business, the arts and popular culture, and political, social and religious movements, should be enlisted to work together for children as a fundamental part of the process leading to and following a World Summit.. In many ways, a World Summit for Children can have a multiplier effect similar to the International Year of the Child in 1979.

Member States of the UNICEF Executive Board 1989 and 1990

Australia	Bangladesh	Barbados*
Belgium	Benin	Bolivia
Byelorussian SSR	Cameroon	Canada
China	Colombia**	Egypt
Finland*	France	Germany, Federal Republic
Guyana**	India	Indonesia
Italy	Japan	Lesotho**
Liberia	Mexico	Netherlands*
Nicaragua	Nigeria	Norway**
Oman	Pakistan	Peru*
Phillippines	Poland	Republic of Korea
Sao Tome and Principe	Sudan	Sweden
Switzerland	Thailand	Turkey**
Uganda	USSR	United Kingdom
United States	Uruguay	Yugoslavia
Zimbabwe*		

* term beginning August 1989

** term expiring July 1989

DRAFT

World Summit for Children

THEMATIC AGENDA

1. To achieve agreement on a declaration of common principles to ensure that the interests and needs of children for their survival, their protection in society, and their development to full potential, are considered and adequately addressed in all national and international policies and programmes with socio-economic implications upon the child and families, within a context of increased attention to human development;
2. To these ends, to achieve a common strategy for the mobilization of global efforts in support of national actions to protect the lives of children and their healthy development, with particular attention to:
 - a. those low-cost, mass-applicable interventions commonly referred to as the "Child Survival and Development Revolution", the effective application of which would reduce by more than half the current continuing daily toll of some 40,000 wasted child lives and an additional 40,000 or more child disabilities from readily preventable causes; and
 - b. such other specific measures which are readily implementable to better ensure the protection and development of children, particularly those children in especially difficult circumstances relevant to their national situations;
3. To advance the establishment of common international standards for the protection of children by encouraging early consideration, through appropriate national processes, of ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which is expected to be adopted and submitted to States by the 44th session of the General Assembly in 1989.

Governments and government leaders who have endorsed the idea
of a World Summit for Children include:

ALGERIA

Minister of Foreign Affairs Boualem Bessaïeh

ANGOLA

Minister of Foreign Affairs Pedro de Castro Dos Santos Van-Duden

ARGENTINA

President Raul Alfonsín

AUSTRALIA

Prime Minister Robert Hawke

BANGLADESH

President Hussain Muhammed Ershad

BELGIUM

Prime Minister Wilfried Martens

BELIZE

Prime Minister Manuel Esquivel

BENIN

President Mathieu Kérékou

BOLIVIA

UNICEF Executive Board delegation

BOTSWANA

President Quett Masire

BURKINA FASO

President Blaise Compaore

BURUNDI

President Pierre Bouyoya

CAMEROON

Prime Minister Ayang Luc

CANADA

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney

CAPE VERDE

President Aristides Pereira

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
Minister of Foreign Affairs Jules Kouale-Yaboro

CHAD
President Al-Hadj Hissein Habre

COMOROS
President Ahmed A. Abderemane

CONGO
Minister of Foreign Affairs Antoine Ndinga-Oba

COSTA RICA
UNICEF Executive Board delegation

COTE-D'IVOIRE
President Félix Boigny

CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIALIST REPUBLIC
Government of Czechoslovakia

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA
Minister of Foreign Affairs

DJIBOUTI
President Hassan Gouled Aptidon

DOMINICA
Prime Minister Marie E. Charles

EGYPT
President Mohammed Hosni Mubarak
(Chairman of the Organization of African Unity)

