

**SPECIAL SESSION ON CHILDREN**  
8 – 10 May 2002

**QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

(as of 10 April 2002)

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**1. OBJECTIVES OF THE SPECIAL SESSION**

***What is the Special Session on Children?***

The Special Session is a unique meeting of the United Nations General Assembly, dedicated to children and adolescents. From 8 to 10 May 2002, world leaders, NGOs, children's advocates and children themselves will gather in New York to chart a course for the future well-being of every child.

More than 70 Heads of State or Government have indicated they will attend. Around 1,000 NGOs will also be in New York as well as hundreds of children and young people. UNICEF serves as substantive secretariat of the Special Session.

***What does the Special Session on Children hope to accomplish?***

The General Assembly has defined two objectives for the Special Session:

- A review of the achievements in the implementation of the Declaration and Plan of Action adopted at the 1990 World Summit for Children
- A renewed commitment and a pledge for action for children in the next decade

***Who will attend the Special Session in New York?***

- Government delegates accredited through their missions to the UN in New York.
- NGOs approved for accreditation by the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session. These NGOs have consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (see list at [www.un.org](http://www.un.org)) or have a collaborative relationship with UNICEF (see list at [www.unicef.org/specialsession/ngo/index.html](http://www.unicef.org/specialsession/ngo/index.html)). The approval process is closed for new NGOs. For registration procedures of accredited NGOs, see section 4 below.

- Children and young people under the age of 18, who are members of government or NGO delegations. Each delegation takes responsibility for selecting these children and young people.
- Accredited media representatives (through the UN Department of Public Information). For full details and application forms, visit [www.unicef.org/specialsession/press/credentials.htm](http://www.unicef.org/specialsession/press/credentials.htm).

***If I cannot attend the meeting in New York, how can I follow the proceedings of the Special Session?***

The UNICEF web site ([www.unicef.org/specialsession](http://www.unicef.org/specialsession)) will be updated daily with coverage of the Special Session and the UN web site ([www.un.org](http://www.un.org)) will carry webcast transmissions of the proceedings. A summary of the outcome of the official and supporting events will be disseminated shortly after the Special Session through printed publications and the UNICEF web site.

***What are the key documents?***

Two documents relate directly to the two objectives of the Special Session:

- The report of the UN Secretary-General, "We the Children", reviews the progress made over the last decade in fulfilling the goals of the Declaration and Plan of Action adopted at the 1990 World Summit for Children. The report assesses the decade's achievements and its setbacks, highlights best practices and lessons learned, describes the obstacles to progress and makes recommendations for further action. An accompanying statistical review presents the most recent data on children's rights and well-being, based on exhaustive data from 150 countries.
- The outcome document of the Special Session, "A World Fit for Children", includes a Declaration and a Plan of Action to improve child well-being over the next ten years. The Plan of Action addresses four major areas (health, education, protection and HIV/AIDS) and makes provisions for mobilizing resources and monitor implementation. The Preparatory Committee for the Special Session asked its Bureau to prepare a draft of this document, with the support of UNICEF. The draft was revised at the Second and Third Substantive Sessions of the Preparatory Committee (January and June 2001) and in informal consultations. Agreement has been reached on most of the text and further informal consultations will take place from 29 April to 2 May to finalize a draft for adoption at the Special Session.

***Where can I find these documents?***

The report of the Secretary General (document A/S-27/3 of 4 June 2001) and the draft outcome document (reflecting agreed text as of 10 September 2001) are posted in all UN official languages at the UNICEF web site ([www.unicef.org/specialsession/documentation/index.html](http://www.unicef.org/specialsession/documentation/index.html)). Hard copies of both documents are available at UNICEF headquarters (UNICEF House, Room 222-2, Three United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017).

## **2. OFFICIAL PROGRAMME**

### ***What is the Official Programme of the Special Session?***

The President of the General Assembly – Dr. Han Seung-Soo of the Republic of Korea – will preside over the Special Session. The official programme will divide into the following three settings, as per the attached the Organization of Work (see [www.unicef.org/specialsession/activities/index.html](http://www.unicef.org/specialsession/activities/index.html)):

- **Debate (General Assembly Hall):**

This will include statements in Plenary by:

- Member States
- General Assembly observers
- Heads of UN entities
- A limited number of NGOs

The UN Secretariat is responsible for the list of speakers, which has been determined by drawing lots.

