

# LEADERSHIP FOR CHILDREN

Personal Messages

of

Heads of State and Government

on the occasion of the



**World Summit for Children**  
**Sommet Mondial pour les Enfants**

29-30 September 1990  
United Nations • New York

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**AFGHANISTAN**

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UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION

On the occasion of the opening of the Summit Meeting of the World's Political Leadership for Children, it is with great joy that I would like to express my best congratulations and best wishes to you, Excellency, and to the leadership of this prestigious international gathering. I wish you every success in this lofty endeavor.

The Summit for Children takes place at a time when spectacular positive changes have taken place in the world toward understanding and cooperation, particularly between the two big powers. The cold war has subsided, regional conflicts are being resolved through negotiations and great improvements have been realized in East-West relations in the interest of international peace and detent. Considerable progress have been made in the disarmament process. And at the same time, the fruitful efforts by the UNICEF for improving the life of world's children, particularly in the developing countries, is a great source of hope.

The Republic of Afghanistan believes that in many countries, efforts for the well-being of children require international action for solving economic problems. Present levels of socio-economic development is obviously not enough and there are many difficulties that must be removed. What is required is commitment

to real growth. In this regard, it is necessary that industrialized countries reconsider aid to the developing countries and their trade and financial relations with them.

The Republic of Afghanistan have mobilized its limited resources to the elimination of the needs of the Afghan people who have suffered vast material and moral losses as a result of the decade-long imposed war. Children and mothers are a special target of this programme.

I am firmly confident that this gathering which is aimed at relating human goals to the process of developments, will play an important role in this critical juncture. The participation of the high level delegation of the Republic of Afghanistan in this gathering testifies to the great importance that our country attaches to the conditions of children in the contemporary world. The decision to sign the Convention on Children's Rights is another testimony to this fact.

Availing of this opportunity, I wish you, Excellency, every success in the work of this prestigious Summit.

**NAJIBULLAH**  
President of the  
Republic of Afghanistan  
Kabul - 27 September 1990

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**ALBANIA**

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**MESSAGE OF GREETINGS  
TO THE  
WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN  
BY  
RAMIZ ALIA**

**President of the Presidium of People's  
Assembly of the PSR of ALBANIA**

Albania conveys its sincere greetings to the World Summit for Children, the future of mankind. This Summit is a clear indication of our good will to help improve their situation.

In recent decades, the situation of children has changed in a number of countries; conspicuous achievements have been attained in disease prevention, reduction of the illiteracy rate, improvement of their nutrition, schooling, etc. Each and everybody rejoices over the reduction of infantile mortality rate and the increase in the children's life span. This is confirmation of what mankind can do today. At the same time, however, we are witnesses of horrible facts and grave situations which constitute a major concern and which derive from sharp disparities and contrasts between the industrialized countries and the developing countries. The children do not enjoy the fruits of the technological revolution everywhere. Indeed, not infrequently we are faced with a polarisation among children of different strata of the population, and a good part of them live close to abundance but in poverty.

Bitter as it is, however, we have to admit that in many countries the children - the nursery of humanity, are faced almost every minute with poverty, degradation of natural and social environment, privation of most elementary rights, including the right to exist. The figures published by UNICEF, which illustrate the reality of children who live in absolute poverty, who die mainly of diseases which can be preven-

ted, who cannot attend schools, etc., are indeed shocking. Let us not forget that children have been and still are the first victims of armed conflicts, natural calamities and family dramas.

Proceeding from the motto that the future of the country depends on the way children are brought up, Albania has considered them as the most privileged part of its society, to whom major attention is devoted by the society and the family. In tiny Albania that inherited but poverty and backwardness from the past, with a population three times as big as that of 45 years ago, whose average age is 27 years, the average life expectancy of the population reached 72.4 years in 1989 as against 38.3 in 1938.

Guaranteeing by law and in practise the ever better protection of children and the fulfilment of their needs has always been of special importance. Albania is signatory of the Convention for the protection of the rights of children - an important UN document which defines the most urgent needs, the rights, fundamental liberties of children for a dignified life.

Albania supports the United Nations endeavours for the promotion and development of children, for their well-being and their rights. Its objectives for the year 2000 for children protection and care deserve proper attention and support. Their fulfilment calls for just, effective policies and humanitarianism.

It is an act of nobility to commit ourselves to building a better present and future for our children. Therefore, let our ideal be their happiness, let us join our efforts to accomplish this lofty humane objective.

TIRANA, September 20, 1990

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**ANGOLA**

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Permanent Mission of  
The People's Republic of Angola  
to the United Nations  
New York



Missão Permanente da  
Republica Popular de Angola  
Junto das Nações Unidas  
New York

Luanda, September 29, 1990

Excellencies:

On the occasion of the First World Summit for Children, I am honored to praise, on behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of Angola and in my own name, the initiative to have this important forum. I also wish to greet all its participants, committing our best efforts to achieve the objectives of the Summit and to implement measures to benefit the children.

We are convinced that the decisions to be approved will contribute effectively to improve children's life conditions and development, particularly in the Third World countries where they face the serious problems of malnutrition and illiteracy, often compounded by the consequences of war and natural disasters.

My best wishes of success in your work at the Summit, and may it fulfil its intended objectives.

Highest Consideration

**JOSE EDUARDO DOS SANTOS**  
**PRESIDENT OF THE MPLA-LABOR PARTY**  
**PRESIDENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA**



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**ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**

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**GOVERNMENT OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**

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September 20, 1990

**A "LEADERSHIP FOR CHILDREN" MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER**

I take this opportunity to reaffirm my Government's unwavering commitment to the development goals and strategies for children in the 1990's, and to lend support to the objectives of this very first World Summit for Children. It is my sincere hope that, following this Summit, my fellow Heads of State and Government will translate into positive action the express commitment to ensure the survival, protection and maturation of children as key elements in the socio-economic plan of our countries.

That the condition of our children is linked intrinsically to developments in the world, compels us, their leaders, to pursue appropriate strategies to improve that condition. Thus, the efforts of UNICEF to inspire greater interest in those social objectives that form part of the complex process of eradicating poverty are indeed worthy of our support.

Against a backdrop of economic crises and concomitant painful restructuring worldwide, I am pleased to note that my Government intends to ensure that:

- 1) greater emphasis is placed on family planning;
- 2) maternal and child health care delivery services continue to improve;
- 3) universal education for all children is guaranteed;
- 4) AIDS education and prevention and the pricing and equitable distribution of essential drugs are assured.

With the relaxation of the hitherto onerous cold-war tensions and the advent of peace and democracy in many regions of the world, I call upon those nations, where a large percentage of GNP is devoted to defense, to direct more resources to the promotion of initiatives aimed at achieving "development with a human face." Furthermore, I endorse broadening of innovative and constructive initiatives on debt-relief for child-survival, particularly the debt-swap trust fund that has been established by UNICEF in partnership with the Inter-American Development Bank. Such initiatives are indeed welcomed in these difficult economic times.

Developing countries, burdened with substantial foreign debt, are finding it increasingly difficult to maintain the level of resources needed for social programs, particularly those benefitting children. Moreover, if the debt burden of developing countries can be reduced, then the freed resources can be transformed into tangible benefits for the most vulnerable sectors of the population, foremost among whom are children.

On this momentous occasion, afforded by the World Summit for Children, I respectfully urge my fellow Heads of State and Government to accelerate the process of ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to mobilize national and international resources to meet goals and strategies for the improved welfare of children, and to sustain the various programmes even after the achievement of initial targets and goals. **WE OWE IT TO OUR NATIONS' CHILDREN.**

*V. C. Bird*

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Vere Cornwall Bird, Sr.  
Prime Minister

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**AUSTRALIA**

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Message from Mr R J L Hawke, Prime Minister of Australia  
on the occasion of the World Summit for Children

I am pleased to provide this message of support to the World Summit for Children. The aim of the Summit, of giving the world's children a better chance in life, is one which is wholeheartedly welcomed and supported by all Australians.

Australia is being represented at the Summit by our Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Senator Gareth Evans, who will endorse the "Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children" on Australia's behalf. The Summit meeting will also provide the opportunity for Australia to express again our support for the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Australia has signed the Convention and we intend to ratify it soon.

The enormous number of children who die each year throughout the world for want of the most basic needs, of food, water, shelter, and medicine, is probably the world's most depressing statistic. The amount of unnecessary suffering by so many children only adds to the grimness of the picture.

The purpose of the World Summit for Children, and of the candlelight vigils that preceded the Summit, is to focus our attention again on the real deaths and real pain that lie behind the statistics. This sharpened focus must then become the basis of further action. The Summit should, we hope, generate a new level of commitment to doing what can be done in the 1990s to make drastic improvements in the survival, nutrition, health, education rights and future of the world's children.

The Australian Government is continuing to give high priority to the needs of children both in other countries and in Australia itself.

On the world scene, through our support to UNICEF, we provide funds (more than \$A11 million last year) and work on a partnership basis in programs in immunisation, water supply and sanitation and emergency relief. Children are also a primary focus of the bilateral, multilateral and research areas of Australia's overseas aid program. In these areas children's health is a particular concern, and Australia has upgraded support for the World Health Organisation's Global Program on Immunisation against six of the childhood killers (measles, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, tuberculosis and polio). Immunisation based on safe, effective vaccines is the single greatest child health promoter apart from clean water.

The Australian Government is also continuing to invest enormous resources in programs to improve the well-being of our own children.

All of the main areas for action noted in the Declaration (poverty, health, the environment, homelessness, education and justice) are areas in which the Australian Government has been and continues to be active. One of the Government's major social justice achievements has been to improve the position of low income families with dependent children. Substantial increases in income support, in childcare places and school retention rates, in accommodation programs for the homeless and in educational and training programs for single parents are all having a positive effect not only in ameliorating current poverty but in attacking the causes of poverty and its associated problems at their roots.

The Government has also embarked on a range of policies and programs designed to overcome the disadvantage suffered by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. New programs are being developed to achieve parity by the year 2000 between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians in the crucial areas of education, training, and employment. A similar approach is being adopted in health.

Representation at the Summit by both the developed and developing countries demonstrates the global concern about children. Children represent the future of the world, but we and our actions determine our children's future. We must all ensure that our actions to help children everywhere continue long after the Summit ends, and by so doing ensure the very future of our planet.



R J L Hawke

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**AUSTRIA**

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The idea of a World Summit on the subject of the children of the world is novel and would have been hard to imagine even ten years ago. It expresses the growing awareness of the leaders of a great number of countries, that the future of their nations depends on the fate of their children, a cause which is worthy of the most serious concern and deliberation.

The welfare of children has always been high on the agenda of my country, where the relevant legislation reflects the national consensus that children deserve the utmost protection, stimulation and assistance in order to live in a happy, peaceful environment and develop their potential to the fullest extent. A detailed programme of health inspection and insurance, free education for all up to the highest level, and strict laws against any form of violence against and of exploitation of children are some of the elements of a comprehensive framework that is to ensure the well-being and development of children in Austria. Since the welfare of children is inseparable from that of their mothers, a number of special measures, such as paid maternity leave are designed to protect the whole family unit. In line with our national efforts to safeguard our children, we are also aware of the importance of a speedy ratification of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child by a large number of countries. Austria intends to ratify this Convention in the near future.

While Austria is surely one of the countries which offer a high degree of protection and possibilities to her young, we are greatly concerned that even today so many children in the developing countries die from preventable diseases, lack the most elementary schooling, and face a life with little hope for future improvement. There is also the distressing fate of abandoned children, children affected by war, children living in refugee camps, and children trying to survive under a number of other extremely hard conditions. These children are no different from



ours, except that they happen to have been born in much more difficult circumstances. They therefore deserve even more our attention and care. I should like in particular to point out the suffering of children affected by the Gulf crisis, which represents an immediate and urgent occasion for international assistance and solidarity.

Improving the living conditions of the poorest is the most important priority of Austria's international development co-operation. In the face of the overwhelming needs of a large part of humanity, our bilateral and multilateral contribution to that effect will probably continue to look modest, although substantial increases have occurred in recent years and are intended to be continued. In this context, I should also like to pay tribute to the countless non-governmental organisations which are making great efforts for the benefit of children, such as the many national committees for UNICEF. The Austrian National Committee for UNICEF is particularly active in this field, reaching out also into neighbouring countries. It also contributes towards raising the awareness of Austrian children and parents for the difficult situation of children in less fortunate regions, inter alia through media packages distributed in all Austrian schools.

Our children will inherit the planet we inhabit, and will hold us accountable for the state in which they find it. It must therefore be one of the major concerns of our times to allow children to live in a safe and clean environment, and to preserve the beauty and variety of our planet for their benefit.

On behalf of the Austrian government and people, I welcome the Plan of Action to be signed on the occasion of this Summit and hope that the additional efforts it calls for will contribute to the welfare and happiness of our children.

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**BANGLADESH**

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF BANGLADESH

It is a matter of great satisfaction to learn that the World Summit for Children is being held on September 29-30, 1990. As is well-known, the objective of the Summit is to bring the highest level of political attention to the urgent needs facing the children of the world today. No cause is nobler than the cause of the children and the attendance of the largest ever number of the Heads of State/Government is a testimony to this commitment, at the highest political level, around the globe. It is heartening that the Convention on the Rights of the Child has become operational in record time. The Summit has doubtless contributed to this.

The decade of 1990s began with unprecedented change, possibilities and opportunities. We must join our hands together to seize and capitalize on the opportunities that present before us. The lives and the normal development of children should have the 'first call' on society's concerns and capacities.

The situation of children in many developing countries is worsening. But this cannot be seen in isolation - it has to be viewed in the context of the problems faced by the developing world. Alleviation of poverty and welfare of the children in the developing countries are closely linked. We must, therefore, address the fundamental cause in order to help the children.

A review of the past activities in the field of children reveals that much has been done, yet much remains to be done and achieved. In spite of the remarkable achievements in the field of child survival and development, the tragedy of infant mortality, morbidity and suffering continue. It is, therefore, essential to maintain the momentum of child survival and development. In this context we extend our full support to the goals for children and development in the 1990s.

The conditions and plight of the children of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) deserve special focus. A comparison of a few basic child indicators like under-five mortality rate, life expectancy, primary school enrolment etc. comparing LDCs with other developing countries will reveal that LDCs lag behind them by about 50%. Their vulnerability and special needs rightly deserve specific action oriented programme and support of the Summit and of the International Community.

Despite various constraints and limited financial capacity, we in Bangladesh are committed to the welfare and healthy development. From a modest coverage of 2% in 1986, Universal Child Immunization Programme in Bangladesh has shown remarkable increase to the level of over 50% by the end of 1989 and is expected to active the UCI target of 80% coverage by the end of 1990. Combining other PHC services and establishing linkage with family planning activities will further strengthen the health delivery services. Bangladesh has also enacted law for free and compulsory primary education from 1991. Education for rural girls upto Grade-8 has also been made free. A large segment of working children remains outside the reach of formal education in Bangladesh. In meeting the needs of these children, "Pathakali" schools have been set-up which will be expanded to all the 64 districts of Bangladesh.

The Summit will go a long way to increase public awareness which will have distinct positive impact in the current decade on the lives of the younger generation and help build them a better future.

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**BARBADOS**

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**THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE**

**BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS**

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**PERSONAL MESSAGE TO THE CHILDREN  
OF THE WORLD**

**FROM**

**THE RIGHT HONOURABLE L. ERSKINE SANDIFORD, P.C., M.P.,  
PRIME MINISTER OF BARBADOS**

The poet William Wordsworth once said: "the child is father to the man". All of us go through the stage of childhood before we become adults. But childhood is not merely a preparation for adolescence and adulthood; it is a mode of living to be cherished and to be enjoyed in its own right.

Many, however, do not make it through the fetal phase; and many do not survive the first four weeks of life or through the other phases of infancy into childhood. In Barbados we have sought down through the years to provide a high level of maternal and child care to erase the factors responsible for such deadly obstacles to survival.

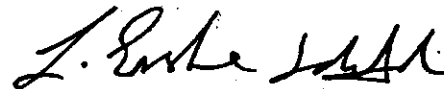
Mother and child have access to care at hospital and health centres throughout Barbados under our free national health service. Children are immunized against infectious diseases. Family planning services are available. Maternity leave with pay and other benefits are available under our national insurance and social security programme. Pre-school, nursery, infant, primary and other levels of education are available free of charge mostly to all of our children. Welfare assistance is available to families in distress. There is a programme for the provision of housing for low-income families. Electricity, telephone and pure drinking water services are available throughout our country. With a population of 256,9 thousand, population growth is well under control, with a rate of growth of 0,6 per cent. The infant mortality which stood at 29,0 per thousand births in 1971 is now 15,4 per thousand births.

We therefore apply a substantial amount of our resources to the protection, care and survival of children who are our present joy and future hope. There has been undoubted progress. But much more remains to be done. None of our children should die from preventable diseases, and no mother should pass away from lack of appropriate and timely care. No child should grow up without the love, care and guidance of a stable two-parent family. Our children should be strong enough in character and personality to resist temptations that will lead into the broad destructive path of crime, illicit drugs, and inappropriate

behavioural patterns and lifestyles. Our children should be the beneficiaries of a stable family life and strong, positive moral and spiritual values. All families should have access to housing appropriate for the size of the family.

As children you have rights. But you also have responsibilities, based on sound values, to your parents, to other family members, to your teachers and school mates, to the group to which you belong, to those with whom you come into contact. Love, respect and kindness should walk with you always. Learn as much as you can, develop your skills, shape your attitudes, and protect your environment. Develop your potential, aim to do something positive with your life, and resolve to help build your country.

Barbados joins with other countries in working for the further protection, survival and development of the children of the world in an environment of mutual understanding and peace. If our children have a better quality of life, the quality of our world will also be better. I consider the World Summit for Children is a symbolic occasion for substantive commitment towards the social and economic betterment of our children and of our world.



L. Erskine Sandiford  
Prime Minister of Barbados

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**BELGIUM**

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For far too long in the history of mankind the child has been seen as an object of private property, as an instrument of power, often for exploitation, or as a source of purely personal happiness.

As the twentieth century draws to a close, we must see the child as a subject in his or her own right and with his or her own legal rights. It is in this context that the Convention on the Rights of the Child represents real progress in the sphere of legal rights. It constitutes an important step forward in the history of childhood and hence in our human development. We recognize that the child needs specific protection. This was enunciated thirty years ago in the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child: "The child by reason of his physical and mental immaturity, needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before as well as after birth".

Yet despite all the efforts that have been made in the legal sphere, we know only too well that today many children are suffering, be they victims of man's cruelty, or of unjust economic and social conditions.

In the face of this major problem, I hope that this summit will be able to come forward with at least four clear lines of action.

First of all, we must demonstrate the genuine intention of all our countries to ratify as soon as possible the Convention on the Rights of the Child, bearing in mind the legislative processes of individual countries. Furthermore, we must ensure that, after ratification, it is put into practical operation without delay.

However, it is evident that legal rights alone cannot lead to the attainment of the ideal sought by the Convention.

Governments, working hand in hand with political groupings, religious, lay and cultural bodies and, above all non-governmental organisations, must do all that is in their power to make public opinion - and by that I mean every individual citizen - aware of the spirit and the contents of the Convention. They must identify the desired changes and improvements in the plight of children and take steps to implement these changes. It is only with the support and practical backing of a population which is squarely behind it that governmental action has a chance of succeeding in an area affecting so intimately human beings, above all the most vulnerable, i.e. the children.

... / ...

I come to our third line of action. We must insist on the essential role of the family in policies pertaining to children. The signatories of the Convention understood this well when they stated they are "Convinced that the family, as the fundamental group of society and the natural environment for the growth and well-being of all its members and particularly children, should be afforded the necessary protection and assistance so that it can fully assume its responsibilities within the community".

Many of the deficiencies and illnesses from which children suffer, much of the behaviour which leads to their being rejected by society, have their origins in the breakdown of the family. The family must, I believe, be the centre of a child's existence where he or she is cared for, understood, listened to and given unstinting support. Such a family is a source of strength for society as a whole. It is not inward looking. On the contrary, it enables its members to be more outward looking, to help others, particularly those less fortunate than themselves.

As the humanitarian and development non-governmental organisations have stressed, this objective must be pursued by, "strengthening the role of the family and its capacity to care for children, developing family life education, and promoting and supporting the goals of the forthcoming International Year of the Family, "planned for 1994.

Finally, in the elaboration of specific programmes very great attention must be paid to children in especially difficult circumstances, notably children deprived of family care, abandoned and street children, those with a handicap, those who are victims of abuse, be it physical, mental or sexual, those who are victims of commercial or industrial exploitation, and those deprived of their liberty and children in situations of extreme poverty.

We cannot allow ourselves to become resigned to the fact that 40.000 children die every day of hunger and malnutrition, of disease, from lack of drinking water and medical care, or from the effects of drugs. It is a fundamentally immoral and unjust situation and we must do all in our power to ensure that it is not allowed to continue.

Finally, there are children - and alas we observe this today - who are drawn into armed conflicts or who become refugees.

In this context I wish to conclude by making an urgent appeal to all those Heads of State and Government concerned to resolve the present conflict in the Gulf region peacefully and in accordance with international law. And therefore the resolutions of the United Nations must all be applied without exception.

If this path is not followed, if war breaks out, there will also be hundreds of thousands of children among the first innocent victims. Let us not forget this, let us not forget them.

BAUDOUIN  
The King of the Belgians



Trop longtemps dans l'histoire de l'humanité l'enfant est apparu d'abord comme un objet de propriété, de puissance et souvent d'exploitation, ou d'un bonheur égoïste.

En cette fin du vingtième siècle, nous essayons de le voir surtout comme un sujet, y compris un sujet de droit. C'est dans cette optique que la Convention sur les Droits de l'Enfant représente un progrès qualitatif essentiel sur le plan du droit. Il s'agit d'une étape importante dans l'histoire de l'enfance et dans un certain sens de la sensibilité humaine. L'on reconnaît à l'enfant le besoin d'une protection particulière, comme le précisait déjà il y a trente ans la déclaration des droits de l'enfant des Nations Unies : "l'enfant en raison de son manque de maturité physique et intellectuelle a besoin d'une protection spéciale et de soins spéciaux, notamment d'une protection juridique appropriée avant comme après la naissance".

Et pourtant malgré ces efforts engagés sur le plan juridique nous savons tous aussi qu'aujourd'hui tant d'enfants souffrent, victimes qu'ils sont soit des comportements cruels des hommes, soit de conditions économiques et sociales injustes.

Face à cette situation j'espère que ce sommet pourra donner au moins quatre impulsions précises.

Tout d'abord nous devons manifester la volonté de chacun de nos pays de ratifier la Convention sur les Droits de l'Enfant dans les délais les plus brefs compatibles avec les législations respectives de nos pays, ainsi que de veiller à l'application sans retard injustifié des obligations découlant de cette ratification.

Ensuite il me paraît bien évident aussi que ces dispositions législatives à elles seules ne peuvent atteindre l'idéal auquel vise la Convention. Les gouvernements, ensemble avec toutes les forces politiques, culturelles, morales, spirituelles et religieuses du pays, en particulier avec les organisations non-gouvernementales, devront développer une vaste action de conscientisation pour que l'ensemble de l'opinion publique et chacun des citoyens prennent connaissance de l'esprit et du contenu de la Convention, identifient les situations à changer ou à améliorer, et apportent ainsi leur contribution indispensable. Ce n'est qu'avec l'approbation et l'appui d'une population sensibilisée que l'action du gouvernement aura une chance de succès dans un domaine touchant d'aussi près la personne humaine, en particulier la personne la plus vulnérable qu'est l'enfant.

Troisième ligne de force : Nous devons mettre l'accent sur le rôle essentiel de la famille dans une politique de l'enfance. Les signataires de la Convention l'ont bien compris puisqu'ils se disent "convaincus que la famille, unité fondamentale de la société et milieu naturel pour la croissance et le bien-être de tous ses membres, et en particulier des enfants, doit recevoir la protection et l'assistance dont elle a besoin pour pouvoir jouer pleinement son rôle dans la communauté".

Beaucoup de carences et de maladies dont souffrent les enfants dans notre société, beaucoup de comportements qui les marginalisent trouvent leur origine dans le relâchement des liens de la famille. Cette dernière doit être à mon sens foyer de compréhension et d'écoute, de soutien mutuel et de solidarité, d'ouverture et de tendresse. Une telle famille est évidemment une source de rayonnement. Elle n'est pas fermée sur elle-même, mais rend ses membres plus aptes à aider les autres, particulièrement ceux que la vie n'a pas épargnés.

Comme l'ont souligné les organisations non-gouvernementales humanitaires et de développement, cet objectif doit être poursuivi "en renforçant le rôle de la famille et sa capacité à prendre soin de ses enfants, en favorisant l'éducation à la vie familiale, et en participant à la promotion et au soutien des objectifs de l'Année Internationale de la Famille" prévue pour 1994.

Enfin dans l'élaboration de programmes précis, il nous faudra accorder une attention toute spéciale aux enfants en situations particulièrement difficiles et notamment les enfants privés des soins d'une famille, ceux qui sont abandonnés et les enfants de la rue, les enfants ayant un handicap, ceux qui sont victimes d'abus physiques, mentaux, ou sexuels, ceux qui sont l'objet d'exploitation commerciale ou au travail, ceux qui sont privés de liberté et les enfants en situation d'extrême pauvreté.

A ce propos, nous ne pouvons pas nous résigner à ce que chaque jour 40.000 enfants meurent de faim et de malnutrition, de maladie, de manque d'eau potable et de soins de santé ou des effets de la drogue. C'est là une situation profondément immorale et injuste que nous devons tous combattre.

Il y a enfin - et c'est hélas d'actualité - les enfants qui sont utilisés dans les conflits armés ou qui sont réfugiés.

Dans ce contexte je voudrais conclure en faisant un pressant appel auprès de tous les Chefs d'Etat et de Gouvernement concernés afin que le conflit actuel dans la région du Golfe soit résolu de façon pacifique dans le respect du droit international. Et donc les résolutions des Nations Unies doivent toutes être appliquées sans exception.

Si l'on ne suit pas cette voie, si la guerre éclate, ce seront des centaines de milliers d'enfants aussi qui seront parmi les premières victimes innocentes. Ne l'oublions pas, ne les oublions pas.

BAUDOUIN  
Roi des Belges



In de geschiedenis van de mensheid werd het kind té vaak herleid tot een object van eigendomsrecht, van machtsmisbruik en uitbuiting, of tot het voorwerp van een egoïstische geluksbeleving.

Heden ten dage, op de drempel van de 21ste eeuw, leren we het kind zien als een drager van rechten.

De Conventie voor de rechten van het kind is dan ook een belangrijke juridische stap voorwaarts, én voor het kind én voor de menselijkheid van onze samenleving.

Dat het kind nood heeft aan bijzondere bescherming, vormt het wezenlijke element van deze vooruitgang.

De verklaring van de Verenigde Naties inzake de rechten van het kind formuleerde dit reeds dertig jaar geleden als volgt: "het kind heeft vanwege zijn lichamelijke en geestelijke onvolwassenheid speciale bescherming en zorg nodig, waaronder de juiste wettelijke bescherming, zowel vóór als ná de geboorte".

Helaas moeten we onder ogen durven zien dat, ondanks alle inspanningen, nog vele kinderen lijden : als slachtoffer van economische en sociale wantoestanden of van wrede gedragingen van hun medemens.

Vandaar mijn innige hoop dat deze topbijeenkomst toch op zijn minst vier specifieke impulsen zal kunnen bewerkstelligen.

Eerst en vooral moeten we uiting geven aan de duidelijke wil van onze landen niet alleen om de conventie zo snel mogelijk te bekrachtigen - vanzelfsprekend overeenkomstig de wetgeving van elk land - maar óók om de verplichtingen die daaruit voortvloeien, zonder verwijl na te komen.

Deze wetgevende bepalingen volstaan evenwel niet ! Het gaat hier bij uitstek om een terrein dat zeer nauw raakt aan de menselijke waardigheid, in casu van de meest kwetsbare persoon, het kind. Een actie van de politieke overheid kan dan ook enkel succes hebben indien zij de goedkeuring wegdraagt en, beter nog, de steun geniet van een bevolking die gevoelig is voor deze problemen en die onduidelbare of voor verbetering vatbare situaties als dusdanig herkent.

De regeringen enerzijds, alle politieke, culturele, morele, spirituele en geestelijke krachten in het land anderzijds, moeten de handen in elkaar slaan om de publieke opinie, om ieder van onze burgers bewust te maken van de inhoud en de geest van deze Conventie.

Derde krachtlijn : de essentiële rol van de familie in een kind-vriendelijk beleid. De ondertekenaars van de Conventie hebben dit goed begrepen. Zij zijn ervan overtuigd dat, - en ik citeer - "het gezin het basiselement is van de maatschappij, en, het natuurlijke milieu voor de ontwikkeling en het welzijn van al zijn leden, en in het bijzonder van de kinderen, en dat het als zodanig de bescherming en bijstand moet ontvangen die het nodig heeft om ten volle zijn rol in de gemeenschap te kunnen spelen."

Hoe vaak leidt het uiteenvallen van het familiale weefsel er niet toe dat het kind in een probleemsituatie terecht komt of naar de rand van de samenleving wordt gedrongen. De familie moet - en ik benadruk dit - een oord zijn van wederzijds begrip en luisterbereidheid, van wederzijdse steun en solidariteit, van openheid en genegenheid tenslotte.

Een dergelijk gezin plooit zich niet terug op zichzelf. Integendeel, het biedt zijn leden voldoende draagkracht om anderen te helpen, die door het lot niet werden gespaard.

De niet-gouvernementele organisaties voor humanitaire en ontwikkelingshulp hebben volkomen terecht onderstreept dat het daarom nodig is :

- de rol van de familie en haar capaciteit om zorg te dragen voor de kinderen, te versterken,
- de opvoeding tot de uitbouw van een familiaal leven, te bevorderen,
- en de doelstellingen van het internationaal jaar van de familie, voorzien voor 1994, te verkondigen en te ondersteunen.

Vierde en laatste krachtlijn. Laten we onze actieprogramma's speciale aandacht voorbehouden aan de kinderen die het extra moeilijk hebben in het leven. En hierbij denk ik vooral :

- aan de mindervalide kinderen,
- aan de kinderen die geen familie hebben om voor hen te zorgen,
- aan de kinderen die verlaten zijn, kinderen van de straat, letterlijk en figuurlijk,
- aan de kinderen die het slachtoffer zijn van fysisch, psychisch of sexueel misbruik of die het voorwerp zijn van economische en commerciële uitbuiting,
- aan de kinderen die van hun vrijheid zijn beroofd,
- en aan de kinderen die in extreme armoede leven.

Wij mogen er ons niet bij neerleggen dat elke dag opnieuw 40.000 kinderen sterven wegens honger, ondervoeding, ziekte, gebrek aan drinkbaar water en medische zorgen, of ingevolge druggebruik. Dit is een fundamenteel immorele en onrechtvaardige situatie die wij allen moeten bevechten.

En tenslotte zijn er de kinderen die ingezet worden in gewapende conflicten of op de vlucht zijn. Een vraagstuk dat helaas brandend actueel is.

In dit verband wil ik een oproep doen aan alle betrokken Staats- en Regeringshoofden, om het conflict in De Golf op vreedzame wijze én met eerbied voor de internationale rechtsregels op te lossen. En dus moeten alle resoluties van de Verenigde Naties, zonder uitzondering, worden toegepast.

Want als er toch een oorlog zou uitbarsten, zullen ook en vooral honderdduizenden kinderen de eerste onschuldige slachtoffers zijn.

Dit mogen wij niet vergeten !

Hén mogen wij niet vergeten !

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**BOLIVIA**

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# *Presidencia de la República*

BOLIVIA

**MENSAJE DEL PRESIDENTE DE BOLIVIA  
LIC. JAIME PAZ ZAMORA  
A LA CUMBRE MUNDIAL EN FAVOR DE LA INFANCIA  
29 Y 30 DE SEPTIEMBRE DE 1990**

Quiero congratular, en nombre del Gobierno y el pueblo de Bolivia, al UNICEF y aquellos países que tuvieron la feliz iniciativa de promover la realización de la Cumbre Mundial en favor de la Infancia, no solamente porque coincide plenamente con los objetivos de la política social que postula mi gobierno, sino porque es deber y obligación de los gobernantes brindar a las generaciones presentes y futuras mejores condiciones de vida y dignidad.

Estoy convencido de la necesidad de emprender un Plan de Acción a nivel mundial en la década del noventa, que conduzca a garantizar la supervivencia, la protección y el desarrollo del niño, particularmente en los países más pobres del planeta.

En este espíritu, el Gobierno de Unidad Nacional que presido ha ratificado la Convención sobre los Derechos del Niño, ha elevado a Resolución Suprema el Plan Nacional de Supervivencia-Desarrollo Infantil y Salud Materna, y a partir de dicho Plan, ha emprendido la tarea de reducir a la mitad los índices de mortalidad infantil en el país.

Comprometámonos ahora a salvar la mayor parte posible de los 150 millones de niños menores de cinco años que, empujados por la pobreza están condenados a morir en el curso de la última década del siglo XX, y asimismo, a evitar las circunstancias que conducen a la desoladora realidad de esta masiva mortalidad infantil.

El injusto orden social de nuestro tiempo no se ha sentido responsable de los incontables sufrimientos a que están siendo condenados los niños del planeta. Esta Cumbre debe marcar el hito que separe el tiempo de la indolencia del tiempo del compromiso con la infancia, particularmente con los niños de los países menos desarrollados y más severamente golpeados por la crisis y las políticas de ajuste.





# *Presidencia de la Republica*

BOLIVIA

Es mi deseo y mi voluntad personales, así como del Gobierno boliviano, de contribuir eficazmente con toda iniciativa que tienda a eliminar el sufrimiento y el hambre de los niños del mundo, el analfabetismo y falta de oportunidades de los que son víctimas, y su muerte, ya sea por guerras o cualquier otra naturaleza de factores.

Formulo mis mayores deseos por el éxito de esta histórica Cumbre, seguro que de ella emergerán significativas decisiones en favor de la infancia.

*VaZarun*

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**BOTSWANA**

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THE STATE PRESIDENT

GABORONE

REFERENCE NO. PPO.16/4

5th October, 1990

Your Excellency,

LEADERSHIP FOR CHILDREN - PERSONAL MESSAGE

The holding of the World Summit for Children, a unique event in the history of mankind is most welcome by my Government and the people of Botswana. I wish to extend my sincere congratulations to the men and women who worked tirelessly to ensure that the holding of this momentous occasion become a reality.

Botswana gained her independence twenty four years ago under very difficult conditions. There were no schools, hospitals, clinics, roads and safe drinking water, especially for the majority of the people in the rural areas. The few facilities which were there in peri-urban areas were almost inaccessible due to the absence of roads and the long distances to be travelled. The Government was therefore confronted with the serious problems of illiteracy, health and nutrition. Having been Minister of Finance and Development Planning at independence, until 1980, I am fully aware of the nature and size of the problem and the efforts our Government has deployed over the years to seek solutions to this problem.

I am pleased to state that 24 years after independence phenomenal progress has been achieved. Education is now free from primary to tertiary levels. Our statistics indicate that 98% of our children have access to formal schooling. Immunization against the six child-killer diseases: malnutrition, tuberculosis, diphtheria, pertussis tetanus, polio and measles is well over 80%. Malnutrition has been reduced to under 1%. There is clean drinking water in most settlements. This progress has been achieved with the help and support of friendly countries and international organisations.

/We are...



REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

THE STATE PRESIDENT

GABORONE

- 2 -

We are most grateful for this spirit of cooperation and solidarity. It is also important to state that the active participation of the people of Botswana was very decisive and will continue to be so. Right from the very beginning the Government ensured that the spirit of self-reliance, which is so much a part of our society, was promoted nation-wide. Parents, therefore, play a very central role in the survival, protection and development of children and will continue to do so.

Despite the many impressive successes, we still have much work to be done. Our challenge is to reach every citizen of Botswana, to find out where the remaining percentage is. We need to remind ourselves of the task the world has set for itself, "Health For All By the Year 2000", and at the core of this is the child.

It is my fervent hope that the international community will maintain the current momentum and unity of purpose to ensure the full implementation of the Programme of Action.

I pledge my personal commitment to the attainment of the agreed goals and will do my part to ensure their realization. The people of Botswana count on the support of the international community to supplement their meagre resources to achieve the objectives we have set ourselves at this World Summit for Children.

Q.K.J. Masire

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

His Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar,  
Secretary General,  
United Nations Organisation,  
NEW YORK

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**BRAZIL**

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É com grande entusiasmo que o Brasil se associa à realização da Cúpula Mundial da Criança. A oportuna iniciativa dos Chefes de Estado e de Governo do Canadá, Egito, Mali, México, Paquistão e Suécia, com a adesão universal que mereceu, carrega em si a mensagem manifestada no mais alto nível político de que o destino de nossas crianças terá desde agora prioridade máxima em nossos esforços de cooperação internacional.

Não existe responsabilidade mais nobre do que essa. A qualidade de vida das crianças deve ser a preocupação central e o objetivo maior da ação dos Governos, individual e coletivamente.

O desafio é grande e para enfrentá-lo teremos de mobilizar todas as nossas energias.

Em todo o mundo, milhões de crianças enfrentam quotidianamente a dura realidade da sobrevivência comprometida, da proteção denegada, e da falta de oportunidade para o desenvolvimento sadio de sua personalidade. Injustiça social, pobreza e miséria condenam-nas a viver em condições incompatíveis com a dignidade humana.

Precisamos tomar com urgência ações efetivas para resgatar a infância do sofrimento, da doença, da desnutrição, do analfabetismo, da desagregação familiar, e do desabrigo em que na maioria das vezes se encontram. Para isso, no plano nacional será necessário enfatizar a implementação de políticas sociais adequadas, e no plano internacional precisamos assegurar um clima de entendimento, paz e cooperação que dê suporte à consecução daqueles objetivos.

O Brasil tem uma das maiores populações infantis do mundo. Entre crianças e adolescentes, são 65 milhões de brasileiros. Para muitos, a vida é desde o primeiro dia a de uma luta pungente pela sobrevivência. Anualmente, 250 mil crianças morrem antes de completar o primeiro ano

**FERNANDO COLLOR**

*Presidente da República Federativa do Brasil*



de vida; destas, a metade não vive o primeiro mês. Registram-se 120 casos de mortalidade materna em cada 100 mil nascimentos. Uma em cada quatro crianças sofre de desnutrição; 61% das crianças brasileiras vivem em domicílios desprovidos de saneamento básico. Mais de quatro milhões de crianças entre 7 e 14 anos estão fora da escola e muitos são forçados a ingressar prematuramente no mercado de trabalho.

Temos de mudar radicalmente esse quadro. Os brasileiros querem vencer as injustiças sociais e a isso dedicaremos todas as nossas forças, todos os nossos recursos.

Fruto de uma genuína preocupação popular com o futuro das crianças, a Constituição brasileira estabelece que "é dever da família, da sociedade e do Estado assegurar à criança e ao adolescente, com absoluta prioridade, o direito à vida, à alimentação, à educação, ao lazer, à liberdade e à convivência familiar e comunitária, além de colocá-los a salvo de toda forma de negligência, discriminação, exploração, violência, crueldade e opressão". O Estatuto da Criança e do Adolescente, recentemente promulgado, incorpora o conceito de proteção integral consagrado na Convenção sobre os Direitos da Criança.

Lançamos um amplo programa social - simbolicamente chamado de "Ministério da Criança" - que incorpora projetos especiais nas áreas de planejamento familiar, proteção materna, atendimento pré-natal, imunização, prevenção de doenças, creches infantis, educação fundamental, nutrição, assistência à criança deficiente, e saneamento, dentre outras áreas. Iniciamos também o mais amplo programa de alfabetização e universalização do ensino básico já realizado.

O futuro de nossas crianças exige que sejamos ambiciosos na fixação dos objetivos e metas de política social. Com a ajuda de Deus, venceremos essa batalha.

F. Collor -

**FERNANDO COLLOR**

*Presidente da República Federativa do Brasil*



Brazil adheres most enthusiastically to the World Summit for Children. This timely initiative by the Heads of State and Government of Canada, Egypt, Mali, Mexico, Pakistan and Sweden - and the universal support it has received - is a clear and unmistakable message that from now on, and at the highest political level, the future of our children will receive maximum priority in international cooperation efforts.

There is no cause more noble than this. Improving the standard of living of our children must be the central concern and major goal of government action both individually and collectively.

The challenge is enormous and to cope with it we must employ the best of our energies.

Every day, in all parts of the world, millions of children confront the cruel realities that threaten their survival, deprive them of protection, and leave no chance for the harmonious development of their personalities. Social injustice, poverty and misery condemn our children to live under conditions that are incompatible with human dignity.

We need to take urgent and effective action to rescue our children from suffering, disease, malnutrition, illiteracy, family disruption, and homelessness. At the national level, emphasis should be placed on implementation of adequate social policies, and at the international level, we must ensure a supportive atmosphere of understanding, peace and cooperation.

Brazil has one of the largest populations of youth in the world. Children and adolescents total 65 million, accounting for almost half the Brazilian population. For many among them, life is a dramatic struggle for survival from the first day onward. Every year, 250,000 children die before completing their first year of life; half of these do not survive the first month. There are 120

**FERNANDO COLLOR**

*Presidente da República Federativa do Brasil*





cases of maternal mortality for every 100,000 births. One in every four children suffers from malnutrition; 61% of children between 1 and 4 years of age live in homes without the most basic conditions of health and hygiene. More than 4 million children between 7 and 14 years of age do not attend school, and most of them are compelled to enter the labour force prematurely.

We have to change this situation radically. We must overcome social injustice and, to that end, we will fully commit our efforts and resources.

A genuine popular concern with the fate of our children led to approval of a specific article in our Federal Constitution, which reads: "It is the obligation of the family, society and State to ensure the child and adolescent - with absolute priority - the right to life, nutrition, play, professional training, culture, dignity, respect, liberty, family and community life, as well as protection from any negligence, discrimination, exploitation, violence, cruelty and oppression". The recently enacted Statute of the Child and Adolescent embodies the principle of integral protection enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

We have launched a comprehensive social program - named "Ministry of the Child" - which, among other critical aspects, encompasses special projects in the areas of family planning, maternal protection, prenatal care, immunization, prevention of disease, day-care centers, greater access to basic education, nutrition, assistance to disabled children, and basic health and hygiene. We have also initiated a comprehensive program to combat illiteracy and promote universal access to primary education.

The future of our children demands that we be ambitious in defining our social policy objectives. With God's help, we will be victorious in this battle.

**FERNANDO COLLOR**  
*Presidente da República Federativa do Brasil*

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**BURKINA FASO**

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**BURKINA FASO**

**Mission Permanente auprès des Nations Unies  
115 East 73rd St  
New York, NY 10021  
(212) 288-7515**

**CITATION :**

**MESSAGE DE SON EXCELLENCE MONSIEUR LE PRESIDENT**  
**DU BURKINA FASO**  
**A L'OCCASION DU SOMMET MONDIAL POUR LES ENFANTS**

En cette fin du 20e siècle, un constat désespérant s'impose. La majorité des enfants, en quelque point du globe que ce soit, sont frappés de maux multiformes. La science et la technique ne suffisent pas à enrayer ces phénomènes, parfois même, elles en sont les canaux privilégiés.

Mortalité forte, malnutrition, santé déficiente, analphabétisme, Apartheid, abondons, mauvais traitements, exploitations sexuelles, consommation de drogue, agressions caractérisées, insécurité, et, cette liste de maux, pour notre malheur à tous, pourrait s'allonger indéfiniment.

Et pourtant, les enfants, êtres innocents, dépendants et vulnérables requièrent notre vigilante attention et des soins incessants. Car, ils sont la vie, la flamme du foyer, le reflet du monde, l'avenir de l'humanité.

Travailler à la survie, à la protection, au développement de l'enfant, c'est ne pas agresser la vie, préserver et consolider les conditions d'existence du foyer, bâtir un monde meilleur et préserver aussi l'environnement.

Les droits de l'enfant sont partie intégrante des Droits de l'homme qui, eux-mêmes, ne sauraient être garantis sans la sauvegarde des besoins

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vitaux, fondamentaux de l'homme. Ces droits ne seront que proclamation tant qu'un ordre économique injuste et aveugle poursuivra une logique d'écrasement et d'écartement du faible et du démuné.

La Convention relative aux Droits de l'Enfant, dont le Burkina Faso a participé à l'élaboration et a dirigé la finalisation des travaux, est un acte essentiel en faveur de l'Enfant, en ce qu'il lui offre un cadre juridique idéal qui jalonnera son parcours vers son bien-être social.

Le Sommet Mondial pour l'Enfant, dont je salue la tenue et auquel je transmets les vœux du Peuple Burkinabè, amènera, nous l'espérons, la Communauté Internationale à prendre davantage conscience des problèmes de l'Enfant et à avancer des solutions durables et heureuses.

Le contexte dans lequel se tient le Sommet est à l'image de la situation de l'Enfant, un constat désespérant après une formidable vague d'espoir et cependant le sentiment et la conviction tenaces que l'espoir doit vaincre pour que demain soit possible.

Le Burkina Faso a déployé des efforts incessants et soutenus dans la définition de stratégies et la mise en oeuvre de programmes d'envergure pour une réelle protection et promotion de l'Enfant.

Pour l'Enfant, pour l'humanité, l'espoir existe si nous arrivons à promouvoir toutes les dimensions du développement, à cultiver la fraternité et la solidarité entre les Peuples.

**LA PATRIE OU LA MORT, NOUS VAINCRONS !**

**CAPITAINE BLAISE COMPAORE  
PRESIDENT DU FRONT POPULAIRE,  
CHEF DE L'ETAT,  
CHEF DU GOUVERNEMENT.**

**FIN DE CITATION"**

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**BURUNDI**

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"CITATION :        MESSAGE DE SON EXCELLENCE MONSIEUR LE PRESIDENT  
DE LA REPUBLIQUE DU BURUNDI A L'OCCASION DU SOMMET MONDIAL  
DE L'ENFANCE

Au moment où plus de soixante-dix Chefs d'Etat ou de Gouvernement des pays membres des Nations Unies sont réunis à New York pour appeler de nouveau l'attention de tous les pays sur la nécessité de protéger et de préserver les générations présentes et futures, il m'est particulièrement agréable d'exprimer mon soutien personnel ainsi que celui du Gouvernement du Burundi au Sommet Mondial de l'Enfance.

Je voudrais également rendre un vibrant hommage aux éminents Chefs d'Etat et de Gouvernement du Canada, de l'Egypte, du Mali, du Mexique, du Pakistan et de la Suède pour cette heureuse initiative.

L'idée de cette rencontre au Sommet ainsi que les efforts déployés par les organisateurs témoignent de la ferme volonté de ces éminentes personnalités et de celles qui se sont jointes à elles de sauvegarder et de respecter un des principes de la Charte des Nations Unies, celui de "préserver les générations futures".