EQUATORIAL GUINEA
President Obiang Nguema Mbansogo

ETHIOPIA
President Mengistu haile-Mariam

FRANCE
President François Mitterrand

GABON
President Omar Bongo

GAMBIA
President Dawda Kairab Jawara

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer

GHANA
Chairman Jerry Rawlings

GUINEA

President Lansana Conte

GUINEA-BISSAU

President Joa B. Vieira

GUYANA

UNICEF Executive Board delegation

HAITI

Francophone Summit Delegation

HUNGARY

Foreign Minister Peter Varkonyi

INDIA

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi

INDONESIA

President Soeharto

ISRAEL

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

ITALY

Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti

JORDAN

Crown Prince Hassan Bin Talal

KENYA

President Daniel arap Moi

LAOS

Francophone Summit Delegation

LESOTHO

Minister of Foreign Affairs Thaabe Letsie

LIBERIA

Minister of Foreign Affairs Rudolph Johnson

LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA

Minister of Foreign Affairs Jad-Allah Azzouz Al-Talhi

LUXEMBOURG

Francophone Summit Delegation

MADAGASCAR

President Didier Ratsiraka

MALAWI

Minister of Finance L.J. Chimango

MALDIVES

President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom

MALI

President Moussa Traore

MAURITANIA

Minister of Foreign Affairs Cheikh Sid'Ahmed Ould Baba

MAURITIUS

Deputy Prime Minister Satcam Boolell

MEXICO

Secretary of External Relations Fernando Solana

MONACO

Minister of State Jean Ausseil

MOROCCO

Prime Minister Azzeddine Laraki

MOZAMBIQUE

Ambassador Daniel Antonio

NIGER

President Ali Saibou

NIGERIA

President Ibrahim Babangida

NORWAY

Ministry of Development Cooperation

PAKISTAN

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto

(Chairman of The South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation)

POLAND

UNICEF Executive Board delegation

REPUBLIC OF IRAQ

Government of Iraq

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

UNICEF Executive Board delegation

RWANDA

President Juvenal Habyarimana

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

Minister for Foreign Affairs Carlos Da Graca

SENEGAL

President Abdou Diouf

SEYCHELLES

Minister of Foreign Affairs Daniel de Jorre

SIERRA LEONE

President Josep Saidu Momoh

SOMALIA

Minister of Foreign Affairs A. Jama Barre

SPAIN

Foreign Minister Francisco Fernández Ordóñez

SRI LANKA

President Ranasinghe Premadasa

SUDAN

President Omar Hassan Ahmed El-Bashir

SWEDEN

Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson

SWAZILAND

Minister of Labour & Public Services B.N. Nsibandze

SWITZERLAND

Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Klaus Jacobi

TANZANIA

President Ali Hassan Mwinyi

TOGO

President Gal Ngnassingbe Eyadema

TUNISIA

Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche

TURKEY

Prime Minister Turgut Ozal

UGANDA

President Yoweri K. Museveni

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

UNICEF Executive Board delegation

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Permanent Representative to the United Nations Thomas Pickering

URUGUAY

UNICEF Executive Board delegation

VENEZUELA
UNICEF Executive Board delegation

VIETNAM
Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC
Foreign Minister Abdelkarem Al-Erany

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN
Prime Minister Yassen Said Nu'Man

YUGOSLAVIA
UNICEF Executive Board delegation

ZAIRE
President Sese Seko Mobutu

ZAMBIA
President Kenneth Kaunda

ZIMBABWE
President Robert Mugabe
(Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement)

UNITED NATIONS
Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar

INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION
100th Anniversary Conference
(Budapest - 18 March 1989)

CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF HEALTH
OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY
(Kampala - 5 May 1989)

SUMMIT OF FRANCOPHONE COUNTRIES
(Dakar - 26 May 1989)

AUSTRALIAN SENATE
(Canberra - 15 June 1989)

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
(Washington - 20 June 1989)

INTERNATIONAL PEDIATRIC CONGRESS
(Paris - 24 July 1989)

ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY
Twenty-Fifth Assembly of Heads of State or Government
(Addis Ababa - 26 July 1989)

NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT
Ninth Conference of Heads of State or Government
(Belgrade - 7 September 1989)