



CF/RAD/USAA/DB01/1997-03331

Expanded Number **CF/RAD/USAA/DB01/1997-03331**

External ID **E/ICEF/1986/NGO/0003**

Title

**Children in especially difficult circumstances: Statement submitted to the 1986 UNICEF Executive Board by the International Council on Social Welfare: a world organization promoting social development**

Date Created / From Date

Date Registered

Date Closed / To Date

Primary Contact

Home Location **Off of Secy, ExecBoard, UNICEF NYHQ = 3024**

**4/14/1986**

**1/1/1997**

F13: Record Copy? **No**

Owner Location **Off of Secy, ExecBoard, UNICEF NYHQ = 3024**

Current Location/Assignee **Record & Archive Manage Related Functions=80669443 since 3/19/2001 at 1:56 PM**

F12: Status Certain? **No**

d01: In, Out, Internal Rec or Rec Copy

Contained Records  
Container

Date Published

Fd3: Doc Type - Format

Da1:Date First Published

Priority

Record Type **A04 DOC ITEM: E/ICEF 1946 TO 199**

Document Details **Record has no document attached.**

Notes

Document Format Series/Year/SubSeries/Number/Rev: **E/ICEF/1986/NGO/0003; Doc**

Series/SubSeries/Year/Number/Rev: **E/ICEF/NGO/1986/3**

Doc Series: **E/ICEF/NGO; Series Valid date on import: 01-Jan-1953; Doc Year: 1986; Doc Number: 0003; Doc**

Numb Short: **3; Doc Revision #:**

English, LAvail: **E.; LOrig: E-?**

Document Alternate Media Store [AMS]: **006; Type AMS: MF**

Note PDF or TIF: **Chk\_PDF: No; Chk\_PDF\_Prob: No; Comment: ; Chk\_TIF: No; Chk\_TIF\_prob: No; TIF ID# Start = ; TIF ID# end =**

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**Economic and Social Council**

Distr.:  
GENERAL

E/ICEF/1986/NGO/3  
14 April 1986

ENGLISH ONLY

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND  
Executive Board  
1986 session

FOR INFORMATION

**CHILDREN IN ESPECIALLY DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES**

Statement submitted to the 1986 UNICEF Executive Board  
by the International Council on Social Welfare:  
A world organization promoting social development

1. The International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW), an international non-governmental organization (NGO) in consultative status with UNICEF and in category I of NGOs in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, is an agency active in social welfare and social development. Its membership consists of approximately 80 National Committees for UNICEF and national councils, the majority in developing countries. These member agencies work closely with governmental agencies and with non-governmental groups. Its activities encompass policy formulation and consultation on programme planning, as well as stimulating and organizing activities at various levels, including at the grass-roots level. It organizes regional seminars and holds a world-wide conference on social welfare and social development biennially.
2. ICSW expresses its appreciation of the special interest and concern exhibited by UNICEF in the report on "Children in especially difficult circumstances" (E/ICEF/1986/L.3).
3. The three annexes, "Children in situations of armed conflict" (E/ICEF/1986/CRP.2), "Exploitation of working children and street children" (E/ICEF/1986/CRP.3) and "Child abuse and neglect in a global perspective" (E/ICEF/1986/CRP.4), point out clearly and impressively that money alone is not sufficient to solve the problems with which these excellent documents deal.
4. While these grave situations have existed in the past, lately they have increased dramatically. Only relatively recently have they been brought into focus and to people's attention. In order to alleviate these problems, it is necessary, as pointed out in the documentation submitted to the UNICEF Executive Board, that co-operation be initiated and strengthened between UNICEF and governmental and non-governmental agencies at the international, regional and local level.

5. NGOs are agencies that relate most closely to grass-root level activities. ICSW is one of those organizations, dealing extensively with social policy and social action. It is particularly qualified to be involved in questions concerning women and children. Through its National Committees for UNICEF and national councils and their membership, ICSW is experienced in reaching those sectors of the population that are disadvantaged, often forgotten by governmental organs and frequently hard to reach.

6. Since the beginning of UNICEF's relationship with NGOs in 1949, ICSW has enjoyed a consultative status. Over more than 30 years, ICSW has been called upon for consultation and co-operation in questions of child and family welfare. Our relationship with UNICEF is close and regarded as both constructive and successful.

7. ICSW is in a position to assist those who are promoting the welfare of children and families. Its member agencies are experienced in developing new programmes, in increasing the capacity of social welfare services and in strengthening the welfare and social development structure. ICSW has the knowledge and the experience to interest and involve different groups in advocacy projects and in co-ordinating activities, thus avoiding overlapping of forces and duplication of efforts.

8. ICSW stands ready to co-operate and assist in endeavours on behalf of children in especially difficult circumstances.

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