Le Sommet Mondial de l'Enfance vient à propos, car si les soins et la protection des enfants sont une pratique et un devoir moral enracinés dans la sagesse et la culture de nos sociétés, il n'en reste pas moins que les problèmes de l'heure, tels que la guerre, la violence, le sous-développement, l'endettement, la dégradation de l'environnement peuvent distraire l'attention des dirigeants et des décideurs politiques quant à la nature spéciale de l'enfant et à son rôle déterminant pour l'avenir de ce monde.

En effet, la décennie qui vient de se terminer a été caractérisée par la crise et la dette et divers problèmes économiques, ce qui a forcé certains gouvernements à adopter des mesures d'ajustement économique à court terme au détriment d'un développement durable à plus long terme dont les conséquences touchent surtout les groupes les plus vulnérables dont les enfants et les femmes en premier lieu.

Il importe donc que nous saisissons cette occasion pour renouveler l'engagement de tout un chacun à adopter les stratégies audacieuses pour la survie, la protection et le développement des enfants, eux qui sont l'avenir de ce monde.

D'énormes possibilités s'offrent à nous en ce moment: nous avons des connaissances, des techniques et des ressources. Rien ne manque pour pouvoir prendre des décisions sages et investir nos énergies en connaissance de cause pour faire bénéficier les générations futures des chances exceptionnelles dont nous disposons.

Je suis, quant à moi, convaincu que nous pouvons réussir cette entreprise si nous faisons preuve de courage et de perspicacité nécessaires, et si nous osons regarder au-delà des limites étroites des frontières nationales et des disciplines scientifiques particulières.

Faisons de nos enfants le pilier d'un développement durable.

Nous devons consentir un effort particulier pour protéger la vie et le développement des enfants afin de leur "offrir un heureux avenir".

Le Burundi qui vient de ratifier la Convention relative aux droits de l'enfant prend aujourd'hui un engagement solennel à tout mettre en oeuvre pour assurer l'application des dispositions de cette Convention.

C'est aussi l'occasion pour moi de renouveler l'engagement du Gouvernement du Burundi à poursuivre les efforts entrepris pour assurer la vaccination à tous les enfants âgés de 0 à 5 ans pour que la couverture atteigne, d'ici à l'an 2000, un taux de 90%.

Avant de terminer, je voudrais saisir cette occasion pour exprimer nos sincères félicitations ainsi que la profonde gratitude du Gouvernement du Burundi au Fonds des Nations Unies pour l'Enfance pour son appui permanent et agissant à la cause de l'enfance.

Je voudrais enfin exprimer le souhait de voir ce Sommet Mondial de l'Enfance prendre des engagements concrets pour atténuer les handicaps médicaux et sociaux dont sont affligés dès leur naissance des millions d'enfants.

BUJUMBURA, le 21 Septembre 1990

Pierre BUYOYA,  
Président de la République du Burundi.

FIN DE CITATION"

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**CAMEROON**

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REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN  
MISSION PERMANENTE AUPRES DES  
NATIONS UNIES



REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON  
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE  
UNITED NATIONS

On the occasion of the World Summit for Children, the people and Government of Cameroon are happy to convey their continuing support for Unicef and its remarkable global effort in enhancing the well being of children under varied circumstances.

They would further like to extend their gratitude to the Secretary General of the United Nations, His Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar, the initiators of the Summit and the Summit Secretariat for having played pivotal roles in the organisation of this/ major undertaking. We hope that the objectives of the Summit which Cameroon fully endorses, would further mobilise political commitment to the protection, survival and development of children in the 1990's.



PASCAL B. ~~BYONGUE~~ ~~ANG~~

AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND  
PLENIPOTENTIARY,

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CAMEROON  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS.

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**CANADA**

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# Canada

## CANADA'S NATIONAL STATEMENT

Message from Prime Minister  
Brian Mulroney

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I am pleased to make this national statement on the occasion of the World Summit for Children.

Canada has worked hard to achieve a high standard of physical, mental and social well-being and economic security for its children. Canadians believe that this economic security is inextricable from that of the children's parents and of the family as a whole. Federal, provincial, territorial and municipal governments invest substantial resources in promoting this well-being which, together with the contributions of NGOs, mobilize communities and enable children to profit more fully from other influences such as culture, family life, education and play.

Canada has a publicly-funded, universal system of health insurance, which ensures that all Canadian children have access to health care. Vaccine-preventable infectious diseases have been reduced through public immunization programs. For mothers, quality prenatal and perinatal care is readily available. Legislation has established standards for food and guidelines for safe drinking water.

Governments in Canada promote healthy lifestyles through regular fitness activities and healthy eating habits;; they discourage smoking and drug and alcohol abuse. Canada has set safety standards for clothing, toys and playground equipment.

A program of family allowances and the taxation system offer benefits to all needy families with children. All provinces and territories have social assistance programmes that aid all families whose financial resources are inadequate. In addition, governments in Canada have developed housing for low-income families with children.

A range of child care services to assist working parents is also funded by governments in Canada. Provincial child welfare agencies and services protect children in the event of family breakdown.

Governments finance education, which is compulsory for all children in Canada. Regulatory measures ensure that the Canadian broadcasting and communications industries respond to the best interests of children.

Although Canada has accomplished a great deal for its children, significant challenges remain. The ideals toward which we strive are at times compromised by the legacy of past actions or the reality of present circumstances. Too many children still grow up in families whose incomes remain too low. These children are at greater risk of poor health, often do poorly at school and have fewer opportunities for social and cultural development.

Children from aboriginal families are particularly disadvantaged. Although improving, the incidence of poor health and the rates of low income, illiteracy and suicide are far higher for aboriginal children than for other Canadian children. Similarly, the unique circumstances of children in low-income families, immigrant families and children with disabilities have yet to be fully accommodated within Canada's current resources.

Although Canada supports a range of child care services, there are families whose child care needs are not yet adequately met. The need for a variety of child care services continues to grow as the composition of Canadian families changes and more women join the paid labour force.

Canada has legislation and a network of services in place to protect children who have been neglected or subjected to physical, sexual or emotional abuse. However, prevention must be emphasized to ensure that all children live free from these threats. Similarly, appropriate ways must be found to respond to the needs of children who run away from their homes and live on the streets.

Canada needs to find better ways to reduce the incidence of injuries among children. As well, the problem of infants born with AIDS requires urgent attention. Alone, and in cooperation with other nations, Canada must also take steps to protect the environment to ensure that all children inherit a less polluted world.

Canada's attention is not restricted to domestic concerns alone. Canadians care about the lives children lead, wherever they live. Internationally, Canada remains committed to supporting efforts to meet basic needs of children in developing countries in the areas of health, education and nutrition. In cooperation with other levels of government and non-governmental organizations, Canada will dedicate approximately \$2 billion (Canadian) over the next 5 years towards the amelioration of suffering in all corners of the world. Our involvement as one of the six initiators of the global Summit bears witness to this larger commitment to the well-being of children everywhere.

The World Summit for Children offers Canada an opportunity to reaffirm our determination to resolve these and other challenges. I hope that the leaders gathered at the Summit will underline their desire to accelerate the pace of social change in accordance with the principles of humanitarianism, tolerance and justice embodied in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. My Government will pursue the legal procedures required in our federal system with a view to early ratification of the Convention.



# Canada

## DECLARATION NATIONALE DU CANADA

Message du Premier Ministre  
Brian Mulroney

A l'occasion du Sommet mondial pour les enfants, j'ai le plaisir de faire cette déclaration nationale au nom du gouvernement du Canada.

Le Canada n'a ménagé aucun effort pour offrir à nos enfants ce qu'il y a de mieux en matière de bien-être physique, matériel et social et de sécurité économique. Les Canadiens estiment que cette sécurité économique est indissociable de celle des parents et de celle de la famille, prise dans son ensemble. Les gouvernements fédéral, provinciaux, territoriaux et municipaux investissent des ressources considérables dans la promotion du bien-être des enfants. Ces ressources, auxquelles s'ajoutent les contributions d'ONG, mobilisent les communautés et permettent aux enfants de profiter plus pleinement d'autres facteurs qui y contribuent tels la culture, la vie de famille, les études et les jeux.

Le Canada est doté d'un régime universel d'assurance-maladie financé par l'État qui garantit à tous les enfants canadiens l'accès aux soins médicaux. La fréquence des maladies infectieuses qu'il est possible de prévenir par la vaccination a été réduite grâce à des programmes publics d'immunisation. Les mères et les futures mères peuvent facilement avoir accès à des soins prénatals et périnatals. Les lois prévoient des normes alimentaires et des lignes directrices sur l'eau potable salubre.

Les gouvernements du Canada encouragent la population à adopter un mode de vie sain, notamment en faisant régulièrement du sport et en ayant de bonnes habitudes alimentaires; ils découragent le tabagisme, ainsi que la consommation abusive de drogues et d'alcool. Le Canada a établi des normes de sécurité pour les vêtements, les jouets et le matériel de terrains de jeu.

Le programme d'allocations familiales et le régime fiscal offrent des avantages à toutes les familles démunies. Les provinces et les territoires sont tous dotés de programmes d'aide sociale qui s'adressent aux familles dont les ressources financières sont insuffisantes. Par ailleurs, les gouvernements canadiens ont fait construire des logements destinés aux familles à faible revenu avec les enfants.

Nos gouvernements financent également toute une gamme de services de garderie pour aider les parents qui travaillent. Les organismes et les services provinciaux d'aide sociale à l'enfance protègent les enfants en cas d'éclatement de la famille.

Les gouvernements financent l'enseignement, qui est obligatoire pour tous les enfants au Canada. Il existe même des mesures réglementaires qui font que les industries de la télé et radiodiffusion et de la communication œuvrent dans l'intérêt des enfants.

S'il est vrai que le Canada a beaucoup fait pour nos enfants, il reste des défis de taille à relever. Notre progression vers l'idéal est parfois compromise par les séquelles de nos actions passées ou par les circonstances conjoncturelles. Trop d'enfants sont encore élevés dans des familles dont le revenu est insuffisant. Ces enfants sont plus exposés que d'autres aux problèmes de santé, ils ont des résultats insatisfaisants à l'école, et leurs possibilités d'épanouissement social et culturel sont limitées. Les enfants de familles autochtones comptent au nombre des plus défavorisés. La situation s'améliore, mais malgré tout, les problèmes de santé, d'insuffisance des revenus, d'analphabétisme et de suicide sont nettement plus fréquents chez les enfants autochtones que chez les autres enfants canadiens. Parallèlement, les ressources dont dispose le Canada ne lui ont pas encore permis de répondre entièrement aux besoins particuliers des enfants de familles à faible revenu, des enfants d'immigrants et des enfants handicapés.

Le Canada a beau appuyer un certain nombre de services de garderie, il existe encore des familles dont les besoins en la matière ne sont satisfaits qu'en partie ou pas du tout. La nécessité d'offrir des services de garderie variés se fait de plus en plus pressante, d'autant plus que la composition des familles canadiennes change alors que les femmes sont de plus en plus nombreuses à occuper des emplois rémunérés.

Le Canada a mis en place des lois et un réseau de services orientés vers la protection des enfants victimes de négligence ou d'abus physiques, sexuels ou psychologiques. Mais il faut insister sur la prévention pour que tous les enfants soient à l'abri de ce genre de menaces. Dans le même ordre d'idées, il faut trouver des moyens appropriés pour répondre aux besoins des jeunes fugueurs qui deviennent des "enfants des rues".

Le Canada doit absolument être en mesure de réduire davantage le taux de traumatismes chez les enfants. Du reste, nous devons nous attaquer sans délai au problème des enfants qui naissent avec le SIDA. Le Canada doit, seul et en collaboration avec d'autres pays, prendre des mesures de protection de l'environnement pour que nos enfants puissent grandir dans un monde moins pollué.

Notre attention ne se limite pas à notre situation nationale. Les Canadiens ont à coeur le bien-être des enfants où qu'ils soient. Le Canada est fermement résolu à appuyer et à promouvoir les efforts d'envergure internationale qui sont déployés pour répondre aux besoins fondamentaux des enfants dans les pays en développement sur le plan de la santé, de l'éducation et de l'alimentation. Avec d'autres paliers de gouvernement et les organisations non gouvernementales intéressées, le Canada consacrera au cours des cinq prochaines années environ deux milliards de dollars - canadiens - à l'allègement des souffrances dans le monde entier. Le fait que nous soyons l'un des six pays promoteurs du Sommet mondial témoigne de cet engagement envers le bien-être de tous les enfants de la planète.

Le Sommet mondial pour les enfants offre au Canada l'occasion de réitérer la promesse qu'il a faite de relever ces défis et d'autres encore. J'espère que les leaders réunis au Sommet feront une large place à leur désir d'accélérer le progrès social en souscrivant aux principes d'humanité, de tolérance et de justice dont s'inspire la Convention relative aux droits de l'enfant. Mon gouvernement s'occupera des procédures juridiques exigées par notre système fédéral en vue d'une ratification rapide de la Convention.

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**CHILE**

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Santiago, 22 de septiembre de 1990

Excententísimo Señor  
James P. Grant  
Director Ejecutivo del Fondo de las Naciones Unidas  
para la Infancia (UNICEF)  
Nueva York

Con motivo de la celebración de la Cumbre Mundial de la Infancia reciba Vuestra Excelencia nuestro mensaje de apoyo y compromiso con esta iniciativa, que por su significado y proyecciones estamos ciertos se constituirá en un ejemplo que sabrán valorar las generaciones del futuro, nuestro niños de hoy.

Para mi gobierno es un asunto prioritario el promover y cautelar los intereses de los niños, así como su derecho inalienable al más pleno desarrollo de sus capacidades y potencialidades. La salud y el bienestar del hombre son los objetivos primordiales del desarrollo, ocuparse de la salud de los niños es una contribución directa al desarrollo socioeconómico, puesto que la salud del niño es la clave de la salud del adulto.

Nuestro país exhibe una larga historia de preocupación por la salud del niño y de la mujer. Es así como las altas coberturas alcanzadas por sus programas materno-infantiles, se reflejan en la tendencia sostenida de mejoramiento de los indicadores biomédicos, independiente de las condiciones sociales, económicas y políticas que ha experimentado el país en los últimos años.

Sin embargo, no puede dejar de mencionarse el impacto que la crisis económica que ha vivido el país ha tenido en las condiciones de vida de las familias de los grupos más desposeídos, lo que ha repercutido particularmente en los niños que pertenecen a familias marginales, rurales, que viven bajo condiciones precarias, lo que los hace más vulnerables desde el punto de vista biológico y psicosocial.

La crisis económica también se ha reflejado en una reducción importante del gasto público en salud, lo que ha impactado negativamente en los niveles de atención de salud de mayor complejidad, ocasionando en los últimos años una tendencia al deterioro de algunos indicadores como mortalidad infantil y, particularmente, un componente de esta: la mortalidad neonatal.





El gobierno de Chile está adecuando las políticas de salud a una nueva realidad, considerando que todavía el sistema estatal de salud es responsable de la atención de la mayor parte de la población y que este mismo sistema ha tenido deterioros de inversión durante los últimos años que ponen en peligro la calidad de sus servicios y la accesibilidad de estos a la población.

Por este motivo las estrategias generales de los programas de salud materno/infantil se orientarán en el mediano plazo en los siguientes sentidos:

- Estimular y fortalecer las actividades de promoción de la salud, participación comunitaria y coordinación intersectorial.
- Disminuir los vacíos de cobertura, integrando al sistema de salud a aquellos grupos de alta ruralidad y marginales urbanos.
- Mejorar la calidad de atención proporcionada en los distintos niveles, mediante la capacitación del recurso humano y la implementación y equipamiento básico de los establecimientos de salud.
- Concentrar y focalizar los esfuerzos de aquellas áreas geográficas con peores indicadores y de mayor riesgo biomédico y socioeconómico.

El gobierno chileno considera como necesidades prioritarias de los niños, la protección de su salud, acceso a la educación, vivienda y nutrición adecuadas.

En esta reunión renovamos nuestro compromiso con UNICEF y con todos quienes comparten la declaración de los Derechos del Niño y hacemos votos porque ella sea una realidad devolviendo un mundo bueno a quienes son la esperanza de un mundo mejor.

Me valgo de esta oportunidad para reiterarle a Vuestra Excelencia las seguridades de mi más alta y distinguida consideración.

  
PATRICIO AYLWIN AZOCAR  
Presidente de la República de Chile

**REPUBLICA DE CHILE**  
**MINISTERIO DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES**  
**MISION PERMANENTE ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS**  
**809 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA-4TH FLOOR**  
**NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017**

The government of Chile is adapting its health policies to a new reality. It is taking into account the fact that the State health system is still responsible for attending to the needs of a majority of our population, while this very system has in recent years suffered cutbacks that have endangered the quality and accessibility of its services.

Therefore, the general strategies of our maternal health and child survival programs will be oriented, for the medium term, in the following directions:

- To stimulate and reinforce activities of health promotion, community participation and inter-sectoral coordination.
- To reduce gaps in coverage by integrating into the health system the populations of remote rural areas and the urban fringe.
- To improve the quality of attention provided at the various levels by training personnel, and by improving implementation and the basic equipment of health care establishments.
- To concentrate and focus our efforts on the regions with the worst indicators and the greatest biomedical and socio-economic risk factors.

The Chilean Government considers that the highest-priority needs of children are protection of their health, and access to adequate education, housing and nutrition.

At this meeting we renew our commitment to UNICEF and to all who share in the Declaration of Children's Rights, and convey our hope and desire to make that a reality, rendering a good world to those who are the hope of a better world.

I take this opportunity send you my very best wishes.

**PATRICIO AYLWIN AZOCAR**  
President of the Republic of Chile

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**COTE D'IVOIRE**

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## M E S S A G E

Comme tous les enfants des pays du Tiers Monde, l'enfant ivoirien rencontre de nombreux problèmes qui ont pour noms:

- Mortalité néonatale et infantile élevée (110 ‰);
- Mauvais encadrement et malnutrition des enfants de moins de 5 ans, causés en grande partie par le bas niveau de vie et l'insuffisance de l'éducation de base des parents;
- Déscolarisation précoce ou non scolarisation pour de nombreux enfants;
- Entrée précoce dans la vie active sans qualification etc.

En Côte d'Ivoire, le Gouvernement conscient d'une part, de tous les problèmes révélés par des analyses menées tant par les Autorités politiques et administratives (départements ministériels), que par des Organismes Non Gouvernementaux, des Organismes privés, met en oeuvre plusieurs stratégies en faveur de la survie, du développement harmonieux et de la protection de l'enfant.

Conscient d'autre part, du poids démographique des enfants dans la population totale ivoirienne (les enfants de 0 à 19 ans font près de 75 % de la population), le Gouvernement ivoirien lui accorde une attention particulière.

Afin de donner la chance à chaque enfant non seulement de vivre, mais aussi de bénéficier des meilleures conditions de vie, la Côte d'Ivoire a toujours adhéré et appliqué les différents programmes initiés par les Organismes internationaux en faveur des enfants, et mis en place au sein de plusieurs Ministères, des programmes spécifiques à l'enfant.

La survie des enfants dépend aussi et surtout des moyens dont les parents disposent pour les entretenir.

.../...

La Côte d'Ivoire a toujours pratiqué un "SOCIAL HARDI" dans le but de la promotion humaine. Les Ministères à caractère social: Santé, Education Nationale, Promotion de la femme et autres, ont toujours bénéficié du soutien indéfectible du Gouvernement sur le plan budgétaire, et ce malgré, la crise de plus en plus aiguë.

La survie des enfants étant liée aux conditions de vie des mères, plusieurs actions spécifiques sont menées en faveur des femmes: surveillances sanitaires, (maternité sans risques, espacement des naissances), projets de développement propres aux femmes afin de leur assurer des activités génératrices de revenus.

En ce qui concerne les enfants, sur le plan sanitaire, les prestations dans les domaines de la vaccination, la surveillance nutritionnelle (y compris l'allaitement maternel), la prévention et le traitement des diarrhées, etc... ont été renforcés au cours de la dernière décennie avec l'aide d'organismes internationaux tels que l'UNICEF, l'USAID, le FNUAP etc.

Sur le plan social, l'éducation pour tous pratiquée par le Ministère de la Promotion de la Femme en direction des mères, vise à leur donner les bases nécessaires pour mieux répondre aux besoins des enfants.

Au Ministère de la Jeunesse, des Sports et des Affaires Sociales, la lutte contre toutes les formes de marginalisation, notamment les handicaps des enfants et délinquance juvénile, la généralisation de l'éducation préscolaire dans le but d'une prise en charge globale (sanitaire, éducative, nutritionnelle, cognitive etc...) de l'enfant de 0 à 7 ans sont des objectifs prioritaires.

Sur le plan judiciaire, l'enfant délinquant, bénéficie de conditions particulières, tant sur le plan du jugement que de la détention.

La Côte d'Ivoire ne peut qu'adhérer sans réserve à la convention des Droits de l'enfant. C'est pourquoi elle l'a ratifiée le 29 septembre 1990.

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**CUBA**

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La Habana, 22 de septiembre de 1990

*Excelencias:*

*Cuando meses atrás conocí directamente del señor James P. Grant, Director Ejecutivo del UNICEF, la iniciativa de un grupo de distinguidos Jefes de Estado y Gobierno, apoyada con entusiasmo por el UNICEF, para la convocatoria de una Cumbre Mundial sobre la Infancia, expresé mi criterio de que una reunión semejante constituiría un hecho de extraordinaria trascendencia y alcance para la comunidad internacional, y que Cuba brindarla su más activo concurso a fin de garantizar el mayor éxito de sus deliberaciones. La razón de este inmediato apoyo era nuestra certeza de que, a pesar del ingente esfuerzo y la lucha permanente sostenida por el UNICEF, la OMS, la FAO, la UNESCO y otras agencias de las Naciones Unidas, y de los importantes avances alcanzados en algunos aspectos relacionados con la situación de la niñez a escala mundial, era evidente una tendencia general orientada hacia el agravamiento de los principales aspectos relacionados con la vida, el desarrollo y el futuro de los niños en el mundo.*

*Los detallados documentos elaborados para esta conferencia recogen claramente el universo de problemas que deben ser abordados. La ratificación y próxima entrada en vigor de la Convención de los Derechos del Niño constituye un hecho de enorme trascendencia jurídica, moral y humana, y sienta las bases de un futuro mejor para la infancia.*

*La actual tendencia hacia el acercamiento y la colaboración entre las mayores potencias, con los consiguientes pasos en dirección al desarme, la reversión de la carrera armamentista y la posible reducción de los gastos militares, permiten vislumbrar la perspectiva de que una parte de los cuantiosos recursos dedicados hasta hoy a esos gastos puedan ser finalmente liberados para el desarrollo del Tercer Mundo y, por tanto, para el alivio de la situación de la infancia.*

*Sin duda, la grave situación económica del mundo subdesarrollado es la causa esencial de la persistencia y progresiva agudización de las terribles condiciones de vida de cientos de millones de niños, y constituye, al mismo tiempo, el principal obstáculo en el camino para*

*Excmo. Sr. Brian Mulroney  
Primer Ministro de Canadá*

*Excmo. Sr. Moussa Traoré  
Presidente de Mali*

*Co-Presidentes de la Cumbre Mundial para la Infancia*

salir de tan dramático estado de cosas. Resulta obvio que sin una profunda transformación del orden económico internacional vigente y, principalmente, sin la desaparición de la carga insostenible de la deuda externa de los países subdesarrollados, muy poco podrá avanzarse en la solución efectiva y duradera de los problemas de la niñez en el mundo subdesarrollado.

No obstante, independientemente de esta realidad determinante, estamos convencidos de que es posible alcanzar los objetivos propuestos en los documentos de la Cumbre, si se cuenta con la voluntad política de los gobiernos para hacer efectiva la prioridad reconocida a los problemas de la infancia, si se logra la necesaria concertación de esfuerzos, se garantiza una generosa colaboración internacional y se instrumenta una organización eficiente de los programas y la imprescindible asesoría por parte de las agencias especializadas de las Naciones Unidas.

Nuestro país asigna especial importancia a la colaboración internacional. El hecho de que más de 100 mil profesionales y técnicos civiles en diferentes campos hayan ofrecido sus servicios gratuitos en más de 30 países del Tercer Mundo en los últimos 25 años, y que se hayan graduado en Cuba miles de médicos, ingenieros y técnicos procedentes de esos países, refleja nuestra voluntad y disposición.

Deseamos expresar que, en este sentido, junto a su más decidida voluntad de cooperación, Cuba pone a plena disposición del UNICEF y de los países que lo requieran su experiencia, sus resultados, sus logros científicos y tecnológicos y, sobre todo, lo más valioso que tenemos, nuestros técnicos y profesionales. Con ese espíritu de abierto compromiso y decidida colaboración, deseo patentizar la firme voluntad del pueblo cubano y del Gobierno de la República de Cuba de contribuir con todas sus energías y en todo el alcance de sus posibilidades a la cabal realización de los nobles propósitos que inspiraron la convocatoria de esta reunión, y al más exitoso cumplimiento de las metas y objetivos trazados en ella.

Ruego a ustedes recibir el testimonio de mi mayor consideración.

  
Fidel Castro Ruz



Г-н. БРАЙАНУ МАЛРУНИ  
Премьер-Министр Канады

Г-н. МУССА ТРАОРЕ  
Президент Мали

Сопредседатели всемирного совещания  
в верхах по вопросу детства.

Превосходительства!

Несколько месяцев назад, когда я узнал непосредственно от Исполнительного директора ЮНИСЕФ, господина Джеймса П. Гранта, о поддержанной с энтузиазмом ЮНИСЕФ инициативе группы видных глав государств и правительств по созыву всемирного совещания в верхах по вопросу детства, я высказал свое мнение о том, что такое совещание будет иметь чрезвычайно важное и масштабное значение для мирового сообщества, и что Куба внесет свой самый активный вклад для обеспечения наибольшего успеха в дискуссиях. Поводом для немедленной поддержки была наша уверенность в том, что, несмотря на огромные усилия и постоянную борьбу ЮНЕСКО, ВОЗ, ФАО, ЮНИСЕФ и других организаций Объединенных Наций, и на значительные успехи, достигнутые по некоторым вопросам, связанным с положением детей в мировом масштабе, стала очевидной общая тенденция к ухудшению основных аспектов жизни, развития и будущего детей в мире.

Детальные документы, разработанные этой организацией к совещанию четко отражают круг вопросов, которые должны быть затронуты. Ратификация и вход в силу в скором времени Конвенции о правах ребенка является событием огромного юридического, нравственного и гуманного значения и закладывает основы лучшего будущего для детей.

Нынешняя тенденция к сближению и сотрудничеству между крупнейшими державами, соответствующие шаги по пути к разоружению, предотвращению гонки вооружений и возможные сокращения военных расходов позволяют видеть такую перспективу, что часть громадных средств, выделяемых до сих пор для военных целей, сможет быть наконец высвобождена для развития Третьего мира, и тем самым, для облегчения положения детей.

Без сомнений, тяжелое экономическое положение недоразвитого мира является основной причиной сохраняющихся и постепенно ухудшающихся ужасных условий жизни сотни миллионов детей и в то же время остается главной преградой на пути к выходу из столь драматического положения дел. Вполне ясно, что без глубоких преобразований существующего международного экономического порядка, особенно без ликвидации невыносимого бремени внешней задолженности недоразвитых стран будет совсем незначительным продвижение по пути к эффективному и прочному разрешению проблем детства в недоразвитом мире.

Однако, независимо от такой определяющей реальности, мы убеждены в том, что достижение намеченных в документах к совещанию в верхах целей возможно, если располагать политической волей правительства для обеспечения признанной приоритетности проблем детства, добиться необходимого согласования усилий, гарантировать твердое международное содействие, обеспечить эффективную организацию программ и необходимую техническую помощь со стороны специализированных организаций Объединенных Наций.

Наша страна уделяет особое внимание делу международного сотрудничества. Тот факт, что за последние 25 лет больше ста тысяч гражданских специалистов и техников различных отраслей оказывали безвозмездно свои услуги в более чем тридцати странах Третьего мира, и что тысячи врачей, инженеров и специалистов из этих стран обучались на Кубе, является свидетельством нашей воли и стремления.

В связи с этим, мы хотим заявить, что наряду с стремлением к сотрудничеству, Куба предоставляет в полное распоряжение ЮНЕСКО и нуждающимся стран, свой опыт, результаты, научно-технологические достижения, и особенно, самое ценное, что у нас есть - своих специалистов. В таком духе открытого обязательства и готовности к сотрудничеству, желая подтвердить решительную волю кубинского народа и Правительства Республики Куба помочь всеми силами и в пределах своих возможностей делу полной реализации благородных целей, которыми инспирирован созыв совещания, и способствовать успешному выполнению его задач.

Свидетельствую вам свое почтение.

Фидель Кастро Рус

Гавана, 22 сентября 1990 г.

Havana, September 22, 1990

His Excellencies,

A few months ago, when I learned directly from Mr. James P. Grant, Executive Director of UNICEF, about the initiative of a distinguished group of Heads of State and Government, enthusiastically supported by UNICEF, to convene a World Summit for Children, I expressed my view that such a meeting would be an extremely transcendent and far-reaching event for the international community, and that Cuba would offer its active cooperation to guarantee the success of its deliberations. The reason for that immediate support was our conviction that, in spite of the strenuous efforts and permanent struggle by UNICEF, WHO, FAO, UNESCO, and other United Nations agencies, as well as the important achievements attained in some aspects related to the situation of children the world over, a general trend had become obvious toward the worsening of the main features concerning the life, development and future of children in the world.

The thorough documents prepared for this conference, clearly portrait the universe of problems to be tackled. The ratification and enforcement, in a near future, of the Convention on the Rights of Children constitutes an event of enormous legal, moral, and humane transcendence setting the foundations for a better future for children.

The present trend towards rapprochement and cooperation between the two major powers, and the subsequent steps in the direction of disarmament, the reversal of the arms race and the possible reduction of military expenses, suggest the prospect of a portion of the enormous resources presently spent on these being finally released for the development of the Third World and, therefore, for the relief of the situation of children.

Undoubtedly, the serious economic situation in the underdeveloped world is the fundamental cause for the persistent and progressive aggravation of the terrible living conditions of hundreds of millions of children, at the same time it represents the main obstacle in the road towards leaving this dramatic predicament behind. It is obvious that, without a profound transformation of the existing international economic order, and mainly without the removal of the unbearable burden of the external debt from the

H.E. Brian Mulroney  
Prime Minister of Canada

H.E. Moussa Traoré  
President of Mali

Co-Chairmen of the World Summit for Children

underdeveloped countries, very little will be attained as far as an effective and lasting solution is concerned to the problems of children in the underdeveloped world.

However, this determining reality notwithstanding, we are convinced that it is possible to reach the objectives fostered in the documents of this Summit, if the Governments have the political will to give the problems of children their acknowledged priority, if the necessary coordination of efforts is achieved and a generous international cooperation obtained, and if an efficient organisation of the programmes is achieved with the indispensable advisory of the specialized agencies of the United Nations.

Our country considers international cooperation to be of particular importance. The fact that over 100 thousand professionals and civilian technicians in different fields have offered their services free of charge to over 30 countries in the Third World in the last 25 years, and that thousands of medical doctors, engineers and technicians from those countries have graduated in Cuba, are a reflection of our will and readiness.

In this connection, we wish to express that, together with its most determined willingness to cooperate, Cuba places at the disposal of UNICEF and the countries which require it, its experience, its results, its technological and scientific achievements, and above all, what is most valuable: our technicians and professionals. It is with this spirit of open commitment and resolute cooperation that I wish to manifest the firm will of the Cuban people, and the Government of the Republic of Cuba, to contribute with all energy and to the maximum of its capabilities to the full realisation of the noble purposes which have inspired the convening of this meeting, and to the most successful fulfillment of the goals and objectives set by it.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Fidel Castro Ruz  
President of the Council of State  
and Chairman of the Council of Ministers  
Republic of Cuba

L'Havane, 22 septembre 1990

Excellences,

Lorsque M. James P. Grant, Directeur Exécutif de l'UNICEF, m'a communiqué lui-même il y a quelques mois, l'initiative -d'un groupe d'éminents chefs d'Etats et des Gouvernements, soutenue avec enthousiasme par l'UNICEF- de convoquer un sommet mondial sur l'Enfance, j'ai manifesté l'avis, qu'une réunion de ce genre constituerait un fait d'une importance et portée extraordinaires pour la communauté internationale et que Cuba offrirait son plus fort concours afin d'assurer le plus grand succès de ces délibérations. La raison de ce soutien immédiat répond à notre certitude que malgré l'énorme effort consenti et la lutte permanente menée à bien par l'UNICEF, l'OMS, la FAO, l'UNESCO et d'autres agences des Nations Unies, et en dépit de remarquables acquis atteints dans certains aspects liés à la situation de l'enfance au niveau international; il était évident l'existence d'une tendance générale aggravant les conditions fondamentales concernant la vie, le développement et l'avenir des enfants dans le monde.

Les documents minutieusement élaborés pour cette Conférence reflètent clairement l'univers de problèmes qui doivent être abordés. La ratification et la prochaine entrée en vigueur de la Convention de Droits de l'Enfant constituent un fait d'une énorme transcendance juridique, morale e humaine jettant ainsi les bases pour un meilleur avenir de l'enfance.

La tendance actuelle de rapprochement et de coopération entre les grandes puissances, accompagnée de démarches données visant le désarmement, le renversement de la course aux armements et la possible réduction de dépenses militaires, laissent entrevoir la perspective qu'une partie de considérables ressources consacrées jusqu'à nos jours à ces dépenses, pourraient être détournées enfin pour le développement du Tiers Monde et donc pour alléger la situation de l'enfance.

Nul ne doute que la grave situation économique du monde sous développé est la cause essentielle de la persistance et progressive accentuation de terribles conditions de vie de centaines de millions d'enfants et qu'elle est aussi, le principal obstacle auquel nous nous affrontons pour sortir de cet état de choses dramatique. Il est évident que sans une transformation profonde de l'ordre économique international en vigueur et surtout sans la disparition du fardeau insupportable de la dette extérieure des pays sous développés, très peu pourra être fait en faveur d'une solution efficace et durable des problèmes de l'enfance dans le monde sous développé.

S.E. M. Brian Mulroney, Premier Ministre du Canada  
S.E. M. Moussa Traoré, Président du Mali

Co-Présidents du Sommet Mondial sur l'Enfance

Cependant, indépendamment de cette réalité déterminante nous sommes convenus qu'il est possible d'atteindre les objectifs fixés dans les documents du Sommet, d'exister la volonté politique des Gouvernements pour rendre effective la priorité reconnue aux problèmes concernant l'enfance, de parvenir à la concertation nécessaire d'efforts, d'assurer un généreuse coopération internationale et d'appliquer une organisation efficace des programmes avec l'indispensable assistance des agences spécialisées des Nations Unies.

Notre pays accorde particulière importance à la coopération internationale et les 100 mille professionnels et techniciens civils offrant leurs services gratuitement dans plus de 30 pays du Tiers Monde au cours de ces dernières 25 années, ainsi que les milliers de médecins, ingénieurs et techniciens provenant de ces pays ayant reçu leurs diplômes à Cuba, en témoignent notre volonté et notre disposition.

Nous voudrions dans ce sens, manifester notre volonté de coopération plus résolue, Cuba met à la totale disposition de l'UNICEF —et des pays qui en auraient besoins— son expérience, ses résultats, ses acquis scientifiques et technologiques, et surtout, ce que nous avons de plus précieux: nos techniciens et professionnels. Dans cet esprit de véritable engagement et de coopération déterminée, je voudrais exprimer la ferme volonté du peuple cubain et du Gouvernement de la République de Cuba de contribuer avec toutes ses énergies et possibilités, à la réalisation des nobles objectifs qu'ont inspirés la convocation de cette réunion, ainsi qu'à l'exécution de ses buts.

Je vous prie, veuillez accepter le témoignage de ma plus haute considération.

Fidel Castro Ruz  
Président du Conseil d'Etat  
et du Conseil de Ministres  
de la République de Cuba

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**CZECH AND SLOVAK REPUBLIC**

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Message of the President of the Czech and Slovak Federal  
Republic to the participants of the World Summit for Children  
taking place in New York on 29 - 30 September 1990

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The World Summit for Children convenes really at the historic moment when the world is not any more divided into two antagonistic opposite sides. We are living through an unrepeatable period which the future generations will most likely mark as the turning point in the development of human society. In contrast to the past, however, this revolutionary change is not smeared with the blood of thousands, sometimes millions of dead people. The present stage is marked by the rising predominance of spirit over rough force, a retreat from confrontation, seeking and finding ways towards mutual understanding. Awareness of joint responsibility for the fate of our planet and humankind as such is being borne.

Unfortunately, even today there are adventurers who try violently and for the price of numerous human sacrifices to press their life philosophy on others, to push through their egoistic interests. But the world today stands united in understanding that even lofty humane goals - let them be just proclaimed or perhaps considered sincerely - cannot be pushed through to the detriment of others.

One of the key tasks of the World Summit for Children is to create preconditions for a worldwide effective application of the principles contained in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Survival, development and the protection of children, these are the fundamental postulates, the strict observance of which must become a point of personal honour of every one of us, but of the international community as a whole too.

Obviously, there is not a single country on this planet that could responsibly claim that it has successfully and definitively solved the problem of harmonious development of its child population. There always will be something to improve. In no case, however, should anybody be satisfied with reaching the internationally recognized



standards of children's conditions of life, and feverish activity should appear wherever the basic needs of children have not yet been successfully provided for.

Today, especially the so-called South remains such a place. Solving the abysmal differences between the poor South and the advanced North must become the priority of our endeavours. Every country certainly bears full responsibility for the situation of its children nevertheless, we all should feel collectively responsible for the conditions under which the young generation of the nineties will grow up in the countries of the South.

Here we have to admit that the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic has so far only little joined these new streams in the global relationships. No wonder when only ten months ago Czechoslovakia was ruled by a regime which stuck to the principle of confrontation until its very last moments. The mortal convulsions of the old regime did enable the advance of humanism and development of real collaboration in diametrically different conditions, but we have been learning to adopt an active approach towards worldwide universal problems less than a year, too short a time to correct the mistakes made in the past few decades.

As President of the CSFR I have the honour of assuring the other participants of this unprecedented forum that Czechoslovakia is fully aware of its responsibility for the course of events on this planet of ours and that it is prepared to share in the dialogue of all sides of the world, disregarding the obligations issuing from it and the multitude of our internal problems which must be solved simultaneously. The future of the world's children is worth our preferential attention.

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**CHINA**

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世界儿童问题首脑会议：

值此世界儿童问题首脑会议在纽约联合国总部召开之际，我们代表中国政府和包括三亿多儿童在内的全体中国人民，对会议的召开表示最热烈的祝贺。

我们高兴地看到各国首脑和他们的代表聚集一堂，专门讨论世界儿童问题。儿童是社会的花朵，人类的未来，是社会进步和经济发展的希望所在，召开这样的会议具有重大的意义。保护儿童健康成长和全面发展，世界才能更好地应付二十一世纪的挑战。这是人类社会的百年大计。我们希望，国际社会特别关注发展中国家的儿童，为他们创造更良好的生存和发展的条件。

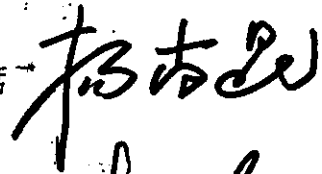
中国人口的百分之三十是儿童，占世界儿童人口的六分之一。中国政府一贯重视儿童工作并制定了儿童事业发展规划。新中国成立四十年来，儿童的健康、营养、教育、福利以及妇幼保健等方面都得到了显著的改善。中国政府特别重视儿童基础教育和儿童卫生免疫工作。中国正在为基本上普及九年义务教育不断做出努力。中国已于一九八八年底在全国三十个省一级实现百分之八十五儿童免疫

目标并将在一九九〇年底努力实现全国二千多个县为单位的儿童免疫接种率达到百分之八十五的目标。中国政府将继续作出一切努力,确保我国儿童在辽阔的中华大地上茁壮成长。

多年来,联合国儿童基金会为世界儿童事业做了许多有益的工作,推动了各国对儿童工作的重视和国际间的合作。儿童基金会同中国的合作也是卓有成效、令人满意的。

我们相信,世界儿童问题首脑会议的召开必将促进国际社会和各国政府对九十年代儿童的生存、保护和发展的重视。我们预祝会议取得圆满成功。同时,我们也愿借此机会对发起和筹备首脑会议作出贡献的有关政府、国际机构和人员表示敬意。

中华人民共和国主席



中华人民共和国国务院总理



一九九〇年九月二十九日于北京

(Translation)

World Summit for Children

New York

On the occasion of the convocation of the World Summit for Children at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, we would like to extend our warmest congratulations on behalf of the Chinese Government and people including over 300 million children.

We are pleased to note that Heads of State or Government around the world and their representatives are gathering in New York for discussions devoted to children. Children are budding flowers of the society and in them lie the future of mankind and the hope of its social progress and economic prosperity. Therefore, the present World Summit for Children is of great significance. Only when the healthy growth and all-around development of children are ensured, can the world better meet challenges in the 21st century. This is a matter of vital and lasting importance to human society. We hope that the international community would show special concern for children in the developing countries and create favourable conditions for their survival and development.

Children in China account for 30 per cent of the country's population and one sixth of the world's total. The Chinese Government has always shown great concern for children and developed various programmes benefitting children. Over the past 40 years since the founding of New China, the state of children's health, nutrition, education and welfare as well as health care for mothers and children have been improved notably. The Chinese Government has paid special attention to children's basic education and immunization. It is exerting consistent efforts to basically make nine-year compulsory education universal. By the end of 1988, China's immunization coverage for children reached 85 per cent at the provincial level and is now working hard for 85 per cent at county level by the end of 1990. The Chinese Government will continue to do its utmost to ensure the healthy growth of our children on the vast expanse of the country.

For years, the United Nations Children's Fund has done a great deal of useful work for the well-being of children around the world, and enhanced the awareness of the importance of the work concerning children on the part of various countries and promoted international cooperation in this regard. UNICEF's cooperation with China has also been most fruitful and satisfactory.

We are confident that as a result of the World Summit for Children, the international community and various countries will pay still greater attention to the survival, protection and development of children. We wish the Summit a complete success. Meanwhile, we wish also to take this opportunity to pay our tribute to the relevant governments, international agencies and persons concerned for their contributions to the initiating and preparation of the Summit.

YANG Shangkun  
President of the People's  
Republic of China

LI Peng  
Premier of the State Council of  
the People's Republic of China

Beijing, 29 September 1990

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**DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

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**NATIONAL PAPER OF THE DEMOCRATIC  
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

It is one of the most prime undertakings of the governments and the unanimous desire of the world people heading for a civilized new world to protect the children, the future of mankind, legally and ensure their rights.

In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea "children are the kings of the country" and all the children are brought up at state and public expense.

There are nurseries and kindergartens in every place where children are such as town, farm village, factory and enterprise etc. and social system to educate and bring them up is well-established.

All pre-school children numbering 2.5 million across the country are brought up and educated at the expense of state and society at over 60,000 nurseries and kindergartens.

The DPRK Supreme People's Assembly adopted "The Democratic People's Republic of Korea Law on Nursing and Upbringing of Children" in April, 1976 which has further consolidated successes made in nursing and upbringing of children and guaranteed their rights legally.

Our country has enforced universal compulsory primary education system in 1956, universal compulsory secondary education system in 1958, universal 9 year compulsory technical education system in 1967 and 11 year universal compulsory education system in 1972. More than 5 million children equivalent to one quarter of its population are educated at the 11,200 schools at all levels at state and public expense.

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, based on the superior policy of nursing and upbringing children pursued in our country, has already ratified the convention on the Rights of Child adopted at the General Assembly of the United Nations last year.

Our Government is expanding cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund and other international organizations.

Experts' Meeting on education and development of children was held in our country from 3 to 8 of October 1987 under the sponsorship of



**UNICEF. At the meeting the successes and experiences made by many countries in the world in the work of nursing and upbringing of preschool children were introduced and the methods for improvement of this work exchanged.**

**We are also developing cooperation with the international organizations within the United Nations system, especially with UNICEF, UNFPA and WHO through the exchange of missions and lectures and seminars.**

**The Democratic People's Republic of Korea Government will, in the future, too, as in the past, continue to pay deep attention to nursing and upbringing of children and further improve the nursing, upbringing and elementary education of children in accordance with the developing new requirement by consolidating the already gained successes and experiences.**

**Our Government renders active support to the strategies for children in the 1990s adopted at the meeting of the Executive Board of UNICEF in 1989 and will do its utmost for its implementation.**

**The Democratic People's Republic of Korea will make every sincere effort to make available to other countries the successes and experiences gained in our country in cooperation with the international organizations including UNICEF.**

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**DENMARK**

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# DENMARK

TO THE UNITED NATIONS - 2 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017 - TEL. (212) 308-7009

World Summit for Children  
New York, September 29-30, 1990:  
Message from Mr. Poul Schlüter,  
Prime Minister of Denmark.

The World Summit for Children will hopefully provide a decisive impetus for a concerted international effort for the improvement of the lot of the World's children. The participation of an unprecedented number of Heads of State and Government at a point of time when prospects for international cooperation have improved considerably gives cause for optimism that progress in improving the condition of children may accelerate.

The Summit is about children in all countries. There is scope for improvements everywhere. The Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted unanimously by the UN General Assembly, is universal. Hopefully all countries will soon have ratified the Convention.

While the consequences for children of economic and social development are generally only apparent in the short and medium terms, the effects on children of internal strife or of wars are immediate and immensely tragic. Not only may children be unwilling participants in such conflicts, but the victims of war among the civil population will to a large extent be defenseless children.

Moreover the resources wasted on war could have been put to constructive use in favour of children. It is thought provoking that at a point of time, when the cold war is coming to an end, UNDP has in its 1990 Human Development Report shown that military expenditure is increasing faster in developing countries than in industrialized and fastest in the poorest countries.

Although the problems of children's protection and wellbeing are global and no nation and no citizen can ever claim to have dealt satisfactorily with them, there are among nations not merely nuances, but serious differences in magnitude of the efforts and resources required to deal with the needs of children. The lack of resources in developing countries and hence their difficulties in coping with the problems of children make it appropriate for the Summit to focus on the needs of these countries.

As is the case with development problems in general there is no substitute for national efforts. But the international community can provide valuable supplements to these efforts. Development assistance to economic and social progress in general will enable developing countries to increase their efforts in favour of children and improve the prospects for the lives of these children and thus the future of the countries. Some development

assistance focuses directly on children. This is especially necessary in cases, where economic adjustment and reforms have led to hardship, which may have serious consequences for children. In this connection UNICEF's promotion of the concept "adjustment with a human face" should be very much appreciated.

In the follow up to the Summit three areas should receive special emphasis: sustainability, coordination and population policy.

International efforts, whether through multilateral or bilateral assistance, must be fully integrated into the national institutional framework of the recipient countries. Capacity building must take precedence over immediate, but shortlived results. If efforts are not geared to the conditions of the individual recipients, they will not be sustainable.

