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Draft Summary of Decision & Actions. [Archives CF/NYH/OED/DIR - 1995 - Folder: S0002.]

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EDWIN RAMIREZ

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World Summit for Children

DRAFT

1st Meeting OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE for the WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN

New York - 12 January 1990

Draft Summary of Decisions & Actions

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction by H.E. Mr. L. Yves Fortier (Chairman), on behalf of the six Personal Representatives of the Initiating Heads of State or Government of Canada, Egypt, Mali, Mexico, Pakistan and Sweden

On behalf of the Personal Representatives of the six Initiating Heads of State or Government, H.E. Mr. L. Yves Fortier (Canada) welcomed the representatives participating in this first meeting of the expanded Planning Committee for the World Summit for Children, and presented an overview of the work which had led to the constituting of the Planning Committee. Ambassador Fortier noted the strong personal commitment of the six Initiating Presidents and Prime Ministers to the proposition of the first-ever global summit, the purpose of which is to significantly improve the situation of children throughout the world.

Ambassador Fortier explained that he had been asked to serve as chairman for this phase of the process due to his dual role as the only Personal Representative of an Initiator who is also a Permanent Representative to the United Nations. He also explained that it had been the practice of the Initiators to rotate the chairmanship among themselves in their previous meetings, and they proposed that this practice should continue.

The Chairman reminded the Planning Committee members that the Committee is not a United Nations body, but is an independent, ad hoc group. He also explained that all members should be regarded as equal participants, regardless of when they have joined the Committee.

The Planning Committee accepted the draft Agenda for the meeting which had been circulated in advance. [ATTACHMENT I]

The Chairman reported that he had recently met with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who expressed satisfaction with progress toward a Summit for Children, particularly including the endorsement of this initiative by the Executive Board of UNICEF. The Secretary-General confirmed that he looked forward to issuing invitations to Heads of State or Government as soon as the remaining details had been settled, and that he was prepared to personally contact Heads to encourage their participation.

The Chairman informed the Committee of the request of representatives of Italy and Netherlands to participate in the Planning Committee. The Chairman proposed that the representatives attend as observers at this time.

The Planning Committee agreed that the representatives of Italy and Netherlands were welcome to be present as observers.

1.2 Introductions of Personal Representatives and other representatives of participating Governments

The participants in the first meeting of the Planning Committee introduced themselves. [ATTACHMENT II]

The Chairman introduced the principal members of the Secretariat for the World Summit for Children: Mr. James P. Grant, Executive Director of UNICEF; Mr. Michael Shower, Counsellor to the Executive Director and Executive Secretary for the Summit; and Mr. Djibril Diallo, Special Assistant to the Executive Director.

2. ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Chairman called attention to two documents: (1) the 13 November 1989 Statement of Agreement of the six Initiating Governments (as reported in E/ICEF/1989/15) [ATTACHMENT III]; and (2) the Resolution of the UNICEF Executive Board adopted on 22 December 1989 [ATTACHMENT IV]. The Chairman particularly drew attention to the references in these documents to the establishment and role of the Planning Committee.

2.1 Membership

The Chairman reported that the Governments of Bangladesh and Nigeria, in addition to Italy and the Netherlands, had indicated interest in participating in the Planning Committee. He also noted the encouragement of the UNICEF Executive Board that the Planning Committee be further expanded, in view of the strong interest of Governments.

The Chairman proposed, on behalf of the Initiators, that membership in the Planning Committee should be open to any Member State of the United Nations or

its Specialized Agencies which communicates a strong interest to the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund. The Executive Director, following the procedure applied to the six Initiators and the first additional (twelve) members of the Planning Committee, will address a letter to the Head of State or Government inviting the Head to designate a high-level Personal Representative to participate in the Planning Committee. Upon receipt of a written response designating a personal Representative, the Government will be regarded as a full participating member of the Planning Committee. Until the above procedure is completed, such Governments may attend as observers.

The Planning Committee agreed to the proposal on additional membership.

2.2 Chairmanship

The Chairman proposed, on behalf of the Initiators, that the chairmanship of the Planning Committee should rotate among the Initiators, who also proposed that Minister Javed Jabbar (Pakistan) should chair the second meeting and preparations leading to it. The Chairman also noted that UNICEF Executive Board Resolution recognized the continuing leadership role which the six Initiators would play, and proposed that the Initiators should seek to facilitate the work of the Planning Committee on an on-going basis.

