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**CEE/CIS and Baltics comments and suggestions - Reference Book: Preparatory & Reference Documentation on the World Summit for Children (1990: July); Special Session for Children**

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Notes

[Archives: CF/NYH/SP/SUM; Folder: S0355.] Contents: Section 1: Members of the Planning Committee - Schedule of (remaining) meetings and activities; Section 2: Schedule and Programme of the World Summit for Children; Section 3: Draft Declaration of the World Summit for Children - Draft Plan of Action; Section 4: Report of Meetings: - 1st, 2nd, 3rd Meetings of the Planning Committee - Meetings of the Working Group on Format - ~~Meetings of the Working Group on the Declaration - Statement of Agreement of the six Initiating Governments -~~

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## **"A GLOBAL AGENDA FOR CHILDREN BEYOND YEAR 2000"**

### **COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM THE COUNTRY OFFICES AND THE REGIONAL OFFICE IN THE CEE/CIS AND THE BALTICS REGION**

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By request of UNICEF Executive Director (23 March 1998), discussions on initial paper "A Global Agenda for Children Beyond Year 2000" have been initiated both at the field and regional levels. Useful contributions have been obtained from UNICEF offices in Romania, Croatia and Moldova. Regional office professional staff meeting also resulted in several suggestions. In general, the paper has been well accepted and considered as a straightforward conceptual framework for future UNICEF actions. Comments and suggestions on the paper may be summarized as follows.

#### **1. GENERAL:**

- An important point is made under the Global Agenda assets that more attention should be given (1) to priority themes that have to be addressed by the world community - all partners together - and not just by UNICEF, and (2) to effective cooperation structures between major partners concerned: state and government institutions, civil society, UN and other international agencies, including UNICEF. Joint commitments and actions are called for.
- It is now important to work out how agencies like WB, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, WHO, WFP, FAO and others concerned are involved in the Global Agenda preparation and their ideas and commitments together with the specific proposals on priorities, linkages and cooperation schemes are considered (UNDAF is obviously one way).
- UNICEF's role and functions as a leading world agency for children have been highlighted, however they could be further justified and worked in more detail.
- Clear linkages should be established between the global challenges that remain (pp. 2-3), the challenges of global trends (what we have now is a repetition of remaining challenges), and new/emerging challenges. These last group of challenges - the most important when planning for a new agenda - is not very visible in this document.
- There does not seem to be a tight fit between the "global challenges that remain" and the priority themes for UNICEF.
- We should be talking not just about challenges (that remain or new) but also about new opportunities provided by new technologies, new communication means, new partnerships and networks, consensus ethical framework of the CRC, etc. More attention should be given to "lessons learned" from past experience as well as to monitoring and evaluation.
- The agenda should be more specific on mass media/communication strategy and resource mobilization strategy.

#### **2. CONDITIONS AND TRENDS OF THE REGION:**

- Some challenges as well as priorities are region-specific. We would suggest considering formulating in brief the regional priorities, regional agendas and key issues that have to be addressed under specific regional and country circumstances - e.g. countries in transition (not just CEE/CIS but also several countries of Latin America, South East Asia), LDCs, emergency countries, etc.

#### **3. PRIORITIES FOR THE CEE/CIS:**

- Social policy and legal reform - protecting the rights of youth, juvenile justice, children and youth in conflict with the law; working children; street children and youth; children of minority groups; adolescents at risk of drug abuse and HIV/AIDS; children affected by war.
- Supporting system reforms from the bottom-up: technical support in capacity-building of government institutions and NGOs; empowerment of civil society.
- Early childhood development: identifying ECCD innovations; disseminating information to parents, community leaders and policy makers.
- Country specific approach: clustering of common concerns - safeguard practical achievements of the past building on existing strengths. Groupings: support to social sector service delivery, public policy and system reform, strengthening of civil society and public institutions, and emergencies.
- Coordination, cooperation and cost-effectiveness in assessing more accurately the needs and rights of children and women, and service delivery where urgently required. Reach children and women with specific urgent services (e.g. immunization, maternal and child health, universal iodization of salt, acute respiratory infections and diarrhoeal diseases, iron deficiency anaemia and breast-feeding). Integrated approach (health-nutrition-sanitation), HIV/AIDS.
- Mobilization and empowerment: empowerment of children, adolescents and women; empowerment of families.
- Emergencies: fostering early recovery and stabilization, improving prevention, early warning and preparedness activities.
- Monitoring and evaluation: TRANSMONEE system, support the production of national reports, situation analyses, evaluations and studies.

#### **4. PRIORITY THEMES FOR UNICEF'S ADVOCACY AND ACTION:**

- The future agenda and priority themes are different from the current in terms of priorities and of emphasis. It is not a question of fear of the "new" but rather responsibility for commitments already made with children both on the global and country levels. This raises a question - do we envisage further shift in service delivery/capacity building/empowerment/advocacy balance?
- How does the new conceptual/thematic division that is introduced relate to the four major areas as approved by the WSC Declaration/Plan of Action - survival, development, protection and participation? How do they relate to the four CRC "foundation" principles: non-discrimination, best interests of the child, rights to life, survival and development, views of the child?
- The overall rights-based approach, including learning more about rights-based situation analysis, cross-sectoral and integrated approach should be highlighted and elaborated on.
- Are the seven priority themes listed in the agenda are the UNICEF only priorities? From UNICEF experience in the CEE/CIS, issues like "reforming child protection systems", disabled children, parent education, "new" illnesses like cancer/tuberculosis, emphasis on rural/urban disparities are emerging.
- Violence: child abuse is not only exploitation or sexual abuse, can also be ethnic discrimination.

- Women's issues should be presented in a broader sense. Gender equity - not just girls, in some countries situation of boys compare to girls is also a problem.
- Marginalized groups - to be added: UNICEF special attention to reaching the most marginalized, CEDC, etc.
- We do feel that among the many issues which need to be discussed, two of the most important at this time are early child care and development, and adolescents. The latter should increasingly be seen as an integral part of UNICEF. In countries in transition a special emphasis is being put on this group. Somehow we need to consider an emergency programme of communication with this group. Youth empowerment measures should be included: access to information for adolescents.
- We would prefer to see some of the currently proposed priority themes as crosscutting concerns (e.g. gender, children participation) even if cross-sectoral implementation is very difficult to put in practice.
- The paper implies that there must be more integration of activities between "standard UNICEF programmes". The biggest challenge is to create this integration in an existing internal structure, which at time still discourages integration. Another option would be to expand number of priorities in order to satisfy more broadly sectoral and/or regional concerns.
- The core values of education should be considered: tolerance, equity and democracy. We would like to see, in addition to what is presented, UNICEF playing a major role in "education for peace". "Learning achievement" should include trauma healing, tolerance building, peaceful conflict resolution, mine awareness education (at least for certain countries), environmental care education or more general: country specific relevant education subject areas.
- Spreading different aspects of health among almost all priority themes was considered as risk of loosing health specific focus in benefit of having small pieces everywhere. Current focus on child and women health allows UNICEF to have coherent strategy implemented with other partners. A new "triangle for action": child - women - adolescent may be proposed.

May 12, 1998

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