The resources available must be used as effectively and efficiently as possible. A prerequisite for this is that efforts are fully coordinated. This is primarily the responsibility of recipient countries, but the various parts of the UN system must ensure that their efforts are complementary and that wasteful competition is avoided. Donors, which fund the multilateral programmes, and recipients, which benefit from them, have a right to demand this.

It is noted with satisfaction that UNICEF and UNFPA are to undertake joint reporting on their assistance in the field of population policy and family planning. Progress in this area is crucial for ensuring economic and social development and improved conditions for children.

In many countries, not least among the poorest, the population explosion is the single most important obstacle for development. If the growth rate in population is not reduced, these countries will stand no chance of economic progress, and improvements in health, nutrition and education of children cannot be but marginal. In many countries population growth contributes significantly to environmental degradation. Resources cannot keep pace with population growth without severe damage to the environment.

A decrease in birth rates also has a direct effect on the conditions of the children. Child spacing will mean better health for the mothers and thus better care of their children. The same amount of resources for children's health and education can be concentrated on a smaller number of children. This will mean better health and higher standard of education for the children that are born. And it will reduce infant mortality and thus in turn lead to a further decrease in the birth rate.

These three areas are, obviously, not the only ones, where progress is needed. But they are areas, where international awareness has not been sufficient to bring about enough results to assure the world community that progress is being made.

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**DJIBOUTI**

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REPUBLIQUE DE DJIBOUTI  
UNITÉ - EGALITÉ - PAIX

جمهورية جيبوتي

وحدة - مساواة - سلام

رئاسة الجمهورية

**PRESIDENCE DE LA REPUBLIQUE**

Djibouti, le **21 SEP. 1990** 198

جيبوتي في ١٩٨٠.....

## M E S S A G E P E R S O N N E L

DU PRESIDENT DE LA REPUBLIQUE DE DJIBOUTI, CHEF DE GOUVERNEMENT  
à l'occasion de la CONFERENCE au Sommet sur l'ENFANCE

Depuis sa naissance, le 27 Juin 1977, notre République s'est préoccupée d'atteindre l'amélioration de la condition de ses enfants en bas âge, de ceux abandonnés et d'autres dont la situation familiale n'aurait pas permis la survie.

La création de l'Organisme "LA MERE et l'ENFANT" à l'initiative de l'épouse du Chef de l'Etat, avec la participation, bénévole, de nombreuses personnalités étrangères et Djiboutiennes, et du soutien financier

des pays amis, a permis de soulager des misères nombreuses, puisque l'effectif actuel du centre se chiffre à quatre cents prises en charge.

Une deuxième opération différente de la précédente, l'ASSOCIATION NATIONALE DES JEUNES assure, depuis bientôt 14 années, la formation des enfants, d'un âge plus élevé, aux différentes activités nationales.

Par les moyens qui lui sont propres, la REPUBLIQUE DE DJIBOUTI ne peut faire mieux malgré son désir de donner une dimension nouvelle à cette entreprise ; elle estime cependant pouvoir y parvenir avec la compréhension des différentes organisations concernées et le soutien des pays industrialisés, sensibles à la misère d'ailleurs.

  
HASSAN GOULED APTIDON



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# **DOMINICA**

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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF DOMINICA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Telephone: (212) 949-0853  
Ref. No.: .....

820 Second Avenue  
New York, N.Y. 10017

Dear Children of the World,

The 20th Century will go down in history as a very exciting one; when the people of the world saw dramatic changes which resulted from many challenges.

Every country has its own peculiar problems and the needs of children differ. However, there are some basic and common ideals which we all share and these are the ideals which have been instrumental in setting the goals for children in the 1990's.

I believe, that in the unfolding of history the World Summit for Children will stand out in a very significant way.


My country has been a signatory to the UN Convention on the Rights of the child because we are of the firm belief that children are an integral part of any society. They have a vital role to play in the development of their country.

Because of that belief, my Government has pledged to do all in its power to protect the rights of the child and to provide opportunities for every child to develop and to achieve to his or her fullest potential.

It is interesting to note that many of you children in referring to this Summit are expressing the wish to make your own interventions. We would like to listen to you and ask in particular that you devise solutions for the problems of drug abuse by children and teenage pregnancies. We would be glad to implement your solutions if they will assist in bringing relief.

We are committed to this ideal and so we go forward into the '90's with renewed vigour and faith in the belief that a world-wide endeavour, through national programmes and action together with international cooperation, will bring about the desired goals of the World Summit - to give every child a better future.

Yours faithfully



M. EUGENIA CHARLES  
PRIME MINISTER  
COMMONWEALTH OF DOMINICA

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**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

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MENSAJE DE SU EXCELENCIA DR. JOAQUIN BALAGUER  
A LA "CUMBRE MUNDIAL DE LA INFANCIA

EMBAJADA DE LA REPUBLICA DOMINICANA  
WASHINGTON

La más valiosa y rentable inversión que puede hacerse en estos momentos tanto por los gobiernos como por los sectores privados de cada país es aquella que se destina a la protección de la niñez. Esta verdad adquiere una mayor dimensión y trascendencia en el caso de los países subdesarrollados en donde un número apreciable de niños viven en estado de invalidez y de desamparo.

El Gobierno de la República Dominicana, consciente de esa verdad, está poniendo sus mejores empeños cada vez en forma más amplia, para preservar y desarrollar a la niñez, especialmente en los que atañe a la alimentación, la educación física e intelectual y a la salud. En tal sentido en los últimos tres años se han multiplicado los programas de distribución de alimentos, especialmente de leche, en los centros materno-infantiles que funcionan en todo el país y especialmente en los centros urbanos de mayor densidad poblacional. Asimismo, en estos momentos se amplía el Desayuno Escolar, sobre todo en los planteles ubicados en las zonas de menores recursos económicos. Por otra parte, se aumentan los subsidios a hospicios, guarderías infantiles y a todos los centros desde donde se ejecutan programas de alimentación y salud, así como la educación pre-escolar y primaria.

En suma, la República Dominicana comparte el compromiso que los pueblos y gobiernos del mundo están asumiendo al formular la Declaración Universal de los Derechos del Niño y se presta a convertir esa declaración de principios en un estímulo más decisivo aún, para continuar cumpliendo con el ineludible de ver y con la impostergable obligación de proteger y de desarrollar al máximo a la niñez, especialmente aquella sometida a los rigores de la pobreza.

SEPT 29, 1990

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**EGYPT**

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## رسالة

السيد الرئيس / محمد حسني مبارك

رئيس جمهورية مصر العربية

لمؤتمر قمة الطفولة

ان قمة الطفولة تعتبر تطورا فريدا في تاريخ العلاقات الدولية يدل على ارتقاء الوعي السياسي في عالمنا المعاصر ، وبعد نظر القادة في التطلع لمعالجة الامور ليس فقط ذات الاولوية الحالية بل وايضا ذات الاثار المستقبلية وبعيدة المدى.

فاطفال اليوم هم اعمدة بناء الغد، وهم قادة المستقبل ، واننى لاشعر بالسعادة البالغة ان الفكرة التي نشأت في اذهان العاملين المخلصين في صندوق الأمم المتحدة للطفولة ثم جرى تبنيها من قبل قادة دول ست هي كندا ومالى والمكسيك وباكستان والسويد ومصر ، هذه الفكرة وجدت أرضا دولية خصبة من قادة العديد من الدول في الشمال والجنوب ، وان الاستجابة الكبيرة للدعوة لقمة الطفولة على هذا النحو غير المسبوق لدلالة واضحة على طبيعة العصر الذي نتجه اليه في العقد الأخير من القرن العشرين ، وهو العصر الذي يجعل حقوق الانسان ركيزة العلاقات الدولية ، الانسان كفرد وحقه في الحياة الحرة الكريمة الآمنة ، الانسان كعصب وحقه في تقرير مصيره واختيار نظامه السياسى والاقتصادى والاجتماعى بمحض ارادته وباختياره الحر دون تدخل خارجى.

أنه من المنطقي أن يأتي اهتمامنا بحقوق الإنسان كوحدة واحدة ، وككل لايتجزأ ، من حيث المفهوم والمنطلق ، كما أنه من الطبيعي أيضا ان يكون هذا الاهتمام متدرجا يعالج حتى مراحل العمر ، وحيث ان الطفولة هي اولى هذه المراحل فان اجتماع هذه القمة يعد امرا طبيعيا ومنطقيا ليس فقط مع فكرنا السياسي في كليته ، بل وايضا مع اسلوب عملنا الواقعي في جزئياته .

لقد اتخذت مصر كافة الاجراءات من اجل وضع العناصر الرئيسية التي تضمنتها الاتفاقية الدولية لحقوق الطفل موضع التنفيذ قبل بدء سريانها فعليا على المستوى العالمي بحيث اصبحت خطة العمل الداخلى في مجال الطفولة تسير بنفس النهج الذي توصلت اليه خطة العمل واعلان قمة الطفولة التي شاركت مصر في الاعداد لها طوال هذه الفترة .

ان الاعلان السياسي لقمة الطفولة وخطة العمل اللذين يقرهما هذا المؤتمر ونحرص على وضعهما موضع التنفيذ الفوري بعد انتهائه ، تمثلان وثيقتين من الوثائق الهامة التي يسرنى وضع توقيعنا عليهما ، وانحنى من جانبى - كرئيس لجمهورية مصر العربية - قد بادرت باصدار اعلان عقد الطفل المصرى للفترة من ١٩٨٩ الى ١٩٩٩ ليتم في تلك السنوات العشر تحقيق التطعيم الشامل لأطفال مصر ضد امراض الطفولة الشائعة مع توفير فرص التعليم المناسبة لهم ، فالصحة و التعليم هما الركيزتان اللتان يعتمد عليهما ابناؤنا وبناتنا في المستقبل وحتى يمكنهم المساهمة في تطوير المجتمع والمثل العربى يقول "العقل السليم في الجسم السليم".

محمد حسنى مبارك

رئيس جمهورية مصر العربية

Unofficial Translation

Message From President  
Hosni Mubarak, President of the  
Arab Republic of Egypt, to the  
World Summit on Children

The World Summit On Children is a unique event in the history of international relations, indicative of the advanced political consciousness of the world of to-day. It is also a sign of the far sightedness of leaders who concern themselves not only with matters of immediate priority but also with matters which affect our future and have far-reaching impact in times to come.

To-day's children are the builders of to-morrow. They are the leaders of the future. It is highly gratifying that the idea which started in the minds of dedicated men and women in the United Nations Children's Fund, and then sponsored by leaders of six countries, Canada, Mali, Mexico, Pakistan, Sweden and Egypt, has been much welcomed internationally by leaders of various nations, North and South, East and West. This great unprecedented response to the call for the Summit is a clear indication of the nature of this period, the last decade of the 20th Century. It is an era where human rights are considered the mainstay of international relations. The concept of human rights of individuals to live in freedom, dignity and security as well as the rights of peoples to self-determination and to choose freely their own political, economic and social systems, without any outside interference.

It is only logical that we would be concerned with human rights as a whole, one and indivisible whole, in terms of both concept and approach. It is also natural that this concern would extend to all stages of our life; and since childhood is the first of these stages, the holding of the Summit on Children has been in consonance with our political thinking in its entirety as well as with our actual approach to matters of detail.



Egypt has taken all the measures necessary to put into effect the main elements of the International Convention which was declared effective on the international level. Hence, our internal plan of action in the field of childhood follows the same approach identified in the Plan of Action and Declaration of the World Summit On Children in the preparatory work of which Egypt has long participated:

The Political Declaration and Plan of Action which will be adopted by this Summit and which we will put into effect immediately thereafter are two important documents that I will be pleased to sign. As President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, I proclaimed the period 1989-1999 a decade for Egyptian Children, with a view to provide during that period complete immunization for our children against common diseases and enable them to get proper education. In effect, health and education are the two mainstays on which our children, boys and girls, would depend in order to be able to contribute to the development of society as stated in our Arab proverb "In a sound body abides a sound mind."

Traduction officielle

Message de Monsieur le President  
Mohammed Hosni Moubarak  
President de la Republique Arabe d'Egypte  
a la  
Conference au Sommet pour l'Enfance

La Conference au sommet pour l'enfance constitue un evenement unique dans l'histoire des relations internationales qui temoigne de la hauteur de la conscience politique dans notre monde contemporain et la perspicacite des dirigeants qui cherchent ainsi a regler non seulement les questions prioritaires de l'heure actuelle, mais egalement celles qui auront a long terme un impact sur l'avenir.

Les enfants d'aujourd'hui sont les piliers de l'edifice de demain, ils sont aussi les dirigeants de l'avenir. Aussi suis-je particulierement heureux du fait que l'idee nee d'abord dans les esprits des responsables devoues du Fonds des Nations Unies pour l'enfance, pour etre, par la suite, adoptee par les dirigeants de six Etats, a savoir : le Canada, le Mali, le Mexique, le Pakistan, la Suede et l'Egypte, ait trouve un terrain international propice aupres des leaders d'un grand nombre de pays tant au Nord qu'au Sud, a l'Est qu'a l'Ouest. L'ampleur sans precedent de la reponse a la convocation d'un sommet sur l'enfance constitue un indice significatif de la nature meme de l'ere vers laquelle nous nous dirigeons, en cette derniere decennie du XXe siecle. Il s'agit

d'une époque qui fait des droits de l'homme le fondement même des relations internationales; j'entends par là l'homme en tant qu'individu et son droit à une vie libre, digne et sûre, et l'homme en tant que peuple et son droit à l'auto-détermination, au choix, en toute liberté et sans aucune ingérence étrangère, de son système politique, économique et social.

Il est par conséquent logique de nous préoccuper des droits de l'homme en tant qu'unité unique et indivisible, du point de vue du concept et de la démarche à suivre. Il est également normal que cet intérêt se manifeste à des échelons progressifs correspondant aux différentes étapes de la vie, l'enfance étant l'étape première.

L'Égypte a pris toutes les mesures nécessaires en vue de mettre en œuvre les principaux éléments contenus dans la Convention Internationale relative aux Droits de l'Enfant, avant même son entrée en vigueur sur le plan international. Ainsi notre plan d'action national dans le domaine de l'enfance adopte la même approche définie par le Plan d'Action et la Déclaration du Sommet de l'Enfance, à la préparation desquels l'Égypte a participé activement.

La convocation d'un sommet de même nature s'inscrit donc, de façon logique et naturelle, dans le cadre de notre pensée politique dans son ensemble et de notre action réelle dans toutes ses particularités.

La Declaration politique du Sommet de l'Enfance, ainsi que le Plan d'Action adoptes par la Conference seront mis en oeuvre par mon pays immediatement des la cloture des travaux de la dite Conference. Il s'agit en effet de deux instruments importants sur lesquels je suis particulierement heureux d'apposer ma signature. Pour ma part, et en ma qualite de President de la Republique Arabe d'Egypte j'ai pris l'initiative de proclamer la decennie 1989-1999 Decennie de l'Enfant Egyptien. Pendant cette periode nous allons achever la vaccination generalisee des enfants en Egypte contre les maladies de l'enfance. La Sante et l'Education sont en effet les deux piliers sur lesquels nos fils et nos filles pourront s'appuyer a l'avenir pour participer activement au developement de la societe. Le proverbe dit en effet "Mens sana in corpore sano".

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**EL SALVADOR**

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MISION PERMANENTE DE EL SALVADOR  
ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

46 PARK AVENUE  
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10016

**MENSAJE DEL LIC. ALFREDO F. CRISTIANI BURENO  
PRESIDENTE DE LA REPUBLICA DE EL SALVADOR  
EN OCASION DE LA CELEBRACION DE LA  
CUMBRE MUNDIAL EN FAVOR DE LA INFANCIA**

EN OCASION DE CELEBRARSE LA CUMBRE MUNDIAL EN FAVOR DE LA INFANCIA, TENGO EL HONOR, EN NOMBRE DEL PUEBLO Y GOBIERNO DE EL SALVADOR, DE EXPRESAR NUESTRO MAS SINCERO RECONOCIMIENTO POR ESTA INICIATIVA, QUE PERMITIRA, QUE AL MAS ALTO NIVEL, NOSOTROS, LOS RESPONSABLES Y LIDERES EN LA CONDUCCION DE LOS PUEBLOS QUE FORMAN LA COMUNIDAD INTERNACIONAL, REAFIRMEMOS EL COMPROMISO PARA ALCANZAR LOS OBJETIVOS Y ESTRATEGIAS QUE ASEGUREN LA SUPERVIVENCIA, LA PROTECCION Y EL DESARROLLO DE LOS NIÑOS, QUE SON EL FUTURO DE LA HUMANIDAD. EL CUADRAGESIMO QUINTO PERIODO ORDINARIO DE SESIONES DE LA ASAMBLEA GENERAL SERA RECORDADO TAMBIEN PORQUE, DURANTE EL MISMO, SE CELEBRARA LA CUMBRE DE JEFES DE ESTADO O GOBIERNO, QUE NO TIENE PRECEDENTES SOBRE EL TEMA DE LA NIÑEZ.

LA CELEBRACION DE ESTA CUMBRE MUNDIAL TIENE UN ALTO SIGNIFICADO, SI SE TIENEN EN CUENTA LAS LAMENTABLES CONDICIONES EN QUE VIVEN MILLONES DE NIÑOS EN NUESTRO PLANETA, EN ESPECIAL EN LOS PAISES EN DESARROLLO, EN LOS CUALES LA SITUACION ECONOMICA Y SOCIAL, EN LUGAR DE MEJORAR, SE MANTIENE ESTANCADA O TIENDE A UN MAYOR DETERIORO POR LA PERSISTENCIA DE LOS FACTORES NEGATIVOS QUE OBSTACULIZAN EL CRECIMIENTO Y EL DESARROLLO, Y QUE SE REFLEJA EN LA DRAMATICA SITUACION EN QUE VIVEN VASTOS SECTORES DE LA POBLACION INFANTIL EN DIFERENTES AREAS GEOGRAFICAS. EN NUESTROS PAISES SUBDESARROLLADOS DEBEMOS Y TENEMOS EL COMPROMISO DE REEVALUAR NUESTRO ESTILO DE DESARROLLO, EN EL CUAL LOS ASPECTOS EN FAVOR DE LA INFANCIA TIENEN QUE OCUPAR UN LUGAR PRIORITARIO, DE TAL MANERA QUE LOS PROBLEMAS DE DESNUTRICION, HAMBRE, SALUD, MORTALIDAD, ANALFABETISMO, FALTA DE HOGAR, DISCRIMINACION E IGUALDAD DE DERECHOS, EL PROBLEMA DE LOS NIÑOS DE LA GUERRA, NIÑOS REFUGIADOS Y DESPLAZADOS, ETC. PUEDAN TENER UNA RESPUESTA Y UNA SOLUCION, QUE EN ULTIMA INSTANCIA BENEFICIARA A LAS RESPECTIVAS SOCIEDADES NACIONALES.

CREO OPORTUNO HACER UNA REFERENCIA ESPECIFICA A LOS NIÑOS DE EL SALVADOR QUE VIVEN EN UNA SITUACION ESPECIAL POR LA EXISTENCIA DE UN CONFLICTO ARMADO, DEL CUAL HEMOS TENIDO UNA LAMENTABLE Y DURA EXPERIENCIA, ESPECIALMENTE POR LA COLOCACION INDISCRIMINADA DE MINAS POR PARTE DE GRUPOS IRREGULARES ALZADOS EN ARMAS, QUE HAN CAUSADO MUERTOS, MUTILACIONES E INVALIDOS, PARTICULARMENTE EN LA POBLACION INFANTIL, QUE POR SU INOCENCIA IGNORAN EL PELIGRO QUE REPRESENTAN; SITUACION A LA QUE EL GOBIERNO DE EL SALVADOR CONJUNTAMENTE CON LA EMPRESA PRIVADA HAN OTORGADO ESPECIAL ATENCION PARA PROTEGER A ESTAS VICTIMAS INOCENTES, A

TRAVES DE LA CREACION DE INSTITUCIONES DIRIGIDAS A ALIVIAR, EN PARTE, EL SUFRIMIENTO QUE HA SIDO CAUSADO; ASICOMO TAMBIEN CON LA REALIZACION DE PROGRAMAS PREVENTIVOS POR MEDIO DE CONFERENCIAS POR PERSONAL ESPECIALIZADO DE LA COMISION DE DERECHOS HUMANOS GUBERNAMENTAL Y DIFUSION POR LOS MEDIOS DE COMUNICACION SOCIAL.

ANTE ESTA REALIDAD, A LA CUAL SE SUMAN OTROS PROBLEMAS TRADICIONALES QUE AFECTAN EL CRECIMIENTO Y DESARROLLO DE LOS NIÑOS EN MI PAIS, MI GOBIERNO HA DADO MUJSTRAS PARA ENCONTRAR SOLUCIONES A UNA SITUACION QUE CADA VEZ SE VUELVE MAS DRAMATICA Y QUE TENEMOS LA OBLIGACION MORAL Y LEGAL DE BUSCARLE SOLUCIONES. POR ELLO, FIRMAMOS Y RATIFICAMOS LA CONVENCION SOBRE LOS DERECHOS DEL NIÑO Y PONDREMOS EN PRACTICA LOS COMPROMISOS QUE SE ADOPTEN EN LA DECLARACION SOBRE LA SUPERVIVENCIA, LA PROTECCION Y EL DESARROLLO DEL NIÑO, ASI COMO EN EL PLAN DE ACCION PARA LA APLICACION DE LA DECLARACION MUNDIAL EN EL DECENIO DE MIL NOVECIENTOS NOVENTA.

SIN EMBARGO, EN EL CASO DE EL SALVADOR, EN LA ACTUAL COYUNTURA ES MUY IMPORTANTE, ANTES QUE NADA, LOGRAR LA FINALIZACION DEL CONFLICTO ARMADO Y LOGRAR LA PAZ Y LA RECONCILIACION NACIONAL, OBJETIVO PARA EL CUAL REITERAMOS NUESTRA FIRME VOLUNTAD POLITICA A FIN DE LOGRAR UNA SOLUCION POR MEDIO DEL PROCESO DE NEGOCIACION QUE ESTAMOS LLEVANDO ADELANTE CON EL FRENTE FARABUNDO MARTI, BAJO LOS AUSPICIOS Y BUENOS OFICIOS DEL SECRETARIO GENERAL DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS; Y CUYA FINALIZACION, SIN DUDA ALGUNA, REDUNDARA EN UN MAYOR BIENESTAR PARA LOS NINOS DE EL SALVADOR, AL SUSTITUIRSE EL ESTADO DE VIOLENCIA POR EL DE UNA SITUACION PACIFICA Y ESTABLE QUE PERMITIRA UN DESARROLLO NORMAL Y PACIFICO. CONSEQUENTEMENTE DESEARIAMOS QUE EL FMLN FLEXIBILIZARA SUS POSICIONES, A FIN DE QUE LOGREMOS A LA MAYOR BREVEDAD LA CESACION DEL CONFLICTO ARMADO, PARA BENEFICIO DE NUESTRA POBLACION Y EN PARTICULAR DE LA NIÑEZ SALVADOREÑA.

FINALMENTE, DESEO EXPRESAR, QUE EN LAS CONDICIONES ACTUALES, DADO EL ESTADO DE LA ECONOMIA DE NUESTROS PAISES, DE NUESTRA CAPACIDAD, DE NUESTROS RECURSOS Y DEL ENTORNO ECONOMICO INTERNACIONAL, CONSIDERAMOS QUE PARA LA CONSECUION DE LOS OBJETIVOS EN FAVOR DE LA NIÑEZ, ES IMPRESCINDIBLE LA COOPERACION Y ASISTENCIA INTERNACIONAL, TANTO BILATERAL COMO MULTILATERAL, Y CREEMOS QUE ESTA PODRA HACERSE EFECTIVA POR LA CONVICCION MISMA QUE EXISTE EN LOS GOBERNANTES, Y POR EL NUEVO CLIMA DE SOLIDARIDAD Y COOPERACION QUE SE ESTA DANDO EN LAS RELACIONES INTERNACIONALES.

ESPERO QUE LAS CONCLUSIONES Y RECOMENDACIONES DE LA CUMBRE MUNDIAL, SE HAGAN REALIDAD PARA BENEFICIO DE LA NIÑEZ EN EL MUNDO.

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# **FINLAND**

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September 30, 1990

**World Summit For Children  
Leadership For Children Message  
By Mr. Harri Holkeri, Prime Minister of Finland**

I would like to congratulate the initiators of this World Summit for Children for their vision, their courage and their determination. This meeting provides a unique opportunity to bring together the experiences and the wisdom of the national leaders from all corners of the world, East and West, South and North.

In Finland our national framework of education, health and social care have over the years been refined to a high level. Thanks to a pioneering work in the field of maternity and child health care our infant mortality is one of the lowest. Every Finnish child, without exception, receives her or his primary education without any cost to the family.

Against this background of the efficiently functioning welfare society there is reason to ask whether the childhood of every Finn is a happy one.

The answer, we have to admit, is not in all cases affirmative. In our efficient and competitive society many children still lack genuine love, care and the sense of basic security. Material welfare has in some instances pushed aside some of the values that contribute to a balanced development of self-esteem and personality in a young and fragile human being.

Although we recognize that poverty is the basic underlying factor to the suffering of millions of the world's children, we thus can from our own experience conclude that affluence itself does not solve all the problems of childhood.

The Heads of States and Governments of more than 70 countries have rallied together today for the cause of the world's children. We are thus signalling our joint political commitment. It remains for each of us to ensure in the coming months and years through our concrete deeds that the expectations raised by this Summit will be met.

Our objective should be that the potential of every child must have a chance to develop to the fullest.

**Harri Holkeri  
Prime Minister of Finland**

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**GABON**

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MESSAGE DU PRESIDENT  
DE LA REPUBLIQUE GABONAISE  
AU  
SOMMET MONDIAL DE L'ENFANT

MONSIEUR LE PRESIDENT,

C'EST UN GRAND HONNEUR POUR MOI DE PRENDRE LA PAROLE AU NOM DE LA REPUBLIQUE GABONAISE, EN CETTE CIRCONSTANCE HISTORIQUE QUI REUNIT, SOUS L'EGIDE DE L'ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES, LES PLUS HAUTES AUTORITES QUI PRESIDENT AUX DESTINEES DE LEUR PAYS RESPECTIF POUR S'INTERROGER ET REFLECHIR ENSEMBLE SUR LA CONDITION ACTUELLE ET A VENIR DE L'ENFANCE.

JE TIENS A FELICITER LES ORGANISATEURS DE CETTE CONFERENCE DONT LA COMPOSITION EST A LA MESURE DE L'ENJEU DU SUJET QU'ELLE VA EXAMINER ET DONT LA TENUE, AUJOURD'HUI NE PEUT ETRE ATTRIBUEE AU HASARD. IL S'AGIT DE FAIRE LE POINT SUR LES INITIATIVES ET LES ACTIONS ENTREPRISES, A CE JOUR, DE FAÇON PARCELLAIRE DANS LE CADRE DES INSTITUTIONS SPECIALISEES DES NATIONS UNIES.

CETTE EVALUATION DEVRAIT REVELER LA NECESSITE DE CONCEVOIR DES MECANISMES DE COORDINATION POUR EN ACCROITRE L'EFFICACITE ET POUR LES AMELIORER.

CETTE MEME EVALUATION NOUS IMPOSE SURTOUT, DANS LE TRAITEMENT DES QUESTIONS RELATIVES A L'ENFANCE, AU PLAN TANT NATIONAL QU'INTERNATIONAL, D'EN AVOIR UNE APPROCHE GLOBALE QUI TIENNE COMPTE DES ASPECTS CLASSIQUES TELS QUE CEUX TOUCHANT A L'EDUCATION, A LA MALNUTRITION OU LA SANTE, MAIS QUI INTEGRE DES AXES NOUVEAUX A LA LUMIERE DES CONSEQUENCES DU DEVELOPPEMENT TECHNOLOGIQUE, DE L'EXPLOSION DEMOGRAPHIQUE, DE L'URBANISATION GALOPANTE, DE LA VULNERABILITE DU MILIEU FAMILIAL FACE AUX CONTRAINTES DE LA VIE MODERNE.

DE FAIT, LES DIFFICULTES QUI ETREIGNENT LES PERSONNES ADULTES NE PEUVENT ETRE QUE PLUS ECRASANTES ENCORE POUR L'ENFANT OU L'ADOLESCENT QUI A BESOIN D'UN MINIMUM DE SECURITE POUR SON DEVELOPPEMENT.

LES ETATS QUE NOUS REPRESENTONS, LES SYSTEMES DE VALEUR QU'ILS DIFFUSENT SANS EN MÄTRISER LA LOGIQUE NI LES EFFETS, SONT LES PREMIERS RESPONSABLES DE L'INSECURITE QUI RUINE NOS SOCIETES, CELLES-LA MEME OU DOIT S'OPERER LA TRANSFORMATION DE LA CONDITION D'ENFANT A LA CONDITION D'HOMME. C'EST DONC A UN RENVERSEMENT DES VALEURS DONT LA FINALITE SERA LE BONHEUR DE L'HOMME, QUE NOUS DEVONS ENSEMBLE ORIENTER NOS EFFORTS. NOUS NE POUVONS CONTOURNER CETTE PRIORITE. CETTE CONFERENCE PEUT SERVIR DE CADRE POUR PROCEDER A L'INVENTAIRE DES VALEURS PERMANENTES ET ETERNELLES QUI CONSTITUENT LE DENOMINATEUR COMMUN DU GENRE HUMAIN. EN NOUS ACCORDANT SUR LEUR RECONNAISSANCE, NOUS POURRIONS NOUS ENGAGER A LES RETENIR COMME LE FONDEMENT UNIVERSEL DES ACTIONS ET DES POLITIQUES QUE NOUS SERONS APPELES A ENTREPRENDRE EN FAVEUR DE L'ENFANCE.

EL HADJ OMAR BONGO

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# **GAMBIA**

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REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
STATE HOUSE  
BANJUL

LEADERSHIP MESSAGE TO THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD

As we, the Heads of State and Government gather in New York for the World Summit for Children, I am extremely delighted to send warmest greetings to all the children of the world.

This important Summit, as most of us are aware, brings together leaders of many nations who together will try to resolve some of the universal problems affecting children. That a record number of us are assembled in New York is a testimony of the importance we attach to the welfare of children.

It is my fervent hope that at the end of our deliberations, this summit will come up with important decisions and declarations which will guide our respective Governments in our future policies and programmes for your welfare.

I find it disheartening to note that as I send this message to you, children of the world, almost 40,000 of you under the age of five die every day in the developing countries. These deaths are largely from preventable causes, which cost so little in terms of health care. Many more of you who survive beyond the age of five, suffer varying degrees of poverty, ignorance and disease.

The United Nations Children's Fund has been drawing our attention to the rather appalling statistics of your situation the world over.

Some of you are used as source of cheap labour. Yet others are abandoned and left to fend for themselves in the streets often under very deplorable conditions. Some end up being prostitutes and or drug addicts.

The international community cannot and should not allow this unsatisfactory state of affairs to continue. Our



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concerted effort is required to resolve these problems, hence the World Summit for Children.

I am sure I will be speaking for the other Heads of State and Government when I say that this Summit will offer us the unique opportunity of addressing these issues and taking bold decisions which would form a blue print for dealing with issues affecting you.

The basis of human capital development on which the overall socio-economic development of a nation depends has its roots in child development. You are assets for development. You are continuity. And you are the future. Therefore, the glory of the future of humankind lies in the prosperity of today's children of the world. Thus it behoves all parents, leaders, teachers, and indeed Governments to care and cater for all children the world over. It is a moral duty.

This Summit is tangible evidence of our commitment and dedication in fulfilling that duty. We should not fail in our duty.

I wish you long life, good health, peace, progress and prosperity. God bless you children of the world.

Dawda Kairaba Jawara  
President of the Republic of The Gambia

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# GHANA

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MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF STATE AND CHAIRMAN  
OF THE PNDC ON THE OCCASION OF THE WORLD SUMMIT  
FOR CHILDREN - NEW YORK, 29 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 1990

"On this historic occasion of the convening of the World Summit for Children, it gives me great pleasure to convey to all children of the world, especially those children who have been privileged to witness the occasion on behalf of their brothers and sisters throughout the world, my sincere and warm greetings and the best wishes of the Children of Ghana. I also extend my greetings and warmest congratulations to the distinguished initiators for their vision and initiative which have been translated into the largest gathering ever of world leaders to consider issues relating to children. It is my belief that their commitment and dedication will serve as a beacon for generations of world leaders to come.

We have come together at this Summit to obtain agreement at the highest political level, for a plan of action for putting into operation proven activities for saving children's lives and protecting their healthy growth and development. To me, this Summit is an epoch-making event which offers mankind the opportunity to take one giant step forward in its search for solutions to the numerous problems confronting children and the societies in which they live. It is my personal conviction and hope that the Declaration of the Summit and its Programme of Action unanimously adopted will serve as an impetus for true political commitment to the protection, survival and development of children throughout the world.

As we celebrate this unique occasion, I wish to focus attention on the plight of the millions of children in various parts of the world, particularly in the developing countries, who suffer much unacceptable deprivations and indignities. Let us continue to think about those children in developing countries who could be saved at minimal cost, but who die in thousands everyday as a result of the lack of commitment and the means to protect and save them. Let us continue to think of orphans, malnourished and refugee children throughout the world. Let us resolve together to contribute to making their lives meaningful and worth living. Our collective experience proves that child survival and development are possible through commitment, organisation and mobilisation.

Let us transform that commitment into concrete programmes for the survival, development and protection of children everywhere."

FLT. LT. J.J. RAWLINGS  
HEAD OF STATE AND CHAIRMAN  
OF THE PNDC

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**GREECE**

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MESSAGE OF MR. CONSTANTINE MITSOTAKIS,  
PRIME MINISTER OF GREECE  
TO THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN

The World Summit for Children has presented the international community with the challenge to focus its attention to the children of the world and to take urgent action for the protection and promotion of their rights and for their well-being. It is a challenge for the world leaders to undertake the commitment to provide a better future for humanity's most vulnerable as well as most cherished segment of the population, on which the future of mankind depends.

Millions of children around the world die every year from hunger and diseases which are not unpreventable or incurable; live under conditions which are not safe or healthy; are neglected and abused, or are deprived of opportunities for education and development.

The United Nations, through its UNICEF-supported programmes, has played a very constructive role in its efforts to meet the continuing and increasing needs of children around the world and in particular in the developing countries.

The World Summit for Children, which is the first of its kind, enhances political commitment to ensure the survival and protection of children as well as their participation as key elements in the socio-economic development of all countries. Concerted international action and cooperation among nations in addressing the needs of children and in establishing goals and strategies for the protection of their rights, can generate the necessary national and international commitment needed to improve the overall quality of children's life.

To achieve progress in this context, the personal and active commitment of national leaders is needed. As Greece's Prime Minister, I have renewed my commitment to the cause of protection and promotion of the rights of children in Greece, of ensuring their well-being and of enhancing their opportunities for a better future.

In Greece, national programmes include, among others, child health improvement, protection of human environment, establishment of more child-care centers, combat of drug abuse, educational and cultural exchanges among children of different countries.

The United Nations has played a vital role in the field of protection and promotion of human rights and in particular in safeguarding the rights of vulnerable groups. The Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted in November 1989, is of great significance. It covers a wide range of rights for the children; it goes well beyond existing legal norms and practices and charts entirely new territory in a number of areas, such as adoption, protection of children from sexual exploitation, drug abuse and neglect.

Greece was among the first countries to sign the Convention. We are working actively towards completing the Parliamentary procedures necessary for its ratification.

It is my earnest conviction that the World Summit for Children, will spread worldwide the growing awareness for children's rights. It will transform into positive action the commitment of the world's leaders to promote the well-being and to ensure the upbringing of our children in the spirit of the ideals of peace, dignity and freedom. The survival and the stability of our nations and the consolidation of peace in the world depend on our children.

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**GRENADA**

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PRIME MINISTER

GRENADA

MESSAGE ON THE OCCASION OF THE  
WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN

Among the numerous challenges to the existence of a nation, none is more noble than that of providing for our children, a peaceful and healthy environment which could enable a fuller enjoyment of life and sound opportunities for growth and development.

On the special occasion of the World Summit for Children, I am immensely happy to pledge my personal support for and commitment to the improved well-being of our nation's children. Naturally, my concern goes out for children the world over as is demonstrated by my country's ratification of the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child.

I believe that leaders have a strict responsibility to ensure that the children are fed, clothed and housed and provided with adequate health services and equal opportunities for a good education. These concerns must take priority in our national agendas. We must demonstrate a determination to ensure that the rights of the child are fully respected by all and that children receive due protection from abuse, hunger, neglect and discrimination.

I believe that our actions must provide clear signals that we are prepared to bequeath to our children a legacy in which the environment is rich, clear and unpolluted and where peace and happiness are assured. I commend these goals to all leaders and look forward to their full realization for the benefit of the children of the world.

  
NICHOLAS A. BRATHWAITE  
PRIME MINISTER

September 25, 1990

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# **GUATEMALA**

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# PRESIDENCIA DE LA REPUBLICA

GUATEMALA, C. A.

LIC. VINICIO CEREZO AREVALO

## DECLARACION DEL PRESIDENTE MARCO VINICIO CEREZO AREVALO

### A LA CUMBRE MUNDIAL EN FAVOR DE LA INFANCIA

La Cumbre Mundial en favor de la Infancia marca un hito en la historia de la humanidad. A pesar de que razones de fuerza mayor me han impedido estar presente, Guatemala se hace partícipe del compromiso común en apoyo a los niños y su futuro mejor.

El siglo veinte ha sido sumamente convulsionado. Cuantiosos recursos han sido invertidos en guerras y en medio de la destrucción y desolación que han causado, los niños han sido los más afectados. La década de 1990 se inicia con una nota esperanzadora al haber concluido la guerra fría. Las naciones se han acercado más. En un mundo cada vez más interdependiente, han manifestado la voluntad de fortalecer la paz a través del diálogo y la negociación. Esto se ha logrado en Centro América, manifestándolo así, las declaraciones emanadas de las Cumbres Presidenciales. El Proceso de Paz se inició con el Acuerdo de Esquipulas II. Tenemos pues, la voluntad y asumimos el compromiso de cumplirlo plenamente.

La paz y la democracia se han visto consolidadas en casi todas las regiones del mundo. La paz, sin embargo, es precaria y puede revertirse si las condiciones económicas existentes no son superadas lo más pronto posible. Es necesario que las Naciones Unidas continúen sus esfuerzos para que se fortalezca la paz, la justicia y la equidad. Hoy se hace posible que invirtamos en el futuro de paz, concordia y armonía. Es indispensable que ese futuro se forje desde su raíz. Esa raíz son los niños.

*Vinicio*

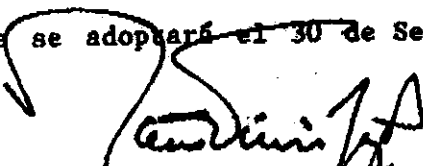




Los niños del mundo son inocentes, vulnerables y dependientes. Es imperativo cobrar plena conciencia respecto a la necesidad de invertir recursos económicos para promover la educación y preparación para su desarrollo económico, social, cultural y político. La primera fase la concluyó la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas al haber adoptado la Convención Internacional sobre los Derechos del Niño, la cual Guatemala suscribió en su momento y ya ha ratificado, como muestra de su apoyo y su compromiso con los niños. La segunda y necesaria fase consiste en la inversión que hoy se inicia para mejorar su situación, la cual augura un futuro en que la paz sea la regla y no la excepción... donde la negociación, el diálogo y la convivencia pacífica sean la orden del día.

Celebramos que los Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno reunidos en la Cumbre Mundial se esfuercen por acordar el legado que los gobernantes del mundo de hoy conceden a los gobernantes del mañana: Las bases para que donde el imperio de la ley, la justicia y la equidad, el respeto a la integridad y la persona humana, sean una realidad.

Guatemala hace un llamado a la comunidad internacional para que aune sus esfuerzos para asegurar a los niños del mundo un futuro más justo y equitativo y hace suya la Declaración Mundial sobre la Supervivencia, la Protección y el Desarrollo del Niño, así como el Plan de Acción para la Aplicación de la declaración que se adoptará el 30 de Septiembre de 1990 en Nueva York.

  
Marco Vinicio Cerezo Arévalo,  
Presidente Constitucional  
de la República de Guatemala.



Guatemala, 29 de Septiembre de 1990.

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**GUINEA**

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## LES LEADERS NATIONAUX PLAIDENT

### LA CAUSE DES ENFANTS

Jamais un thème aussi fondamental que celui de la petite enfance n'aura réuni autant de sensibilités dans le monde.

Pendant deux (2) jours, tous les coeurs battront à l'unisson de cette classe d'âge si sensible et si attachante.

La GUINEE qui connaît un taux de mortalité infantile très élevé, ne peut être en laisse dans ce rendez-vous des "Etats Généraux" de l'Enfance.

L'une des tâches les plus importantes auxquelles le Gouvernement de la Deuxième République s'est attelé au lendemain du 3 Avril 1984, a été et demeure la restauration des équilibres macro-économiques permettant la relance d'une économie jadis hypertrophiée en vue de l'amélioration des conditions de vie des populations guinéennes.

Populations Guinéennes disons-nous, mais surtout les plus vulnérables dont les femmes et les enfants qui représentent successivement 51,3% et 16,5% de la population.

C'est ainsi qu'un service d'encadrement de la petite enfance sous l'autorité d'une Directrice Nationale des Affaires Sociales a été créé au sein du Ministère des Affaires Sociales et de l'Emploi.

Je me réjouis de constater que cette entité fonctionne à la satisfaction des populations.

Dans cette optique, et grâce au programme de coopération entre l'UNICEF et le Gouvernement couvrant la période 1987-1991, il est important de faire remarquer que des résultats significatifs ont été enregistrés.

Je m'en veux pour preuve évoquer les succès accomplis dans les domaines des établissements pré-scolaires, de l'intégration sociale des enfants abandonnés et orphelins, de la mise en oeuvre de textes législatifs règlementant la protection de l'Enfance .....

C'est ainsi que grâce à l'Ordonnance No 300/PRG/84 du 27 Octobre 1984 portant libération des initiatives privées en matière d'éducation, il a été procédé à la construction en moyenne de dix (10) établissements pré-scolaires par an.

Toutefois, l'heure n'est pas de verser dans un optimisme excessif qui cacherait mal l'ampleur des tâches qui attendent mon Pays. Car comme le dit un proverbe de chez nous : " Lorsqu'on vous aide à vous laver en vous frottant le dos, pensez aussi à vous frotter le ventre et la poitrine".

Je ne cache pas que l'effort nécessaire à fournir doit venir de nous-mêmes, de nos braves populations confrontées, il faut bien l'avouer, à d'énormes défis.

En ce qui le concerne le Gouvernement de la République de GUINEE voudrait exprimer son engagement à traduire en actes concrets la Déclaration Mondiale en faveur de la survie, de la protection et du développement des enfants au cours de la dernière Décennie de ce siècle ainsi que la mise en oeuvre du Plan d'Action.

Je voudrais enfin, souhaiter à tous les enfants, de la Cordillère des Andes au delta du Mekong, en passant par l'Afrique au Sud du Sahara de recouvrer cette petite chose qui redonne espoir et confiance à tant de parents affligés dans le monde : le sourire.

GENERAL DE DIVISION LANSANA CONTE

- PRESIDENT DU COMITE MILITAIRE DE REDRESSEMENT NATIONAL
- CHEF DE L'ETAT
- PRESIDENT DE LA REPUBLIQUE DE G U I N E E

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# **GUINEA-BISSAU**

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MENSAGEM DE SUA EXCELÊNCIA O GENERAL  
JOÃO BERNARDO VIEIRA  
PRESIDENTE DO CONSELHO DE ESTADO  
DA REPÚBLICA DA GUINÉ-BISSAU  
POR OCASIÃO DA CIMEIRA MUNDIAL  
SOBRE AS CRIANÇAS

A CIMEIRA MUNDIAL SOBRE AS CRIANÇAS OCORRE NUM MOMENTO EM QUE SE VERIFICAM PROFUNDAS MUDANÇAS ESTAS QUE SUSCITAM GRANDES ESPERANÇAS PARA TODA A HUMANIDADE.

E POIS NECESSÁRIO MANTER AS TENDÊNCIAS ACTUAIS E PROMOVER ATRAVÉS DUM DIÁLOGO PERMANENTE E CONSTRUTIVO ENTRE AS NAÇÕES UM CLIMA DE PAZ E DE ENTENDIMENTO ENTRE TODOS OS PAISES.

A CIMEIRA MUNDIAL SOBRE AS CRIANÇAS REVESTE-SE DE IMPORTÂNCIA PARTICULAR, PORQUANTO VAI PERMITIR AO NÍVEL MAIS ALTO DOS NOSSOS GOVERNOS RESPECTIVOS UMA REFLEXÃO COMUM COM O INTUITO DE VELAR PELA PROTECÇÃO DA CRIANÇA, SUA EDUCAÇÃO E DESENVOLVIMENTO NUM CLIMA SOCIAL, CULTURAL E ECONÓMICO, PROPÍCIO E NUM MEIO AMBIENTE SÃO.

ASSIM SENDO, É COM ENTUSIASMO QUE REITERAMOS A NOSSA DETERMINAÇÃO DE PRESERVAR A SOBREVIVÊNCIA E O BEM ESTAR DAS GERAÇÕES VINDOURAS E A NOSSA DECISÃO DE CUMPRIR INTEGRALMENTE A "DECLARAÇÃO MUNDIAL A FAVOR DA SOBREVIVÊNCIA, DA PROTECÇÃO E DO DESENVOLVIMENTO DAS CRIANÇAS".

SUBSCREVEMOS AS PRIORIDADES DEFINIDAS PELO UNICEF PARA OS ANOS 90, SINGULARMENTE AO PRINCÍPIO DA PROTECÇÃO DA VIDA E O DESENVOLVIMENTO NORMAL DA CRIANÇA QUE DEVE CONSTITUIR UMA PREOCUPAÇÃO CONSTANTE DA COMUNIDADE INTERNACIONAL.

A IMPLEMENTAÇÃO DE MEDIDAS QUE VISEM ASSEGURAR O DESENVOLVIMENTO INTEGRAL DA CRIANÇA, QUE SÃO AS FLORES DA HUMANIDADE E A RAZÃO DE SER DOS NOSSOS ESFORÇOS CONJUNTOS É UMA TAREFA UNIVERSAL.

FORMULAMOS VOTOS PARA QUE A CIMEIRA MUNDIAL SOBRE AS CRIANÇAS SEJA COROADA DE ÊXITOS E CONTRIBUA, DECISIVAMENTE, PARA UM AMANHÃ TÃO BELO COMO O SORRISO DE TODAS AS CRIANÇAS DO MUNDO.