The Planning Committee agreed to the proposal on the chairmanship and the continuing role of the six Initiators.

2.3 Terms of Reference

The Chairman proposed, on behalf of the Initiators, that the Statement of Agreement of the six Initiating Governments (Geneva, November 1989) [ATTACHMENT III] and the UNICEF Executive Board Resolution [ATTACHMENT IV] should jointly constitute the terms of reference of the Planning Committee.

The Planning Committee agreed to the proposal on terms of reference.

2.4 Schedule/Workplan

The Chairman noted the expectation that the Planning Committee should share its plans and draft substantive document(s) with the UNICEF Executive Board for its 1990 regular session (16-27 April), and that this necessitated that the next meeting of the Planning Committee - whose purpose would be to develop such plans and draft documents - should occur sufficiently early to allow subsequent circulation of documents to the members of the Executive Board for review by their authorities.

The representative of the United States expressed concern over the proposed issuance of invitations for the Summit (and public announcement of the Summit) prior to agreement by the Planning Committee on such issues as the agenda for the Summit, and the content of the proposed Declaration.

The Chairman commented that it is necessary to announce the Summit so that Heads of State or Government may begin to plan tentatively to attend, and to encourage Governments and others to begin serious engagement in the preparatory process.

Following consultations, the Planning Committee agreed that its 2nd meeting should be held on Monday, 19 March 1990, in New York.

3. PREPARATORY ISSUES

3.1 Dates of the Summit

The Chairman reviewed the many considerations which had been taken into account over past several months in extensive consultations regarding the date for the Summit. He particularly noted the concerns expressed by members of the UNICEF Executive Board that the Summit should not unduly disrupt the normal process of the United Nations General Assembly. Reflecting these concerns, he presented a proposal of the Initiators that the dates for the Summit be established as Saturday evening, 29 September, Sunday, 30 September, and Monday morning, 1 October 1990.

Following an extended discussion, with interventions by the representatives of Canada, China, Egypt, France, India, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, Pakistan, United Kingdom, USSR and Venezuela, as well as by the UNICEF Executive Director, it was agreed to defer decision on the dates pending consultations with respective Governments. Members will consider the following four potential Summit dates identified during discussion:

1. 20-21 September 1990 (Thursday and Friday)
2. 24-25 September 1990 (Monday and Tuesday)
3. 26-27 September 1990 (Wednesday afternoon and Thursday)
4. 26-27 September and 1 October 1990 (Saturday evening into Monday morning)

It was agreed that Governments' reactions, indicating whether each date is "preferred", "acceptable" or "impossible", should be communicated to the Secretariat by 24 January 1990.

The Planning Committee discussed three criteria to be considered in determining Summit dates: the dates should be likely to attract the most heads of State or Government; should not result in substantial additional costs; and should not significantly disrupt the General Debate of the General Assembly. In addition, the Planning Committee noted that four of the six Initiating Heads could not attend the Summit if it were held earlier than 25 September.

Question was also raised as to the financial implications of a weekend meeting, with concern expressed that substantial additional costs should not be incurred. The Secretariat consulted with United Nations authorities, and reported an estimate of weekend overtime costs totalling some US\$25,000 to \$50,000.

The Planning Committee agreed, as specified in the UNICEF Executive Board Resolution, that on the basis of Governments' reactions, the Executive Director, in consultation with the Secretary-General, should determine the dates for the Summit.

3.2 Public Announcement.

The Chairman suggested that, as soon as the date for the Summit is determined, public announcement of the call for the World Summit for Children should be made at a press conference in the presence of the Permanent Representatives of all Members of the Planning Committee, and with the Secretary-General welcoming the initiative and announcing that he is issuing the invitations on that day.

It was also suggested that Governments of members of the Planning Committee might issue simultaneous press statements in their capitals welcoming the Summit initiative. The "Statement on the Call for a World Summit for Children" is recommended as a basis for common information.

3.3 Issuance of Invitations by the Secretary-General.

The Chairman introduced the proposed letter of invitation to be addressed by the Secretary-General [ATTACHMENT V] to Heads of State or Government. He explained that this text had been carefully prepared by the Initiators and Secretariat in consultation with several Governments and the Office of the Secretary-General, and that the Secretary-General had personally agreed to the text.

