



CF/RAI/NYHQ/SP/SSC/2001-00772

Full Item Register Number [auto] **CF/RAI/NYHQ/SP/SSC/2001-00772**

Ext Ref: Doc Series/Year/Number **SP/SSC/WSC-003**

Record Item Title

**Statement by the Secretary-General of the United Nations (1990: 8 February);  
 Announcement that a World Summit for Children will be held at United Nations  
 Headquarters in New York on 29 and 30 September 1990.**

Date Created / on Correspondence  
 12/26/2001

Date Registered  
 12/26/2001

Date Closed

Primary Contact **Rijuta Tooker (Temp Assist)**  
 Owner Location **Special Session & Global Movement For Chil =**  
 Home Location **Special Session & Global Movement For Chil =**  
 Current Location **Special Session & Global Movement For Chil =**

Fd1: Type: IN, OUT, INTERNAL  
 Fd2: Sender Ref or Cross Ref  
 Field 3

File Container Record ID  
 File Container Record (Title)

**CF/RAF/USAA/DB01/2001-06651**  
**Secretary-General: statements, GA Resolutions, correspondence (WSC)**

N1: Number of pages  
 0

N2: Doc Year  
 0

N3: Document Number  
 0

Full GCG Code Plan Number  
 Record GCG File Plan

Da1: Date Published

Da2: Date Received

Date 3

Priority

Record Type **A01ed Item Corr - CF/RAI/NYHQ/SP/SSC**

Electronic Details

No Document

DOS File Name

Alt Bar code = RAMP-TRIM Record Number

**CF/RAI/NYHQ/SP/SSC/2001-00772**

Notes

Javier Perez de Cuellar [Copy provided by Ambassador Anwarul Chowdhury for archives.]

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**EDWIN RAMIREZ**

**5**

**Statement by the Secretary-General  
announcing the World Summit for Children**

**11.30 a.m., Thursday, 8 February 1990**

**Your Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

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

**Six heads of state -  
Prime Minister Brian Mulroney of Canada,  
President Mohamed Hosni Mubarak of Egypt,  
President Moussa Traoré of Mali,  
President Carlos Salinas de Gortari of Mexico,  
Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan  
and Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson of Sweden -  
have taken the initiative of calling for this  
extraordinary meeting of Heads of State or  
Government of all countries.**

**Their proposal was endorsed by the UNICEF Executive Board at a special session in late December.**

**The United Nations stands ready to assist the six Initiating Governments and UNICEF will provide secretariat support.**

**I am today issuing invitations for this historic meeting.**

**The purpose of the World Summit for Children is to bring attention and promote commitment, at the highest political level, to goals and strategies for ensuring the survival, protection and development of children as key elements in the socio-economic development of human society.**

**It is intended to stimulate new initiatives throughout the world.**

**The Initiators expect that the meeting will result in a Declaration of commitment to achieving these goals in the 1990s. It is hoped that the Summit will also accelerate ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which was adopted by the General Assembly last November.**

**The idea of a summit for children first emerged in late 1988. I welcomed it then, and am very pleased that it has attracted increasing support . Over 100 Governments have expressed encouragement, as have several regional summit meetings, including those of the francophone countries, the Organization for African Unity, the Non-Aligned Movement, and the Commonwealth nations. I myself participated in the OAU and Non-Aligned Movement summits when they considered the issues of child survival and development, and know that world leaders believe that significant improvements can be made in the situation of children, provided that sufficient political will is mobilized.**

**This has been convincingly demonstrated in the past decade, as nations and the international community have applied low-cost techniques and the benefits of social organization and modern technology in the approaches known as the "Child Survival and Development Revolution".**

**They have been able to dramatically reduce child mortality and morbidity, despite severely adverse economic conditions.**

**That progress must now be extended and expanded to reach every child.**

**In calling for a Summit, the Initiators recognize that it is not simply the fact of holding a meeting that will make the difference in the lives of children. Such a meeting can stimulate commitment, help to convey understanding and awareness, and encourage all sectors of society to be involved in addressing children's needs. I fully share the Initiators' belief that, as we prepare for this historic Summit, people everywhere should consider how they can contribute to improving the survival, protection and development of children. Important work in this field can be done in particular, by international and non-governmental organizations, the media and professional associations, community organizations and public leaders, and government authorities.**

**Responsibility for organizing the World Summit for Children is now in the hands of a Planning Committee consisting of the Personal Representatives of the Heads of State or Government of some 22 countries. They are supported in their work by the UNICEF Secretariat, under Executive Director James P. Grant. The six Initiating Governments will continue to offer leadership in this process.**

**I will now leave it to His Excellency Mr. Yves Fortier, Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations and the Personal Representative of Prime Minister Mulroney on the World Summit for Children, to elaborate on this initiative from the perspective of the Initiators, and to answer any questions you may have.**