MESSAGE DE SON EXCELLENCE  
LE GENERAL JOAO BERNARDO VIEIRA  
PRESIDENT DU CONSEIL D'ETAT DE  
LA REPUBLIQUE DE GUINEE-BISSAU  
A L'OCCASION DU SOMMET MONDIAL SUR L'ENFANT

LE SOMMET MONDIAL SUR L'ENFANT SE TIENT A UN MOMENT OU DE PROFONDS BOULEVERSEMENTS AGITENT LE MONDE. CES EVENEMENTS SUSCITENT DE GRANDS ESPOIRS POUR TOUTE L'HUMANITE.

IL EST DONC NECESSAIRE DE MAINTENIR LES TENDANCES ACTUELLES ET PROMOUVOIR UN CLIMAT DE PAIX ET DE COMPREHENSION ENTRE TOUS LES PAYS EN ENTRENANT UN DIALOGUE PERMANENT ET CONSTRUCTIF ENTRE LES NATIONS.

LE SOMMET MONDIAL SUR L'ENFANT REVET UNE IMPORTANCE PARTICULIERE QUI VA PERMETTRE AU NIVEAU LE PLUS ELEVE DE NOS GOUVERNEMENTS RESPECTIFS UNE REFLEXION COMMUNE DANS LE BUT DE VEILLER A LA PROTECTION DE L'ENFANT, SON EDUCATION ET SON DEVELOPPEMENT DANS UN CLIMAT SOCIAL, CULTUREL ET ECONOMIQUE PROPICE ET DANS UN ENVIRONNEMENT SAIN.

C'EST DONC AVEC JOIE QUE NOUS REITERONS NOTRE DETERMINATION A PRESERVER LA SURVIE ET LE BIEN-ETRE DES GENERATIONS FUTURES. NOUS SOMMES DETERMINES A RESPECTER LA DECLARATION UNIVERSELLE EN FAVEUR DE LA SURVIE ET DE LA PROTECTION ET DU DEVELOPPEMENT INTEGRAL DE L'ENFANT.

NOUS SOUTENONS LES PRIORITES DEFINIES PAR L'UNICEF POUR LES ANNEES 90, EN PARTICULIER LE PRINCIPE DE LA PROTECTION DE LA VIE ET DU DEVELOPPEMENT NORMAL DE L'ENFANT, QUI DOIVENT CONSTITUER LA PREOCCUPATION CONSTANTE DE LA COMMUNAUTE INTERNATIONALE.

L'APPLICATION DES MESURES VISANT A ASSURER LE DEVELOPPEMENT INTEGRAL DE L'ENFANT, FLEUR DE L'HUMANITE ET RAISON D'ETRE DE NOS EFFORTS CONTINUS REPRESENTENT UNE GRANDE TACHE UNIVERSELLE.

NOUS FORMULONS LES VOEUX POUR QUE LE SOMMET MONDIAL SUR L'ENFANT SOIT COURONNE DE SUCCES ET QU'IL CONTRIBUE DE FACON DECISIVE A UN LENDEMAIN AUSSI MERVEILLEUX QUE LE SOURIRE DE TOUS LES ENFANTS DU MONDE.



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**GUYANA**

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE CO-OPERATIVE  
REPUBLIC OF GUYANA, HIS EXCELLENCY HUGH DESMOND  
HOYTE, S.C. ON THE OCCASION OF THE WORLD SUMMIT  
FOR CHILDREN

I applaud my colleagues whose initiative and vision were instrumental in the convocation of this World Summit for Children. Although I cannot be personally present at the Summit - a fact which I deeply regret - I do wish to record my profound commitment to the cause of our children.

This World Summit is an event of great significance which offers the international community the opportunity, at the highest leadership level, to assess collectively the status of the world's most precious resource - our children. Our children are in a unique position. They are universally acknowledged to represent the future of the world. At the same time they are not major determinants of that future. Of a certainty, they are the most vulnerable sector of our population, at risk to the host of problems and crises that plague our various societies.

Ours, then, is the responsibility as, the leaders of the world, to ensure that our children's future is bright, happy and secure. We have to lay the foundations for such a future now. We have to work with determination to create propitious environment for the healthy development and all-round well-being of our children.

There are many problems which cast a dark shadow over the future of our children. These include poverty, hunger, illiteracy, environmental degradation and the asphxiating consequences of the debt burden faced by so many developing countries. These problems are inter-linked; we cannot tackle them in isolation. We therefore have to work towards a comprehensive solution which can be found within a global context.

In our country, Guyana, notwithstanding current economic stringencies, we continue to give priority to the promotion of the welfare and wellbeing of our children. Thus, for example, we have designed and are implementing many children-centred programmes in education, health, sports and culture. We have also introduced programmes of financial support for the children of needy parents through our Social Impact Amelioration Programme which is an important component of the economic adjustment programme we are at present implementing.

Guyana's commitment to the cause of our children is unshakeable. As testimony to this fact, Guyana will sign the Convention on the Rights of the Child during the Summit and will shortly thereafter ratify it. We believe that this Convention is a movement in the right direction. It provides the necessary framework within which we can secure special rights for children and guarantee their protection, welfare and development.

The realisation of the ideals that inhere in the Convention is therefore an immediate task of the international Community. It is my hope that the deliberations at the Summit will be successful and will lead to an action plan to progressively enhance the happiness, wellbeing and development of our children all over the world.

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# HAITI

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## Le Président Provisoire de la République

Monsieur le Président,

Un Sommet Mondial au cours d'une Session de l'Assemblée Générale des Nations Unies, quelle preuve plus éloquente de l'importance nouvelle que la communauté internationale entend accorder à l'Enfance!

Cet événement représente, sans conteste, un repère essentiel dans la longue suite de démarches entreprises, depuis la <<Déclaration des Droits de l'Enfance>> en 1959, en vue de modifier la qualité des rapports entre l'adulte et l'enfant et assurer à ce dernier l'environnement indispensable à l'épanouissement de sa personnalité.

Je tiens à présenter mes plus chaleureuses félicitations à tous les pays, au nombre desquels le Canada, l'Egypte, le Mexique, le Mali, le Pakistan et la Suède, qui ont lancé cette initiative à tous égards remarquable.

Je tiens, de même, à rendre hommage à l'action de la Pologne à qui revient le grand mérite d'avoir fait admettre la nécessité d'une convention internationale sur les droits de l'enfant. L'on ne peut passer sous silence l'action déterminante déployée à cet égard par l'UNICEF et <<Défense Internationale des Enfants>>.

Cette Convention, adoptée par l'Assemblée Générale, est aujourd'hui une référence indispensable en la matière. Il appartient désormais aux Etats membres de l'Organisation des Nations Unies, aux institutions internationales, à la communauté internationale toute entière, d'en faire une réalité tangible. Car, ne l'oublions pas, il existe une situation franchement dramatique à laquelle est confrontée l'Enfance, spécialement dans les pays défavorisés du Tiers-Monde.

En effet, chaque année, environ 450.000 enfants de par le monde tombent sous les coups de la faim. Près de 250.000 deviennent aveugles par carence de vitamine A. Plus d'un quart de million sont frappés de paralysie par suite de la poliomyélite. A peu près un million tombent victimes de paludisme. Et, de surcroît, l'analphabétisme garde dans ses géôles obscures plus de 130 millions d'êtres en âge de fréquenter l'école.

Devant un tableau si sombre, force est de reconnaître que c'est par une action d'envergure autrement plus efficace sur le plan national, régional et international que nous parviendrons à vaincre ces fléaux.

Je suis heureuse d'annoncer la ratification prochaine du texte de la Convention par la République d'Haiti. Je voudrais inviter, du même coup, tous les Etats membres de l'ONU à en faire autant de sorte que cet instrument juridique entre aussi rapidement que possible en vigueur.

Mais nous devons nous dire que les règles et principes définis dans cette Convention, si généreux soient-ils, ne suffisent pas. Ce n'est que par un nouvel élan de solidarité internationale que nous pouvons garantir efficacement les droits de tous nos enfants, sur quelque continent qu'ils se trouvent, à l'alimentation, au logement, aux soins de santé, à l'éducation, à un environnement sain et aussi à être préservé du fléau de la guerre.

C'est là une responsabilité collective. Assumons-la pleinement envers nos enfants. C'est d'ailleurs une façon concrète de traduire notre foi dans les droits fondamentaux de l'homme, dans la dignité et la valeur de la personne humaine.

Haiti, 30 septembre 1990

(Signé) MADAME ERTHA PASCAL TROUILLOT  
PRESIDENT PROVISOIRE DE LA REPUBLIQUE

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**HOLY SEE**

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To His Excellency Javier Pérez de Cuellar  
Secretary General of the United Nations Organization  
on the occasion of the  
World Summit for Children

"Your children will be like olive shoots around your table"  
(Ps 128:3).

These simple words of the Psalmist speak of children as a great blessing from God and a source of intense joy for the family.

Inspired by this positive view of human life, the Holy See applauds the World Summit for Children as an important expression and consolidation of the increased awareness which has been shown by public opinion and States regarding the need to do much more to safeguard the well-being of the world's children, to enunciate the rights of the child and to protect those rights through cultural and legislative actions imbued with respect for human life as a value in itself, independently of sex, ethnic origin, social or cultural status, or political or religious conviction. Not being able personally to take part in the Summit, I extend warmest greetings to you, Mr Secretary General, and to the distinguished Heads of State and of Government present. Confident that the achievements of the human race are a sign of God's greatness and the fulfilment of his mysterious design, I ardently invoke divine light and wisdom upon your deliberations.

I am pleased to express the appreciation of the Catholic Church for all that has been and is being done under the auspices of the United Nations and its Specialized Agencies to guarantee the survival, health, protection and integral development of children, the most defenceless of our brothers and sisters, the most innocent and deserving sons and daughters of our common Father in heaven. The Holy See's prompt accession to the Convention on the Rights of the Child adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on November 20, 1989 accords with the Catholic Church's bi-millenary tradition of service to those in material or spiritual need, especially the weaker members of the human family, among whom children have always received special attention. In the Child of Bethlehem, Christians contemplate the uniqueness, the dignity and the need for love of every child. In the example and teaching of her Founder, the Church perceives a mandate to devote special care to the needs of children (cf. Mk 10:14); indeed, in the Christian view, our treatment of children becomes a measure of our fidelity to the Lord himself (cf. Mt 18:5).

The Church has a vivid perception of the immense burden of suffering and injustice borne by the children of the world. In my own ministry and pastoral journeys, I am a witness of the heartbreaking plight of millions of children in every continent. They are most vulnerable, because they are least able to make their voice heard. My contribution to this Summit, Mr Secretary General, is meant to reinforce before this powerful Assembly the often wordless but no less legitimate and insistent appeal which the children of the world address to those who have the means and the responsibility to make better provision for them.



The children of the world cry out for love. In this case love stands for the real concern of one human being for another, for the good that each owes to the other in the bond of our common humanity. A child cannot survive physically, psychologically and spiritually without the solidarity which makes us all responsible for all, a responsibility which assumes particular intensity in the self-giving love of parents for their offspring. The Holy See attributes particular significance to the fact that the Convention recognizes the irreplaceable role of the family in fostering the growth and well-being of its members. The family is the first and vital cell of society because of its service to life and because it is the first school of the social virtues that are the animating principle of the existence and development of society itself. The well-being of the world's children therefore depends greatly on the measures taken by States to support and help families to fulfil their natural life-giving and formative functions.

The children of the world cry out for greater respect for their inalienable individual dignity and for their right to life from the first moment of conception, even in the face of difficult circumstances or personal handicap. Every individual, no matter how small or how seemingly unimportant in utilitarian terms, bears the imprint of the Creator's image and likeness (cf. Gen 1:26). Policies and actions which do not recognize that unique condition of innate dignity cannot lead to a more just and humane world, for they go against the very values which determine objective moral categories and which form the basis of rational moral judgments and right actions.

The International Convention on the Rights of the Child constitutes a statement of priorities and obligations which can serve as a reference point and stimulus for action on behalf of children everywhere. The Holy See gladly acceded to and endorses the Convention on the understanding that goals, programmes and actions stemming from it will respect the moral and religious convictions of those to whom they are directed, in particular the moral convictions of parents regarding the transmission of life, with no urging to resort to means which are morally unacceptable, as well as their freedom in relation to the religious life and education of their children. Children who are to learn to be supportive of their fellow man must learn the reality of mutually supportive relationships in the family itself, where there is profound respect for all human life, unborn as well as born, and where both mother and father jointly make responsible decisions regarding the exercise of their parenthood.

During the International Year of the Child in 1979 I had the opportunity of addressing the UN General Assembly. I repeat today, with increased emphasis, the conviction and hope I manifested at that time:

"No country on earth, no political system can think of its own future otherwise than through the image of these new generations that will receive from their parents the manifold heritage of values, duties and aspirations of the nation to which they belong and of the whole human family. Concern for the child, even before birth, from the first moment of conception and then throughout the years of infancy and youth, is the primary and fundamental test of the relationship of one human being to another. And so, what better wish can I express for every nation and for the whole of mankind, and for all the children of the world than a better future in which respect for human rights will become a complete reality" (Address to the United Nations, October 2, 1979, no. 21).

May Almighty God lead this Summit to lay a solid juridical foundation for the achievement of such a reality!

From the Vatican, September 22, 1990.

*Joannes Paulus II*

A Son Excellence Monsieur Javier Pérez de Cuellar  
Secrétaire Général de l'Organisation des Nations Unies  
à l'occasion du  
Sommet mondial pour les Enfants

"Tes fils: des plants d'olivier à l'entour de la table" (Ps 128,3)

Ces simples paroles du psalmiste disent combien les enfants sont une bénédiction de Dieu et une source de joie intense pour la famille.

Inspiré par cette conception de la vie humaine, le Saint-Siège considère avec satisfaction le Sommet mondial pour les Enfants, dans lequel il voit une expression et une confirmation importantes de la conscience, accrue de la part de l'opinion publique et des Etats, de la nécessité de faire davantage pour sauvegarder le bien-être des enfants du monde, pour définir les droits de l'enfant et pour protéger ces droits par des actions d'ordre culturel et législatif, respectant pleinement la vie humaine comme valeur en soi, indépendamment du sexe, de l'origine ethnique, du statut social ou culturel, des convictions politiques ou religieuses. N'étant pas en mesure de participer personnellement à ce Sommet, je vous adresse, Monsieur le Secrétaire général, mes salutations les plus sincères, ainsi qu'aux Chefs d'Etat et de Gouvernement présents. Assuré que les oeuvres de l'homme sont un signe de la grandeur de Dieu et l'accomplissement de son dessein mystérieux, j'invoque avec ferveur la lumière et la sagesse divines sur vos délibérations.

Il m'est agréable d'exprimer l'estime de l'Eglise catholique à l'égard de tout ce qui a été fait et de tout ce qui est fait actuellement sous les auspices des Nations Unies et de leurs Agences spécialisées pour garantir la survie, la santé, la protection et le développement intégral des enfants. Parmi nos frères et soeurs, il sont, plus que tous, sans défense; de tous les fils et les filles de notre Père commun des cieux, il sont les plus innocents et le plus dignes de sollicitude. La prompte adhésion du Saint-Siège à la Convention sur le Droits de l'Enfant, adoptée par l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies le 20 novembre 1989, est, pour l'Eglise Catholique, dans l'esprit de sa tradition bimillénaire de service en faveur de ceux qui sont démunis matériellement ou spirituellement, en particulier des membres les plus faibles de la famille humaine, parmi lesquels les enfants ont toujours fait l'objet d'une

attention spéciale. Les chrétiens contemplent dans l'Enfant de Bethléem le caractère unique de tout enfant, sa dignité et son besoin d'être aimé. A partir de l'exemple et de l'enseignement de son Fondateur, l'Eglise prend conscience de sa propre mission d'attacher une attention particulière aux besoins des enfants (cf. Mc 10, 14); en effet, du point de vue chrétien, notre manière de traiter les enfants devient la mesure de notre fidélité au Seigneur lui-même (cf. Mt 18, 5).

L'Eglise est très sensible à l'immense fardeau des souffrances et des injustices subies par les enfants du monde. Dans mon propre ministère et dans mes visites pastorales, je suis témoin de la condition bouleversante de millions d'enfants dans tous les continents. Ils sont très vulnérables parce qu'ils sont les moins capables de faire entendre leurs voix. Ma contribution à ce Sommet, Monsieur le Secrétaire général, a pour but de faire retentir devant cette haute Assemblée les appels souvent silencieux mais non moins légitimes et insistants qu'adressent les enfants du monde à ceux qui ont les moyens et la responsabilité de mieux prendre soin d'eux.

Les enfants du monde crient leur soif d'amour. Et là, l'amour implique l'intérêt effectif qu'un être humain porte à l'autre, le bien que chacun doit faire à l'autre au nom des liens que crée notre commune humanité. Un enfant ne peut survivre physiquement, psychologiquement et spirituellement sans la solidarité qui nous rend tous responsables de tous, responsabilité qui prend une intensité particulière quand il s'agit du don d'amour des parents à leurs enfants. Le Saint-Siège accorde une importance spéciale au fait que la Convention reconnaît le rôle irremplaçable de la famille pour favoriser la croissance et le bien-être de ses membres. La famille est la première cellule vitale de la société en raison du service qu'elle rend à la vie et parce qu'elle est la première école des vertus sociales qui sont le principe actif de l'existence et du développement de la société elle-même. Le bien-être des enfants du monde dépend donc largement des mesures prises par les Etats pour soutenir et aider les familles à remplir leur rôle en donnant la vie et en assurant l'éducation.

Les enfants du monde crient leur soif d'un plus grand respect pour leur dignité individuelle inaliénable et pour leur droit à la vie dès le premier instant de leur conception, même dans des circonstances difficiles et dans les cas de handicaps personnels. Chaque individu, quelles

que soient sa petitesse ou sa faible importance apparente d'un point de vue utilitaire, porte l'empreinte de l'image du Créateur et sa ressemblance (cf. Gn 1, 26). Les politiques et les actions qui ne reconnaissent pas cette condition unique de dignité innée ne peuvent conduire à un monde juste et humain, car elles s'opposent aux vraies valeurs qui déterminent des catégories morales objectives et qui fondent les jugements moraux rationnels et les actions droites.

La Convention internationale sur les Droits de l'Enfant constitue une déclaration des priorités et des obligations qui peuvent partout servir de référence et de stimulant pour l'action en faveur des enfants. Le Saint-Siège a été heureux d'y adhérer et il ratifie la Conventions en considérant que les objectifs, les programmes et les actions qui en résulteront respecteront les convictions morales et religieuses de ceux qu'elles concernent, en particulier les convictions morales des parents au sujet de la transmission de la vie, sans faire pression pour le recours à des moyens moralement inacceptables, et respectant de même leur liberté en ce qui concerne la vie et l'éducation religieuse de leurs enfants. Pour apprendre à être solidaires de leur prochain, les enfants doivent faire l'expérience réelle de la solidarité par les relations mutuelles vécues à l'intérieur de la famille elle-même, dans laquelle toute vie humaine, avant comme après la naissance, est profondément respectée, et dans laquelle la mère et le père prennent ensemble des décisions responsables pour l'exercice de leur paternité.

Au cours de l'Année internationale de l'Enfant, en 1979, j'ai eu l'occasion de m'adresser à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies. Je renouvelle aujourd'hui, avec encore plus d'insistance, la conviction et l'espérance que j'exprimais alors: "Aucun pays du monde, aucun système politique ne peut songer à son propre avenir autrement qu'à travers l'image de ses nouvelles générations qui, à la suite de leurs parents, assumeront le patrimoine multiforme des valeurs, des devoirs, des aspirations de la nation à laquelle elles appartiennent, en même temps que le patrimoine de toute la famille humaine. La sollicitude pour l'enfant, dès avant la naissance, dès le premier moment de sa conception, et ensuite au cours de son enfance et de son adolescence, est pour l'homme la manière primordiale et fondamentale de vérifier sa relation à l'homme. Ainsi, que peut-on souhaiter de plus à chaque peuple et à toute l'humanité, à tous les enfants du monde, sinon cet avenir meilleur où le respect des droits de l'homme devienne une

pleine réalité?" (Discours à la XXXIVme Session de l'Assemblée générale de l'Organisation des Nations Unies, 2 octobre 1979, n. 21).

Que Dieu Tout-Puissant aide ce Sommet à poser des fondements juridiques solides pour l'accomplissement d'une telle réalité!

Du Vatican, le 22 septembre 1990

Ioannes Paulus PP II

A Su Excelencia, Dr. Javier Pérez de Cuellar  
Secretario General de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas  
en ocasión de la Cumbre para los Niños

"Tus hijos serán como renuevos de olivo alrededor de tu mesa"  
(Salma 128:3).

Estas sencillas palabras del Salmista se refieren a los niños como una gran bendición de Dios y una fuente de gran alegría para la familia.

Inspirada por esta visión de la vida humana, la Santa Sede apoya la Cumbre Mundial para los Niños como una importante expresión y consolidación del creciente interés que la opinión pública y los Estados han mostrado sobre la necesidad de hacer mucho más aún para salvaguardar el bienestar de los niños del mundo, proclamar los derechos del niño y proteger estos mismos derechos mediante acciones culturales y legislativas que respeten la vida humana como un valor en sí, independientemente del sexo, origen étnico, nivel social o cultural, de la convicción política o religiosa. No pudiendo participar personalmente en la Cumbre, deseo hacer llegar un saludo caluroso a Usted, Sr. Secretario General, y a los distinguidos Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno presentes. Con la convicción de que los avances de la raza humana son signo de la grandeza de Dios y de la realización de su designio misterioso, invoco ardientemente el auxilio divino sobre sus deliberaciones.

Me complace manifestar el aprecio de la Iglesia Católica por todo lo que se ha hecho y se hace bajo los auspicios de las Naciones Unidas y sus Agencias Especializadas para garantizar la supervivencia, la salud, la protección y el desarrollo integral de los niños, los más indefensos de nuestros hermanos y hermanas, los más inocentes y dignos hijos e hijas de nuestro único Padre celestial. La pronta adhesión de la Santa Sede a la Convención sobre los Derechos del Niño, adoptada por la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas el 20 de noviembre de 1989, concuerda con la tradición bimilenaria de la Iglesia Católica de servicio a los necesitados material o espiritualmente, en particular a los miembros más débiles de la familia humana, entre los cuales los niños han recibido siempre una atención especial. En el Niño de Belén los Cristianos contemplan la unicidad, la dignidad, y el anhelo de amor de cada niño. En el ejemplo y la enseñanza de su Fundador, la Iglesia percibe el mandato de dedicar un cuidado especial a las necesidades de los niños (cf. Mc 10:14); además, en la visión Cristiana, nuestro modo de tratar a los niños viene a ser como una medida de nuestra fidelidad a Dios mismo (cf. Mt 18:5).

La Iglesia tiene una viva percepción del la enorme carga de sufrimiento e injusticia que pesa sobre los niños del mundo. En el desempeño de mi ministerio y durante mis peregrinaciones pastorales, he sido testigo de la desgarradora tragedia de millones de niños en los diversos continentes. Ellos son los más vulnerables, porque son los que menos pueden hacer oír su voz. Mi

contribución a esta Cumbre, Sr. Secretario General, se propone reforzar, ante esta magna Asamblea, la insistente súplica, con frecuencia sin palabras, pero no menos legítima, que los niños del mundo dirigen a quienes tienen los medios y la responsabilidad de proporcionarles un futuro mejor.

Los niños del mundo piden amor. En este caso el amor representa la verdadera preocupación de un ser humano por el otro, por el bien que cada uno le debe al otro en el vínculo de nuestra común humanidad. Un niño no puede sobrevivir física, psicológica y espiritualmente sin la solidaridad que nos hace responsables de todos, una responsabilidad que asume una intensidad particular en el amor abnegado de los padres para con sus hijos. La Santa Sede atribuye un significado particular al hecho de que la Convención reconoce el papel insustituible de la familia en fomentar el desarrollo y el bienestar de sus miembros. La familia es la célula primera y vital de la sociedad por su servicio a la vida y porque es la primera escuela de las virtudes sociales, que son el principio animador de la existencia y el desarrollo de la sociedad misma. El bienestar de los niños del mundo, por lo tanto, depende mucho de las medidas que tomen los Estados para apoyar y ayudar a las familias a cumplir sus funciones de transmitir la vida y dar formación.

Los niños del mundo piden un mayor respeto hacia su inalienable dignidad individual y su derecho a la vida desde el primer momento de su concepción, incluso ante circunstancias difíciles o taras personales. Cada individuo - prescindiendo de que sea pequeño o aparentemente insignificante en términos utilitarios - lleva la huella de la imagen y semejanza del Creador (cf. Gen 1:26). Las políticas y las acciones que no reconocen esa condición única de dignidad innata no pueden conducir a un mundo más justo y humano, ya que se oponen a los verdaderos valores que determinan las categorías morales objetivas y que forman la base de razonables juicios morales y de acciones correctas.

La Convención Internacional sobre los Derechos del Niño constituye una declaración de prioridades y obligaciones que pueden servir como punto de referencia y estímulo para una acción en pro de los niños en todas partes. La Santa Sede complacida adhirió a la Convención y la apoya en el supuesto de que los fines, los programas y las acciones que resulten de ella respetarán las convicciones morales y religiosas de aquellos a quienes están dirigidas, en particular las convicciones morales de los padres respecto a la transmisión de la vida, sin forzarles a recurrir a medios moralmente inaceptables, así como su libertad en lo referente a la vida religiosa y a la formación de sus hijos. Los niños, que deberán aprender a ayudar al prójimo, deben aprender la realidad de las relaciones de ayuda mutua en la familia misma, en donde ha de haber respeto profundo por toda vida humana, tanto no nacida como nacida, y donde ambos, la madre y el padre, toman conjuntamente decisiones responsables en el ejercicio de su paternidad.

Durante el Año Internacional del Niño en 1979 tuve la oportunidad de dirigirme a la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas. Hoy repito, con mayor énfasis, la convicción y la esperanza que manifesté en aquella ocasión:

"Ningún país del mundo, ningún sistema político puede pensar en el propio futuro de modo diverso, si no es a través de la imagen de estas nuevas generaciones que tomarán de sus padres el múltiple patrimonio de los valores, de los deberes, de las aspiraciones de la nación a la que pertenecen, junto con el de toda la familia humana. La solicitud por el niño, incluso antes de su nacimiento, desde el primer momento de su concepción y, a continuación, en los años de la infancia y de la juventud, es la verificación primera y fundamental de la relación del hombre con el hombre. Por esto, ¿qué más se podría desear a cada nación y a toda la humanidad, a todos los niños del mundo sino un futuro mejor en el que el respeto de los derechos del hombre llegue a ser una realidad plena? (Discurso ante las Naciones Unidas, 2 de octubre, 1979, no.21).

Que Dios todopoderoso guie a esta Cumbre a establecer un sólido fundamento jurídico para el logro de esta realidad!

Desde el Vaticano, 22 de septiembre, 1990.

IOANNES PAULUS PP. II



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# HONDURAS

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**DISCURSO DEL LICENCIADO RAFAEL LEONARDO CALLEJAS ROMERO  
EN LA CUMBRE PRESIDENCIAL POR LA INFANCIA**

**Nueva York. 27 de Septiembre al 01 de Octubre de 1990).**

Es con enorme interés y esperanza que Honduras se hace presente en esta Cumbre Presidencial, en la cual queremos expresar nuestro compromiso solemne de movilizar lo mejor de nuestros recursos en favor de la infancia de nuestro país.

La severa crisis que ha venido afectando nuestra economía ha forzado a mi Gobierno a encarar este problema con la seriedad y responsabilidad que la situación amerita. Estamos conscientes que reiniciar el crecimiento económico es absolutamente fundamental para garantizar el desarrollo económico y social de la Nación. Por lo tanto se estructuró y se está ejecutando un plan de reordenamiento económico, sin el cual Honduras estaría enfrentando desabastecimiento de combustibles, granos básicos, medicinas y otros insumos de vital importancia para el normal funcionamiento del país.

No es fácil, señores, para un Gobierno recién electo establecer un programa de austeridad económica, considerando que en el corto plazo demandará un enorme sacrificio social, en un país donde el 70% de los hogares vive en situación de pobreza y el 54% en condiciones de extrema pobreza. Pero ha sido justamente con el propósito de romper con el círculo secular de la pobreza que estamos encarando esta situación con honestidad y patriotismo.

Es un hecho que la mayoría de nuestra población es pobre y que la mayoría de nuestros pobres son niños y es por eso que estamos desarrollando una política social destinada a proteger especialmente al niño y la madre hondureña.

Nuestro ajuste estructural tiene rostro humano y es este aspecto de mi política al que me gustaría referirme.

A pesar de haber reducido significativamente el gasto público para disminuir nuestro voluminoso déficit fiscal, hemos no solamente mantenido sino que incrementado los presupuestos de salud y educación, mientras recortábamos nuestros gastos militares. Programas específicos de racionalización administrativa, también se encuentran en marcha, buscando especialmente reestructurar el gasto social para procurar la satisfacción de las necesidades de la mayoría pobre, en base a la adopción de medidas de bajo costo y alta eficiencia. Nuestra propuesta de descentralización administrativa, posibilita un sustancial aumento de las coberturas poblacionales de salud y educación, a través de la participación de la comunidad organizada.

Hemos establecido y financiado el Fondo Hondureño de Inversión Social, mecanismo ágil para el financiamiento de proyectos de generación de empleo, atención de necesidades básicas y pequeños proyectos productivos; con el cual esperamos promover el mejoramiento de las condiciones de vida de los grupos sociales marginados tanto en el área urbana como rural.

Hemos creado el Programa de Asignación Familiar, a través del cual se financian actualmente, con fondos propios, proyectos que subvencionan a la madre soltera jefa de familia con niños en edad escolar y próximamente implementaremos un proyecto que contempla la mujer embarazada y lactante, así como los niños menores de cinco años.

Hemos reforzado el papel redistributivo del Estado, mediante subsidios al transporte urbano, los grános básicos y se han introducido mecanismos de protección tributaria para las clases más pobres, reduciendo su contribución en el impuesto de renta así como en las tarifas de servicios básicos.

Hemos colaborado significativamente para el proceso de pacificación en Centroamérica. Hoy podemos afirmar con absoluta certeza que no existen fuerzas militares irregulares en nuestro país y que nuestros niños tendrán la oportunidad de crecer en paz y seguridad.

Este enorme esfuerzo lo lleva a cabo un país que sufre una de las peores crisis financieras de su historia, agravada actualmente por la situación del Golfo Pérsico, que amenaza con introducir una espiral inflacionaria de funestas consecuencias para nuestra sociedad.

Estamos convencidos, que un recurso humano mejor alimentado más saludable y capacitado, se convertirá en un agente productivo que potenciará el aprovechamiento de los recursos con que cuenta el país y permitirá aprovechar mejor la inversión que se haga en estos campos. Es por eso, que el Gobierno a pesar de nuestra enorme crisis, realiza acciones en estas áreas y específicamente en nuestra niñez, motor futuro de nuestro desarrollo.

Estamos entre los veinte primeros países que han ratificado la Convención Universal de los Derechos del Niño e iniciado el proceso de normatización de la misma.

Señores Presidentes, Señores Primeros Ministros, tenemos un proyecto serio de ajuste económico con una clara y definida visión social. Demandamos una oportunidad para consolidar nuestra joven democracia. Demandamos una esperanza para nuestra infancia.

Como ciudadanos de un mundo cada vez más interdependiente creemos que una iniciativa como la que estamos desarrollando merece la comprensión y respaldo de todos los países. Solicitamos el apoyo de la comunidad internacional para asegurar que el bienestar de la infancia se mantenga como un objetivo explícito del ajuste estructural.

**MUCHAS GRACIAS**

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**ICELAND**

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LEADERSHIP FOR CHILDREN MESSAGE

by the Prime Minister of Iceland,  
H.E. Mr. Steingrímur Hermannsson.

UNICEF is to be complimented for directing the attention of mankind to the welfare of children.

It is not only our parental or humaniterian duty to improve the lives of children. They are literally the future of our nations, of all humanity. By securing for our children good health, nourishment and education we lay the foundation of prosperity and progress. It requires healthy young people with extensive knowledge to master the complex society of our day.

In Iceland we are fortunate in this respect. We enjoy the highest rate of child survival in the world today. Needs for special measures for child protection are at a minimum, the circumstances being favourable and armed conflict unknown. The same can be said for child development, including literacy and early education. The welfare of our children in Iceland did not come by itself. It took considerable effort by people who were poor and that effort continues. As a matter of fact modern ways of life in the Western World impose new and serious threats to the development of children.

During a period of development lasting more than a century, the people of Iceland showed, generation after generation, a strong desire to give their children a better life than the parents had enjoyed.

This desire became a spontaneous national policy of giving priority to the children's welfare. At first this meant improved health and nourishment for the children, but soon literacy and basic learning became no less important. Often

PRIME MINISTER  
ICELAND

the three R's: reading, writing and arithmetic, came before necessary health services.

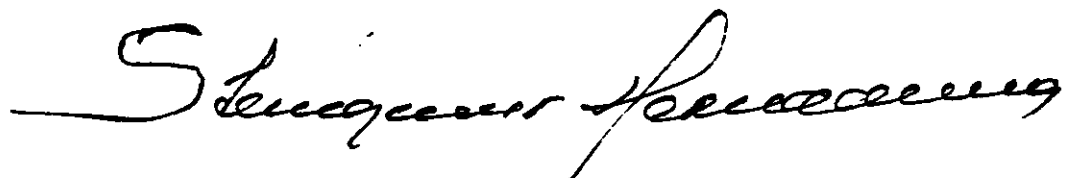
Long before gaining independence we succeeded in coming as close as is possible to total literacy. This became the key to creating a free, modern society of welfare and technology, where the children continue to have priority in health, nourishment, housing and education.

It is our Icelandic experience that children's education should be based on their nation's own cultural heritage. Thus we strengthen our own identity before adapting international systems and technologies. The developing nations must build their educational systems on their own but not on any other culture.

The rapid increase in population of the developing countries has made the task of educating the children staggering in size. But there is no choice. After the primary needs of parental home, health and nourishment, education is the only way to give the children hope of a satisfactory life. The education must be practical, "education for self-reliance" as President Nyerere called it. It must be tailored to the needs and conditions of each country.

There is to-day a crucial need for literacy. This is necessary for the child to become a citizen who is in living contact with his immediate neighbourhood, in living contact with his nation and in living contact with the civilization of our age of knowledge and information.

One must trust that this "greatest Summit ever held" will result in an all out effort by every nation to improve the life of its children.



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# INDIA

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Prime Minister of India

New Delhi

September 29, 1990

Message

The World Summit for Children is a unique international event. It will promote a new commitment, at the highest political levels, to goals and strategies for ensuring the survival, protection and development of children all over the world.

Children constitute the most important segment of any society. The very future of mankind depends, in a large measure, on the health and development of children. Both the Declaration and the Plan of Action prepared for adoption by the Summit provide for a set of achievable goals and strategies for attaining them in the course of 1990s. India will be happy to endorse these documents.

The central issue facing millions of children in developing countries is not only the absence of material resources, but even the lack of basic health facilities, adequate nutrition, shelter and education. It is our duty to improve and enrich their lives and to give them a chance to have the joys of childhood.

India has adopted a number of programmes for the welfare and development of children. An Integrated Child Development Programme consisting of a package of services of supplementary nutrition, immunization, referral services and pre-school education launched in the mid-70s has completed 15 years of operation this year. Starting with a mere 33 projects in 1975, the programme covers approximately 40% of the country today through a network of 2424 projects. It has led to the reduction of the infant mortality rate per thousand live birth from 139 in 1972 to 94 in 1988. A Technology Mission for universal immunization has successfully covered 85% of the districts under its programme. Efforts are now being made to achieve cent per cent coverage of women and 85% of children in all the districts by the end of this year.

A literate population and universal education are critical for nation building. 1990 is the International Literacy Year. It is also the SAARC Year of the Girl Child. Earlier this year UNICEF, together with three other UN bodies, set the goal of basic education for all by the year 2000. Our national endeavour is fully in consonance with this objective. India has recently given a new thrust to elementary education. The emphasis in educational programmes is on universal involvement and free and compulsory education of children upto 14 years of age. India has also made substantial improvements in the quality of education.

I wish the Summit every success in achieving a better, safer, healthier world for children to live in.



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**INDONESIA**

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PRESIDEN  
REPUBLIK INDONESIA

PESAN PADA  
KONFERENSI TINGKAT TINGGI UNTUK ANAK-ANAK,  
PADA TANGGAL 29 SEPTEMBER 1990,  
DI NEW YORK

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Pertama-tama perkenankan saya menyampaikan ucapan selamat atas terselenggaranya Konferensi Tingkat Tinggi untuk Anak-anak sekarang ini. Saya mengharapkan semoga konferensi ini dapat mencapai tujuan-rujukan yang kita inginkan, yakni menjamin kelangsungan hidup, perlindungan dan pengembangan anak-anak. Dengan rasa dulus yang dalam, saya tidak dapat hadir sendiri dalam Konferensi Tingkat Tinggi yang penting ini, berhubung dengan banyaknya kesibukan di Tanah Air. Karena itu, saya menugasi Menteri Koordinator Kesejahteraan Rakyat, Soepardjo Rosotam, untuk bertindak selaku wakil pribadi saya menghadiri konferensi ini.

Dewasa ini kita sedang memasuki era baru. Suatu era di mana semua bangsa memberikan perhatian utamanya kepada perbaikan ekonomi dan pembangunan serta pada masalah-masalah kemanusiaan. Situasi ini perlu kita manfaatkan sebaik-baiknya untuk memberantas keterbelakangan dan kemiskinan, menciptakan kemakmuran dan kesejahteraan serta meningkatkan kualitas umat manusia.

Usaha untuk meningkatkan kualitas manusia akan berhasil dengan baik jika dilakukan mulai dari anak-anak serta dilaksanakan secara bersama. Lebih-lebih kenyataan memang menunjukkan bahwa dewasa ini masih tidak sedikit anak-anak yang meninggal karena penyakit dan kekurangan gizi, yang menderita karena kemiskinan, kelaparan, peperangan dan sebab-sebab lainnya. Konferensi ini merupakan forum yang tepat untuk memecahkan masalah manusia dan kemanusiaan itu.

Menyadari akan pentingnya anak sebagai fokus pembangunan, maka kami di Indonesia memberikan perhatian yang besar pada masalah ini dan sekaligus mengkaitkannya dengan masalah kependudukan semenjak awal pembangunan nasional. Bahkan kami memantapkan pembangunan nasional kami sebagai pembangunan manusia Indonesia seluruhnya dan pembangunan seluruh masyarakat Indonesia.

Karena itu, pada setiap tahap pembangunan, program peningkatan kesejahteraan anak yang menyangkut kesejahteraan fisik maupun mental, serta program-program kependudukan selalu merupakan bagian integral dari seluruh kegiatan pembangunan nasional kami.

Kami menyadari pula bahwa masa depan yang lebih baik bagi anak akan tercipta jika kita berhasil membentuk keluarga kecil yang sejahtera dan bahagia. Dalam keluarga kecil anak akan mendapatkan curahan kasih sayang yang besar dari kedua orang tuanya. Kasih sayang orang tua ini tidak akan tergantikan oleh siapapun. Kasih sayang orang tua akan berpengaruh terhadap kepribadian dan kemandirian jiwa anak di masa datang.

Kami merasa bersyukur bahwa usaha-usaha kami tadi telah membuktikan hasil yang menggembirakan. Sejalan demi sejalan kesejahteraan anak-anak Indonesia berhasil kami tingkatkan dan program kependudukan kami mengalami perubahan wewasan. Kini, program kependudukan dan peningkatan kesejahteraan anak telah menjadi salah satu prioritas nasional untuk meningkatkan dan membangun kualitas sumber daya manusia.

Menyadari akan pentingnya anak-anak bagi kelangsungan hidup umat manusia serta bagi pembangunan, saya mendukung gagasan untuk mengadakan langkah-langkah nyata dari kita bersama bagi peningkatan kesejahteraan anak, dalam menyongsong abad ke-21 yang akan datang.

Akhirnya, saya berharap semoga Konferensi Tingkat Tinggi ini akan membawa manfaat bagi umat manusia serta bagi terwujudnya dunia yang damai dan sejahtera. Suatu dunia baru yang akan membahagiakan anak-anak kita kelak.

Terima kasih.

Jakarta, 29 September 1990  
PRESIDEN REPUBLIK INDONESIA

  
SOEHARTO



UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION

**PRESIDEN  
REPUBLIK INDONESIA**

**MESSAGE**

**BY**

**THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA**

**HIS EXCELLENCY SOEHARTO**

**TO THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN**

**NEW YORK, 29 SEPTEMBER 1990**

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I would like to convey my warmest congratulations on the occasion of the World Summit for Children. As I share your firm commitment to the health and welfare of children throughout the world, it is with the deepest regret that I am unable to personally attend this important Summit. I have therefore charged the Coordinating Minister for People's Welfare of the Republic of Indonesia, Mr. Soepardjo Roestam, as my special envoy to attend the World Summit for Children. My sincere hope is that this meeting will attain its ideal goals, namely to secure the survival, protection and development of children.

Today, the world is entering a new era. An era where all nations are focussing their primary attention on social and economic improvement and development, and on humanitarian concerns. We must seize the opportunities presented to us to eliminate backwardness and poverty, to create prosperity and well-being, and to improve the overall quality of life for all mankind.

Such efforts will only meet with success when they are begun with attention to the plight of our children, and carried out together: universally. Among the many problems afflicting children, such as poverty, hunger, and war, it is here at the World Summit for Children that comprehensive and enduring solutions may be found.

Well aware of the importance of children as the focus of development, we in Indonesia have given much attention to their situation, and since the start of our



**PRESIDEN  
REPUBLIK INDONESIA**

national development we have linked the improvement of child welfare with the population problem. Too, we have manifested our national development as the development of the complete person and the whole of Indonesian society.

For this reason, therefore, every facet of development, of the program of improving the children's physical and spiritual well-being, and of the program of population, have always been integral parts of our over-all national development activities.

It is also our belief that we can chart a better future for our children if we can succeed in creating a small, happy and prosperous family, where children have the love and affection of their parents, and the character and moral stability of children can be shaped.

We are pleased that our endeavors in these fields have produced encouraging results. Gradually, our population program has acquired a broader horizon, and we have been able to improve the well-being of Indonesian children. At present, both programs, population and children's welfare improvement, have also become a part of the national program to develop human resources.

Conscious of the importance of children for the survival of mankind, I fully endorse the idea to adopt concrete steps by all of us for improving child welfare in the advent of the 21st century by ensuring child survival, protection and development.

In conclusion, I sincerely hope that this World Summit will be beneficial and lead to the creation of a peaceful and more prosperous world. A world that will bring health and happiness to our children and to theirs.

Jakarta, 29 September 1990

**PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA**

Sgd.

**S O E H A R T O**

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**IRAN**

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**In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful**

Children are divine gifts entrusted to parents and society whose heavy duty is to protect care, and nourish them.

Any child is like a valuable seed, having numerous talents whose blooming depends on the existence of suitable material and spiritual environment. Appropriate nourishment, health care, security and proper shelter are all fundamental necessities for their physical growth. While their prosperity and mental well being is subject to strengthening family ties and foundation, consolidating moral values, promoting education and creating a sound ethical and psychological atmosphere.

Most deviations, abnormalities, addiction to drugs and social ills are rooted in the unhealthy situation in the family. Without consolidating the family ties and parent's self-sacrifice in paying upbringing to their children and without drawing up a comprehensive educational program, it is impossible to safeguard the children from the many great dangers threatening the Children. Holding the World Summit for Children illustrates the necessity that has been heavily sensed in the last decade holding of the 20th century. Outrageous economic poverty deprived many children of the least living requirements, destroying their talents and even their lives, while some other children being drowned in abundant consumption and luxurious life, are being spoiled and alienated from themselves, losing their human responsiveness. This is a regrettable and harsh dual reality which necessitates a deep rethinking of cultural values and a revision of international order.

Today's generation of children and youngsters are raised in a system contradictory and discordant from within, in which supports and programs are drawn up mainly to decrease the negative consequences, ignoring the main causes and reasons. On one hand, it is emphasized that a hospitable and warm family atmosphere is essential for development of children, on the other hand, the family foundation is bound to become weaker and weaker, compelling the children to live in an unstable and single-parent family where the requirements for their upbringing are not met either physically or psychologically-hence love which is the holiest and strongest inner human desire has degenerated into sexual games of different

kinds, ruining the talents that should be deployed to foster the new generation.

Depriving the right to life of children conceived though not born has been legalized by the judicial and legislative bodies by virtue of majority votes, while the right to life of children born are considered infrangible and indisputable. Now that the summit seeks to protect the children, it is opportune to address this contradiction in prevailing culture.

In accordance with the degree of incorporating Islamic teachings in to practical laws, in the Islamic Republic of Iran family order has changed course towards an increasingly stable one. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran attaches paramount importance to education, well-being and upbringing of children, devoting considerable resources to the same. In early 1980's a program under the title of "struggle to protect children's life" was drawn up and effectively implemented by all concerned authorities, social and popular bodies and mass media. Fortunately due to presence of strong political will and commitment, special arrangements including the development of health centers, general vaccination of children and encouraging mothers to breast-feed their children have led to valuable accomplishments in protecting the lives of children and decreasing infant mortality.

I hope the current international efforts will be able to create a healthy educational environment by solving the deep cultural contradictions and hence prepare the suitable grounds for alleviating the material and spiritual deprivations of children. Constructing a happy future without tension and turbulence requires international and national programs, resources as well as good will and steadfastness, devoid of political and material considerations at both International and National levels. Concordance of an international economic-cultural order, termination of the era of deprivations, domination and provocation are the essential catalysts for a future marked with positive and prosperous development of today's children and tomorrow's decision makers.



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**IRAQ**

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" القيادة من اجل الطفولة "

لمناسبة انعقاد مؤتمر القمة العالمي من اجل الطفل  
يسرنا ان نتوجه بالرسالة الاتية الى جميع  
الاحرار في العالم الذين يتطلعون الى تأمين  
حياة حرة كريمة للاجيال القادمة يسودها  
العدل والمساواة وازالة جميع اشكال التمييز  
والهيمنة الامبريالية التي يتعم بها عالمنا  
اليوم .

انه لمن دواعي الالف ان يتزامن عقد مؤتمر  
القمة العالمي من اجل الطفل في الوقت  
الذي تمارس فيه الدول الكبرى الهيمنة  
على مجلس الامن حملة وحشية ضد اطفال العراق  
بحرمانتهم من الحليب والخبز بذريعة تسريح  
الحصار الاقتصادي على العراق . ان تلك الدول  
واعوانها لجأت الى استعمال الخداع كسلاح ضد  
شعبها كمنه بما فيه الاطفال والامهات وهو  
ما لم يسبق له مثيل في التاريخ المعاصر

( ٢ )

ومن قبل دول تعتبر نفسها دولا متحضرة . وبذلك  
دونت تلك الدول صفحة سوداء في سجل منظومة  
الأمم المتحدة برفضها هذه الاجراءات البربرية  
وتكريسها مبدأ استخدام الغذاء كسلاح للسي  
الخزاعات الدولية بموافقة وتحت لواء مجلس  
الامن . ان الدول الكبرى برفضها هذه الاجراءات  
تعرف حق المعرفة بانها هي وظلماتها للسي  
مأمن من اية ادانات أو عقوبات مماثلة مهمسا  
عظمت الاعمال العداوية التي يرتكبونها حيث  
انها تتمتع بحق النقض ( الڤيتو ) الذي يحمي  
تلك الدول من طائلة سياساتها العدوانية  
والتصفية وحكم المجتمع الدولي بشأنها .