The representative of Japan requested clarification of the legal basis for the Secretary-General issuing an invitation for the Summit. The Chairman replied that the United Nations Legal Counsel had been involved in the Secretary-General's consultations on the Summit initiative, and the authority of the Secretary-General to employ his "good offices" in this matter was confirmed.

Members of the Planning Committee offered comments on the draft letter of invitation. The representative of France suggested the inclusion of additional problems affecting children, such as refugees concerns, sexual exploitation, literacy, in the reference to critical global problems (paragraph 4).

The representative of the United Kingdom suggested several changes, including: Paragraph 1, sentence 2 to read "...to enhance political commitment for the benefit of children, nationally and internationally and to hold out prospect of a better life for them"; Paragraph 2, sentence 1 to read "...the survival, protection and advancement of children whose well being is crucial to the socio-economic and development of all countries"; Paragraph 4 to read as general as possible so as not to complicate the letter or add

controversy; Paragraph 8 to read "...under the guidance of the Initiators, Planning Committee and the UNICEF Executive Board"; Paragraph 9 to read "The Initiators, with the support of the UNICEF Executive Board,...".

The Chairman took note of these comments and proposed that they should be incorporated as much as possible, while noting that the present text was the product of careful preparation by the Initiators and Secretariat in consultation with other Governments and the Secretary-General's office.

3.4 Format and leadership of the Summit

The Chairman proposed, on behalf of the Initiators, that there should be two co-chairs of the Summit - one from "the South" and one from "the North". He further proposed that the Initiators will report to the Planning Committee by its second meeting their nominations of the two co-chairs.

The Planning Committee agreed to the proposal on co-chairs for the Summit.

3.5 Agenda of the Summit

The Chairman opened a general discussion of the agenda for the Summit and referred to the suggestion in the Statement of Agreement of the Initiators (ATTACHMENT III).

Members of the Planning Committee noted their desire that the discussion by the Heads of State and Government be substantive and productive. The representative of Pakistan noted that the plan suggested by the Initiators might include representative statements by regional representatives among the Heads.

The UNICEF Executive Director suggested that it is difficult to determine an exact format and plan until there is an idea of how many Heads will be participating, which is not likely to be clear until late spring, but that the plan indicated in the Statement of Agreement confirmed that sufficient variables exist to enable an effective format. He therefore suggested that Governments should consider the range of possibilities from their own experience in other summit-level meetings, but should not attempt to determine a plan until a later meeting of the Planning Committee.

The Planning Committee agreed to the suggestion to defer decisions on the format of the Summit.

3.6 Preservation of the Head of State/Government format

The Chairman noted the intention and expectation of the six Initiating Heads of State or Government that the Summit is to be a meeting of Heads of State or Government, and not an inter-governmental conference.

The Planning Committee agreed that the Summit is intended for Heads of State or Government.

3.7 Consultations with United Nations agencies and other parties.

The Chairman noted the request of the UNICEF Executive Board, in its Resolution, that the UNICEF Executive Director should invite relevant interested United Nations agencies and bodies to contribute to the preparatory process for the Summit.

The Planning Committee endorsed this request to seek the advice, opinion and counsel of various United Nations agencies and bodies.

The UNICEF Executive Director reported that he had already approached the Executive Heads of several agencies, and anticipated ensuring discussion of the Summit in such inter-agency mechanisms as the meeting of Senior Officials, the Administrative Committee on Coordination, as well as through bilateral contacts with individual agencies. He also noted the cooperative initiative of the World Conference on Education for All, which would produce a common declaration and framework for action that should contribute to the Summit preparations, and also that agencies normally participate in the UNICEF Executive Board session which will review preparations for the Summit.

4. WORLD DECLARATION ON THE SURVIVAL, PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN IN THE 1990s

4.1 Nature of the Document

The Planning Committee discussed the nature of the World Declaration which is to be the principal product of the Summit. The UNICEF Executive Director called the Planning Committee's attention to the UNICEF Executive Board report on Strategies for Children in the 1990s and the Report on The State of the World's Children, 1990, and suggested that these would be useful common references for Governments.

The representative of France suggested that the discussion at the Summit need not be confined only to those issues included in a draft Declaration. The representatives of the United Kingdom, Egypt and Venezuela commented that the World Declaration must attract worldwide attention and support, and therefore should contain practical, worthwhile, realistic and strategic targets that are attainable. The representative of the United Kingdom commended the usefulness of the UNICEF Board document Strategies for Children in the 1990s as the substantive framework for the Summit.