اننا نغيب بقيادة الدول الصغيرة والدول النامية  
على وجه الخصوص بالتكاتف والتعاون لتجميع  
هذه الاوضاع الجائرة ووضوح حد لتهديد سياسة  
الانقلاب باستخدام الغذاء والدواء كسلاح فدهم .

صدام حسين  
رئيس الجمهورية العراقية

بغداد في ٤ / ربيع الاول / ١٤١١ هـ  
الموافق ٣٣ / ايلول / ١٩٩٠ م

## **"Leadership for Children"**

On the occasion of the convening of the International Conference on Children, we have the pleasure to send the following message to all free peoples of the world who look forward to providing an honourable, free way of life to future generations where justice and equality shall prevail and where the discrimination and hegemony which characterize our world today, shall be eliminated.

It is a matter of deep concern and regret that at the very time that the International Conference on Children is being held, the great powers which dominate the Security Council are depriving the Children of Iraq from milk and food under the pretext of imposing economic sanctions against Iraq. Those powers and their collaborators have resorted to the use of food as a weapon against a whole people including mothers and children; an act which is being implemented by states which consider themselves to be civilized and which has no precedent in contemporary history. Those states have written a black page in the history of the United Nations Organization by imposing these barbaric measures and condoning the use of food as a weapon in international conflicts with the approval of the Security Council and under the cover of its resolutions. In imposing these measures, the great powers have done so in the full knowledge that they themselves and their allies are immune to any similar

condemnations or sanctions regardless of the enormity of the act of aggression they perpetrate, as they enjoy the veto rights to protect themselves from the consequences of their aggressive and arbitrary policies, and from the judgement of the international community.

We call upon the leaders of small states and of the developing countries in particular to stand together and to cooperate to rectify these iniquitous conditions and to put an end to the threats to the lives of children by the use of food and medicines as a weapon against them.

**Saddam Hussein**

**President of the Republic of Iraq**

**Baghdad**

**4, Rabi' al Awwal 1411**

**September 23 1990**

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**IRELAND**

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Oifig an Taoisigh  
Office of the Taoiseach

World Summit for Children, New York, 29/30 September, 1990.

Personal Message from the Taoiseach, (Prime Minister of Ireland)

Mr. Charles J. Haughey, T.D.

The World Summit for Children is a unique event. It has caught the imagination of governments and peoples worldwide. Never before have so many leaders gathered together in one place dedicated to work towards a common purpose.

This purpose is the promotion of the welfare of the world's children. We commit ourselves to practical action designed to safeguard and advance this welfare. We have already seen that much can be achieved through concerted and sustained action. The immunisation programmes put in place in the 1980s alone save up to two million young lives each year. A further one and a half million children who were vaccinated in time against the blight of polio can today lead healthy, active lives. We need to maintain the impetus of these achievements. Efforts to expand the coverage of immunisation programmes must continue and be built upon.

Throughout the world, children must be provided with adequate food, shelter, health and education so that they may lead lives free from abject poverty and want. We must also show practical concern for children by creating conditions in which the human value and dignity inherent in every child can flourish and find expression. The Convention on the Rights of the Child provides an inspiring charter and beacon for our common efforts. I am pleased to have the opportunity at the Summit to sign the Convention on Ireland's behalf and to state my intention to ensure its speedy ratification.

In conclusion, I wish to congratulate the initiators of the Summit for their imagination and industry in bringing into reality this inspiring event.

Charles J. Haughey,  
Taoiseach.

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**ISRAEL**

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MESSAGE OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF ISRAEL  
TO THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN  
30 SEPTEMBER 1990

Every year, fifteen million children under the age of five die of diseases that can easily be prevented. Immunization, water purification, improvement of nutrition, orientation and education of the public in the field of health can prevent this tragedy from continuing.

The industrial nations are plagued by a special set of problems; poverty, parents' addiction to drugs and alcohol, child abuse, aids and more. Unfortunately, Israeli society is also afflicted by some of these problems. I must note with satisfaction, though, that Israel is well known for the services we provide for children, which are offered by government, academia and volunteer organizations. However, as we say in the Day of Atonement prayer, "The needs are many" - what is lacking are the resources to meet all those needs.

The State of Israel is determined to improve upon the situation facing the children of our nation. Certainly, today, that includes the health of the children of recent immigrants to our country. Moreover, we will continue to contribute to efforts to improve the situation of children all over the world. The Jewish people having lost a million and a half children in the Holocaust cannot be indifferent to the suffering of children.

Today, the President of Israel is hosting a ceremony in commemoration of the World Summit for Children. Last year, I myself was honored to sign the Charter of Children's Rights in Israel, which was introduced by the Israeli National Council for the Child. In November 1989, Israel joined one hundred and thirty other countries by placing our signature on the Convention on the International Rights of the Child, which awaits ratification.

UNICEF is among the leaders in advancing the cause of the child. It has helped Israel greatly since its inception, and Israel has chosen to express its appreciation of UNICEF's activities by issuing a special stamp.

We express the hope that the focus of interest in children will indeed bring about a positive development in efforts being made in the fields of nutrition, medicine, disease prevention, education and the environment. We join our voice to the declarations expressed by Heads of State today, calling for a universal coalition of countries and organizations for the benefit of children and for a better future for all humanity.

Yitzhak Shamir  
Prime Minister  
State of Israel

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**ITALY**

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Le Sommet que l'UNICEF a convoqué pour débattre de l'avenir des enfants est un événement de la plus grande importance. Le fait que les Chefs d'Etat et de Gouvernement d'un nombre si grand de Pays ont adhéré à l'invitation du Comité Promoteur en constitue la preuve la plus évidente.

La seule façon de prévoir l'avenir c'est de le préparer; nous voulons et nous devons, aujourd'hui, confirmer notre engagement moral et agir en temps utile afin d'assurer un avenir de paix authentique et le bien-être aux nouvelles générations.

Il existe aujourd'hui une nouvelle solidarité internationale, qui a donné vie à une coalition mondiale unie et déterminée comme jamais elle ne l'a été. C'est dans ce même esprit de convergence universelle que nous devons agir aujourd'hui contre cet ennemi silencieux qui s'appelle sous-développement démocratique, en nous débarrassant de nos vieux égoïsmes.

Nous savons avec certitude que les conséquences de la crise finiront encore une fois par s'abattre sur les populations les plus pauvres et sur leurs enfants poussés vers la mort par la tentative de payer la dette de leurs pères. Nous n'avons plus de temps pour une rhétorique de manière: il nous faut donner corps à la nécessité d'éliminer, d'ici la fin du siècle, la principale cause de la nette séparation existant entre le Nord et le Sud. Il faut doter les institutions qui régissent les processus d'ajustement économique d'une authentique sensibilité vis-à-vis des aspects sociaux, évitant ainsi de rigides thérapies purement macroéconomiques.

Il faut parvenir à une entente opérationnelle sur les remèdes. J'estime que la dette des Pays en voie de développement avec les institutions bilatérales et multilatérales doit être virtuellement annulée, en la transformant en prêts à long terme avec un minimum d'intérêts, payables en devises locales, de sorte qu'ils deviennent l'objet de nouveaux investissements

MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT OF ISRAEL  
TO THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN  
30 SEPTEMBER 1990

Of all the injuries cruelly afflicted by human beings upon their fellow men, offenses against children must be the most insufferable. We see and we know how day after day throughout the world children are killed in cold blood; they are mercilessly exploited as laborers; adults, drunk with power, mistreat them; they are made to participate in violent struggles that are not truly their concern, all too often at the cost of their lives. Man has reached the moon and conquered deadly diseases, but calmly views televised scenes of tens of thousands of children perishing from starvation every year.

In our own region, too, we are witness to systematic exploitation of children in violent political struggles. They are manipulated by unscrupulous leaders who know how quickly children become enthusiastic and risk the gravest dangers in perilous adventures that fire their fertile imaginations. The identity of those who embroil children in strife is hidden but well known, and all of us are morally obligated to dissociate ourselves from these cynical and heartless individuals.

In the tradition of our people the child has a central role. He symbolizes the future of the nation, but at the same time he is seen as a person with rights of his own and a place in society. He is not only an object to be dealt with, but an active factor in shaping the world in which we live. This is an approach characteristic of our people's development from the beginnings of its history to the period of the Holocaust when ghetto children heroically smuggled weapons and food to the Jewish population destined to suffer the cruelest of fates.

The Jewish people has always thought of children as its most precious asset. Today, when universal attention is being directed to the problems of children, the State of Israel takes its place among all men of good will in the great endeavor to free the world's children from suffering and injustice and to assure them of a better future.

Chaim Herzog  
President  
State of Israel



pour le développement économique et la protection de l'environnement.

Les Nations Unies constituent aujourd'hui une structure capable d'assurer une fonction de garant d'un mécanisme nouveau et complexe, et de transformer la dette en solidarité humaine. Il est en même temps nécessaire d'analyser et de mettre à jour les fonctions et les responsabilités des Agences spécialisées, de sorte qu'elles puissent jouer un rôle de catalyseur concret des choses à faire.

Les Communautés et les Gouvernements du Sud du monde sont appelés à jouer un rôle de véritables protagonistes dans la construction d'un avenir commun. Cette modification indispensable des rôles ne peut plus être renvoyée. Il est nécessaire, dans le cadre des ressources possibles qu'un Pays peut destiner au secteur social, d'assurer une juste distribution de ces ressources. Il est nécessaire de mettre en place des structures en mesure de gérer les financements extérieurs et de les traduire en développement concret, à l'échelle de l'homme. Il faut défendre avec force le principe démocratique de la participation aux choix de la part des communautés locales, même au prix d'imposer cette participation comme condition pour obtenir les financements.

Je ne crois pas qu'il y ait une occasion plus appropriée pour affirmer que la véritable opportunité historique que nous devons saisir est la possibilité de mettre fin à la course aux armements. Non seulement parce qu'elle est en soi dangereuse et immorale, mais aussi parce que de cette seule façon il sera possible d'utiliser les énormes ressources qui se rendraient disponibles à des fins beaucoup plus nobles, pour une répartition des richesses plus équitable et pour une véritable justice sociale à l'échelle universelle.

Nous n'avons pas indiqué de nouvelles formules pour assurer l'avenir de nos enfants. Mais nous savons tous quelles méthodes et les instruments existent et qu'ils sont à notre disposition. Il suffit seulement de savoir et vouloir les utiliser et d'avoir confiance.

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**JAMAICA**

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M E S S A G E

LEADERSHIP FOR CHILDREN

THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN TO BE HELD AT THIS TIME IS AN INDICATION OF THE IMPORTANCE PLACED BY PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENTS ON CHILDREN AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT. THIS SUMMIT IS TIMELY AND REQUIRES CONCENTRATED EFFORT ON THE PART OF ALL NATION STATES TO ENSURE THAT CONCRETE STRATEGIES AND POLICIES WILL IN FACT BE PURSUED IN ORDER TO IMPROVE SOME EXISTING CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH CHILDREN LIVE.

IT IS MY VIEW THAT CHILDREN ARE OUR MOST PRIZED POSSESSION, AS THEY WILL ENSURE THE CONTINUITY OF PURPOSE AS WE STRIVE TOWARDS IMPROVED STANDARDS OF LIVING. THEREFORE, THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD MUST NOT ONLY BE PROTECTED FROM DIFFICULT AND THREATENING SITUATIONS, BUT THEY MUST ALSO BE AFFORDED ALL POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITIES TO DEVELOP THEIR FULL POTENTIALS.

WE IN JAMAICA, INTEND TO TAKE EVERY STEP TO PROTECT THE YOUNG AND ESPECIALLY THE DISADVANTAGED ONES AMONG THEM. WE ALSO INTEND TO CREATE THE ATMOSPHERE AND TO INTRODUCE SUCH SERVICES AS WOULD REDUCE THE EXPOSURE OF CHILDREN TO DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES.


THE GOVERNMENT WHICH I HAVE THE HONOUR AND PRIVILEGE TO LEAD, HAS RECENTLY DEVELOPED A "FIVE YEAR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN", WHICH HAS AS ONE PRIORITY AREA, THE CARE AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN IN A VARIETY OF SECTORS. WE ARE COMMITTED TO CONTINUE TO EXPLORE AVENUES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FULL POTENTIAL OF OUR CHILDREN, AND WE INTEND TO INTENSIFY THESE EFFORTS ON A TIMELY BASIS AS OUR RESOURCES WILL ALLOW.

/THE POPULATION...

THE POPULATION IS BEING SENSITIZED TO THE NEED TO GIVE GREATER ATTENTION TO AND TO DEMONSTRATE A MORE CARING ATTITUDE TOWARDS OUR CHILDREN. TO THIS END WE ARE EMBARKING ON PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAMMES IN AREAS CONCERNED WITH GENERAL HEALTH AND EDUCATION.

WE CONTINUE TO WORK TO CREATE THE OPPORTUNITIES AND FACILITIES WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY ALLOW EVERY CHILD TO DEVELOP APPROPRIATELY. WE GIVE OUR FIRM COMMITMENT TO TAKE APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO ACCOMPLISH OUR GOAL TO PROTECT OUR CHILDREN IN EVERY POSSIBLE SPHERE OF THEIR LIVES.

WE ARE CONVINCED THAT THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN IS A BOLD AND POSITIVE STEP TOWARD THE CREATION OF A BETTER WORLD FOR OUR CHILDREN, AND I WISH THAT THE DELIBERATIONS WHICH ARE ABOUT TO TAKE PLACE WILL HAVE EVERY SUCCESS.



**MICHAEL MANLEY**  
PRIME MINISTER OF JAMAICA  
SEPTEMBER 25, 1990



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**JAPAN**

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## Message From Japan

### Toward Humanity-Oriented Education

I firmly believe that this unprecedented World Summit for Children has historic significance: it will help ensure the survival, protection, and development of children, who will take over our future.

At this Summit, I would like to stress the importance of education.

The world today faces a grievous situation. More than one hundred million children have no opportunity to receive a basic education, due to various reasons. More than one billion adults are illiterate. And developed countries are struggling with educational problems caused by the degeneration of modern society.

In order to solve these educational problems which both developed and developing countries are facing, it is a matter of utmost importance to establish objectives based on humanity.

In Japan, even in the premodern Edo Period (1600-1867), elementary education was widely available. Since the Meiji Restoration of 1868, the new government of Japan gave the highest priority to making primary education universal, in order to build a modern nation. Above all, attention was paid to the training and recruiting of capable teachers and improvement of their social status. It is no exaggeration to say that this policy of promoting education was the basis for the subsequent development of Japan.

I would like to point out the importance of education in the family, especially the importance of educating the mother. In education, it is a matter of the greatest importance that the government and the family play their respective proper roles in harmony. The mother, after all, is the "first teacher in child's life," and her role is extremely important. Yet approximately sixty-five percent of all illiterate adults in the world are women.

With this situation in mind, I wish to stress the following three points:

First, the promotion and improvement of education should be given a high priority in national development plans, and that requires firm determination and action on the part of national leaders.

Second, I propose that the importance of the roles of the family and the local community be recognized, and that, under the leadership of international organizations, each country take special measures to improve women's literacy.

Third, the culture, customs and traditions of each country should be respected in promoting and improving education. For that purpose, voluntary efforts by each country are essential. Japan will cooperate unstintingly in such efforts.

Finally, peace is an essential condition for the children to receive education without anxiety and grow up with hope for the future. Great expectations are placed on the United Nations in this respect, and I highly appreciate its activities responding to them. Japan, with its emphasis on diplomacy centered on the United Nations, is determined to fully participate in these activities.

Toshiki Kaifu  
Prime Minister of Japan

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**JORDAN**

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In less than a year two very significant steps have been taken relating to the plight of children. In November 1989, the United Nations approved the final text of the Convention on the Rights of Children. Ten months later, and in the same hall where the convention was adopted, the World Summit for Children is now being convened with the participation of more than seventy Heads of State or Government and their personal representatives.

While the convention - described as the Bill of Rights for Children - delineates the legal and legislative framework, as well as universal recognition of the problems and needs of children and their solutions, the Summit was a unique occasion for highlighting these problems and needs and to secure a firm commitment from us all to work towards the goal of securing a better future for every child, as well as an opportunity to strengthen and improve international cooperation and solidarity for the betterment of children's rights.

Every day countless children around the world fall victim to diseases, war and violence, foreign occupation, racial discrimination, prejudice and aggression. They suffer from the scourge of poverty, hunger, homelessness, illiteracy, and die from malnutrition and disease.

The world community has decided to compromise these problems and this summit is the latest - though hopefully it will not be the last - serious attempt to meet this challenge. The global awareness of the precarious situation of children testify to the mounting interest in humanity and human life. These are unmistakable signs of our renewed commitment to work collectively to better the lives and conditions of children everywhere.

This is why the new world-wide child watch gives me hope and encouragement about the future of mankind. It is my deep conviction that it will not be possible for any nation to advance and achieve enduring and meaningful progress and prosperity unless we act together on common issues which challenge us.

Jordan, which is not endowed with sufficient natural resources compared to others, has made strident steps in the field of children's survival, protection and development.

Since 1969, Jordan has been in the lead in its infant mortality reduction rate. We have cut that rate from 75 per thousand to 30 since 1980, and immunized 90 percent of our under-ones reaching the 1990 universal immunization goal in 1988.

In the field of compulsory education, we have achieved a 96 percent enrollment rate in 1989. Jordan's primary education programme was one of three country case examples selected to represent the Arab region at the World Education Conference held in Thailand, in March 1990. Further, about 50 percent of upper-grade students are girls reflecting a remarkable gender balance in our schools. Currently, we are embarking on a ten-year plan to develop kindergarten with the aim of achieving two broad goals: establish pre-school education and increase enrollment in kindergarten.

Governmental departments and agencies in cooperation with private voluntary associations are making intensive efforts to improve pre-schools. Proper upbringing of children and their development is one of the primary goals of the national socio-economic development plan of 1986-1990.

Jordan is described as a child power because 48 percent of the population are children. Despite the meagerness of our material resources we have given children first call on the country's resources.

We have accomplished the present level in terms of protection and services for children through the combination of sound planning and respect for the primary social unit, the family, and a strong commitment on our part. Our culture and social values, especially the belief in the sanctity of human life and the individual, as well as the vital role of the family, the nucleus of society have played a vital role in ensuring success for our national drive to protect and serve our children. In this context, we appreciate the help, whether in terms of material support or advice that we have received from UNICEF and other international organizations.

In conclusion, I hope that the conference will be a success story and landmark in the worthiest cause of our human endeavours.

The Plan of Action and the World Declaration on the survival and development of children in 1990 put forth by the Planning Committee represents a comprehensive framework for a serious and noble effort to give children a better future. This provides all with an opportunity to reaffirm our resolve to meet this challenge in accordance with the principles of human rights, justice and cooperation embodied in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Jordan will continue to pursue this objective.

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**KENYA**

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STATE HOUSE

P.O. BOX 40530

NAIROBI, KENYA

2ND OCTOBER, 1990.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN - 29-30 SEPTEMBER, 1990

I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CONVEY MY FELICIOUS CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU PERSONALLY AND TO THE UNITED NATIONS AS A WHOLE FOR THE INITIATIVE THAT THE UNITED NATIONS HAS TAKEN IN BRINGING THE PLIGHT OF WORLD CHILDREN TO THE FOCUS OF ATTENTION OF THE WORLD COMMUNITY. IT IS MY CONVICTION AND HOPE THAT THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN WILL MAKE SUITABLE AND PRACTICAL RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE MEASURES WHICH SHOULD BE TAKEN BY THE WORLD COMMUNITY TO IMPROVE THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN.

I WISH TO RE-ASSURE YOU MR. SECRETARY-GENERAL, OF MY PERSONAL SUPPORT FOR THE HOLDING OF THE SUMMIT. CHILDREN ARE OUR INVESTMENT FOR THE FUTURE AND IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT PRESENT DAY LEADERS SHOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ENSURE THEIR FUTURE.

IT IS THEREFORE WITH MUCH REGRET THAT DUE TO OTHER PRESSING NATIONAL COMMITMENTS I AM NOT ABLE TO PERSONALLY ATTEND THE SUMMIT. HOWEVER I WISH THE SUMMIT EVERY SUCCESS AND TO ASSURE YOU THAT I WILL FOLLOW VERY CLOSELY THE DELIBERATIONS AT THE SUMMIT. I ALSO WISH TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RE-ASSURE YOU OF MY GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN. TO THIS END KENYA WAS AMONG THE FIRST TWENTY COUNTRIES TO SIGN AND RATIFY THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD. MY GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO SET UP A WORKING GROUP WHICH HAS PRODUCED A NATIONAL PAPER ON KENYA'S PERSPECTIVE ON ALL THE THEMES OF THE SUMMIT AS WELL AS ON POPULATION AND ENVIRONMENT. THIS PAPER WILL BE CIRCULATED AT THE SUMMIT. MY GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO EXAMINING THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THAT PAPER WITH A VIEW TO THEIR EARLY IMPLEMENTATION.

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STATE HOUSE

P. O. BOX 40530

NAIROBI, KENYA

- 2 -

ACCEPT, EXCELLENCY THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST  
CONSIDERATION.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel T. Arap Moi'.

DANIEL T. ARAP MOI  
PRESIDENT AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE  
ARMED FORCES OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA

H.E. MR. JAVIER PEREZ DE CUELLAR,  
SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS,  
NEW YORK.

C.C.

MR. JAMES GRANT,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
U.N.I.C.E.F.,  
NEW YORK.

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**LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC**

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**MESSAGE**  
**DE S.E. M. PHOUMI VONGVICHITH**  
**PRESIDENT AD INTERIM DE LA REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE POPULAIRE LAO**  
**PRESIDENT DE LA COMMISSION NATIONALE POUR L'ANNEE INTERNATIONALE**  
**DE L'ENFANT,**

**A SON EXCELLENCE MONSIEUR LE PRESIDENT DE LA REUNION AU SOMMET**  
**MONDIAL POUR LES ENFANTS A NEW YORK**

**EXCELLENCE,**

**JE SUIS PARTICULIEREMENT HEUREUX D'APPRENDRE QUE LA REUNION AU SOMMET MONDIAL POUR LES ENFANTS QUI SE TIENT DURANT CES DEUX JOURS A NEW YORK A PU RASSEMBLER AUTANT DE CHEFS D'ETAT ET DE GOUVERNEMENT. CELA DEMONTE L'ATTENTION ET LA PREOCCUPATION DE LA COMMUNAUTE INTERNATIONALE POUR LES SOINS ET L'EDUCATION A DISPENSER AUX ENFANTS QUI SONT L'AVENIR DE L'HUMANITE.**

**DEPUIS LA PROCLAMATION PAR L'ONU DE L'ANNEE INTERNATIONALE DE L'ENFANT EN 1979 LA COMMISSION NATIONALE LAO POUR L'ANNEE INTERNATIONALE DE L'ENFANT, EN COOPERATION AVEC L'UNICEF, A DEPLOYE SES EFFORTS DANS LE DOMAINE DE LA PROTECTION DE LA MERE ET DE L'ENFANT, ET DANS L'EDUCATION DE LA NOUVELLE GENERATION. L'ASSISTANCE DE UNICEF, D'AUTRES ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES ET NON GOUVERNEMENTALES AINSI QUE DES PAYS AMIS INTERESSES PAR LA SANTE DES ENFANTS, A PERMIS DE REDUIRE SENSIBLEMENT L'ETAT DE SOUS-ALIMENTATION DES ENFANTS, AINSI QUE LE TAUX DE MORTALITE INFANTILE DANS NOTRE PAYS. LA CAMPAGNE DE VACCINATION EN FAVEUR DES ENFANTS DE MEME QUE L'EXTENSION DU RESEAU SCOLAIRE ONT EGALEMENT FAIT L'OBJET D'UN GRAND EFFORT DE LA PART DU GOUVERNEMENT. MAIS CELA S'AVERE CEPENDANT INSUFFISANT PAR RAPPORT A NOS BESOINS ET PAS ENCORE GENERALISE EN RAISON DE NOS DIFFICULTES DE COMMUNICATIONS INTERIEURES. CE QUI MANQUE LE PLUS, CE SONT LES ECOLES ENFANTINES, LES INSTRUMENTS DIDACTIQUES ET LES VETEMENTS POUR ENFANTS. LA DELEGATION LAO PARTICIPANT A CE SOMMET FERA UNE DESCRIPTION PLUS DETAILLEE DE LA SITUATION ACTUELLE DES ENFANTS LAO.**

**J'AI LA FERME CONVICTION QUE DANS LES ANNEES A VENIR L'UNICEF ET LES AUTRES ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES CONCERNEES RENFORCERONT**

LEUR COOPERATION AVEC LE GOUVERNEMENT ET LE PEUPLE LAO EN VUE D'ASSURER LA SURVIE ET LE DEVELOPPEMENT DES ENFANTS LAO COMME ELLES LE FERONT EN FAVEUR DE LA NOUVELLE GENERATION DE L'HUMANITE TOUT ENTIERE.

JE VOUDRAIS, EN GUISE DE CONCLUSION, SAISIR CETTE OCCASION SOLENNELLE POUR SOUHAITER A LA REUNION AU SOMMET MONDIAL POUR LES ENFANTS UN BRILLANT SUCCES.

HAUTE CONSIDERATION  
VIENTIANE, LE 28 SEPTEMBRE 1990

PHOU MI VONGVICHITH,  
PRESIDENT A.I. DE LA REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE  
POPULAIRE LAO  
COMMISSION NATIONALE LAO POUR L'ANNEE  
INTERNATIONALE DE L'ENFANT.

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**LEBANON**

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السيد الرئيس

اصحاب الجلالة ،

اصحاب الفخامة ، ايها السادة ،

بشعر لبنان في هذه المناسبة بالبعد التاريخي لانجازات قمتكم الكريمة  
الطامحة الى ارساء مستقبل جديد للطفل مبني على العدالة وتكافؤ الفرص بين  
كل اطفال العالم .

ان الواقع الاليم يفرض علينا ان نعترف بالفروقات العميقة بين الدول الثرية  
التي تؤمن لاطفالها الرفاه والعيش الكريم والدول الفقيرة او النامية العاجزة عن حماية  
اطفالها من وبيلات العرب او الجوع او المرض . ودورنا الاساسي في هذه القصة ان  
نردم الهوة بين الفقير والثري وان نطمح الى مزيد من العدالة بين الاطفال .

الطفل اللبناني هو اليوم نموذج لمعاناة المزار في شتى اشكال الحرب نتائجها :  
التشريد وفقدان دفا المنزل وكنف العائلة وطمانينة الاستقرار اليتم وموت  
اشقاء واقرباء او حتى غالباً اندثار منطقة كاملة بسكانها ومعالمها ، التسكع  
على طرقات البأس بدلا من الاجتهاد على مقاعد الدراسة والانضباط في حياة اجتماعية  
مستقرة ، العوز الذي تفاقم في السنتين الاخيرتين وادى الى انخفاض مستوى العيش  
وتدني القدرة على العناية الطبية والنفسية وعلى التكيف مع واقع المياة المؤلم .

ولبنان الاتني اليكم بتجربة اطفاله مع الالم الطويل مصمم على المواجهة  
والبقاء . انه يرفض السقوط في اليأس ، ووجوده بينكم الان خير دليل على تشبثه  
بالحياة واصراره على صون امل المستقبل لرجال الغد المشرق ، المسالم ، المستقر .  
نحن معكم سنرسخ دعائم هذا الغد ولسنا في وارد تذكير العالم بدورنا الطبيعي  
قبل اربعة عقود ونيف حين وقف ممثل لنا من على هذا المنبر بالذات يعلن مع  
الدول الطامحة الى السلام قيام منظمة الامم المتحدة التي ارسى مبدعوها عالما جديدا ،  
تتمتع فيه الدول بسيادة ناجزة ، وتنمو شعوبه بمعزل عن خطر اندلاع الصروب  
التوسعية التي شهدتها النصف الاول من القرن الحالي . نحن لن نغيب عن اي مناسبة

تجدد فيها الدول قاطبة قرارها لبناء عالم الاستقرار  
والسلام فتنعم كل الشعوب وخصوصا الاطفال بها نتوخاه  
لها من رفاه وطمأنينة .

رئيس الجمهورية اللبنانية

الياس الهراوي

Mr. Chairman,  
Your Highness,  
Your Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We in Lebanon feel the historical dimension of your Honorable Summit aspiring to lay the foundation for a new future for the world's children based on justice and equal oppoortunities.

The present bitter situation requires that we recognize the deep differences between the rich and poor countries, which provide their children with plenty and dignity and the poor developing countries that are unable to protect their children from the ravages of war, hunger and disease. Our principal role in this Summit is to close the gap between the rich and the poor and to aspire towards more justice for children.

Today, the Lebanese child represents an example of the suffering of children from the different forms of war and its results: displacement, loss of family, warmth, home, security and stability in addition to the death of sibblings, relatives, or indeed the total destruction of whole neighborhoods and their population, leading to the paths of despair rather than school benches and settled social life. There is also the extreme poverty, particularly in the last two years, which has led to a lowering of the standard of living and the capacity to provide health services adn psychological counselling to help adapt to the painful realities of life.

While sharing with you the prolonged painful experience of children, Lebanon is determined to confront these circumstances and survive, refusing to succumb to despair. Indeed our presence here, is the best indicator of our inisistance to live and safeguard the hope of a bright future for the men and women of a peaceful and stable tomorrow. We need not remind the world of our leading role, four decades ago, when a representative of Lebanon announced together with other countries aspiring to peace, the establishment of the United Nations as an organization that ushered in a new world where countries exercise full sovereignty and where people develop, protected from the dangers of expansionist wars witnessed in the first half of present century. Indeed, we will not be absent from any forum where the world community renews its decision to build a peaceful and stable world where all people particularly children, enjoy the welfare and security we wish for them.

Elias Hrawi  
President  
Republic of Lebanon



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**LIECHTENSTEIN**

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STÄNDIGE MISSION DES FÜRSTENTUMS LIECHTENSTEIN  
BEI DEN VEREINTEN NATIONEN

Weltgipfel fuer die Kinder

Grussbotschaft S.E. Herrn Hans Brunhart,  
Regierungschef des Fuerstentums Liechtenstein

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Kinder sind unsere Zukunft, eine Zukunft, welche nur eine Chance hat, wenn diesen Kindern in der Gegenwart die Moeglichkeit gegeben wird, sich jetzt in wuerdigen, den Kindern angemessenen Umataenden auf diese Zukunft vorzubereiten.

Der Weltgipfel fuer die Kinder kann nur dann ein Anlass zur Freude der Kinder unserer Welt werden, wenn wir, die Erwachsenen, diesen Anlass dazu benuetzen, unsere Verantwortung in Politik, Wirtschaft und gesellschaftlichem Leben, aber auch in jeder einzelnen Familie wahrnehmen, im Interesse des Schutzes und der Entwicklung der Kinder dieser Welt.

Ein grosser Teil der Menschheit und damit vor allem auch der Kinder befindet sich in einer Lage, welche wenig positive Voraussetzungen zur Erlangung einer guten Zukunft fuer die Kinder enthaelt. Der Weltgipfel fuer die Kinder soll deshalb in besonderer Weise die Solidaritaet zum Ausdruck bringen, welche notwendig ist, um das derzeitige Schicksal und die Zukunftsaussichten der Kinder zu verbessern. Es ist daher mein grosser persoenlicher Wunsch und gleichzeitig das Anliegen meiner Regierung, dass die am Weltgipfel verabschiedete Erklaerung und der Aktionsplan zu deren Durchfuehrung moeglichst rasch konkrete positive Ergebnisse zeitigt.

In diesem Sinne gruesse ich alle Kinder,  
verbunden mit meinem herzlichen Wunsch fuer ihr Wohlergehen.

Unofficial Translation

"Leadership for Children" Message  
by H.E. Mr. Hans Brunhart  
Head of Government, Principality of Liechtenstein

Children are our future, and this future can only have a good chance if children have already right now the possibility to prepare themselves for this future under fair conditions that correspond to their needs.

The World Summit for Children can only then be a reason for joy for all the children of our world, if we, the adults, take this opportunity to assume our responsibilities in general and economic policies as well as in social life and in the life of our families, in order to respond to the interests of our children to be protected and guided in their development.

A major part of humanity, and especially a major part of our children are finding themselves in a situation that contains very few positive pre-conditions for a better future. The World Summit for Children should therefore and in a special manner demonstrate our solidarity which is necessary to improve the actual situation as well as the perspectives for the future of all children.

It is my personal wish and at the same time the wish of my government that the Declaration adopted at the World Summit for Children and the Action Plan to implement this Declaration will see, as soon as possible, concrete and positive results.

In this spirit I present my sincere wishes for the wellbeing of all children.

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# LUXEMBOURG

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## MESSAGE AUX ENFANTS DU MONDE

Après les discours, il faut passer aux actes. Il est certes important qu'un nombre impressionnant de Chefs d'Etat et de Chefs de Gouvernement aient signé la Déclaration mondiale en faveur de votre survie, de votre protection et de votre développement. Encore faudra-t-il la mettre en oeuvre aussi pleinement et aussi rapidement que possible.

Le Sommet constitue un pas essentiel sur la route qui devra nous conduire, dans les années à venir, à améliorer sensiblement votre sort et celui des enfants que vous aurez vous-même.

C'est pourquoi, je tiens à remercier les initiateurs et les organisateurs de ce Sommet. En effet, les résultats concrets sur lesquels le monde politique s'est engagé solennellement constitueront sans doute le meilleur héritage global que l'humanité d'aujourd'hui puisse laisser à celle de demain.

Une part importante de cet héritage pourra et devra être la ratification et la pleine application de la Convention relative aux droits de l'enfant.

Cependant, pour les pays européens, la vraie portée et la véritable signification de la Convention, ce n'est pas d'y adhérer ni d'en garantir une application toujours plus pleine et plus affinée chez nous.

Pour nos sociétés occidentales et leurs institutions, la Convention doit avant tout comporter une dimension internationale et plus particulièrement la dimension Nord-Sud.

Notre engagement doit être total et inconditionnel. Nous n'avons pas le droit de décevoir les milliards d'enfants dont les regards resteront désormais braqués sur nous.

Jean  
Grand-Duc de Luxembourg

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**MALAWI**

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**MESSAGE ON THE OCCASION OF THE**  
**WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN,**  
**29TH TO 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1990**

On the occasion of the World Summit for Children I wish to reaffirm my personal as well as my Government's commitment to the betterment of the lives of the world's children. My Government, through its various organs and means, as well as the people themselves, have made concerted efforts to reduce childhood problems such as mortality, disease, malnutrition, disability, neglect and ignorance, in order to improve the living conditions of our children.

In Malawi, we regard children as the most supreme asset of our Nation. They are the leaders of tomorrow. Without them there would be no better future. Our development efforts therefore are investments for our children. To us the human being is the centre of development and the child is the basis of the human race. We therefore cherish fundamental human rights and values as embodied in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and which we will endeavour to enhance and protect.

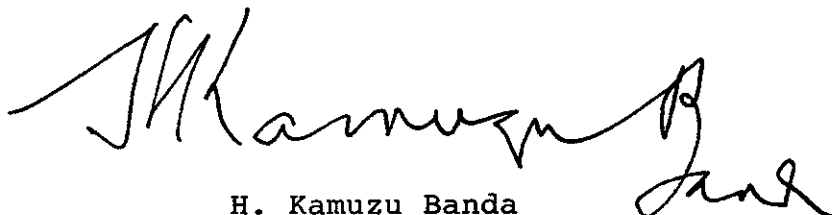
We must eliminate poverty, ignorance, disease and violence in all its forms from which children suffer most and promote peace through contact and dialogue. Many children today are victims of war, violence, famine and other disasters, poverty, economic hardships and the degradation of the environment. But there is hope for the future because these problems can be resolved through various strategies and means,

and at all levels beginning with the family up to the national and international levels. I shall therefore constantly call upon my people to increase agricultural productivity and education because this will ultimately benefit our children. I shall further urge my people to strengthen social institutions that nurture and protect the child, particularly the family which is the natural environment for proper child growth and development. I shall also urge my people to put the quality of life of the child first before quantity, and to ensure that each family adequately provides for their children's physical, mental and social development.

My Government will ensure that children are protected and provided for through legislative and other measures, at home; and will support any efforts in this endeavour at the international level.

While congratulating the international community for taking cognizance of the need to improve the lives of millions of the world's children who suffer because they have no voice of their own, it is important to emphasise that it is the duty of every individual, family, and Government to ensure that the rights of the child are fully safeguarded, through the provision of basic health, education and care.

Let me wish the Summit a success for the survival and betterment of all the children the world over.



H. Kamuzu Banda

LIFE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI



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**MALAYSIA**

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PRIME MINISTER  
MALAYSIA

MESSAGE

Humanity is proud of its numerous scientific and technological advancements. These should help make the life of everyone free from want, from hunger and disease. But it is a sad commentary on the social commitment of the human race that in numerous parts of the world children are still starving and disease-stricken, dying by their thousands quite unnecessarily.

The World Summit for Children therefore comes none too soon. The awakening of social consciousness and responsibility that goes beyond the immediate family or society or race or nation, together with the technological advancements in various relevant fields will surely contribute towards making this World Summit for Children more meaningful and practical in terms of actual actions to be taken to remedy the ills of children world wide.

Various regional organisations in South Asia, Africa, Central America, West Asia, the United State of America and Soviet Union as well as the Summit meeting of the seven industrial nations had focussed their attention on children's welfare. They had already provided opportunities for identifying programme proposals that would bring about improvements to child survival and welfare. This Summit can therefore be regarded as the culmination of the regional efforts.

The presence of so many heads of Governments emphasise the seriousness of commitment of everyone towards solving the problem of the wellbeing of children worldwide. As political heads, they are aware that many of the problem of children have political roots. As much as there is a need for charity and good intention, there is also a need for political will and decisions no less strong than those involving the bitter conflicts between nations. The children of the world who will surely inherit the earth deserve the love and care not just of their parents but the statesmen of the world, love and care that will be translated into political will and commitment.



I do hope that the convening of the World Summit for Children will positively and actively consider and act on the many known proposals and formulate new ones which can bring about a better life for the less fortunate children scattered throughout the six continents of the world. Malaysia for its part will certainly play an active role within its means.

A large, bold, handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be 'DR MAHATHIR BIN MOHAMAD'. The signature is written in a cursive style with several overlapping strokes.

DR MAHATHIR BIN MOHAMAD

Kuala Lumpur  
26 September 1990

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**MALI**

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Le Sommet Mondial pour les Enfants arrive au moment où les Pays du Tiers-Monde, notamment le Continent Africain, subissent de plein fouet les effets de la crise économique mondiale, de l'endettement excessif, de la chute des cours des matières premières.

Ce Sommet Mondial pour les Enfants est pour nous porteur d'un nouvel espoir. En effet, pour la première fois dans l'Histoire, des Chefs d'Etat et de Gouvernement du monde entier, dans un élan de solidarité et une communion d'amour, se rassembleront autour d'un objectif commun : essayer de résoudre ensemble des problèmes que les enfants rencontrent partout sur la planète pour survivre et accéder à l'âge adulte.

J'aime à le dire : "La qualité d'une société se reconnaît à la manière dont elle protège ses groupes vulnérables et dont elle préserve son avenir. La fragilité des enfants et le potentiel qu'ils représentent pour la santé et le progrès de l'Humanité, requièrent des Gouvernements des soins particuliers en leur direction".

Pour ce qui nous concerne au Mali, nul n'ignore la place qu'occupe l'enfant dans notre société. Notre adhésion et notre engagement à l'idée du Sommet confirment qu'à tout moment de notre histoire, et quelles que soient les difficultés rencontrées, cette place primordiale qu'occupe l'enfant a été préservée.

Si les Gouvernements, cependant, doivent prendre des décisions politiques stratégiques pour la survie et l'épanouissement de l'enfant, ils ont besoin, pour pouvoir le faire, de l'appui des populations, et en premier lieu de celui de la famille qui constitue la cellule de base même de la vie.

Aussi, il nous revient à chacun et à tous, de faire en sorte que cet espoir ne soit pas un mirage, et nous devrions y contribuer, avec notre conviction et avec les moyens dont nous disposons.

La Communauté Internationale doit aider les Gouvernements et les Peuples Africains à tenir les engagements auxquels ils ont souscrit en faveur de l'enfance.

J'ai foi aux femmes et aux hommes de notre planète et en la solidarité, la charité et l'amour qui les animent.

C'est seulement à ce prix, qu'ensemble nous pourrons faire de ce vœu que l'on a coutume d'exprimer dans une langue de mon pays, à l'occasion du décès d'un enfant, une vérité :

"Puisse jamais plus le fruit vert de la charité ne précéder au sol le fruit mûr"./-

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**MALTA**

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THE PRIME MINISTER  
MALTA

30 September 1990

## TO THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN

Some time ago, I had to make a little speech when the Secretary General of the United Nations came to Malta to open an Institute devoted to the elderly, and I remarked on the strange kind of complicity that very often the aged manage to reach with children, the common understanding and spirit of fellowship between the most senior of our citizens and the most junior members of the community.

It seems to stem from the fact that, in many societies, both the grandparents and the grandchildren have been left or pushed to the periphery of the fora where the central business of social life is conducted. Yet they are the ones who seem most able to look at the values being lived by around them and to reverse them in their minds, to have the kind of wisdom needed to envisage alternatives, to get us unstuck when we seem to have reached a stalemate.

The great environmental crisis which is today the most grievous threat being faced by mankind and for which we are desperately seeking complex solutions is slowly making us open our eyes again to the prospect embodied in the zany alliance of child and sage joining hands in a journey towards a recovered simplicity of life.

Children, like the elderly, are by nature a minority, and not just labelled as "minors", in our world. But it is only by the abuse of the majority rule in a democratic context, as it is of the possession of greater force in a non-democratic context, that often children, like the elderly, fail to get due opportunity for their full development as human beings.

It seems clear that many of the sufferings of children, as of the elderly, in the contemporary world, are due to the crisis of the family. Just as the recognition is growing that the progress of technology has to be guided with a greater respect for the life of nature so too social planners and policy-makers are recognising that the development of human autonomy and freedom can only flourish in full recognition of the family nature of human life - however varied and capable of evolution the family institution may be.



If the ecological crisis is an eye-opener to the value of childhood, probing of our mistreatments of children is a key to the rediscovery of the solidarity of mankind in both its biological and social dimensions.

It is part of the lot of many of us to have to attend committee meetings of all sorts - kitchen cabinets, general assemblies and egghead gatherings usually exclusively reserved for adults and adult business. There often we hear moans and laments about lack of creativity, and loss of imagination. Then perhaps the thought flashes in the mind that maybe a few children would help. Or at least it would help if only we brought children more into the focus of our concerns.

That is what this world summit is about.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald A. ...". The signature is highly stylized and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a smaller loop at the end. It is positioned in the center of the page, below the main text.

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**MAURITIUS**

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PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE  
MAURITIUS  
M E S S A G E

World Summit for Children

It gives me great pleasure to associate myself with the World Summit for Children whose singular preoccupation is to further the cause of the survival, protection and development of the Child.

It is distressing to note that in a world of plenty an abundance, countless number of children are dying everyday from the scourges of poverty, hunger, malnutrition, disease and drugs. Others have become innocent victims of racial discrimination and apartheid, of violence and the turmoils of war. Furthermore innumerable are those who are falling prey to increasing physical and sexual abuses and other degrading forms of exploitations.

At the Summit there will be no doubt that the conscience of mankind will be aroused by the current problems facing the youngsters and that concrete action will be taken to alleviate their sufferings.

It is the duty of everyone to work ceaselessly for the health, welfare and happiness of those that would be called upon to-morrow to shoulder the burden that will devolve on future generations.

We, in Mauritius have taken various measures for the welfare of our children. A National Children's Council grouping Non Governmental Organisations and Government officials have been set up, our legislations are being reviewed and amended where appropriate to provide for the protection of our children. We have also adhered to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and are using it as a framework for further action.

May I take this opportunity to commend the excellent work of many International Organisations particularly the UNICEF and the WHO in their struggle to save children's lives and protect their environment so as to ensure their healthy development.

Let us dedicate ourselves to the noble task of providing all the facilities that will make for the healthy mental and physical growth of generations to come and who bear in them the seeds of time that have to be carefully nurtured.

Let it also not be forgotten that after all the Child is father of Man.

Anerood Jugnauth  
Prime Minister

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**MONGOLIA**

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Telegram from H.E. Mr. P. Ochirbat,  
President of the Mongolian People's Republic

ХҮҮХДИЙН ТӨЛӨӨ ДЭЛХИЙ ДАХИНЫ ДЭЭД ХЭМЖЭЭНИЙ  
УУЛЗАЛТАД ОРОЛЦОГЧДОД

Нью-Йорк

Эрхэм хүндэт хурлын дарга нар аа,  
Хүндэт төр, засгийн тэргүүн, тэдний бие төлөөлөгчид еө,

Бүгд Найрамдах Монгол Ард Улсын төр, засгийн газар, ард түмний нэрийн өмнөөс болон хувиасаа хүндэт дарга нар Танд болон Хүүхдийн төлөө дэлхий дахины дээд хэмжээний уулзалтад оролцогч-  
дод чин сэтгэлийн мэндчилгээ дэвшүүлэе.

Хүн төрөлхтний ирээдүй – хүүхэд багачуудын эрх ашгийн төлөө хамтран ажиллах улс төрийн хүсэл зоригоо илэрхийлэх, тэдний сайн сайхныг хангах асуудлыг тал бүрээс нь авч хэлэлцэх зорилго бүхий тус уулзалт бол түүхэн ач холбогдолтой үйл явдал гэж БНМАУ үзэж байна.

Хүн амын тэн хагасаас илүү нь хүүхэд, залуус байгаа орн хувьд БНМАУ-ын засгийн газар хүүхдийн есч бойжих, сурч боловсрох, эрүүл чийрэг, эрдэм мэдлэгтэй чөлөөт иргэн болон хүмүүжихэд шаардлагатай нөхцөл бололцоог хангахад байнга анхаарч ирсэн бөгөөд цаашид ч бололцоотой бүхнийг хийх болно. Тиймээс ч хүүхдийн бүх талын эрхийг хуульчлан тунхагласан Хүүхдийн эрхийн тухай конвенцид БНМАУ тэргүүн эгнээнд гарын үсэг зурж баталсан билээ.

Хойч үеийнхнээ эх дэлхий дээрээ энх амгалан, эв нэгдэлтэй амьдрах нөхцлийг хангах, тэдний хувь заяатай холбоотой асуудлуудыг улс орн болон олон улсын хамтын нийгэмлэгийн хүчээр шийдвэрлэхэд чиглэсэн стратеги, зорилтуудыг энэ дээд хэмжээний уулзалтад оролцогчид хамтын оюун ухаанаар тодорхойлж чадна гэдэгт итгэж байна.

Хүүхдэд хайртай хүн бүрийн ширтэн харж буй Та бүхний  
уулзалтны ажиллагаанд их амжилт өрөөе.

Улаанбаатар, 1990 оны 9 дүгээр сарын 29

Unofficial translation  
from Mongolian

TO THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE  
WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN

New York

Esteemed Co-Chairmen of the Summit for Children,  
Esteemed Heads of State and Government  
and Personal Representatives of Heads of State and Government,

On behalf of the Government and people of the Mongolian People's Republic and in my own name I am happy to extend our most sincere greetings to you, esteemed Co-Chairmen, and all the participants in the World Summit for Children.

The Mongolian People's Republic considers this forum as an event of historic significance designed to give an expression to the political will for co-operation for the benefit of mankind's posterity, and to deliberate from its every angle the question of ensuring the well-being of children.

The Government of the Mongolian People's Republic, where the youth make up more than one half of her population, has always paid an undeviating attention to ensuring the necessary conditions for children to grow into educated, healthy and free citizens and will continue to do everything possible to that end. That is why Mongolia was among the first to sign and ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child that provided legal assurances for an entire spectrum of the rights of children.

I believe that the participants in the Summit, in their collective wisdom, will be able to chart out the strategy and objectives to secure, through both national and international efforts, such conditions in which our posterity can enjoy a tranquil and harmonious life on our mother Earth and a better future for generations to come.

/...

May I extend my best wishes for greater successes in the work of your meeting which so deservedly attracts the closest attention of all who love and cherish children.

(signed)  
P.Ochirbat  
President of the  
Mongolian People's Republic

Ulaanbaatar, 29 September 1990



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**NAMIBIA**

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**SPECIAL MESSAGE BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR. SAM NUJOMA,**  
**PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA,**  
**ADDRESSED TO THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN**  
**UN HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK, 29-30 SEPTEMBER, 1990.**

It is common knowledge that in traditional African society "children should be seen and not heard." This unfortunate disposition has certainly deprived children of their right of self-expression and participation in matters affecting their well-being and development. However, traditional African societies had strong family units which ensured the emotional, mental, social and spiritual well-being of the child. Within their limited economic means, African societies attempted to provide economic and physical security to the child.

Modern socio-economic structures have undoubtedly brought about positive improvements and benefits to our societies. Hence, modern means of transportation, communication, economic organization, health services and improved means of agriculture production have greatly enhanced our living conditions on earth. However, these developments have also been the principal factor contributing to the disintegration of the basic social unit, namely the family. This unfortunate development has greatly exacerbated the alienation of the child from its life source, i.e., the family unit.

Consequently, many of our societies are today faced with homelessness, child abuse, drug addiction, alcoholism, malnutrition, illiteracy and increased youth crimes. This regrettable state of affairs can be singled out as the principal contributing factor making the twentieth century the epoch of lost opportunities for the African child, and indeed for the African society as a whole.

In the context of my own country, the Republic of Namibia, the despicable Apartheid ideology and practices have left behind serious distortions in the outlook and perceptions of our children, e.g., racial prejudices and complexes and a misplaced sense of superiority. In order to address these misconceived attitudes and the resulting racial divisions and tensions, my government adopted a policy of national reconciliation which I believe will contribute to social harmony and ultimately to the well-being of all the children in Namibia.

On the global level, governments, parents and, indeed all responsible and influential adults should seriously consider the plight of our children as a matter of utmost priority. The rights of children as the inheritors and custodians of the future, must be identified and strictly observed a gloomy future.

It is not enough to put a signature to the UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD. The international community is regrettably aware of the numerous well-intended resolutions treaties and conventions that were forgotten after their signing. What is deplorable is not the lack of good ideas, but the lack of goodwill, discipline and persistence in pursuing complete implementation of the agreed conventions.

For the children of the world, this World Summit for Children and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Children would not have been in vain, if all the Heads of State and Government could agree and ensure that:

-- No child should die from a preventable disease, and Governments should strive for 100% immunization rate;

-- No child should be cursed with illiteracy and ultimately unemployment. Therefore primary education should be compulsory;

-- No child should go to sleep hungry and cold, and everything possible must be done to provide sufficient food and adequate shelter for all;

-- As governments, we have a responsibility and duty not to pass on planet Earth to future generations in a state worse than that we received it in.

As I previously stated, we must all work together towards creating an atmosphere of peace, mutual trust and understanding, with a clear vision of reaching our ultimate goal -- that of social justice for all our people, but especially for all our children.



DR. SAM NUJOMA  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

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**NEW ZEALAND**

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## PRIME MINISTER

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER OF NEW ZEALAND, RT HON MIKE MOORE, TO THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN

It gives me great pleasure to send greetings on behalf of the New Zealand Government and people - and in particular on behalf of all the children of this country - to the World Summit for Children. Children are the most precious resource of every country, regardless of its level of development. Yet all too frequently their special needs, and their vulnerability, are overlooked. International co-operation to place the rights and interests of children at the centre of programmes intended to benefit them is essential. Only in this way can we succeed in efforts to improve the tragic global statistics on infant and child mortality, diseases, malnutrition, abuse and illiteracy. The World Summit can provide the leadership to give new impetus to that co-operation.

In New Zealand, the rights and welfare of children are protected under the law, and programmes aimed at ensuring that they grow up healthy and happy operate at both the governmental and the non-governmental level. Wherever possible, the care and protection of children is seen as best provided within a family setting. This is the aim of all family law in New Zealand, and is a central purpose of our social welfare system. In recent years, we have taken innovative approaches to the problems that children and young people may face. Since 1989, New Zealand has a Commissioner for Children, who has a wide range of functions relating to the protection of children and the promotion of their welfare in all spheres of life. An important focus of our Commissioner's work is to improve public awareness of issues affecting children. As for international measures, the widespread support for the Government's recent decision to sign the International Convention on the Rights of the Child illustrated the high level of concern for children's special needs, world-wide, that already exists among New Zealanders.

I wish all those participating in the World Summit every success in your work. Children of today will lead the world tomorrow: the Summit can help ensure a brighter future for many generations to come.

Handwritten signature of Mike Moore in black ink, with a horizontal line underneath.

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**NIGERIA**

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**PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM  
H.E. GENERAL IBRAHIM B. BABANGIDA, PRESIDENT  
OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN  
New York, 29 - 30 September 1990**

I convey to you the best wishes of the Government and people of Nigeria as well as the deep aspirations of our people that this extraordinary summit will search for solutions and adopt recommendations that will make the world better, safer and more secure for children. No task today should command greater priority than finding practical solutions to the problems on the survival, protection and development of children.

2. The problems that confront our children are universal. I must hastily add, however, that the status of child health and well-being differs from country to country and within countries, but, generally, the level of health and well-being of the child is positively related to the socio-economic environment in which the child is brought up.

3. In Nigeria our children are facing such problems as malnutrition, disease, premature death, unemployment, inadequate medical care, neglect as a result of parents' preoccupation with daily struggle for survival, illiteracy as a result of declining resources of the parents, child abuse and exploitation, early marriages (for girls).

4. The bold efforts of Government to improve the lots of the children have been emasculated by the dwindling resources. Our vigorous implementation of the economic reform programme had brought on its wake drastic reduction in expenditure on social programmes, particularly health and education, with children and other vulnerable groups in the society being the first casualty.

5. We have nevertheless introduced and are pursuing policies and programmes under severe limitation of resources for child survival and development. Most of the resolutions arising from the International Year of the Child (IYC) have been implemented and this includes the establishment of National Child Welfare Committee whose objectives are:

- (a) to identify problems and needs of children;
- (b) monitor and co-ordinate programmes and services for children;
- (c) review policies, programmes and services for children; and
- (d) formulate a National Child Welfare Policy.



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6. We consider provision of safe drinking water and improved sanitation especially in the rural areas very vital to our child survival efforts. We have, therefore, courageously shifted resources to the rural areas and urban shanty towns. We have established and adequately funded a Better Life Programme for Rural Dwellers as well as a Directorate of Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructures. The Better Life Programme emphasizes self-development particularly for women in rural areas in respect of education, business, sanitation, work and productivity. The Directorate of Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructures had registered impressive achievements especially in opening up rural areas and in providing bore-holes for safe water supply and in building ventilated pit latrines in thousands of our Nigerian villages. The agency has helped in no small measure in our positive efforts towards the eradication of guineaworm.

7. The disease and mortality profile of our countries stems from our vicious cycle of poverty as well as general state of under-development and we are overwhelmed by parasitic and infectious disease. For most countries of our continent, life is short and difficult, and many of our nations are saddled with crippling debt burden, high unemployment and inflation. The political will to rid our countries of disease of poverty and under-development is strong, but we shall certainly require substantial external support to translate our dream of ushering in a longer, more productive and more healthful life span for all our people. Indeed, there is a compelling need for general debt forgiveness to permit economic growth to be resumed in our countries in order to alleviate poverty, create jobs and raise the general living standard and quality of life of our people.

(Signed)

General Ibrahim B. Babangida  
President

Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces  
of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

Lagos  
September 24, 1990.



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**NORWAY**

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AMENDED VERSION



## THE PRIME MINISTER

### **The World Summit for Children**

**New York, 29 - 30 September 1990**

### **A message from Prime Minister Jan P. Syse, Norway**

A world not taking care of its children, is jeopardizing its future. The gathering of world leaders at a Summit for Children must send a strong message of our determination to protect the world's most precious and vulnerable resource: our children.

In a global perspective, Norwegian children are privileged. Our living standards are high. The basic needs of children are met. With regard to health and nutrition, the situation is satisfactory, and the equal right to education for all is realized. Nevertheless, we recognize that there still are problems of child abuse, neglect and insufficient consideration of children's interests. Increased efforts are required to strengthen the protection of children, particularly those threatened by problems related to maltreatment and sexual exploitation, alcohol and drug abuse.

Norway has created a special public institution called the Ombudsman or the Commissioner for Children. The Commissioner's role is to bring children's concerns to the awareness of the decision-makers and of the public; to press for action that will improve the situation of children, particularly those most in need. With the support of UNICEF, a study is now underway to evaluate the effects of the Commissioner's work. I hope that the results will be of use to other countries as well, and that they will serve the interests of children in all corners of the world.

A future sound and safe environment is vital, especially to our children. We must therefore find bold, new solutions to the environmental problems facing us. The urgent challenge of the 1990s will be to make the transition from knowledge to action. A process was launched by the UN Commission on Environment and Development. We must now accelerate our efforts. Resolute action is required at national level. Binding international agreements are urgently needed at the global level. The industrialized nations must contribute additional resources to assist the efforts of developing countries. Norway has proposed the establishment of a more efficient decision-making process and the elaboration of a binding environmental "code of conduct" in the European region. Such measures could also contribute to finding solutions at the global level.

The changes to our climate represent the most serious long-term

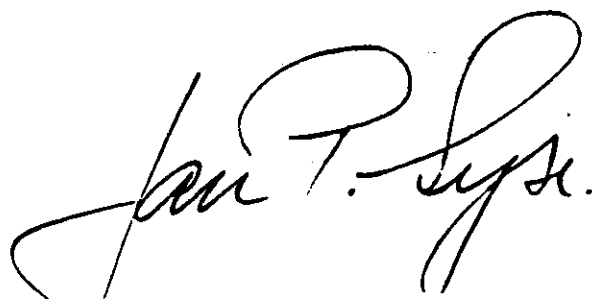
environmental threat to future generations. If we do not reverse the trends now, our children may find them irreversible. Solutions will require more ambitious international cooperation. Negotiations on a Convention on Climate Change should be launched without delay.

The protection of children's interests is linked to economic and social development. A mobilization of resources from the rich and developed parts of our global community is urgently required. Norway allocates more than one per cent of its GDP to development assistance, and is determined to pursue its present policies. I urge all industrialized countries to step up their contributions now and to reach at least the adopted target of 0.7 per cent of GDP. The governments of the developing countries must assume their responsibilities by accelerating economic and political reforms.

The economic crisis in developing countries has primarily hit the most vulnerable groups. Children are almost always among these groups. In many cases, progress in health, nutrition and education has been replaced by deteriorating social conditions as the economic crisis and debt burdens take their toll. It is of vital importance that our aid be structured to protect the most vulnerable. Additional resources must be channeled to the poorest countries. On their side, the developing countries must give the necessary priority to ensuring basic social services.

Today, more than ten per cent of Norwegian development aid is spent on health, mother and child care and family planning. Norway is the fourth largest contributor to UNICEF. This organization has a very special role to play in meeting the needs of children. It deserves our fervent support.

The success of our Summit will not be measured by our speeches. It can only be measured by our readiness to implement the commitment laid down in the Summit declaration and in the plan of action. Solutions do exist. History will judge us harshly if we fail to act.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jan T. Syse". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with large loops and a long tail on the final letter.

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**PAKISTAN**

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PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY MR. GHULAM MUSTAFA  
JATOI, PRIME MINISTER OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN,  
TO THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN (29-30 SEPTEMBER 1990).

It is a matter of immense pleasure and pride for us that Pakistan is among the six countries including Canada, Egypt, Mali, Mexico and Sweden which took the initiative of calling the World Summit for Children to promote the welfare of children all over the globe.

The Summit provides a unique opportunity to world leaders to focus attention and promote commitment, at the highest political level, to the goals and strategies for ensuring the survival, protection and development of children as key elements in the socio-economic development of human society.

The future of mankind and human civilization lies in our children. Their protection and proper development is the best guarantee for the future progress and prosperity of the human species. The welfare of children, therefore, deserves the utmost attention on the part of international community.

It is distressing that most children in the Third World suffer from malnutrition, non-existent or inadequate health care, poor educational facilities, and lack of recreational opportunities. Child mortality rate still remains at an unacceptably high level in many developing countries. Obviously, the situation calls for urgent measures for ensuring the welfare of the children.

Pakistan recognises the gravity of the situation. We accept the challenge of the goals set out in the Summit Plan of Action for child survival, development and protection. I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate the high priority that my government and I personally attach to the welfare and development of Pakistani children. The Government of Pakistan is doing its utmost to afford our children and their families nutritious food, adequate housing, immunization from fatal diseases, educational opportunities, recreational facilities and a healthy environment. Provision of these basic services for children is given due priority in our policies, plans and programmes.

It is a matter of satisfaction for us that we are close to achieving the goal of Universal Child Immunization. Taking advantage of the developments which have made technology simple and affordable, 94.7 per cent of the children in Pakistan have been covered by Oral Rehydration Therapy. The government is in the process of implementing the recently formulated national plan for combating Acute Respiratory Infections. Further, increased attention is being paid to the health of mothers and families. Multi-sectoral programmes are being undertaken by the Government and NGOs for strengthening the family unit, curbing maternal mortality and making motherhood safe for the mother and child.

We are conscious of the fact that strenuous efforts are called for and much remains to be done. Our main problem is

lack of resources rather than the lack of will to ensure the well-being of children. Nevertheless, we are determined not only to continue but also to intensify our efforts for improving their conditions.

Children are our wards to whom we owe individual and collective responsibility. On this historic occasion, world leaders must reaffirm their obligations to give our children a chance for survival and necessary facilities for full development of their physical and mental potential. It is incumbent upon the international community to ensure, for children, a world free from war, violence, hunger, poverty and disease. To that end the leaders of nations must take all possible steps to promote peace and disarmament. Efforts must be intensified to promote economic development, particularly in the Third World. We must shed our prejudices, political rivalries, and ethnic and racial discrimination to mould ourselves into a cohesive and prosperous comity of nations.

On this occasion, let us rededicate ourselves to the ideal of a safe and healthy environment for our children which would help them develop as enlightened individuals committed to ushering in a just, peaceful and progressive world order. We are confident that the Declaration and the Programme of Action to be adopted by the Summit will go a long way towards the realisation of this noble objective.

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**PANAMA**

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La Cumbre a favor de la infancia constituye la razón fundamental de mi viaje a Nueva York. Cualquier iniciativa que busque una solución global a la frustración de nuestras juventudes es justificada, porque si no nos ocupamos ya de los problemas de los niños de hoy, nos encontraremos dentro de pocos años, con una acumulación de generaciones con más problemas que esperanzas. En todos los continentes y en todas las razas, sin distinción por nacionalidades.

Las enfermedades, el analfabetismo, la droga, la impreparación para el trabajo, tragedias agravadas por el consumismo desenfrenado, preocupan a todo ciudadano consciente y a todo gobernante responsable. Nuestra Misión para con los niños, el educarlos y prepararlos para que puedan ser los líderes de un mundo cada vez más complejo, está íntimamente ligada a la solución de los problemas antes mencionados.

El reto es global y las respuestas deben serlo también. De allí, la necesidad de un compromiso real de todos, del concurso de todos los que tenemos la obligación política con nuestros pueblos, porque sin colaboración no habrá resultados importantes.

Es necesario la eliminación de la violencia, el respeto y la tolerancia por las opiniones de los demás, el culto de la libertad y la solidaridad verdadera al interno y al externo de todos los países. Que los niños de hoy aprendan a sobrevolar las estructuras estatales conocidas, para que el siglo XXI produzca la sociedad de toda la humanidad.

La República de Panamá, por intermedio de su gobierno democrático, compromete su acción en esta lucha por los niños de hoy, ciudadanos del futuro. Proteger la salud y la educación de los niños de hoy es la mejor inversión que la humanidad puede hacer.

GUILLERMO ENDARA GALIMANY  
PRESIDENTE CONSTITUCIONAL DE PANAMA



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**PERU**

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**MENSAJE DEL SEÑOR PRESIDENTE DEL PERU,  
DON ALBERTO FUJIMORI CON OCASION DE CELEBRARSE  
LA CUMBRE MUNDIAL EN FAVOR DE LA INFANCIA**

A NOMBRE DEL PUEBLO Y GOBIERNO PERUANOS QUISIERA DEJAR TESTIMONIO DE NUESTRO MAS AMPLIO RECONOCIMIENTO A LA FELIZ Y LOABLE INICIATIVA DE LOS PAISES INICIADORES DE ESTA CUMBRE MUNDIAL EN FAVOR DE LA INFANCIA Y A LOS TRABAJOS QUE EN EL MARCO DEL FORO DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS Y DE LA UNICEF HAN DESARROLLADO TODOS LOS PAISES EN UN GENEROSO ESFUERZO DE CONCERTACION PARA DAR VIDA A LA "CONVENCION SOBRE LOS DERECHOS DEL NIÑO", LA "DECLARACION MUNDIAL SOBRE LA SUPERVIVENCIA, LA PROTECCION Y EL DESARROLLO DEL NIÑO" Y EL "PLAN DE ACCION PARA LA APLICACION DE LA DECLARACION SOBRE LA SUPERVIVENCIA, LA PROTECCION Y EL DESARROLLO DEL NIÑO EN EL DECENIO DE 1990".

LA NIÑEZ REQUIERE, HOY MAS QUE NUNCA, EL COMPROMISO DE LOS LIDERES DEL MUNDO, NO SOLO EN TERMINOS DE UNA JUSTIFICADA PREOCUPACION SINO QUE, PRIORITARIAMENTE, NECESITA SER RECEPTORA INMEDIATA DE LOS BENEFICIOS CONCRETOS QUE EMANEN EN LA APLICACION DE LAS MEDIDAS ESTIPULADAS POR LOS RECIENTES INSTRUMENTOS JURIDICOS. ELLO NO ES SOLO UNA OBLIGACION CONTRACTUAL SINO UN IMPERATIVO MORAL.

DADA LA IMPORTANCIA QUE MI GOBIERNO OTORGA A LA INFANCIA, EL PERU HA SIDO UNO DE LOS PRIMEROS PAISES EN RATIFICAR LA CONVENCION DEL NIÑO. UNA DE NUESTRAS PRINCIPALES METAS ES DOTAR A LA NIÑEZ PERUANA DE TODAS LAS FACILIDADES PARA SATISFACER SUS NECESIDADES BASICAS DE NUTRICION Y SALUD. ESTA IRAN A LA PAR CON LA CREACION DE UN AMBIENTE ADECUADO QUE FAVOREZCA EL PLENO DESARROLLO DE TODAS SUS FACULTADES.

EL DRAMA DE LA VIOLENCIA ESTRUCTURAL QUE AFECTA PRINCIPALMENTE A LAS SOCIEDADES DE LOS PAISES EN DESARROLLO Y ESPECIALMENTE A SUS SECTORES MAS EXPUESTOS, POR ENDE A LA NIÑEZ, NOS OBLIGA A VINCULAR ESTA SITUACION CON LA PROBLEMÁTICA DEL DESARROLLO INTEGRAL DE NUESTRAS NACIONES. SOLO EN UN CONTEXTO DE BIENESTAR SOCIAL, LOS NINOS PODRAN ENCONTRAR EL AMBIENTE ADECUADO PARA SU CRECIMIENTO.

EN OTRAS CIRCUNSTANCIAS UNA TAREA INDIVIDUAL DE ESTA MAGNITUD HUBIERA ENCONTRADO NO POCAS DIFICULTADES PARA OBTENER EL SIEMPRE NECESARIO APOYO INTERNACIONAL. SIN EMBARGO, CON LA CONSTITUCION DE ESTE NUEVO MARCO JURIDICO DONDE EN FORMA OMNICOOMPRESIVA SE CAUTELA TODO LO RELATIVO A LA NINEZ LA PERSPECTIVA DEL EXITO SE AMPLIA Y LA ESPERANZA RENACE. CORRESPONDE AHORA PRESENTE QUE LOS PAISES DESARROLADOS MEJOREN CUALITATIVAMENTE Y CUANTITATIVAMENTE LOS TERMINOS DE SU PARTICIPACION EN ESTA TAREA CONJUNTA DE LA HUMANIDAD.

SE HA DADO EL PRIMER Y GRAN PASO. DEBEMOS ENTONCES DEDICAR LOS MEJORES ESFUERZOS A FIN DE CUMPLIR TODOS LOS OBJETIVOS ACORDADOS. IMBUIDOS DE ESE ESPIRITU, ESTOY SEGURO QUE ESTAREMOS A LA ALTURA DEL RETO QUE LA HISTORIA NOS HA IMPUESTO, PARA CONSTRUIR EN ARMONIA Y PAZ UN FUTURO MEJOR PARA TODA LA NINEZ DEL MUNDO.

LIMA, 30 DE SETIEMBRE DE 1990

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**PHILIPPINES**

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MALACAÑAN PALACE

MANILA

MESSAGE OF H.E. PRESIDENT CORAZON C. AGUINO  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES, WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN,  
NEW YORK, 21-30 SEPTEMBER 1990

ON 3 APRIL 1986, EXACTLY 35 DAYS AFTER I ASSUMED THE PRESIDENCY, I SIGNED PROCLAMATION NO. 6 "IMPLEMENTING A UNITED NATIONS GOAL ON UNIVERSAL CHILD IMMUNIZATION BY 1990". AS ONE OF MY FIRST OFFICIAL ENACTMENTS, THIS PROCLAMATION SIGNIFIES MY GOVERNMENT'S SERIOUS COMMITMENT TO THE FILIPINO CHILD EARLY ON. IT HAS MADE IT POSSIBLE TO LEAP FROM A 20% COVERAGE IN 1986 TO 80.11% FULLY IMMUNIZED CHILDREN IN 1989. WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO REACH 100% IN 1990 BUT WE CERTAINLY CAN MAKE THE 90% TARGET. WHAT HAS BEEN CRUCIAL TO US IS THE FACT THAT THE EXPANDED PROGRAMME ON IMMUNIZATION HAS GIVEN US NOT ONLY AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONCRETELY DEMONSTRATE THIS GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT TO CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMES BUT, MORE IMPORTANTLY, HARNESS GOVERNMENT, NON-GOVERNMENT, MEDIA AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN IMPROVING THE SITUATION OF OUR CHILDREN.

SINCE THEN, DESPITE THE MANY DIFFICULTIES WE HAVE FACED, THE FILIPINO CHILDREN HAVE CONTINUALLY CHALLENGED US TO DO MORE AND BETTER IN ENSURING THAT THEY CAN GROW INTO USEFUL AND PRODUCTIVE ADULTS. THE 1990 REVIEW OF THE SITUATION OF FILIPINO CHILDREN AND WOMEN HAS SHOWN IMPROVEMENTS WHILE DEFINING AREAS FOR GREATER CONCERN, PARTICULARLY FOR CHILDREN IN ESPECIALLY DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES.

I AM CONFIDENT THAT WE SHALL BE ABLE TO MEET THE NEEDS OF OUR CHILDREN. OUR EFFORTS HAVE BEEN GEARED RELENTLESSLY TOWARDS DECENTRALIZING RESPONSIBILITIES AND POWER TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENABLING THEM TO PARTICIPATE MORE ACTIVELY IN THEIR OWN DEVELOPMENT, ACCELERATING SERVICES TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES THROUGH COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMMES, CONTINUOUSLY MOBILIZING SERVICE PROVIDERS AND USERS AS WELL AS EVERY AVAILABLE RESOURCE, MANAGING OUR MEAGER RESOURCES TO GIVE PREFERENTIAL OPTION TO THE POOR, AND, PROMOTING PEACE AND HARMONY IN OUR COUNTRY.

THIS WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN GIVES ME A NEW OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW THE FILIPINO COMMITMENT AND PURSUE WITH GREATER VIGOR THE PROGRAMMES THAT WE HAVE INITIATED FOR OUR OWN CHILDREN. IT POSES TO US NEW CHALLENGES FOR THE 1990S. AS A TESTIMONY OF OUR SINCERITY FOR OUR CHILDREN AND THE WORLD'S CHILDREN, WE HAVE, WITHOUT RESERVATION, RATIFIED THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD ON 26 JULY 1990. WITH THIS ACT, OUR NATIONAL PLAN FOR CHILDREN IN THE 1990S IS ACCORDED THE EMBODIMENT OF THE HIGHEST IDEALS FOR OUR CHILDREN. IT WILL SERVE AS OUR FRAMEWORK FOR POLICY DEVELOPMENT, PROGRAMME PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION AS WELL AS RESOURCE ALLOCATION IN ALL SECTORS AT ALL LEVELS. THE CONVENTION WILL NOW BECOME THE BASIS BY WHICH WE MEASURE HOW WELL WE TAKE CARE OF OUR CHILDREN.

AS THE PHILIPPINES JOINS THE COMMUNITY OF NATIONS IN PLEDGING COMMITMENT AND SUPPORT TO CHILDREN, WE ALSO CALL ATTENTION TO ENABLING MECHANISMS THAT WILL ALLOW US TO DELIVER SERVICES. I CALL ON ALL HEADS OF STATE TO BE AUTHENTIC PARTNERS IN HELPING NATIONS ACHIEVE THE GOALS AND TARGETS THEY HAVE SET FOR THEIR OWN CHILDREN.

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**POLAND**

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M E S S A G E  
by Prime Minister of the Government of  
the Republic of Poland  
Tadeusz Mazowiecki  
to the Summit Meeting of the Heads of State or Government  
for Children

New York, September 1990

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Poland, I wish to convey to the participants in the Summit Meeting for Children the assurances of full support for the noble ideal which has inspired the present gathering at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. Particular appreciation is owed to those who have initiated this Conference, the UN Secretary General and the UNICEF Executive Director, who have made this Summit possible.

We are meeting at a time of epoch-making efforts to bridge the abysmal gap between nations and solve the conflicts which hinder international cooperation. The principles of democracy, respect for human rights and human dignity are becoming victorious.

Throughout the past year, Poland has undergone fundamental changes. Their importance for the future of children could not possibly be overrated.

It is the policy of our Government to respect life since its inception till demise. However, responsibility for a child is more than merely the responsibility for its material and physical well-being. It is also the responsibility for its personality. Only under the conditions offered by the democratic State, the State ruled by law, it is possible to prepare one to life in freedom and truth.

Poland and the rest of the Central and Eastern Europe know the humiliating degradation brought about by lies, coercion and manipulation performed on the personality of the child. In that sense, Poland's democratic change guarantees also the respect for the child's personality and offers it the prospect of full participation in the civilization of free and proud fellow citizens of the reuniting Europe.

The unified Europe should be a Europe of imaginative and courageous people. The future of children in Europe may be threatened by the civilization division into the Europe of the rich and that of the less affluent, and desperate.

The Government of Poland is fully conscious of the existence of such dangers. Nowhere does the civilizational gap across the continent have a greater impact on the well-being of the child than in areas of devastated, natural environment - a tragic legacy of communist rule. Joint struggle against the ecological threat would also serve the overcoming of civilizational barriers in Europe where the young generation may play a decisive role.



I trust that the present Summit will multiply international solidarity and common responsibility for all children in need of assistance. An important role in the financing of such assistance could be played by the schemes of what is known as the Debt Relief for Child Development. I believe that the problem must be solved in a manner which will satisfy all the parties concerned. It is of not only an economic, but also moral significance, as in many countries, including Poland, the repayment of foreign debt is done at the expense of the living standard of large numbers of families and their children.

The Polish Government is profoundly appreciative of the multifaceted efforts on the part of numerous governmental and nongovernmental organizations, above all UNICEF, which make better conditions of survival and development possible for millions of children around the world.

To support UNICEF in its efforts, the Government of Poland has resolved to increase the Polish contribution to the budget of that organization.

Allow me to assure all the participants in this Conference, that Poland, a country with an ample record of commitment to the cause of children, shall fully endorse the Declaration and the Plan of Action to be adopted by the present Summit Meeting.

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# PORTUGAL

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## *Presidência da República*

### MENSAGEM

O apelo em boa hora lançado, em Novembro de 1989, por um grupo de seis prestigiados Chefes de Estado ou de Governo para a realização de uma "Cimeira Mundial sobre as Crianças" corresponde à tomada de consciência de um dos mais lancinantes problemas com que se defronta a Comunidade Internacional nos nossos dias.

É, com efeito, um dos maiores paradoxos do nosso tempo, quando a ciência e a técnica nos facultam tão surpreendentes progressos no aproveitamento dos recursos humanos e materiais, que milhões de crianças continuam a ser vítimas dos flagelos da subnutrição, da doença, do trabalho infantil ou do narcotráfico, privadas dos meios mais elementares nos domínios da habitação, da educação e dos cuidados básicos de saúde.

Num momento em que o fim da "guerra fria" permite libertar tão vastos recursos para as tarefas urgentes do desenvolvimento, há pois que conjugar todos os esforços para que, através de um programa mundial em benefício das crianças, elas deixem de perpetuar os estigmas da pobreza de uma geração

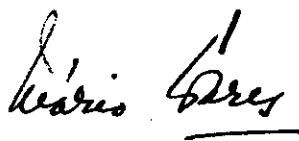
## *Presidência da República*

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para a seguinte e sejam, pelo contrário, a reserva de esperança de uma humanidade mais feliz e mais justa.

Portugal, que acaba de ratificar a recente Convenção sobre os Direitos da Criança, saúda esta Cimeira Mundial e congratula-se com os esforços empreendidos pelo Secretário-Geral das Nações Unidas e pela UNICEF para levar a cabo um plano de sensibilização da opinião pública e dos dirigentes do mundo inteiro, com tão vasto alcance e perspectivas.

Impossibilitado, infelizmente, de participar nesse importante encontro, desejo exprimir, em nome do Povo Português e em meu nome pessoal, a mais viva solidariedade com os seus nobres objectivos e os votos sinceros de maior êxito em prol do bem-estar das crianças e do seu futuro.



Mário Soares

Presidente da República Portuguesa

UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENCY

MESSAGE

The timely appeal, launched in November of 1989 by a group of six prestigious Heads of State or Government for a "World Summit for Children" brings with it the recognition of one of the most serious problems faced by the International Community in our time.

Indeed it is one of the greatest paradoxes of our days, that, at a time when science and technology are yielding amazing progress in the use of human resources and materials, millions of children continue to be the victims of the scourge of malnutrition, diseases, child labor and the traffic in narcotics, deprived from the most fundamental necessities such as housing, education and basic health care.

At a moment when the end of the cold war is freeing such vast resources for urgent tasks of development, it behoves us all to strive, by means of a worldwide program for the benefit of children, to liberate these children from the perpetual stigma of

poverty that passes from one generation, and transform them instead into a well-spring of hope for a happier and more just humankind.

Portugal, which has just ratified the recent Convention on the Rights of the Child, welcomes this World Summit and is gratified by the efforts of the Secretary General of the United Nations and of UNICEF in carrying out a plan to increase awareness of the public and of world leaders on these matters, with far-reaching effects and perspectives.

Unfortunately unable to participate in this important meeting, I wish to express, on behalf of the Portuguese people and on my own behalf, our ardent solidarity with its noble objectives and the sincere wishes for a successful summit for the welfare of children and their future.

Mário Soares

President of the Portuguese Republic

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**REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

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## "LEADERSHIP FOR CHILDREN" MESSAGE

Korea has long been a strong proponent of children's causes. Even in the darkest days of colonial rule dating back to early 1920's, our ancestors had the foresight and vision to proclaim one day in May as the Children's Day which is still observed by the entire Korean nation every year.

Our commitment to the principle of first call for children is well epitomized by our Children's Charter which was promulgated in as early as 1957 and revised recently. The Charter provides, among other things, that children should be respected as independent persons who are entitled to due attention and care in every aspect of their lives.

Such early realization of the children's rights and well-being grew out of our historic experience of hardship and sufferings.

Our recent history has been marked by decades-long colonization, ~~FRATRICIDAL WAR~~ of an unprecedented scale, recovery from a war-torn society, and then a rise to a stable and prosperous democracy.

The three-year long Korean War, beginning just after our independence, left countless numbers of Korean children homeless, orphaned, disabled, starved, and plagued. Children were in refugee camps all around the country. Saving the children from the scourge of war naturally became one of our primary objectives.

The period of our rapid economic development since the war has also been a period of our experimentation with a wide range of new issues relating to the children's well-being. Initially, we could only focus on the basic human needs, such as nutrition, health, sanitation, mortality reduction, and education. With the growth of the economy, we could afford to devote more attention to the quality of children's lives and their place within the framework of social development. We have attached great importance to education, child development, family planning, women and maternity protection, and disadvantaged children, especially in urban areas.

Such efforts have enabled my country to achieve many important results, including universal primary and middle-level education, child immunization, and an enhanced role of women at home and in society.



At present, my Government is focusing more on children of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups which include urban poor, low-income working mothers, unwed/teenage mothers, and abandoned or neglected children, while reinforcing our support for early childhood development.

Though we have already attained most of the UNICEF goals for children and development in the 1990s, we will continue to work closely with UNICEF and other U.N. bodies and seek their guidance, whenever appropriate.

As part of my firm determination to endorse the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and its Plan of Action, my special representative, Mr. Choi Ho-Joong, Minister of Foreign Affairs, will join the signing ceremony at the concluding session of the Summit.

My Government attaches particular importance to the follow-up actions at the national and international levels. Korea's seventh five-year plan for economic and social development will allocate substantial resources for the well-being of the children, particularly in such areas as the expansion of child care facilities, provision of basic services to families with emphasis on education and medical protection, prevention of child abuse and neglect, support for working women, and maternity protection.

As I welcome the recent entry into force of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, I am very much pleased to inform you that my Government has signed the Convention and will work for the early ratification.

As the 1990's are unfolding in a positive international climate, I trust that we leaders of the world, regardless of individual attendance at the Summit, will remain united in securing a better world for the children who will lead our future.

You may be assured of every support from my Government and people in this great undertaking.

Roh Tae Woo  
President  
Republic of Korea

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**ROMANIA**

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Address of H.E. Mr. Ion Iliescu

. President of Romania

It is good omen that political leaders meet to explore at the highest level the ways and means to ensure the survival of children, their protection and development. The adoption within this framework of the Convention on the rights of the child stands for a basic juridical and political act involving deep responsibilities for the whole international community. This moment is symbolic. Children have always been the source of great happiness, the very ground for the loftiest feelings, of self-denial and respect for life, conducive to the assertion of human personality. The harmonious development of the child's personality, ensuring a decent existence and the flourishing of his or her individuality may occur only in a climate of understanding and affection, of responsibility and commitment on behalf of the whole human community.

Part and parcel of human rights, the rights of the child become now an inalienable component of the social and spiritual life of all nations, an undeniable obligation of the state. Romania solemnly voices her human concern, her respect and love for the younger generation, her commitment to provide for children a dignified existence, a complete development and an education matching the age we live through, with freedom, democracy and progress.

Unfortunately, children are still the victims of the

adults inability to cope with their griefs and vicissitudes, and the suffering of children is one of the most heart breaking and overwhelming for the whole of mankind. This suffering should be done away with for ever, and as soon as possible. The future of those called to take over the destinies of human culture and civilization depends on our providing for their needs today.

Children had suffered in our country. A tragic heritage of the totalitarian regime was the legacy of orphaned and handicapped children. We want to overcome this situation as rapidly as possible. It is a prevailing concern for the whole Romanian society. Significant support has been granted in this field by many governments, international organizations, private groups and individuals. We wish to extend to all of them our deepest gratitude and assure them that their compassion will be engraved for ever in the memory of the Romanian people.

We are confident that it is through a close co-operation among governments, organizations and individuals that the welfare of the child will improve throughout the world.

On behalf of the Romanian people, I pledge our co-operation in fully accomplishing these lofty goals. We will meet the world's demands for a just, more humane future for our children.

September 25, 1990

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**RWANDA**

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MESSAGE DE SON EXCELLENCE LE GENERAL-MAJOR HABYARIMANA JUVENAL,  
PRESIDENT DE LA REPUBLIQUE RWANDAISE,  
AU SOMMET MONDIAL POUR L'ENFANCE.

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La République Rwandaise se réjouit de la tenue du premier Sommet Mondial des Chefs d'Etat et de Gouvernement, consacré aux problèmes de l'Enfant. Au Rwanda, dans la philosophie de développement et d'essence vitale qui nous fait vivre et espérer, l'Enfant, notre raison d'être, occupe, comme c'est le cas dans la philosophie bantoue, une place centrale.

La promotion de l'Enfant est donc un tout. Elle a quelque chose à voir avec la mise en place d'une médecine de base, avec la protection de la mère et l'émancipation de la femme, avec la sécurité économique, avec le planning familial, avec l'accès à ces services essentiels que sont l'eau, la santé, l'éducation, un abri convenable, avec une autosuffisance alimentaire bien comprise et avec la défense de tous les droits reconnus à l'Enfant.

Dans le cadre de la protection et de la promotion de l'Enfant, le Gouvernement rwandais a adopté des politiques et des stratégies convenues aux niveaux international et régional comme la Déclaration d'Alma-Ata sur les soins de santé primaires (1978), le Scénario en 3 phases pour la mise en oeuvre des soins de santé primaires de Lusaka (1985), l'Initiative de Bamako (1978), la Déclaration de Dakar sur l'élimination du tétanos néo-natal en Afrique subsaharienne (1988). La ratification rapide, par le Rwanda, de la Convention relative aux droits de l'Enfant témoigne également l'importance que le Gouvernement rwandais attache aux problèmes de l'Enfant.

Parallèlement à l'exécution de ces politiques et stratégies internationales et régionales, le Gouvernement rwandais a mis en oeuvre des programmes nationaux spécifiques qui ont permis de réaliser des progrès en matière de couverture prénatale, d'accouchement supervisé, de lutte contre les maladies diarrhéiques et la malnutrition, de vaccination et de régulation de la fécondité.

Ces réalisations portent notamment sur la mise en place d'un réseau de services nutritionnels intégrés dans les formations sanitaires, la promotion de la croissance des Enfants de 0 à 5 ans, la mise en place d'un système d'information sanitaire, le renforcement des programmes de nutrition sur le terrain, et le programme de mobilisation sociale en vue de l'implication de la population rwandaise à la recherche des solutions aux problèmes alimentaires et nutritionnels.

En faisant une évaluation globale des réalisations inscrites à l'actif du Gouvernement rwandais dans le cadre de la protection et du développement de l'Enfant rwandais, il y a lieu de relever que le chemin parcouru en vue d'améliorer la situation des Enfants, en particulier en matière de santé, est appréciable comme l'amélioration de l'accès aux services de santé et des indicateurs de santé ainsi qu'une transition radicale du tableau des causes de mortalité de l'enfance dans notre pays.

Les maladies telles que la rougeole et la coqueluche pour lesquelles le Rwanda payait régulièrement un lourd tribut ont été ramenées à des niveaux de contrôle acceptables, toutes proportions gardées. La mobilisation dynamique de la population a graduellement mené celle-ci à adopter ces attitudes et des comportements positifs dans son auto-prise en charge en matière de santé, mobilisation qui s'est révélée particulièrement effective dans les programmes de vaccination, d'hygiène, de prise en charge de la grossesse et qui a déjà commencé à porter des fruits visibles dans nos programmes de régulation des naissances et, dans une moindre mesure, de lutte contre le Sida.

Malgré les efforts indéniables du Gouvernement rwandais, appuyés par la Communauté Internationale, et les succès véritables jusqu'à présent remportés, la situation du Rwanda, en matière de promotion de l'Enfant, reste précaire.

Elle reste précaire, essentiellement, parce que la pression qu'exerce la densité démographique - plus de 1.000 habitants parfois par Km<sup>2</sup>! - sur nos ressources agricoles, risque, les aléas climatiques aidant, de nous pousser, malgré tous les efforts entrepris, de plus en plus, vers une situation alimentaire déficitaire permanente, ce qui ne peut qu'affecter en premier lieu la santé de nos Enfants.

Elle reste précaire aussi, puisque le Rwanda, et avec lui la grande majorité des pays africains, ne peut que subir l'incidence proprement déliquescence de cette réalité économique déprimante qui est la nôtre, de cette succession sans arrêt de crises, les unes plus exceptionnelles que les autres, qui nous enlèvent, en un tournemain, jusqu'aux trois quarts de nos recettes d'exportation, donc de nos ressources qui devraient nous permettre de planifier notre développement.

Elle reste précaire enfin, parce que les standards de santé sont encore faibles, la morbidité et la mortalité infantile encore élevées, le paludisme, les maladies des voies respiratoires encore déterminants dans les cas de décès des Enfants et des Mères. Par ailleurs, l'horrible fléau du 20ème siècle qu'est le Sida commence à poser de véritables problèmes dont les ramifications sociales et économiques sont incalculables. A cet égard, les données récentes révèlent une incidence et une prévalence élevées chez les parents donnant naissance à des enfants qui seront séropositifs, sidéens et orphelins.

La République Rwandaise s'engage, dans le cadre de l'application du plan d'action adopté par le Sommet Mondial pour l'Enfance et de la convention relative aux droits de l'Enfant, à faire de son mieux pour protéger et promouvoir le bien-être de l'Enfant. Les pays amis et organismes internationaux sont appelés à contribuer davantage à cet effort et trouveront toujours au Rwanda un cadre de franche collaboration.

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**SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS**

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MR. CHAIRMAN, HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT, MR. SECRETARY-GENERAL, PARTICIPANTS:

MY COUNTRY ST. KITTS AND NEVIS BECAME INDEPENDENT ON 19TH SEPTEMBER, 1983, AND JOINED THE UNITED NATIONS ON 23RD SEPTEMBER, 1983, AS ONE OF ITS SMALLEST MEMBERS.

THE FEDERATION OF ST. KITTS AND NEVIS IS 118 SQUARE MILES IN SIZE. OUR LAST CENSUS IN 1980 DISCLOSED THAT 42 PERCENT OF OUR CITIZENS ARE BELOW THE AGE OF 20 YEARS AND ARE ACCORDINGLY CLASSIFIED AS YOUNG PERSONS. MY GOVERNMENT PLACES THE HIGHEST PRIORITY ON ENSURING THE WELFARE OF OUR YOUNG CITIZENS. ACCORDINGLY, WE WERE PLEASED TO SIGN AND RATIFY THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD AS RECOGNIZING SOME OF THE SAME AIMS, ASPIRATIONS AND OBJECTIVES WHICH WE HAVE SECURED FOR OUR YOUNG CITIZENS.

TWO AREAS OF OUR PROGRAMME MERIT SPECIAL CONSIDERATION, NAMELY, EDUCATION AND HEALTH IN SO FAR AS THEY RELATE TO THE CHILD. OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM REQUIRES EVERY CHILD TO PURSUE THE PRESCRIBED COURSE OF EDUCATION UNTIL AGE SIXTEEN AND TRAINING OFFICERS ENCOURAGE PARENTS AND CHILDREN TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THIS EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY. THE SCHOOL SYSTEM RANGES FROM PRE-SCHOOL HOME BASED CHILD CARE PROGRAMMES LINKED TO THE GOVERNMENT DAY CARE NETWORK, THROUGH PRIMARY, SECONDARY AND TERTIARY (UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE). WE REVISED THE TRADITIONAL SYSTEM OF EDUCATION TO INCLUDE FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO PURSUE THEIR TECHNICAL EDUCATION IN SUCH AREAS AS METALWORK, HOTEL MANAGEMENT, SECRETARIAL, BUSINESS AND COMMERCIAL TRAINING SKILLS. OF COURSE WE ARE SEEKING TO KEEP PACE WITH MODERN TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT INTRODUCING COMPUTER AND OTHER RELATED STUDIES.

OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM ALSO CATERS FOR THOSE CHILDREN WHO FROM BIRTH OR THROUGH MISADVENTURE ARE UNABLE TO PHYSICALLY OR MENTALLY FUNCTION AS FULLY AS OTHER CHILDREN. THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS IT TO BE ITS RESPONSIBILITY AND OBLIGATION TO TREAT SUCH DISABLED CHILDREN IN AS NORMAL A WAY AS POSSIBLE AND TO PROVIDE SPECIAL SERVICES TO MEET THEIR REQUIREMENTS AND TO ENABLE THEM TO BENEFIT FROM THE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN AS FULL A WAY AS POSSIBLE.

RELEVANT INSTITUTIONS INCLUDE THE SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF ON ST. KITTS AND THE SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND ON NEVIS. VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS LIKE THE SOCIETY FOR THE DISABLED AND THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THIS EFFORT, WHICH REQUIRES CONSTANT SUPPORT FROM LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL SOURCES.