The representative of Venezuela mentioned the World Declaration should be more specific than the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and should address directly the survival and protection of children. Venezuela also suggested that the World Declaration be brief and accessible to the public.

4.2 Procedure for Preparation

The Chairman proposed that members of the Planning Committee should submit to the Secretariat, by 9 February, written informal notes suggesting ideas and themes for a World Declaration. United Nation agencies should also be invited to follow this process. After 9 February, the Secretariat should begin to draft the World Declaration or a thematic paper, which should be circulated in preliminary draft form to members of the Planning Committee by end-February. The draft document, as refined at the 2nd Planning Committee meeting in March, will then be circulated to members of the UNICEF Executive Board for consideration at its April session.

The Planning Committee agreed to the proposal on the submission of suggestions and preparation of a document on the themes for the Summit.

5. RELATIONSHIP WITH UNICEF AND THE UNICEF EXECUTIVE BOARD

5.1 Secretariat

The Chairman referred the Planning Committee to the 11 January 1990 memorandum from the Executive Director of UNICEF regarding Secretariat support [ATTACHMENT VI].

The UNICEF Executive Director noted that the World Summit for Children presents UNICEF with the most important opportunity in many years for strengthening attention to the needs of children, and securing a firm place for children on national political agendas. While specific work on the Summit will be undertaken by those staff particularly assigned to it under the Summit budgets, he emphasized that all of UNICEF and its allies would work hard to make the most of this opportunity for the benefit of children.

5.2 Budget Estimates

The Executive Director reported that Revised Budget Estimates for the Summit Meeting were now being prepared in accordance with the UNICEF Executive Board Resolution, and would be submitted to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) for its advice prior to consideration by the Executive Board in April. He explained that members of the Planning Committee could likewise comment on the Budget Estimates at the March meeting of the Committee, and that these comments would be taken into consideration by the Executive Board. The Executive Director noted that Summit-related Mobilization Activities is a UNICEF programme, and therefore the Budget Estimates for those Activities are the concern of the Executive Board.

The Executive Secretary for the Summit noted that the Budget Estimates are being prepared to reflect assumed costs, based on the current range of possibilities under consideration for the schedule and format of the Summit.

The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics suggested that Governments may wish to identify where contributions should be directed regarding the two Summit budgets (ie, including the Mobilization Activities). He also encouraged a budget of "maximum economy".

5.3 Financing through voluntary contributions

The Chairman referred the Planning Committee to the document entitled "Pledges as of 11 January 1990" [ATTACHMENT VII].

The representative of Mexico announced that in response to the UNICEF Executive Board's appeal, and reflecting the strongly supportive role of the President of Mexico, the Government of Mexico pledged US\$75,000 for the Summit Meeting budget.

The Chairman thanked the representative of Mexico for the pledge of his Government.

The Executive Director thanked the representative of Mexico and all those who have made pledges in support of the World Summit. The Executive Director encouraged that contributions in support of the World Summit and Summit-related Mobilization should be announced before the April 1990 UNICEF Executive Board meeting.

5.4 Related Mobilizations Activities

The UNICEF Executive Director reported that many non-governmental organizations and UNICEF National Committees anticipated a wide range of mobilization activities in relation to the Summit. He mentioned that the executive officers of UNICEF National Committees, their Information Officers, and UNICEF's Regional Information Officers, would be meeting in Geneva on 23-26 January to begin coordinated planning of their activities. He referred members of the Planning Committee to the Report and Recommendations of the Executive Director for an overview of the anticipated Mobilization programme.

ATTACHMENTS:

- I: draft Agenda for the 1st meeting of the Planning Committee
- II: List of participants in the 1st meeting of the Planning Committee
- III: Statement of Agreement of the six Initiating Governments on the World Summit for Children (contained in the Report and Recommendations of the Executive Director to the UNICEF Executive Board (E/ICEF/1989/15))
- IV: Resolution of the UNICEF Executive Board of 22 December 1989
- V: draft letter of invitation from the Secretary-General to Heads of State or Government
- VI: 11 January 1990 memorandum from the UNICEF Executive Director on Secretariat Support for the World Summit for Children
- VII: Pledges as of 11 January 1990