/THE CHILD

THE CHILD, AS A HUMAN INDIVIDUAL, IS VIEWED AS A MEMBER OF A FAMILY. THROUGH OUR YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT MY GOVERNMENT SEEKS TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES THROUGH ENFORCEMENT ORDERS FOR PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE BY FATHERS, COUNSELING EITHER AT SCHOOL OR OTHERWISE BY WELFARE OFFICERS AND OTHER TRAINED PERSONS TO ASSIST CHILDREN WHO MAY EXPERIENCE DIFFICULTY IN LEARNING AS A RESULT OF UNFAVOURABLE CONDITIONS AT HOME. MANY OF OUR CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE ROTARY CLUB, THE LIONS AND THE LIONESSES CLUB ALSO PROVIDE VOLUNTARY HELP IN THESE ACTIVITIES. THE YOUTH AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT ALSO ORGANIZES RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES THROUGH THE SCHOOLS AND OTHER YOUTH GROUPS. WE HAVE AN ONGOING PROGRAMME TO PROVIDE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES - BASKETBALL, VOLLEYBALL, NETBALL AND TENNIS COURTS, AND FOOTBALL AND CRICKET FIELDS IN EVERY VILLAGE AND SCHOOL SO THAT SPORT ACTIVITIES MAY TAKE PLACE AND THEREBY PROMOTE PHYSICALLY HEALTHY PERSONS AND ENGENDER IMPORTANT QUALITIES OF SPORTSMANSHIP, DISCIPLINE, TEAM SPIRIT WHICH WILL MAKE THE CHILD A MORE RESPONSIBLE CITIZEN UPON MATURITY. IN ADDITION, A PROGRAMME OF COACHING HAS BEEN PROVIDED AND WE ARE CONSTANTLY EXPANDING THIS ASSISTANCE IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE. WE SEE COACHING AS NOT ONLY IMPARTING AND DEVELOPING PHYSICAL SKILLS AND TECHNIQUES, BUT AS PROVIDING AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR COUNSELLING AND DEVELOPING OF MORAL VALUES AND SOCIAL VIRTUES.

HEALTH ALSO ENJOYS PRIORITY STATUS IN OUR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT. WE HAVE A PRIMARY HEALTH CARE PROGRAMME WHICH AIMS TO PROVIDE HEALTH FOR ALL BY THE YEAR 2000. THIS PROGRAMME WHICH IS ADMINISTERED BY OUR VILLAGE HEALTH NURSES AND DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICERS HAS ACHIEVED REMARKABLE SUCCESS ENABLING US TO PROUDLY RECORD ONE OF THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF FULL IMMUNIZATION IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE. WE PROVIDE FREE MEDICAL AND DENTAL CARE TO ALL CHILDREN OF SCHOOL AGE AND THIS EXTENDS TO ANY PERIOD OF HOSPITALIZATION OR SURGERY UNDERTAKEN THEREIN. PRE AND POST NATAL CARE IS OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE AS THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF THE CHILD AND THE MOTHER MUST BE ACCORDED THE HIGHEST PRIORITY.

THE POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES PRESENTLY BEING PURSUED BY MY GOVERNMENT AND ENSHRINED IN OUR CONSTITUTION AND OTHER LAWS MEET THE REQUIREMENTS ENUNCIATED IN THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD. WE BELIEVE THAT THESE POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES PROVIDE IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION, AND WE COMMEND THEM TO NATIONS, MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS, NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER RELEVANT ORGANIZATIONS FOR FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT. WE PLEDGE TO CONTINUE TO ENSURE THAT THE RIGHTS OF EVERY CHILD ARE SAFEGUARDED AND ENHANCED IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE AND WE TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO URGE EVERY NATION OF THE WORLD TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE FOR EVERY CHILD OF THE UNIVERSE.

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**SAMOA**

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So often, both Governments and international organisations concentrate on what we regard as the large issues of life - disarmament, development, the environment. However, without our children to inherit this earth all of our activities are but wasted time. Thus for our children's sake we must do everything we can to ensure that they not only survive but prosper so that the heritage we are working to make worthwhile has inheritors who are able to utilize and enjoy it.

It is ironic that so much time and energy, as well as many billions of dollars, are spent by individuals and Governments intent on enlarging their sphere in the world in terms of riches, power and territory. In contrast, pitifully small sums are expended on the needs of children - the money expended on education in most countries is a disgrace when compared to the funds channelled into other sectors, especially the military; Pre- and Post-natal health-care and general child welfare are sadly neglected fields inadequately supported by government funding; and, saddest reflection of all, the majority of the world's refugee population is composed of children - displaced, abandoned, the only survivors of their family - derelicts before their time. Who among us can forget the photograph of a Cambodian refugee child, seeming to encompass in her great dark eyes all the sorrow of the ages at a world gone mad.

Children in developed countries have their own set of problems. The world has not yet caught up with the reality of

raising a child in a two-career family or a single-parent household; it is difficult when the breadwinners are working to meet the needs of a young family. Too often parents are forced by circumstance to leave children very much to their own devices. "Latch-key kids", preyed on by drug pushers, deprived of a strong family unit, insufficiently grounded in ethics. If we wait until our children are of university age to teach principles we have waited to late.

It is definitely time to re-order our priorities - to put the well being of the world's children, and therefore the world's future, before all else. Now is the time to turn from the insanity of war and weaponry to the fulfilment of the promise of the human race. This Summit gives us an opportunity to do just that - and I urge leaders of all States to re-commit themselves to the objectives of this Summit and the principles contained in the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

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**SAUDI ARABIA**

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فخامة الرئيس موسى تراوري

دولة الرئيس براين مالروني

الرئيسان المشاركان لمؤتمر القمة العالمي من أجل الاطفال

يسرني أن أنقل اليكم والى الرؤساء الذين بادروا للدعوة الى مؤتمر القمة العالمي من أجل الاطفال والى الرؤساء وممثلهم المشاركين بهذا المؤتمر الهام أطيب تحياتي وتمنياتى بالنجاح والتوفيق لتحقيق الاهداف السامية التي تسعى اليها .

كنت آمل أن أكون معكم لكن الظروف الحالية الطارئة والخطيرة في منطقة الخليج حالت دون حضوري ، تلك الظروف التي نأمل أن يتم بالتعاون الدولي عودة الاوضاع الى طبيعتها ، وينتهي غزو العراق لدولة الكويت وتعود الشرعية الى الكويت الشقيق ، وتعود شرعة القانون تحكم العلاقات بين الدول والشعوب . ان حماية الطفل حتى يبلغ اشده أمر حيوي يأمرنا به ديننا الحنيف وتفرضه علينا التزاماتنا الانسانية وتحكمنا فيه طبيعتنا البشرية ويتمشى معها ويعززها تأمين المجتمع المالح الذي يحميه ويحمي حقوقه حين يصبح عضوا فعلا في المجتمع ، المجتمع الذي لا بد أن يحميه القانون والاخلاق والالتزامات التي تتمشى معها ليصبح لحماية الطفل معنى أعمق وهدق أبعد في حياته وأن العمل على اقامة مجتمع دولي يحترم هذه القيم ويلتزم بهذه الاعراف والحقوق واجب يفرضه علينا واجبنا الديني والتزامنا الانساني وحق شعوبنا علينا . وقد قامت المملكة العربية السعودية بخطوات واسعة جدا في ميادين رعاية الاطفال بلغت مرحلة متقدمة فيما وصل اليه المجتمع الانساني في هذا الميدان الآن ، ويسعدنا ان نعمق من تعاوننا الدولي في هذا المجال .

احييكم مرة أخرى واتمنى لكم التوفيق والنجاح ،،،

١٠ ربيع الاول ١٤١١هـ

٢٩ سبتمبر ١٩٩٠م



خادم الحرمين الشريفين

فهد بن عبدالعزيز آل سعود

ملك المملكة العربية السعودية

T R A N S L A T I O N  
C A B L E M E S S A G E  
HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT MOUSSA TRAORE  
HIS EXCELLENCY PRIME MINISTER BRIAN MULRONEY  
THE CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN

IT GIVES ME PLEASURE TO CONVEY TO YOU AND THE HEADS OF STATES AND GOVERNMENTS, WHO EXTENDED THE INVITATION FOR THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN, AND TO HEADS OF STATES AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES WHO ARE PARTICIPATING IN THIS IMPORTANT CONFERENCE. MY BEST GREETINGS AND WISHES FOR SUCCESS AND SATISFACTORY RESULTS FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE NOBLE OBJECTIVES WHICH YOU ARE STRIVING FOR.

I WAS HOPING TO BE WITH YOU, BUT THE CURRENT EMERGENCY AND DANGEROUS CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE GULF REGION PREVENTED ME FROM ATTENDING. THESE CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH THROUGH INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY, WE HOPE WILL RETURN TO ITS NORMAL STATE, END THE IRAQI INVASION OF THE STATE OF KUWAIT AND LEGITIMACY RETURNS TO BROTHER KUWAIT, AND THE RULE OF LAW GOVERNS RELATIONS BETWEEN STATES AND PEOPLES. THE PROTECTION OF A CHILD UNTIL IT ATTAINS MATURITY IS A VITAL MATTER ENJOINED BY OUR DIVINE RELIGION, DICTATED BY OUR HUMAN COMMITMENT, GOVERNED BY OUR HUMAN NATURE, AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH AND STRENGTHENED BY BUILDING A VIRTUOUS SOCIETY THAT PRESERVES IT AND ITS RIGHTS UNTIL IT BECOMES AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF SOCIETY; THE SOCIETY WHICH MUST BE PROTECTED BY LAW, MORALITY AND OBLIGATIONS COMPATIBLE WITH IT SO THAT THE PROTECTION OF THE CHILD WILL HAVE A DEEPER MEANING AND LONG-TERM OBJECTIVE IN ITS LIFE. STRIVING TO ESTABLISH AN INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WHICH RESPECTS THESE VALUES AND ADHERE TO THESE NORMS AND RIGHTS IS A DUTY IMPOSED ON US BY OUR RELIGIOUS OBLIGATION AND HUMAN COMMITMENT, AND THE RIGHTS OF OUR PEOPLES OVER US. THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA HAS MADE VERY GREAT STRIDES IN THE FIELDS OF CHILD CARE WHICH HAVE ACHIEVED AN ADVANCED STAGE RELATIVE TO WHAT HUMAN SOCIETY HAS ACHIEVED IN THIS FIELD UNTIL NOW. WE ARE PLEASED TO STRENGTHEN OUR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THIS FIELD.

I GREET YOU AGAIN AND WISH YOU SUCCESS.

10 RABIA AL-AWAL 1411  
29 SEPTEMBER 1990

THE CUSTODIAN OF THE TWO HOLY MOSQUES  
FAHD BIN ABDUL AZIZ AL SAUD  
KING OF SAUDI ARABIA



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**SENEGAL**

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MESSAGE DE SON EXCELLENCE MONSIEUR ABDOU DIOUF,  
PRESIDENT DE LA REPUBLIQUE DU SENEGAL, AU SOMMET MONDIAL POUR L'ENFANT.

LE SAMEDI 29 SEPTEMBRE 1990

Je voudrais tout d'abord saluer l'évènement qui nous réunit aujourd'hui autour d'une cause aussi noble que la promotion du bien-être de l'Enfant.

Il me plaît ensuite de rendre hommage à ceux qui ont eu l'heureuse initiative de provoquer cette rencontre comme à ceux qui ont permis sa tenue, qu'il s'agisse des Chefs d'Etat et de Gouvernement ou des responsables d'Organisations internationales. Parmi ces responsables, je décernerai une mention spéciale au Secrétariat général de l'ONU et au Directeur général de l'UNICEF.

Je suis heureux de m'associer à ce Sommet mondial pour les Enfants, en raison du culte que la civilisation sénégalaise voue à l'Enfant. C'était aussi un devoir pour moi, au regard de notre Constitution qui, en son titre II, fait obligation à l'Etat de respecter et de protéger la personne humaine, considérée comme sacrée, et de prêter une attention particulière à la jeunesse.

De fait, l'homme a toujours été au coeur de la politique du Sénégal, comme agent et destinataire du développement. Son épanouissement a donc été, tout naturellement, la première de nos priorités, dans tous nos plans et projets. Et la situation de notre pays, en proie encore aux contraintes du sous-développement, nous conduit à faire de la santé et éducation pour tous un objectif fondamental. Santé et éducation pour tous mais à commencer par l'enfant qui est plus exposé aux conséquences de la maladie et de l'ignorance. S'agissant de la santé pour tous les enfants, ce sont nos programmes élargis de vaccination qui rendent mieux compte des efforts que nous avons faits dans ce domaine.

Selon la dernière évaluation de l'UNICEF, 70% des enfants en moyenne, ont été vaccinés sur l'ensemble du territoire national et il est fort possible que d'ici la fin de l'année 1990 nous arrivions à une couverture vaccinale totale.

Dans le cadre des programmes pour améliorer la santé des enfants, c'est la lutte contre les maladies diarrhéiques qui a connu le plus grand succès, à travers la réhydratation par voie orale (RVO) que nos populations ont maintenant très bien assimilée.

Certes ces résultats sont significatifs et encourageants malgré le taux d'accroissement élevé de la population par rapport au taux de croissance économique. Il reste cependant que nous sommes en face d'une problématique qu'il faut cerner dans sa globalité. Voilà pourquoi nous avons mis sur pied une politique basée sur:

- la santé de la mère et de l'Enfant;
- la promotion des femmes et des jeunes;
- l'Urbanisation et l'aménagement du territoire.

Je suis sûr que notre vision est largement partagée dans les autres pays en développement et qu'elle retiendra toute l'attention du Sommet. Mon optimisme est d'autant plus fondé que nos partenaires du Nord ici représentés soutiennent notre politique ainsi conçue.

Il en est de même de nos efforts en matière d'éducation. Notre politique dans ce secteur, nous l'avons conçue à partir de notre situation de pays en développement. Aussi, avons-nous commencé par chercher à venir à bout de l'analphabétisme. Le combat que nous avons engagé dans cette direction nous a permis d'atteindre, aujourd'hui, un taux de scolarisation de 56%. Nos ambitions sont naturellement plus élevées car c'est l'universalité que nous visons. Pour y arriver, nous nous emploierons à porter le taux actuel à 65% au terme des cinq prochaines années. Un tel objectif est à notre portée. Il faut cependant signaler que la récession économique nous a contraints à adopter des programmes d'ajustement structurel. Visant d'abord l'assainissement des finances publiques qui est un préalable au redressement économique de nos pays, la mise en oeuvre de ces programmes a souvent entraîné une réduction des budgets destinés à des projets sociaux. C'est généralement le cas pour le budget de l'éducation.

Cette situation ne favorise ni l'accès du grand nombre à l'école ni l'adaptation de celle-ci à nos besoins et à nos réalités. Elle ne permet pas, non plus, à ceux qui sont formés de contribuer, à travers l'exercice d'un emploi, à l'oeuvre de construction nationale.

Je voudrais donc saisir l'occasion de ce Sommet pour lancer un appel en faveur d'un surcroît de solidarité en vue d'empêcher qu'il en soit ainsi. La solution à mettre en oeuvre devrait être globale; elle pourrait consister à imaginer d'autres créneaux de financement exceptionnel, y compris dans les secteurs sociaux qui ne sont pas immédiatement productifs. Mais en raison du poids de la dette. Le cas particulier du Sénégal donne la mesure de la gravité de la situation. En effet, voilà un pays qui a besoin de 141 495 739 dollars des Etats-Unis d'Amérique pour financer son plan quinquennal pour l'enfance mais dont l'encours de la dette est estimé, au 30 juin 1990, à 679 353 333 dollars des Etats-Unis d'Amérique. Peut-il payer ce montant et poursuivre, en même temps ses efforts en vue d'améliorer le sort des enfants par l'application effective de la Convention relative aux Droits de l'Enfant ? Je suis sûr que vous répondez comme moi négativement à cette question.

La démarche dont je viens de faire état pourrait revêtir la forme d'une reconversion de la dette ou celle d'un rachat, selon la convenance des créanciers, avec une clause limitant l'utilisation des fonds ainsi dégagés au seul financement de programmes en faveur de l'enfance, étant entendu qu'il appartiendra aux gouvernements des pays bénéficiaires de définir les programmes.

Son impact positif sur notre avenir commun me semble justifier les sacrifices qu'elle entraîne pour certains.

Pour terminer, je réaffirme tout l'espoir que le Sénégal place dans ce Sommet. Je souhaite que ses conclusions soient marquées par le sens de la solidarité que nous partageons et qui nous réunit, aujourd'hui, en cette enceinte plus que symbolique. Sachez qu'en ce qui nous concerne nous ne ménagerons pas nos efforts en vue de la mise en oeuvre de ces conclusions.

Abdou DIOUF



## **World Summit for Children Contribution of Mr. Abdou Diouf, President of Senegal**

I would first of all like to praise the event which has brought us all together here today for such a noble cause as child's welfare promotion.

I would then like to pay a tribute to those who have taken the happy initiative of making this Summit happen, and to those who have allowed it to happen, be they heads of state and governments or international organizations' officials. Among those officials, I will award a special distinction to the Secretary General of the United Nations Organization and to the Director-General of UNICEF.

Today's Summit clearly illustrated our awareness of the co-relation between our common future and the adequate responsibility of the problems of the child, of whom we so rightly say that he is man's father and the architect of the future. Moreover, this Summit will be the Opportunity for us to find the ways and means to turn our common consciousness into concrete actions.

I am happy to take part in all this, because of the cult that our civilisation, the Senegalese civilisation, dedicates to the child. But, it was also a duty for me, from the point of view of our constitution which, in its title No. II, requires the Government to respect and protect the human being who is considered as sacred and to pay particular attention to the Youth.

Besides, since its independence, Senegal has never departed from this prescription of its fundamental law which prolongs its cultural tradition.

In fact, man has always been in the core of Senegal's politics, as being an agency and beneficiary of development. His opening up has therefore naturally been, the first of our priorities, in all our plans and projects. The situation of our country which is suffering from the under development's constraints, leads us to consider the problem of health and education for all as a vital objective.

Health and Education for all starting with the child who is more exposed to the consequences of illness and ignorance. As regard health for all the children, our Vaccination Extended Programmes, show better the efforts that have been made in this field.

According to UNICEF's last evaluation, 70 per cent of children on average, have been vaccinated on the total of national territory, and very possibly, by the end of the year 1990, we shall reach a total vaccination coverage.

In the framework of the programmes for the improvement of children's health, it is the fight against diarrhoeal diseases which has encountered the biggest success, through oral rehydration (OR) which our populations have nowadays very well assimilated.

Last but not least, I will report that infant mortality has significantly decreased in Senegal during the past decade. Thus, in the 1960's its rate was of 313% for the children less than five years old whereas 1988 statistics indicate for the same category: 136% in urban areas and 249% in rural areas. But as significant as they may be, these results will remain flimsy as long as we will not master our demographic problems. We must particularly act on the population annual growth rate, estimated today at 2.7% which is already high compared with the economic growth rate (4%) and if nothing is done the rate will remain the same since the fertility rate for women old enough to procreate is also increasing (7.2% in 1989 against 6.6% in 1986).

In reality, we are facing a problem which we must take into account in a comprehensive way. That is the reason why we have set up a policy based on :

- Mother and Child Health
- Women and Youth Promotion
- Urbanization and national and regional development

I rest assured that our vision of things is widely shared by the other developing countries and that it will hold the Summit's attention. My optimism is all the more justified that our Northern partners represented here support our so conceived policy. It is the same for our efforts concerning Education.

As regard our policy in this sector, we have equally based our actions on our situation as a developing country. This, we have first started by trying to eradicate illiteracy. The fight that we have involved ourselves in, in this direction has allowed us to reach today a literacy rate of 56%. Our ambitions are naturally higher because we are aiming at universality. To reach our goals, we shall make our utmost to bring today's rate up to 65% for the end of the next five years. Such an objective is within our reach. We must nevertheless indicate that economic recession has forced us to adopt structural adjustment programmes. Aiming first at the rehabilitation of public finance which is a prerequisite to putting right the economy of our countries, the implementation of these programmes has often led to a reduction of the budget allocated to social projects. It is generally the case for the Education budget.

This situation does not favor neither the access of the great number of children into the schooling system, nor the adaptation of the latter to our needs and realities. It does not allow either, those who have been trained to contribute, through employment to the national construction works. Needless to say that the perpetuation of this situation, will, in the eyes of our populations, take away the sense of the existence of an educational system, and worse, would compromise the efficiency of the measures taken by the United Nations' agreement on Child's rights, document which has raised so much justified hopes.

This is a very real risk in most of the developing countries. In this inter-dependent world, one must fear that if this happened, its consequences would ignore frontiers. I would, thus, like to take the opportunity of this Summit to call for more solidarity in order to avoid such an event. The solution to be implemented must be global; it could consist in imagining other means of exceptional financing, including in social sectors which are not immediately productive. But, because of the weight of the external debt of countries concerned, the more rational way to help them out of this vicious circle in which they are locked up, would be the total or partial cancellation of the very debt. The particular case of Senegal shows the extent of the seriousness of the situation. In fact, Senegal needs 141,495,739 US dollars. Can it pay back this amount and still carry on with its efforts to improve child's fate ? I rest assured that you will give a negative answer to this question, like I do. The procedure which I have just stated above could take the form of a reconversion of the debt or that of a buying up, to the creditors' preference, with a clause limiting the use of funds thus released to the sole financing of children's programmes, it being agreed that it will be the governments of beneficiary countries' duty to define programmes.

Its positive impact on our common future seems to me to justify the sacrifices it drags along for some.

To conclude, I would like to reassert all the hope that Senegal sets on this Summit. I wish these submissions to be marked by the sense of solidarity that we share and which unites us today, in this more than symbolic place. I would like you to know that we will do our utmost to implement these submissions.

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**SEYCHELLES**

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**MESSAGE OF MR. FRANCE ALBERT RENE, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES TO THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN**

This first ever World Summit for Children gives us the excellent opportunity to turn back and see what the leaders of the world had accomplished to promote the welfare of our children and what should be done to give them a brighter future.

To get an idea of what has actually been done for our children worldwide, we simply have to refer to the figures released by the Summit organizers. We cannot be rejoiced when we learn that 15 million children under 5 years die each year; 40% of children under 5 in the third world suffer from malnutrition; 100 million children of schooling age are not getting any education; and our children are usually the primary victims of armed conflicts and other forms of violence. In the true sense, little has been done by the World Community "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war" which is enacted in the preamble of the United Nations Charter. And yet, these children are supposed to be the leaders of tomorrow.

I will fail in my duty if I do not mention the achievements made by Seychelles for the welfare of our children over the past decade or so. Since 1979, the International Year of the Child, the 1st of June has been declared a national day for children, in compliance with the wishes of the United Nations.

The year after, the National Council of Children was formed to oversee the general welfare of all children. A Children's Fund was set up to finance the many expenses related to children. This Fund derives its resources from an indirect tax levied on every bottle of beer sold to the public.

Free Education is provided for all children from the age of five. Health care is also provided free. There is a program to build crèches in all districts of the country with the help of foreign aid donors.

In fact, the child of Seychelles is a privileged citizen and he learns to grow up in this privileged position. And these efforts are achieved with a minimum amount of public funds.

May I take this opportunity to extend my wishes and luck to the participants at this World Summit.





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**SIERRA LEONE**

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## LEADERSHIP FOR CHILDREN

Message from the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone  
H.E. Major-General Dr. Joseph Saidu Momoh

It is with a great sense of duty and awe that I undertake to send this message on behalf of the government and people of the Republic of Sierra Leone, to all the World's Children. It is a simple message of acknowledgment of our responsibility, as leaders, for the safeguard and enhancement of the development of all children so that they attain their full potential as responsible citizens of the world.

Effective discharge of this responsibility requires a rich perspective of the circumstances of children everywhere in the world, and a public commitment at the highest political level to the realization of a universally acceptable standard of well-being for all children.

By organizing the children's summit, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has provided us the facility to acquire valuable knowledge, and access to the most powerful forum ever, to address the problems of children.

I am proud to be part of this historic effort whose ultimate goal should be the creation of a better world by ensuring, through the realization of the ideals of the summit, the absence of absolute deprivation and the enhancement of a higher level of universal understanding and acceptance of our diverse cultures, which collectively provide a source of enrichment and stability for human society.

No matter how well-intentioned and diligent, world leaders can not by themselves alone insure total success of this sacred mission. You the children also have a crucial role to play if only by choosing to be averse to negative, and receptive to positive, societal influences.

We the national leaders should make it easier for you to make these choices by striving with sincerity to reach the goals of the declaration we adopt at this summit.

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**SPAIN**

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**SRI LANKA**

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My No. ESC

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இலங்கை சனநாயக சோசலிச குடியரசு  
President of Sri Lanka

28 September 1990

Your Excellency,

It gives me great pleasure to send this message of congratulations and good wishes on the occasion of the inauguration of the World Summit for Children.

The idea to convene a World Summit for Children is indeed unique and deserves universal commendation. I congratulate the Heads of State/Government of Canada, Egypt, Mali, Mexico, Pakistan and Sweden for their initiative in calling for an International Summit Meeting devoted to the cause of the world's children. I wish to convey my appreciation to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for its supportive and sustaining role that has contributed in no small measure to the materialisation of the Summit.

Sri Lanka is a nation of 16.5 million, of whom a third are children under 14 years. My Government attaches great importance to children's welfare and development. We in Sri Lanka firmly believe that our children form the back-bone of our nation. Proper health care, education, welfare and development of children, therefore, are important facets of my Government's domestic policies. The institutional machinery has been created to serve the interests of children in these areas, almost entirely funded by the State.

The basic problems of malnutrition among children is being addressed by a national Poverty Alleviation Programme known as "Janasaviya". This is a new concept which is being implemented as an income-cum-consumption-cum-investment programme and designed to strengthen our nation's human resource base. Child immunisation, free mid-day meals for school children, free distribution of special child nutrient "Triposha", the Sevana Sarana Foster Parent Scheme and child sponsorship are some of the welfare schemes implemented by my Government to ensure our children's welfare.

I am particularly happy to state that as a result of the implementation of these welfare measures, Sri Lanka today has one of the lowest infant mortality rates in the world. What was 29.5 per thousand children in 1981 has today declined to an appreciable 24.07 per thousand. We consider this an achievement for a country of our size and resources.

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ශ්‍රී ලංකා ප්‍රජාතාන්ත්‍රික සමාජවාදී ජනරජය  
இலங்கை சனநாயக சோசலிச குடியரசு  
DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA



- 2 -

We are in the process of establishing a Children's Charter in conformity with the national and international legislation on children. In the field of international cooperation in children's welfare, my Government has already signed the International Convention on the Rights of the Child early this year. We expect to ratify this Convention very shortly.

I look forward with pleasure to welcoming all new initiatives that would be taken by the international community and cooperating with them for their realisation as a means of ensuring the greatest good for the greatest number of children the world over.

I wish the World Summit for Children and the World Children's Day activities every success.

Yours sincerely

PRESIDENT

His Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar  
Secretary-General  
United Nations  
New York.

(Fax: (212) 326-7758)

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**SUDAN**

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بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

الرئيس

أصحاب الفخامة رؤساء الدول والحكومات المشاركون في مؤتمر القمة العالمي من أجل الطفل  
السلام عليكم ورحمة الله تعالى وبركاته ...

ان انعقاد مؤتمر القمة العالمي من أجل الاطفال لمعتبر فرصة تاريخية نادرة ، وغير مسبوقة ، تتيح لنا  
تبيان اننا قادرين على اعطاء نعمة انسانية نوجهها الى اطفالنا ، والتي مستقبل البشرية ، اذ ان الاطفال  
هم ذلك المستقبل ، صوته وصوته التي ستكون حسنة بمقدار ما نقدمه للطفولة ، ونستثمره فيها .. وانا جميعا  
لعديين بشكر خاص لاصحاب الفخامة والمادة رؤساء الدول الست ، التي بادرت باقتراح انعقاد هذه القمة ،  
والتي منظمة الامم المتحدة للاطفال ، التي رعت الفكرة ، وسهرت عليها ، والتي معالي أمين عام الامم المتحدة ،  
الذي وجه الينا الدعوة للمشاركة ..

أسمعوا لي ان اعرض عليكم صورة موجزة لواقع الطفولة في وطني ، وانصغي جاهدين لتقديمه في خدمتها ،  
وأنامل ان تنجزه في الفترة القريبة المقبلة بجهودنا ، وما يقدمه تعاون الاسرة الدولية من فرص لخدمة الاطفال  
في كل ارجاء العالم ..

ان ثورة الانقاذ الوطني في السودان قد ورثت من العهود الماضية اوضاعا متردية في كل جوانب الحياة ..  
وان وقع تلك الاوضاع قد كان اكثر قسوة على الاطفال .. ورثنا توردا وحربا وآثار جفاف وتصحر ، وخلافاً  
بنية الاقتصاد الوطني ، وخدمات متردية مع تحديات نابعة من واقع التخلف الذي تشاركنا اياه كثير من دول  
العالم الثالث .. وكذا تحديات نابعة من الاوضاع السياسية والاقتصادية العالمية ..

ومردود هذا على الطفولة ، ان نسبة الوفيات بين الاطفال دون سن الخامسة ماتزال عالية رغم الجهود  
المضنية التي بذلت لخفضها والتحكم فيها ، اذ تبلغ ( ١٤٠ ) في كل ( ١٠٠٠ ) مولود حتى في العتاشام ،  
وماتزال نسبة سوء التغذية عالية . وفرص التعليم لمن هم في سن الدراسة تتجاوز ( ٧٥٠ ) بطلب .. وتوافر  
مياه الشرب النقية بشكل مشكل في عدد من اقاليم الوطن .. كما ان ارقام الاطفال الذين يعيشون في ظروف  
صعبة ماتزال عالية ، نتيجة النزوح بسبب الكوارث الطبيعية والحرب وظواهرات التشرد واليتم ، وتزايد اغتداد  
اللاجئين الذين تستضيفهم بلادنا ..

ان هذا الواقع ليقدم تحديات عظيمة لنا وللاسرة الدولية .. وانا واثقون ان التعاون الدولي ، الذي نلتحق  
للالتمار به وتصعيده ، سيكون عوننا في تجاوز هذه التحديات ، خاصة وان بوادر جفاف جديدة بدأت في الاجزاء  
الشمالية من الوطن ، قد باتت تلوح نذره ما دفعنا الى دعوة منظمة الاغذية والزراعة الى تقديم انتاج هذا التوسيم  
من الطعام وتقدير الفجوة ، التي يتطلب تداركها تعاون الاسرة الدولية ..

اما عن جهود السودان ، فانها تتحل في التزام سياسي اكيد لجعل الاطفال اولا في كل الحالات .. لذا  
كان هنا هو تحقيق السلام في وطننا ، وتحقيق اصلاح الاقتصاد ، واعادة النظرة في خطط التنمية الاقتصادية





## الرئيس

والاجتماعية ، لابقاف التدهور الواقع وارتداد آفاق جديدة في التنمية الاجتماعية خاصة ، وتعزيز الخدمات الموجبة للاطفال . ووضعنا برنامجا خاصا للنازحين ، وواصل الان مؤتمر لتسليم الملطة للشعب ، وتعزيز المشاركة الشعبية في بناء الوطن ..

ولقد اعتدنا برامج وطنية تكنتنا من الوقا بالاهداف الدولية المحددة لرعاية الطفولة وحمايتها وتمييزها ... بالتعاون وشق مع منظمة الامم المتحدة للاطفال ، ومن من منظمات الامم المتحدة المتخصصة الاخرى ، اعتدنا برنامجا للرعاية الصحية ، واسرعنا الخطى في تنفيذها ، فتكنا من رفع نسبة التحصين الشامل من نحو (٤٤٣) في نهاية ١٩٨٩ الى (٦٦٤) في ستة اشهر منذ مطلع لنتا العام ، ونأمل ان تبلغ نسبة (٨٠) بنهايته وان برنامجنا لمعالجة امراض الاسهالات ، وامراض الجهاز التنفسي الحادة ، وخفض وفيات الامهات بسبب مضاعفات الحمل والولادة ، والتوسع في بسط خدمات مياه الشرب النقية ، والتتيف الصحي ، بالتعاون الوثيق بين وزارتي الصحة والاعلام ، تحقق انجازات مقدرة ، رغم الصعاب التي سبق الاشارة اليها .. وما اطان على ذلك الاقادة من الطاقة الملائمة ومراعاة اقتصاديات العمل كيرة العائد .. والترضا كذلك بتعميم التعليم الاساسي بنهاية هذا القرن ، وفق مقررات مؤتمر تابلندا ..

حرصا منا على التخطيط العلمي للمراج ، عقدنا هذا الشهر ندوة قوية حول واقع الطفل السوداني ومستقبله راجعت واقع الطفولة في كل المجالات ، ووقت على الايجابيات والسلبيات ، وتقدمت بتوصيات علمية محددة بكل مجال ، تبنتها الدولة وقررت انشاء مجلس قومي للطفولة ليتابع كل ذلك ويعظم آثاره ، وليضطلع بمراجعة ككل القوانين لتتنسق وتتسجم مع الاتفاقية الدولية لحقوق الطفل ، التي صادق السودان عليها ، ولصياغة استراتيجيتة قوية للتنمية الاجتماعية وخدمات الطفولة ، وصياغة ميثاق سوداني لحقوق الطفل يعتمد على الاتفاقية الدولية وميثاق حقوق الطفل العربي وشرع ميثاق الطفل الافريقي .  
وانني لاتطلع لتنتائج هذا المؤتمر ليزدهر التعاون الدولي من اجل طفولة سعيدة وهانئة ومستقبل زاهر للبشرية ولينظر اطفالنا ابدا اولا ..

الفريق /  
عمر حسن احمد البشير  
رئيس مجلسي قيادة ثورة الانقاذ الوطني

والوزراء  
جمهورية السودان

التاريخ : ١٩٩٠/٩/٢٠

REPUBLIC OF THE SUDAN  
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
210 EAST 49TH STREET  
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017  
—  
421-2680



جمهورية السودان  
البعثة الدائمة لدى الأمم المتحدة  
نيويورك

### SUDAN'S "LEADERSHIP FOR CHILDREN" MESSAGE

Your Excellencies The Heads of State and Government participating in the World Summit on Children,

Peace be with you,

The Summit for Children is a unique historical opportunity which allows us to express the capacity to give a human dimension to the future of our planet, particularly our children; the voice of tomorrow. Indeed, what we do for them today will shape that tomorrow.

We owe a special thanks for the six Heads of States and Governments who took the initiative of suggesting this meeting, for UNICEF for nurturing the idea, and for the Secretary General of the United Nations who has issued the invitation for it.

I would like to seize this occasion to review the situation of children in our country, Sudan, explain what we are trying to achieve for our children, and what we hope for in the near future, in cooperation with the international community.

The Revolution of National Salvation inherited a situation characterised by severe deterioration in all aspects of life, particularly in areas related to children. We inherited insurgency, war, drought, desertification, a structurally deficient economy and deteriorated services; and reflecting the challenges of underdevelopment, which many Third World countries share with us, in addition to the world political and economic situation. All of these factors reflect on our children where the under five mortality rate remains high (140, per 1000), despite the sincere effort to reduce it. At the same time, malnutrition rates are high, and educational opportunities are available for just over 50% of our children of school age. Clean water is a problem in a number of our regions and many children live in difficult circumstances, caused by displacement due to natural calamities, war and vagrancy while the number of refugees hosted by our country is on the increase.

This situation presents Sudan and the international community with a major challenge. We are confident that the international cooperation, which we are meeting to commit ourselves to, will help us to respond to this challenge, especially as there are signs of a new drought in the northern part of our country, which has made us request the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organizations (FAO) to study the present food situation in our country, and assess the gap that needs to be covered in cooperation with the international community.

In all cases, we in Sudan are committed to the cause of Child First and, for that reason, we seek peace in our country, together with economic reform and updating

economic and social development plans, to arrest deterioration and open new horizons, particularly to strengthen services for children.

In close cooperation with UNICEF, and other UN Specialized Organisations, we have supported national efforts to realize the global goals of Child Survival, Protection and Development. These include our Primary Health Care Programme, which we have accelerated to increase the percentage of immunized children from about 43% at the end of 1989 to what is projected at present to be 64% this year, which we hope to lift further to 80% by the end of 1990.

Despite difficulties, other programmes are also making significant strides, in the areas of Control of Diarrhoeal Diseases, Acute Respiratory Infections, reduction of Maternal Mortality, expansion of Safe Water Services and Health Education in close cooperation between the Ministries of Health and Information. We are also committed to the goal of Education for All by the year 2000, agreed to in Thailand.

To enhance our planning efforts in the above sectors, Sudan convened a national symposium on the "Sudanese Child: the present and the future". This meeting reviewed the situation of children in all areas, identified positive and negative factors, and recommended specific actions, which were immediately implemented by the government.

Thus, it has been decided that a National Child Council will be established to follow-up the recommendation of the symposium. Existing laws will be harmonized with the International Convention on Child Rights, which Sudan has ratified. The Council will also design a National Human Development Plan to enhance services for children, and draft a charter for the Rights of the Sudanese Child, on the basis of International Convention, the Charter of Arab Child Rights and the draft charter of African Child rights.

I look forward to the results of this Summit to enhance international cooperation for a happy, safe childhood and a prosperous human future.

May our children remain First forever.

Lt. General Omer Hassan El Bashir  
Chairman, Command Council Revolution of National  
Salvation and Prime Minister of  
Sudan.

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**SURINAME**

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAME, H.E.

RAMSEWAK SHANKAR, ON THE OCCASION OF THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN

The World Summit for Children has furnished a useful opportunity to highlight the specific problems and needs of children, who have, until now not received sufficient attention from the world community.

As for the Republic of Suriname, the present social and economic conditions have a negative impact on the efforts of the Government to adequately deal with the economic and social development of the population in general, and specifically of the children. Despite these constraints, my Government is - within the limits of its potentialities and in close co-operation with private organizations implementing national programmes aimed at the protection and development of children. In this context we would like to elaborate on some of these national programmes.

CHILD HEALTH

The Surinamese health care system is structured according to the principles agreed upon in the Declaration of Alma Ata of 1978, in which Primary Health Care is identified as the key-component of health policy.

One of the mayor elements of our Primary Health Care is Mother and Child Health.

My Government is implementing i.a. the following health programmes on behalf of children:

- National schoolchild-programme, aimed at children between 6 - 12 years old and with the emphasis on medical examination and immunization;
- Under-fives clinics for the target-group 0.- 5 years, providing them health services such as periodic medical and developmental examinations, immunizations, nutrition advices, general health education advices (coverage: 6000 children per year);
- National Immunization Programme, which has as its objective the immunization against Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus and Poliomyelitis of at least 90% of the children before their first year;
- National Diarrhoeal Diseases Programme with the objective to decrease mortality and morbidity among the under-fives.

EDUCATION

It is our Government's main interest that the entire education system should contribute to the preparation of all citizens for an optimum functioning in society.

WATER AND SANITATION

One of the priorities of our policy is water supply and sanitation. Our Government aims at contributing as much as possible to achieve the objective of potable water supply to one hundred percent of the population.

The improvements achieved during the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (1981 - 1990) are as follows:

- Urban water coverage increased from 85% to 95% during the decade. Because of the national economic situation, maintaining the level of service has been a problem, since new production facilities could not be developed;
- Rural water coverage increased from 55% to 90% during the decade. In spite of economic constraints, six new systems were built.

#### SOCIAL WELFARE

The Social Welfare policy of the Government of Suriname is mainly aimed at promoting a well-balanced and harmonious growth and development of minors toward social independence and integration. In this regard high priority is attached to early childhood development. In 1986 a project on Early Childhood and Development was launched with the aim to develop a strategy for the protection and guidance of children from 0 - 5 years.

My Government is convinced that much more could have been realized on behalf of the children's protection and well-being in Suriname. The diminishing financial resources however, have been a main obstacle to the full implementation of the Government's strategies. Thus, many problems affecting children in Suriname, still need to be addressed which makes it the more necessary to continue all efforts beyond the World Summit.

Although this World Summit undoubtedly will contribute to awakening the awareness in the international community for problems concerning children, and will lead to the mobilization of efforts nationally as well as internationally, it will be necessary to overcome the present economic stagnation of the developing countries in order to attain its objectives.

The Surinamese Government really hopes that this World Summit will provide further impetus for creating substantial international support for the developing countries, in order to enable them to affectively promote children's protection, their survival and development.

Paramaribo, 29 September 1990

The President of the Republic of Suriname

H.E. Ramsewak ~~SHEKAR~~



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**SWEDEN**

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PRIME MINISTER

Date  
September 26, 1990

### World Summit for Children

#### **A Swedish Perspective on Responsibilities and Opportunities for Children's Survival and Development.**

There are no children who are "yours" and "ours". Children are the future of our common world. It is a joint responsibility within and among nations to safeguard them.

In Sweden, it took us time to reach our current infant mortality rate. This rate is now, together with Finland's, the lowest in the world. In the beginning of this century we had rates equalling those of present developing countries. We built our work on the principles of equality and solidarity. We had a sound foundation in our long-time literacy work and administrative systems permeating every parish and a forward-looking labour movement. And we built our country in peace.

We were determined not to overlook, in the course of long-term planning, those who would once implement the plans. It would not have been possible without politics ensuring devoted involvement of all sectors of society; health, education, social welfare, housing, communications, labour market, non-governmental organizations, popular movements, enterprises and research.

It is not possible without the active involvement of people, men and women, especially women. And what has once been gained must continuously be safeguarded in solidarity. The responsibility for a child lies with the family, but with the government assisting families to shoulder that responsibility.

It has not been easy nor simple, nor is there any chance that the achievements reached will last unless we set our minds to it.

08 01/90



Children have now got their own legal instrument to protect their interests, in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Convention encompasses children in both developing and developed countries. It urges all nations to see to the best interest of the child on all levels. Sweden and a number of other states have ratified the Convention. I look forward to all other countries doing the same.

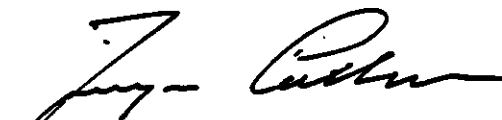
In international development co-operation Sweden emphasizes human resources development. We have not separated children as a specific group to be reached. Children are, during an important period in their life, members of societies with which we co-operate for development. Their uniqueness is their vulnerability and dependence on one hand, and their role in shaping and building the society of tomorrow.

They are vulnerable in regions where armed conflicts, racism, apartheid and foreign occupation mark their lives, mutilate them, traumatize them, separate them from their family and home.

With gains in the process of disarmament, and conflicts solved in negotiations, political decisions on the utilization of the peace-dividend must focus on investments in the future.

I hope to see this evolve in a process of peace-building.

Children are vulnerable in the silent emergency of poverty. Resource-allocations to development within countries as well as internationally can and must increase for children.



Ingvar Carlsson

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**SWITZERLAND**

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Message du Président de la Confédération Suisse à l'occasion du Sommet mondial pour les enfants

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L'enfant est l'avenir de l'humanité, il en est en même temps l'élément le plus fragile : deux raisons fondamentales pour que tout soit entrepris afin de protéger et de favoriser son épanouissement.

La Suisse se félicite de ce que le Sommet mondial pour les enfants permette une mobilisation de toute la communauté internationale dans ce but, et partage entièrement les objectifs contenus dans la Déclaration et le Plan d'action. Une haute priorité y est à juste titre accordée à la protection des enfants. De nombreuses souffrances d'enfants, absolument inacceptables, ne sont pas le résultat de la fatalité, mais du comportement humain. Beaucoup trop d'enfants encore enfermés dans des camps ou des prisons, sont l'objet de violence, parfois de torture, ou sont retenus comme otages. Il ne faudrait pas oublier non plus tous ceux qui sont contraints, par les circonstances économiques et sociales, à effectuer des travaux accomplis normalement par des adultes. Leurs droits doivent être protégés partout. La protection des enfants doit aussi recevoir une priorité absolue dans le cas de conflits armés. Dans ce sens, la ratification et la mise en oeuvre de la Convention des droits de l'enfant par toute la communauté internationale signifierait un pas important.

De gros efforts ont été faits ces trente dernières années pour améliorer le sort des enfants à travers le monde. Des résultats notables ont été obtenus dans de nombreux pays. Il n'en demeure pas moins qu'un très grand nombre d'enfants, très souvent avec leur mère, continue de souffrir de faim, de malnutrition, de maladies transmissibles évitables et de mortalité précoce.

Beaucoup reste donc à faire. Les documents du Sommet indiquent bien les voies à suivre par la communauté internationale, et cela dans une stratégie multisectorielle cohérente et bien intégrée.

Une juste importance y est attachée au rôle de la famille ainsi qu'à la santé et à l'éducation des mères, de même qu'à la lutte contre la faim et la malnutrition, à l'accès aux services de santé primaire et à l'eau potable, ainsi qu'à l'éducation de base pour tous, garçons et filles.

La réalisation de ces objectifs demandera un effort considérable de l'ensemble de la communauté internationale. La Suisse est prête à assumer pleinement sa part dans cette tâche cruciale. Elle contribuera à la mise en oeuvre du Plan d'action par des activités propres, par le soutien à des programmes spécifiques d'organisations non-gouvernementales ainsi que par une participation active à la coopération au développement multilatérale.

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**THAILAND**

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MESSAGE  
FROM  
H.E. GENERAL CHATICHAI CHOONHAVAN  
PRIME MINISTER OF THAILAND  
TO THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN  
29 - 30 SEPTEMBER 1990, NEW YORK

.....

As nations open their doors to peace and human freedom, mankind is faced with a new challenge--that of how to together ensure a better future for all. And, indeed, our nations' common future will depend on how well we prepare our children to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

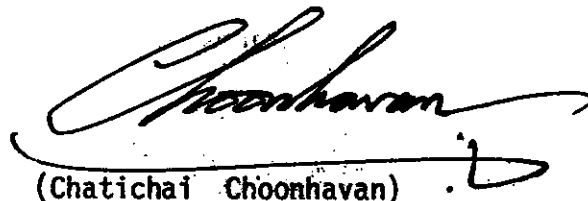
The 1990s will therefore be characterized by increased international concern for the welfare of the child. The World Summit for Children is a clear manifestation of this. Indeed, it is the first forum of its kind that accords leaders of nations the opportunity to focus their attention exclusively upon the well-being of our children. It is also the first ever Summit that brings together Heads of State and Heads of Government from all four corners of the world.

/ The World .....

The World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children, which will be adopted during the Summit, is a clear expression of our commitment to protect and promote a better quality of life for the following generations. On behalf of the Royal Thai Government, I should like therefore to pledge our full support for this Declaration, as well as for the Plan of Action, which will hopefully address all the concerns now before us.

As we enter the 1990s, remember that our prosperity can only be ensured if our children are well cared for and protected against neglect, exploitation and abuse. Certainly, our children deserve nothing less.

General

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Choonhavan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

(Chatchai Choonhavan)

Prime Minister of Thailand

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**TOGO**

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MESSAGE DE LA DELEGATION TOGOLAISE AU SOMMET  
MONDIAL DES CHEFS D'ETAT ET DE GOUVERNEMENT  
----- POUR LES ENFANTS -----

La présence du TOGO à cet important Sommet Mondial est un témoignage de l'importance qu'il accorde aux Enfants dans sa politique de développement et de sa volonté de s'engager à oeuvrer pour leur bien-être.

Depuis plus de deux décennies, la politique du Gouvernement Togolais a accordé un rang de priorité élevé au bien-être des enfants du milieu tant urbain que rural.

Ainsi d'importants sacrifices ont été consentis dans les domaines de la Santé, de l'Education, de l'Alphabétisation, de l'accès à l'Eau, de l'assainissement, de l'Autosuffisance alimentaire, de la protection sociale et juridique, ainsi que dans ceux de l'amélioration du rôle de la femme, de la mère de famille la première éducatrice de l'Enfant, et de l'égalité des chances et des droits aux garçons et aux filles.

Des prix décernés par la Communauté Internationale et les félicitations sont venus récompenser certains de ces efforts. Nous voudrions citer ici le prix de l'UNIFEM (ONU) décerné au TOGO en 1987, pour sa politique d'intégration des femmes au développement.

Trois prix ont récompensé les efforts du Gouvernement en matière d'alphabétisation et d'éducation des adultes.

En 1989, ses efforts en matière de l'espacement des naissances ont été récompensés par le Prix des Nations Unies pour la population.

Il a reçu des félicitations et des encouragements pour sa politique d'autosuffisance alimentaire et pour son programme élargi de vaccination, considéré comme l'un des plus réussis.

Le Togo a été parmi les tous premiers à ratifier la récente Convention des Nations Unies sur les Droits de l'Enfant. Nous espérons que ce merveilleux instrument qui fait honneur à la Communauté Internationale, servira de tremplin à tous ceux qui oeuvrent avec foi pour assurer aux enfants du monde entier, le droit d'aborder le prochain millénaire dans la dignité et la Paix.

Pour la décennie qui commence, le Gouvernement du Togo poursuivra sa politique sociale en faveur de la mère et de l'enfant, et de la famille en général. Cellule de base de la Société milieu privilégié d'épanouissement de l'enfant, la famille devra davantage prendre conscience de l'importance de son rôle dans l'avenir de l'Enfant. Il lui appartiendra désormais de lutter pour sa cohésion et de veiller à ce que les valeurs morales positives de nos cultures à savoir : la tolérance, la générosité, le pardon, l'acceptation du prochain, etc...toutes des valeurs garantes de la paix soient sauvegardées face aux agressions culturelles.

Depuis plus de deux décennies, le Togo vit dans la Paix, et souhaite à tous les Enfants du Monde Entier, un avenir de Paix, de Sécurité et de Justice.

L'un des moyens pour y parvenir sera l'introduction de l'Education pour la Paix dans les Ecoles en vue d'amener dès le bas âge, les enfants à mieux comprendre et à éviter les causes de la guerre, à cultiver en eux les vertus de la tolérance et de la compréhension mutuelle.

Dans la même optique, il est important de faire diminuer puis de supprimer les jouets de guerre qui, bien qu'inoffensifs, laissent dans le subconscient innocent des enfants des tendances belliqueuses et des réactions de violences.

Le TOGO souhaite vivement que ces propositions soient prises en considération dans les conclusions du Sommet et que tout soit mis en oeuvre en vue de leur traduction dans les faits.

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**TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

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MESSAGE FROM THE HONOURABLE A.N.R. ROBINSON, PRIME MINISTER  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ON THE WORLD SUMMIT  
FOR CHILDREN, NEW YORK - SEPTEMBER 29-30, 1990

On behalf of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and on my own behalf, I wish to express sincere appreciation to the Governments of Canada, Egypt, Mali, Mexico, Pakistan and Sweden for their vision and humanitarian concern in proposing this important initiative to focus increased attention at the highest political level on the concerns and well-being of children. I also wish to congratulate the Executive Director of UNICEF for the important preparatory work which UNICEF undertook to make this Summit a reality.

Trinidad and Tobago, a country with a predominantly young population, is committed to the goals and strategies emphasized by the Summit for ensuring the healthy physical and mental development of children as key elements in the socio-economic advancement of developing countries.

My Government will diligently pursue the strategies laid down in the Plan of Action for the period 1990-2000 in order to fulfil its commitment to children in the coming years and to ensure them a brighter future and a better world.

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# TUNISIA

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## رسالة تونس إلى أطفال العالم

إن لانعقاد مؤتمر القمة العالمي من أجل الطفل لأول مرة، بإشراف الأمم المتحدة، وبالتوازي مع أشغال جمعيتها العمومية، وبعد التوقيع على الوثيقة العالمية لحقوق الطفل من المعاني والأبعاد ما هو جدير بالتبصر والتدبير.

فهل نعتبر ذلك عنوان وعي المجموعة الدولية بأهمية الطفل بعد أن ظللنا أحقابا طويلة لا نقدر إلا الكبار، وننسبهم إلى الرشد والعقل، وننسب، في كل اللغات تقريبا تفاهات الكبار إلى الصغار، فنعتبرها من الصبيانات وعبث الطفولة وقصورها، رغم ما نعرفه جميعا من مآثر الأطفال، وجليل أعمالهم، ولنا في أطفال الحجارة، بالأراضي الفلسطينية المحتلة، وفي بطولاتهم ومعاناتهم، منذ حوالي ثلاث سنوات من الانتفاضة، ما يدل على رجولة الأطفال وعلو هممهم بما لا يقل عن الكبار في شيء.

وهل يعني هذا المؤتمر أننا صدقنا اليوم أن الطفل هو أبو الرجل. وأن الطفل ليس رجلا صغيرا بقدر ما الرجل طفل كبير.

إن هذه التساؤلات تنبعث من التحولات الكبيرة التي يعيشها عالمنا اليوم، والتي أخذت تغير الكثير مما كنا نعتقد، حتى عهد قريب، من الثوابت المستقرة. لقد توطد اليقين عند الجميع اليوم، أو يجب أن يكون كذلك، بأن الحياة حلقة مكتملة لا فضل للنقطة الأخيرة فيها على نقطة البداية. بل إن الأمور بمباديها التي هي أصعب ما فيها. وبالتالي فإن سن الرشد مرتبطة وثيق الارتباط بنوعية الطفولة وسعادتها واكتمالها من كل النواحي، وفي جميع المجالات، ومستقبل حياة الانسان مرسوم في البيئة التي يتعرع فيها والمجتمع الذي ينشأ وينشأ فيه. وهذا ما يستوجب الإعداد الكامل والعدة الكافية.

إن النصوص واللوائح، والشعارات والخطب، واللقاءات لا معنى لها إلا بقدر تجسيمها في الواقع، وجعلها أمرا ملموسا، واضح الأثر والنتفع.

وسعادة الأطفال - والكبار ، مع فارق الأثرة وحبّ الكبير عند هؤلاء - تكمن في ضمان حقوقهم في الغذاء والصحة والتربية والترفيه ؛ وسبيل تحقيقها من تحقيق العدالة وتكافؤ الفرص بين أطفال المعمورة جميعا. وهل من سبيل لذلك غير اتفاق الكبار على ضمان التقدم والسلام، والانخراط في تنمية متضامنة بين الشمال والجنوب، وهو أمر أصبح اليوم أيسر مما كان، بعد زوال التوتر بين الشرق والغرب، بما يزيل نهائيا شبح الآفات والويلات، وفي مقدمتها الحروب التي تضرّ بالأطفال أكثر من سواهم.

إن صيانة حقوق الطفل، واحترام ذاتيته تكمنان في اعتباره انسانا وفي معاملته على أساس ذلك.

هذه هي المعاني التي نفهمها والمباني التي نتعلق بها في تونس منذ التحول الذي شهدته في 7 نوفمبر 1987 وعلى هديها نراهن على الطفولة، في نطاق عملنا اليومي ، وفي مؤسساتنا التربوية والاجتماعية وهياكلنا الإدارية، ومنها بالخصوص وزارة الشباب والطفولة والمجلس الأعلى للطفولة، ومن خلال القرارات العديدة التي اتخذناها لفائدة الطفولة. وعلى أساس هذه المعاني والمباني ذاتها. وقّعنا بكل اعتزاز على الوثيقة العالمية لحقوق الطفل، وشاركنا في هذه القمة العالمية.

زين العابدين بن علي

رئيس الجمهورية التونسية

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# **TURKEY**

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*The President*

*Ankara, 29 September 1990*

*Children are the common heritage of mankind. Each society sees in its children its own hopes, dreams and aspirations for the future. Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the founder of the Turkish Republic, said, "the members of our younger generation constitute indeed the highlights of the assurance for our future. All my hopes reside in our youth."*

*The true measure of a society's greatness is what it does to nurture its children, for they are the world's most innocent citizens, looking to us for comfort, protection and love.*

*But too often we fail them.*

*At a time that should be the most joyous of their life, millions of the world's children know only poverty. Days they should spend exploring the wonders of life they instead spend hungry, desperate for food just to see them through another day.*

*Children are society's most sacred trust. Should we fail them, then we shall surely fail ourselves for they are our future.*

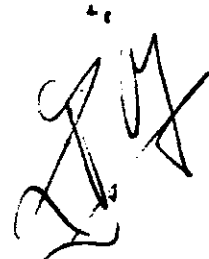
*The health, happiness and well-being of the world's children must be our goal. Guaranteeing these rights for our children must be our priority.*

*This is especially important to developing nations for no society can develop, either politically, economically or socially, if the children are left behind.*

*As a recipient of the first annual Child Survival Country Recognition Award, Turkey's efforts on behalf of its children have been acknowledged internationally. Those efforts are embodied in a nationwide program to immunize our children against measles, polio, tetanus, whooping cough and diphtheria, to provide pre-natal care, and education in nutrition and family planning.*

*Each year since the founding of our republic, the Turkish people have set aside April 23 as Children's Day. On this day we give thanks for the gift of our children. It is the day for reaffirming the sacred bond that links our present and future generations.*

*We must never forget that our children are, literally, the promise of a better tomorrow. As we grow to maturity, and assume the responsibilities of adulthood, all of us become burdened by problems that seem to have no solution, by challenges that seem insurmountable. But our children permit us to hope that one day those problems will be solved and those challenges met.*



Turgut ÖZAL  
President of the Republic of Turkey

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**UGANDA**

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On behalf of the Government and people of Uganda, I heartily welcome the World Summit for Children, as a belated landmark, representing a commitment at the highest level, to the survival and welfare of the most vulnerable sector of our society. Last month, we witnessed the entry into force of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It is the first legal instrument defining and lending content to the rightful status of the child in society. The approval of concrete development goals and strategies for children in the 1990's, was yet another step forward, in commitment to the alleviation of the plight of the child.

At a first glance around our globe, one cannot but marvel at the astronomical technological advances attained by the human race. However, the greatest irony of this remarkable progress is its existence, alongside the tragedy of shamefully high mortality rates, abject poverty, deprivation, hunger, disease and illiteracy. Children are the first victims of these deplorable afflictions. Furthermore the most innocent members of society are the worst hit victims of the effects of armed conflict, civil strife and massive military expenditure.

28 of the 43 least developed nations of the world are located in Africa. It is therefore no surprise that 21 out of the 30 countries with the highest under-five mortality rate (over 170 per 1,000) belong to the continent. Only 36% of these children have access to safe water and only 42% can reach a health unit in less than one hours walk. 17 countries with 70% of the population of sub-saharan Africa, have suffered severe and prolonged conflicts since the mid-1950s. Sub-Saharan Africa, with one-tenth of the world's population, accounts for about a third, or almost 4 million, of the world officially recognized refugees and 12 million of its displaced persons.

The system of apartheid has had a devastating impact on the survival and development of children in South Africa. Between 1981 and 1985, the national infant mortality rate was 12 per 1000 live births for the white minority, compared to 124 per 1000 for African children. Only 4% of the black children complete secondary education in contrast to 69 % of the white children. Besides the traumatic impact of physical brutality on the black children, structural violence corrupts the minds of white and black children, alike.

In Africa, economic and technological underdevelopment, heavy indebtedness, adverse terms of trade continue to undermine our ability to protect our most precious resource. Stringent devaluation and structural adjustment measures,

entail deep cuts in expenditure on social services which further impede our efforts to alleviate the plight the child. This situation is aggravated by the presence of authoritarian, non-participatory styles of government. Relevant systems of education are a vital factor in any attempt to solve Africa's problems.

Nonetheless, the continent has not been daunted in its commitment to the protection and promotion of the rights of the child. This commitment reached new heights last July when African leaders adopted a Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the African Child. They also adopted resolutions on the establishment of national structures for monitoring its implementation, on the African Decade for Child Survival Protection and Development, on the World Summit for Children, and on peace for children. In 1988, the OAU endorsed the Bamako Initiative, which aims at making public health care, maternal and child health services, universally accessible.

On the home front, Uganda has signed and ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child and is in the process of incorporating it into her Constitution. We have established an Inter-Disciplinary Child Law Committee to review sections of the Constitution unfavourable to children. Within the framework of universal child immunization, we have reduced the infant mortality rate from 35% in 1981, to 15% by 1989.

Any solution to the plight of the child must effectively address the underlying problems faced by our continent. We must review the existing international economic order address the question of debt and create a favourable atmosphere for free trade. In the context of international cooperation, timely economic assistance should be directed towards forward looking policies in key areas such as education, agriculture and health. We must strive to strengthen efforts at regional cooperation and economic integration. The elimination of underlying causes of instability is essential if lasting peace is to prevail.

I hope that the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of the Child will see real commitment to implementation, through effective coordination, monitoring and follow-up measures, at the national regional and international levels.

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**UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS**

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## ПОСЛАНИЕ ПРЕЗИДЕНТА СССР М. С. ГОРБАЧЕВА К ДЕТЯМ МИРА

Дорогие юные граждане мира!

Мне предоставлена замечательная возможность сердечно приветствовать вас.

Эта встреча беспрецедентна не только своим уровнем. Она обращена в грядущий век, происходит на переломе эпох во всемирном развитии, когда уже сделаны первые крупные шаги в новый мировой порядок.

Предстоит преодолеть еще немало препятствий. Всем придется потрудиться, чтобы избавиться от унаследованных от прошлого пороков: от привычек вооруженной силой решать международные и другие противоречия, от склонности строить благополучие за счет других, от опасного загрязнения среды, претензий на превосходство или особые права в мировом сообществе и в своей стране, от расовых, националистических, религиозных и идеологических предрассудков, массового голода и нищеты, болезней, наркомании и алкоголизма, отсталости и неграмотности.

Вам принимать эстафету, готовиться осознанно и ответственно вступить в новый мир, набирать и нести дальше знания человечества, культуру, ценности гуманизма. Вам постигать науку жить в согласии, в атмосфере взаимного уважения, сотрудничества и взаимопомощи.

Лишь сообща возможно победить трудности переходного времени. Что такое солидарность и действенное сочувствие, мы со всей силой ощутили недавно, когда на нас обрушились землетрясение в Армении и черныбыльская катастрофа. В числе жертв оказались и дети. Мы искренне благодарны всем, кто помог им в беде. Такое не забывается.

Дорогие ребята!

От вас зависит, каким будет завтра. И мы, старшее поколение, надеемся, что судьбы мира передадим в надежные, добрые и умелые руки.

От имени советского народа хочу пожелать детям всех стран здоровья и счастья.

## ПОСЛАНИЕ ГЛАВАМ ГОСУДАРСТВ И ПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВ - УЧАСТНИКАМ ВСЕМИРНОЙ ВСТРЕЧИ В ИНТЕРЕСАХ ДЕТЕЙ

Сердечно приветствую глав государств и правительств - участников Всемирной встречи в интересах детей.

Убежден, что этот уникальный форум послужит делу единения мировых сил ради лучшего настоящего и будущего для поколений, которые идут нам на смену, станет важной вехой в проявлении заботы государств о судьбах земной цивилизации. В условиях нынешних позитивных тенденций в международных отношениях координация усилий членов мирового сообщества может обеспечить политические и нравственные основы для охраны детства от военной угрозы и деградации среды обитания, для обеспечения ему творческого развития, полноценного образования, достойного уровня жизни.

Думая о путях строительства ненасильственного и безъядерного мира, важно позаботиться, чтобы будущие хозяева планеты с ранних лет впитывали идеалы гуманизма, уважение прав и ценности каждой человеческой личности. В этом одна из важнейших целей перестройки в нашей стране.

Международная забота о детях является, на наш взгляд, необходимой предпосылкой создания демократического, свободного миропорядка на Земле. Советский Союз, подписывая вместе с уважаемыми участниками встречи Декларацию и План действий, принимает и намерен выполнять все обязательства, вытекающие из этих важных документов.

Желаю вам успеха в вашем добром и гуманном начинании.

М. ГОРБАЧЕВ



## ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT MIKHAIL GORBACHEV TO THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD

My dear junior citizens of the world,

I have been given this wonderful opportunity to extend my heartfelt greetings to you.

This meeting is unprecedented not only in terms of its high level. It looks into the next century and is taking place at the dawn of a new era in world development when the first strides have been made towards a new world order.

Many obstacles have yet to be overcome. All of us shall have to work hard to get rid of the ills inherited from the past: of the habit of resolving international and other controversies by force of arms, of the tendency to build one's own prosperity at the expense of others, of the dangerous environmental pollution, of claims to superiority and special rights in the world community or one's own country, of racial, nationalistic, religious and ideological prejudice, famine and poverty, disease, drug abuse and alcoholism, backwardness and illiteracy.

You should be ready to take over, to prepare yourselves to enter the new world with a sense of awareness and responsibility, to enhance and pass on humanity's knowledge, its culture and humanistic ideals. You are to learn the skill of living in harmony, in an atmosphere of mutual respect, cooperation and mutual assistance.

We must stick together if the difficulties of this period of transition are to be overcome. Our recent experience has vividly demonstrated what solidarity and active sympathy can accomplish when our country was shaken by the earthquake in Armenia and the Chernobyl disaster. Children were among the victims, and our sincere gratitude goes to all those who have lent them a helping hand. This is something one never forgets.

Dear kids,

What the world will be like tomorrow depends on you, and we, the older generation, are confident that the world's destiny will rest in proper hands, good and skillful.

On behalf of the Soviet people let me wish to the children of all nations best of health and happiness!

**MESSAGE TO THE HEADS OF STATE AND  
GOVERNMENT ATTENDING THE WORLD SUMMIT  
FOR CHILDREN**

I extend my cordial greetings to the Heads of State and Government participating in the World Summit for Children.

It is my firm belief that this unique forum will contribute to greater unity of world forces for the sake of a better life and a better future for succeeding generations and will become a landmark in the efforts of states to secure the destinies of human civilization. Today, when we witness positive trends in international affairs, coordinated efforts of the world community can provide a political and moral basis for protecting our children from the threat of war and environmental degradation as well as for ensuring their creative development, adequate education and decent living standards.

As we reflect on the ways of building a non-violent and nuclear-free world, it is essential to ensure that from a very young age humane ideals, respect for the rights of the individual and the value of human life be ingrained in the minds of those who will inherit this planet. This is one of the major objectives of perestroika in our country.

International awareness of children's needs is, in our view, a necessary prerequisite for the establishment of a global order based on democracy and freedom. By signing, along with the other distinguished participants in this Summit, the Declaration and the Plan of Action, the Soviet Union accepts and intends to comply with all commitments arising from these important documents.

I wish you every success in your noble and humane endeavour.

**M. GORBACHEV**

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**UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**

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## رسالة

صاحب السمو الشيخ زايد بن سلطان آل نهيان  
رئيس دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة  
بمناسبة مؤتمر القمة لأجل الطفولة

يسعدني باسم دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة، حكومة وشعباً، أن  
أزجي بالغ شكرنا وتقديرنا إلى جميع الذين ساهموا في الإعداد والتحضير  
لمؤتمر القمة لأجل الطفولة .

وكدليل على اهتمامنا الكبير بهذا المؤتمر، فقد قبلنا الدعوة الموجهة  
الينا بحضوره وبالتالي كنا ننوي شخصياً المشاركة فيه، ولكن الظروف الصعبة  
والمريرة التي فرضت مؤخراً على منطقتنا قد حالت دوننا في الحضور والمشاركة .

كما أن الطفل في كل مكان هو عماد المستقبل الذي يبني ويشيد، ويعمل  
على تطوير شعبه ووطنه نحو الأفضل، كل رعاية تعطي للطفل وأي اهتمام بصحته  
ونموه وثقافته يمثل الاستثمار الصحيح الذي يعطي ثمرات طيبة ونتائج حسنة في  
المستقبل، وإذا أهمل الطفل ولم يعطى العناية الصحيحة والكافية فسيؤدي  
ذلك إلى مستقبل حالك ووضع متأخر للبلد الذي هو فيه .

ومن ذلك المنطلق كان الاهتمام بالطفل في مقدمة الأولويات لدى حكومة  
الإمارات العربية المتحدة، لقد وفرنا له مجاناً جميع سبل التغذية والعناية  
الصحية والتعليم على جميع المستويات فبالإضافة إلى واجباتنا نحوهم كأطفالنا

الذي ينطلق من محبتنا لهم وحناننا عليهم، فاننا نرى فيهم رجال المستقبل الذين  
تقع على سواعدهم مسؤولية تنميته وتطويره .

لقد انشغل العالم، في الماضي والحاضر، بما فيه الكفاية بمشاكل  
الكبار وقد آن الأوان للالتفات الى مشاكل الطفل، بل لو أعطيت العناية الكافية  
لمعالجة مشاكل الطفل والتعاون الدولي في هذا المدد لأدى ذلك الى تقليل المشاكل  
التي خلقها ويخلقها الكبار، ولهذا فاننا نعتبر انعقاد مؤتمر القمة لأجل الطفولة  
نقلة نوعية في التعامل والتعاون على المستوى الدولي، التعامل هو لتبادل  
المعلومات والخبرة في كيفية رعاية الطفل والاهتمام بحياته وصحته وتعليمه،  
والتعاون هو الالتزام بالعمل مع بعضنا البعض كجهد جماعي لأجل ايجاد مستقبل  
أفضل لشعوبنا وذلك بتركيز الاهتمام على الأطفال .

في ضوء ماتقدم فاننا نعتبر هذا المؤتمر من أسس الايجابيات التي  
تمت مؤخرا على المستوى الدولي، وقد يكون من المصلحة عقد مؤتمرات مماثلة  
ودورية بعد كل حقبة من الزمن لأجل تقييم ما تم في هذا الجهد النبيل ووضع  
برنامج جديد لدفعه قدما .

زايد بن سلطان آل نهيان  
رئيس دولة الامارات العربية المتحدة

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**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 30, 1990

To the World Summit for Children:

No moment in our lifetime has been more opportune for a World Summit for Children. Never has our capacity to come together appeared so great. We come as leaders of the majority of the nations of the globe and as representatives of the nearly three billion children of the world. Let a new chapter begin, a time of unity and hope for a better future for the world's children.

I am proud to reaffirm the commitment of the United States of America to the survival, protection, and development of the children of the world. And I would urge that we, as national leaders, continue to work together to build upon the recent unprecedented successes we have achieved in the areas of child health, nutrition, and education. Through improved nutrition and safer drinking water, millions more children will be able to lead healthy lives. Expanding the scope of oral rehydration therapy will avert needless deaths. By vaccinating against, containing, and eradicating infectious disease, we can rescue thousands a day and millions over the years.

There is much more to be done, and much that we can do together. The United States is proud of its leadership around the world on behalf of children.

We must begin with parents. While science and its application can ensure the survival of children, their nurturing and development depend on the work of parents. We must seek to empower parents so they can be effective advocates and allies for their children.

Then there is what I have spoken of as a thousand points of light -- the commitment of countless individuals and social, cultural, and religious organizations to the well-being of children. I think of the commitment of charitable organizations working around the clock to ensure child survival and development; international private voluntary organizations willing to provide whatever quantity of vaccine is necessary to eradicate polio worldwide; and dedicated individuals and religious groups struggling to care for HIV-infected and drug-exposed babies. The light from these individuals and organizations brightens the future of all children.

I think also of universities eager to put their research efforts into fighting the problems of poverty, illiteracy, and disease more effectively; of industries willing to develop products and dedicate profits to address the problems of people unable to obtain needed medicines or vaccines for themselves or their children; and of scientists devoted to applying their inspiration to the betterment of mankind.

In addition to ensuring children's survival, we must enable every child to learn. Education has always been the key to opening doors of opportunity. The growth of democracy demands educated populations. As world leaders, we must work to provide every child with the opportunity for an education. We must act on the valuable work of the World Conference on Education for All.

As this chapter unfolds, we as world leaders bear the responsibility for leading our nations to ensure the well-being of those who are least represented, our children. In them, we invest the sum of all our hopes and dreams for the future.

May God bless them all.

Sincerely,



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**VENEZUELA**

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**MENSAJE DEL PRESIDENTE DE LA REPUBLICA DE VENEZUELA,  
SEÑOR CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ,  
EN OCASION DE LA CELEBRACION DE LA  
CUMBRE MUNDIAL EN FAVOR DE LA INFANCIA**

**(NUEVA YORK, 29 Y 30 DE SEPTIEMBRE DE 1990)**

La celebración de esta Cumbre es una expresión de la esperanza que nos anima a todos. La comunidad internacional debe empeñarse en lograr que los grandes avances científico-técnicos del siglo XX sean puestos decididamente al servicio de la población del futuro.

Esta Cumbre, en la cual se congrega una numerosa y destacada representación del liderazgo mundial, constituye una oportunidad única para alcanzar un acuerdo al más alto nivel político que otorgue la debida prioridad a las acciones encaminadas a garantizar la supervivencia, protección y desarrollo de la infancia en la década de los noventa como el fundamento vital del desarrollo económico, social y político de las naciones. La Declaración y Plan de Acción que aprobaremos en esta Cumbre reflejarán nuestro compromiso, inspirado en una nueva ética nacional e internacional.

La participación de Venezuela en el Comité de Planificación de esta histórica reunión prefigura el elevado interés que nuestro país le otorga. Esta valoración responde a la convicción de que el ideal de un mundo mejor, más racional y justo, solo podría cumplirse si logramos garantizar hoy la satisfacción oportuna y eficiente de las necesidades básicas de los niños.

El Estado venezolano ha ratificado la Convención de las Naciones Unidas sobre los Derechos del Niño al concebirla como un instrumento ético-jurídico que servirá como marco adecuado

**para estimular la formulación y aplicación de políticas nacionales que traduzcan los deberes de la sociedad hacia la infancia, entendiéndola como su máxima prioridad. El Estado venezolano manifiesta desde ya su más entera disposición a colaborar con las actividades que adelante el Comité que en el marco de la Convención supervisará el cumplimiento de los derechos de los niños, esos derechos humanos tan impune y extensamente violados.**

**El gobierno venezolano ha otorgado a la niñez un rango de primera jerarquía en la acción social que viene adelantando. En ese orden de ideas, para 1991 congregará en una Conferencia Nacional sobre los Derechos de la Infancia a los más representativos sectores del país para que, conjuntamente con los organismos del Estado que tienen la misión de adelantar su política social, definan los términos de un compromiso en favor del bienestar de la infancia. Ese compromiso deberá concretarse en acciones efectivas que, a lo largo de la presente década, nos permitan erradicar los principales problemas que aquejan a nuestros niños. Ello deberá en particular, propiciar el surgimiento de condiciones que puedan garantizarles en forma permanente una nutrición adecuada, un desarrollo pleno de su potencial biológico y el acceso a una educación de alta calidad. Esa educación deberá responder en forma efectiva a las exigentes demandas que las transformaciones actuales, en todos los órdenes de nuestra sociedad, habrán de plantear en los próximos años a los niños de hoy.**

**Hagamos de esta Cumbre la base sobre la cual se fundamente toda la acción social mundial del siglo XXI.**

**UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION**

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA,  
MR. CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ, ON THE OCASSION OF  
THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN.**

**(NEW YORK, 29-30, SEPTEMBER 1990)**

**The holding of this Summit is a celebration of hope. The international community must make every effort to put the great scientific-technical advances of the 20th Century at the service of its future populations.**

**This Summit that brings together an outstanding group of world leaders, affords a unique opportunity to reach an agreement, at the highest political level, to give due priority to all measures directed at ensuring the survival, protection and development of children during the decade of the nineties, as a vital and basic element for the economic, social and political development of all nations. The Declaration and Plan of Action that we will approve at this Summit will reflect our committment, inspired by a new national and international code of ethics.**

**Venezuela's participation on the Planning Committee of this historic meeting is proof of the high regard in which our country holds it. This feeling is based on the conviction that our ideal for a better, more just and more rational world can only be achieved if we can guarantee today the timely and efficient satisfaction of the childrens' basic needs.**

**Venezuela has ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, since we consider it to be an ethical and legal instrument that will serve as a framework to encourage the**

**formulation and implementation of national policies spelling society's duty to its children, taken as its highest priority. Venezuela is entirely ready to contribute to the activities of the Committee that -within the framework of the Convention- is entrusted with supervising the full respect for the rights of children, those human rights that have been so often violated with impunity.**

**The government of Venezuela has granted a high level of importance to its children in the social policies that it has adopted. In this context, it will convene a National Conference on the Rights of Children in 1991, that will gather the most representative sectors of the country which, together with the State agencies responsible for the advancement of social policies, will define the terms of a commitment to ensure the well-being of children. This commitment must be accompanied by effective measures that will enable us, through-out this decade, to eradicate the main problems that affect our children. In particular it should promote the establishment of adequate conditions to ensure permanently their proper nutrition, the full development of their biological potential, and their access to a high quality education. This education should respond, effectively, to the challenges that the transformations occurring at all levels of our society will impose on today's children in the coming years.**

**Let this summit be the foundation for all the social actions undertaken by the world in the 21st century.**

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**VIET NAM**

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THE RIGHT HON'BLE BRIAN MULRONEY,  
PRIME MINISTER OF CANANA,

H.E. MOUSSA TRAORE,  
PRESIDENT, REPUBLIC OF MALI

EXCELLENCIES,

THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM WELCOMES THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN  
IN NEW YORK FROM 29 TO 30 SEPT. 1990.

THE SUMMIT IS A MANIFESTATION OF THE DEEP CONCERN OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
COMMUNITY FOR WORLD CHILDREN. IT WILL HELP PROPEL ENDEAVOURS FOR A BETTER  
FUTURE OF CHILDREN IN OUR PLANET.

THE PROTECTION AND EDUCATION OF CHILDREN HAS BEEN A PRIME CONCERN OF OUR  
STATE. ON 1 MARCH 1990, VIETNAM RATIFIED THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF  
THE CHILD.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM REAFFIRMS ITS COMMITMENT  
TO THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN AND UNDERTAKES  
TO IMPLEMENT THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD.

MAY THE SUMMIT END IN SUCCESS.

PLEASE ACCEPT, EXCELLENCIES, THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

DO MUOI,  
CHAIRMAN, COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,  
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM.

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**YUGOSLAVIA**

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P O R U K A  
PREDSEDNIKA PREDSEDNISTVA SFRJ DR. BORISAVA JOVICA  
SVETSKOM SAMITU O DECI

U danasnjem svetu medjuzavisnosti i povezanosti, nijedan socijalni ili ekonomski problem ne moze da se posmatra niti resava izolovano, van sireg medjunarodnog konteksta. Tako i problemi polozaja i razvoja dece ne mogu da se resavaju bez sagledavanja svih faktora - uzroka i posledica - koji karakterisu opstu medjunarodnu politicku i ekonomsku situaciju. Sa pozitivnim transformacijama u medjunarodnim politickim, a delom i ekonomskim odnosima, sticu se i objektivni uslovi za resavanje akutnih problema svetske privrede i medjunarodnih ekonomskih odnosa, a u tom kontekstu i resavanje problema dece. Dve su kljucne pretpostavke za taj razvoj: sloboda i drustveno-ekonomski razvoj u nacionalnim i medjunarodnim okvirima. Prva pretpostavka podrazumeva sigurnost, toleranciju i odsustvo straha, a druga, postojanje politicke volje i materijalnih uslova za svestrani razvoj svakog deteta.

Paradoksalno je, medjutim, da se danas kada nam tehnoloska dostignuca stvaraju mogucnost da se obezbedi dovoljno hrane za sve i da se rese osnovni problemi zdravstva i obrazovanja, milioni dece pate od gladi i raznih bolesti i nemaju mogucnost da steknu ni najnuznije obrazovanje. Neprivhatljivo i nedopustivo je da danas desetine hiljada dece dnevno umiru u zemljama u razvoju, samo zato sto nemaju ni najminimalnije uslove za zivot. Ovo je utoliko teze prihvatiti kada se ima u vidu da je cena spasavanja decijih zivota veoma mala, a mogucnosti medjunarodne zajednice da to ucini visestruke.

Od naseg Samita se ocekuje ne samo da usvoji Deklaraciju i Program akcije, vec prvenstveno, da svojim politickim uticajem bude prekretnica ka efikasnom resavanju problema dece i otvori mogucnosti ne samo za prezivljavanje, vec i svestrani razvoj sve dece sveta. U tom cilju Samit treba posebno da doprinese sto temeljitijoj i obuhvatnijoj primeni Medjunarodne konvencije o pravima deteta, punom ostvarivanju Deklaracije o obrazovanju za sve i Deklaracije iz Alma Ate "Zdravlje za sve do 2000. godine".

Uporedo sa pruzanjem direktne pomoci deci, medjunarodna zajednica mora, daleko odlucnije i angazovanije da se okrene trazanju resenja za ozbiljne ekonomske teskoce zemalja u razvoju. Neophodno je da se ozivi rast i razvoj u tim zemljama i da se preduzmu, u tu svrhu, odgovarajuce mere na nacionalnom i medjunarodnom planu. Napori koje ove zemlje ulazu da se oslobode zacaranog kruga ekonomske i socijalne krize ne mogu da dovedu do znacajnijih rezultata ukoliko se ne preduzmu i mere za resavanje njihovih spoljnih dugova, da im se omoguci pristup trzistima razvijenih zemalja, da dodju do novih tehnologija i, naravno, da

se uspostavi takvo spoljno-ekonomsko okruzenje, koje ce biti u funkciji podrške nacionalnim merama i reformama. Bez svih ovih mera, nema ni pravog resenja za probleme razvoja dece ovih zemalja. Jer, pravo na razvoj ne garantuju samo pravne norme vec, pre svega, obezbedjivanje potrebnih materijalnih uslova.

Kao predstavnik zemlje koja je predsedavajući Pokreta nesvrstanih zemalja, zelim da istaknem da su nesvrstane zemlje spremne da ucine, i cine, sve sto je u njihovoj mogucnosti za poboljsanje njihovog sadasnjeg teskog polozaia. One su to pokazale nizom odluka i konkretnih mera koje su preduzele i preduzimaju.

Siguran sam da ce ovaj skup svima dati novi podstrek da se jos odlucnije angazuju, kako bi se obezbedili svi uslovi za slobodan i svestrani razvoj dece celog sveta. U tom cilju, UNICEF-u, kome za svoj dosadasnji uspesan rad odajemo puno priznanje, treba da pruzimo i ubuduće znatno vecu moralnu i materijalnu podršku u njegovim plemenitim aktivnostima.

**M E S S A G E**  
**OF DR. BORISAV JOVIC, PRESIDENT OF THE PRESIDENCY**  
**OF THE SOCIALIST FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA,**  
**TO THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN**

In the present-day interdependent and interrelated world not a single social or economic problem can be viewed or resolved in an isolated manner, outside a wider international context. Likewise, problem related to the status and development of children cannot be dealt with without taking into account all factors - both causes and effects - which characterize the general international political and economic situation. As positive transformations take place in international political relations, and partly in economic relations, too, objective conditions are being created for resolving the acute problems of the world economy and international economic relations, and in that context the problems of children as well. There are two key prerequisites for such development: freedom and socio-economic development at national and international levels. The first prerequisite implies security, tolerance and a lack of fear, and the other implies the existence of political will and material conditions for the all-round development of every child.

However, it is paradoxical that today, when technological achievements make it possible to provide enough food for all and to resolve basic health and education problems, millions of children suffer from hunger and different diseases and do not have access even to the basics of an elementary education. The fact that thousands and thousands of children are dying every day in developing countries only because they do not have even a bare minimum of living conditions is both unacceptable and impermissible. It is even more difficult to accept this knowing that the prices for saving children's lives is very low, while the possibilities of the international community to do so are manifold.

Our Summit is expected not only to adopt a Declaration and Programme of Action, but primarily to be a turning point, by exercising its political influence, in moving towards the efficient resolving of child problems and providing scope not only for the survival, but also the all-round development of all children of the world. To that end the Summit should particularly contribute to the truly thorough and comprehensive implementation of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, the full realization of the Declaration on Education for All and the Declaration "Health for All by the Year 2000" from Alma Ata.

Parallel to rendering direct assistance to children the international community should start addressing the serious economic problems of developing countries far more resolutely and purposefully. It is indispensable to revitalize growth and development in these countries and to take appropriate measures

at national and international levels to that end. The efforts that these countries are investing in order to break out of the vicious circle of economic and social crisis cannot yield meaningful results unless action is taken to deal with their foreign debts, to give them access to the markets of developed countries, to new technologies and, naturally, to set up such an international economic environment which would be supportive of national measures and reforms. Without all these steps there can be no genuine solutions to the problems of child development in these countries, for the right to development is not only guaranteed by legal norms, but, above all, by securing the material conditions needed.

As the representative of the country which is Chairman of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries I wish to point out that the non-aligned countries are ready to do and are doing everything that is within their possibilities to improve their present difficult position. They have demonstrated this by a series of decisions and concrete measures that they have been taking.

I am confident that this gathering will give everyone a new impetus to work even more resolutely towards creating all the necessary conditions for the free and all-round development of children world-wide. It is with that objective in mind that we should give UNICEF, which we pay tribute to for its successful work to date, even greater material and moral support in the future for its noble activities.

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**ZAIRE**

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AU NOM DU PRESIDENT DE LA REPUBLIQUE DU ZAIRE, LE MARECHAL MOBUTU SESE SEKO, ET EN CELUI DU PEUPLE ET DU GOUVERNEMENT ZAIROIS QUE J'AI L'INSIGNE BONNEUR ET LE PRIVILEGE DE REPRESENTER AU PRESENT SOMMET MONDIAL POUR LES ENFANTS, IL M'EST UN AGREABLE DEVOIR DE RENDRE HOMMAGE AUX SIX CHEFS D'ETAT ET DE GOUVERNEMENT DU CANADA, DE L'EGYPTE, DU MALI, DU MEXIQUE, DU PAKISTAN ET DE LA SUEDE POUR L'INITIATIVE HEUREUSE QU'ILS ONT PRISE DE CONVOQUER POUR LA PREMIERE FOIS UNE REUNION INTERNATIONALE DES CHEFS D'ETAT ET DE GOUVERNEMENT EN VUE DE SE PENCHER EXCLUSIVEMENT SUR LE SORT DES ENFANTS ET D'ADOPTER EN CONSEQUENCE UN ENGAGEMENT POLITIQUE AU PLUS HAUT NIVEAU EN LEUR FAVEUR DANS LE MONDE.

QUE LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL DE L'ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES, SON EXCELLENCE MR. JAVIER PEREZ DE CUELLAR, ET LE DIRECTEUR DE L'UNICEF, MR. JAMES P. GRANT, DAIGNENT RECEVOIR L'EXPRESSION DE NOTRE PROFONDE GRATITUDE POUR AVOIR TRADUIT EN REALITE ET EN FAIT LES VOEUX ET DESIRS DES INITIATEURS DE CE SOMMET QUI SE TIENT DIX MOIS A PEINE APRES L'ADOPTION LE 20 SEPTEMBRE 1989 PAR L'ASSEMBLEE GENERALE DES NATIONS UNIES DE SA RESOLUTION 44/25 PORTANT CONVENTION RELATIVE AUX DROITS DE L'ENFANT.

LA REPUBLIQUE DU ZAIRE SOUSCRIT PLEINEMENT A TOUTES LES DISPOSITIONS DE LA CONVENTION RELATIVE AUX DROITS DE L'ENFANT ET S'ENGAGE A PREPARER L'ENFANT ZAIROIS A AVOIR UNE VIE INDIVIDUELLE DANS LA SOCIETE ET DE L'ELEVER DANS L'ESPRIT DES IDEAUX PROCLAMES DANS LA CHARTE DES NATIONS UNIES ET DANS LA DECLARATION UNIVERSELLE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME ET EN PARTICULIER DANS UN ESPRIT DE PAIX, DE SECURITE, DE DIGNITE, DE TOLERANCE, DE LIBERTE, D'EGALITE ET DE SOLIDARITE.

A CE PROPOS, IL ME PLAIT A SOULIGNER QUE LE GOUVERNEMENT DU ZAIRE TIENT A ASSURER A CHAQUE ENFANT DU ZAIRE, QU'EN RAISON DE SON MANQUE DE MATURETE PHYSIQUE ET INTELLECTUELLE, IL N'EPARGNERA AUCUN EFFORT ET CELA, DE CONCERT AVEC L'UNICEF ET LE CONCOURS EXTERIEUR REQUIS, POUR GARANTIR SA PROTECTION JURIDIQUE APPROPRIEE AVANT COMME APRES SA NAISSANCE ET VEILLER A L'EPANOUISSEMENT HARMONIEUX DE LA PERSONNALITE DE CHAQUE ENFANT, LEQUEL DOIT GRANDIR DANS LA FAMILLE, UNITE FONDAMENTALE DE LA SOCIETE, DANS UN CLIMAT DE BONHEUR, D'AMOUR ET DE COMPREHENSION.

J'EXPRIME LES SOUHAITS LES PLUS VIFS POUR QUE LE PRESENT SOMMET PUISSE ORIENTER NOS ACTIONS VERS L'AMELIORATION DES CONDITIONS DE VIE DES ENFANTS PAR UNE ASSISTANCE PLUS ACCRUE DONT ILS ONT BESOIN POUR POUVOIR JOUER PLEINEMENT LEUR ROLE DANS LA COMMUNAUTE.

PUISSE LA PRESENTE REUNION INTERNATIONALE DES CHEFS D'ETAT ET DE GOUVERNEMENT SCHELLER LES LIENS DE COOPERATION ET DE SOLIDARITE ENTRE NOS ETATS POUR LA REALISATION DE CES OBJECTIFS ENONCES DANS LA CONVENTION RELATIVE AUX DROITS DE L'ENFANT. QUE LA REPUBLIQUE DU ZAIRE VIENT DE RATIFIER, EN TANT QUE REALISATION NORMATIVE DE L'ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES DANS LE DOMAINE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME ET UNE CONTRIBUTION POSITIVE A L'EDUCATION, A LA PROTECTION DES DROITS DE L'ENFANT ET A SON BIEN-ETRE.

NEW YORK, LE 30 SEPTEMBRE 1990.

LE PREMIER MINISTRE DE LA REPUBLIQUE DU ZAIRE  
ET CHEF DE GOUVERNEMENT



LE PROFESSEUR LUNDA BULULU

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# ZAMBIA

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STATE HOUSE  
LUSAKA  
THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

MESSAGE TO THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN,  
29 - 30 SEPTEMBER, 1990

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I feel greatly honoured to be afforded the opportunity to say a few words on the plight of the world's children.

In the first place I wish to congratulate the United Nations General Assembly for deciding to hold The World Summit for Children, at which leaders from all over the world will meet to try and resolve some of the problems that children encounter today. This is a very noble and laudable task indeed. I also wish to congratulate the august Assembly for adopting and ratifying "The Convention on the Rights of the Child".

The World Summit comes at a time when many countries, particularly those in the Third World, are facing socio-economic problems which do not augur well for the future of the children. In many parts of the world children are dying from wars and other types of violence; they are dying from easily preventable and curable diseases due to lack of resources; they are the victims of the economic crisis and the massive debt burden of most developing countries today. Most of our heavily indebted governments have had to cut expenditure on social services in order to meet debt service obligations. This has had a negative impact on the health and education of our children. The situation is bound to deteriorate further as a result of the current oil crisis which has been sparked off by the Gulf crisis.

For those of us in Southern Africa, our children have suffered and continue to suffer unforetold misery and a multitude of other problems due to the persistence of apartheid in South Africa. Many children are losing their lives daily while others are losing parents in the senseless fighting which is going on in black Townships in Natal and Transvaal. Further north, many lives of children and their parents have been lost in South Africa's wars of destabilisation in Mozambique, Angola, Zimbabwe and Zambia.

Of equal concern is the holocaust that is taking place in Liberia. The Civil War in that country has reached uncontrollable dimensions. It is difficult to imagine the plight of the thousands of children that are being left homeless every hour of the day!

The Government of Zambia is doing its best and will continue to search for solutions which will bring peace to the Southern African region as well as other parts of Africa and the World as a whole. The future of our children will be assured only when there is peace in the entire globe. We in Zambia will also do our best to fulfil the objectives of "The Convention on the Rights of the Child".

However, national efforts alone cannot suffice to resolve the many problems of human survival and security which we face. We appeal to the international community to help to save the children in Africa and the Third World as a whole. There is urgent need to bring a quick end to apartheid in South Africa. Apartheid has murdered millions of children and their parents in Southern Africa. Apartheid can only crumble by intensifying international sanctions. We appeal to Western Governments to put the same emphasis on sanctions against South Africa as they have done in the current Gulf crisis.

The international community must act quickly to bring a speedy end to the war in Liberia in order to save the innocent lives, young and old, that are being lost everyday.

We implore the international community to seek peaceful solutions to end the crisis in the Gulf. Any attempt to solve the conflict by force would result in the loss of innocent lives far beyond the borders of Kuwait and Iraq. This would be contrary to the noble objectives of the World Summit for Children.

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Kenneth David Kaunda  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

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**ZIMBABWE**

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29th September, 1990

I, President R.G. Mugabe of the Republic of Zimbabwe in Southern Africa welcomes the holding of this historic world summit for children and endorses the urgent need for a "First Call For Children", after a clear analysis of the causes of deaths, ill-health, poverty and under-development in children.

The global levels of children's deaths are unacceptably too high and yet could be reduced through preventive measures. There is therefore need to improve child health through immunisation, health education, nutrition and provision of clean water and sanitation and education to mothers, thus reducing infant mortality rates and infant morbidity.

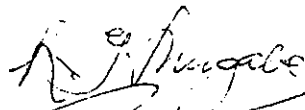
I now call upon my colleagues, other Heads of State/Government, to commit ourselves to:

- a) achieve total universal immunization coverage;
- b) reduction of deaths due to diarrhoea and acute respiratory infection;
- c) make health care services available to all through the primary health care strategy;
- d) ensure food self-sufficiency, especially at household level, to ensure good nutrition for both the mother and child;
- e) achieve universal access to safe drinking water and sanitary means of excreta disposal;
- f) achieve universal pre-school and primary education, and adult literacy with special emphasis on women;

- f) achieve universal pre-school and primary education, and adult literacy with special emphasis on women;
- g) urge industrialized nations to reduce expenditure on armaments and rechannel the resources to child related programmes in the developing countries;
- h) call on the developed countries to give debt relief to the developing countries and at the same time to create a favourable international trade environment for raw materials, facilitate the transfer of appropriate technology and reverse the trend of net transfer of resources from developing countries to developed countries;
- i) eliminate the suffering of children under especially difficult circumstances, for example children who are victims of apartheid and its destructive consequences in Southern Africa, foreign occupation and war;
- j) institute and implement legislation to enforce the UN convention of the rights of the child.

Through these measures there can only be a dramatic change in the lives of all children, thereby safeguarding the prospects of a bright and secure future.

I call upon you children of the world to be our partners in securing a better world through discipline, refraining from drugs and drug trafficking, alcohol abuse and applying yourselves diligently in cultural, educational, social and other developmental activities.



R.G. Mugabe

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE



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