- **Ad hoc Committee of the Whole (Conference Room 2)**

The Bureau for the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session is also the Bureau of the Ad hoc Committee of the Whole. It is chaired by Ambassador Patricia Durrant of Jamaica. Speakers in this Committee might include entities of the UN system (if not represented by their heads in Plenary) and a selected number of NGOs.

- **Round tables (ECOSOC Chamber, tbc)**

There will be three separate round tables that will address the overarching theme “Renewal of commitment and future action for children in the next decade”. Each round table will be co-chaired by two Heads of State or Government from countries representing the five regional groups of the United Nations, plus the President of the Republic of Korea, as follows:

- Roundtable 1, Mongolia and Romania
- Roundtable 2, Finland and Mexico
- Roundtable 3, Republic of Korea and Zambia

Each round table will have a maximum of 71 participants, 66 heads of delegations of Member States and 5 representing GA observers and entities of the UN system. Each head of delegation can be accompanied by two advisors. Two children will deliver an opening address in each round table. The President of the General Assembly and the co-chairs decide on specific arrangements for the management of the round tables. Further details are available in the [Note on round tables](#) (UN document A/56/CRP.3 of 4 February 2002).

### **3. SUPPORTING EVENTS**

#### ***What supporting events are being planned?***

Many supporting events will take place during the Special Session, organized by governments, UN entities and NGOs. These events are organized around the major themes of the outcome document (health, education, child protection and HIV/AIDS) and special constituencies (e.g. parliamentarians, religious leaders, ombudspersons, mayors and youth organisations). A framework and a list of supporting events are available at the UNICEF web site ([www.unicef.org/specialsession/activities/index.html](http://www.unicef.org/specialsession/activities/index.html)). Due to time and space limitations, no further supporting events for the Special Session can be considered. Major events being planned include:

- **THE CHILDREN'S FORUM: 5, 6 and 7 May**

This Forum will give children who are part of government or NGO delegations the chance to discuss how they can be involved in the implementation of the commitments to be made in the Special Session.

The Forum will select two children to present its outcome to the plenary of the Special Session. It will be the first time in UN history that children address the General Assembly.

Only those children and young people under the age of 18 who are attending the Special Session as members of government or NGO delegations may attend the Forum. To ensure maximum debate, and because of space limitations, a maximum of two delegates under 18 from any government or NGO delegation can participate. Adults – including chaperones – can only attend the Forum if they have a specific role (e.g. personal interpreter or assistance to participants with special needs).

Pre-registration forms were sent to the missions of Member and Observer States in New York and to accredited NGOs. This form should have been completed and faxed to UNICEF (212-824-6470) by 8 April. Forms received after the deadline will be considered depending on available space. Government delegations should include a letter from their mission saying that the under-18 delegate is part of the official country delegation to the Special Session.

Introductory events will take place on Sunday 5 May in Conference room 4 at the UN Secretariat Building. On Monday 6 and Tuesday 7 May, the Forum will take place in the Manhattan Centre (311 West 34<sup>th</sup> Street). The detailed programme will be available on the UNICEF web site: [www.unicef.org/specialsession/activities/index/html](http://www.unicef.org/specialsession/activities/index/html) and at UNICEF headquarters (room 222-2).

- **FORUM ON WOMENS' LEADERSHIP FOR CHILDREN: 9 May, 3 pm to 6 pm, ECOSOC Chamber**

The Forum, sponsored by Ms. Nane Annan with the co-operation of UNICEF, will bring first spouses together with other distinguished guests under the theme of "Women's Leadership for Children". First spouses are expected to share their personal experiences in promoting children's rights. The Forum aims to be interactive and written speeches are discouraged.

First spouses are welcome to attend other supporting events that will take place during the Special Session.

- **CELEBRATION OF LEADERSHIP FOR CHILDREN:** 9 May, 7 p.m.

World leaders are invited to join a celebration of leadership for children, featuring a musical and spoken tribute to leaders of the Global Movement for Children. Almost 50 million pledges made during the global campaign “Say Yes for Children” will be officially presented during this event.

- **NGO PLENARIES:** 8, 9 and 10 May, 1 – 3 p.m.

Thematic discussions for NGOs will take place on each day of the Special Session with a focus on achieving the goals of the outcome document.

***Can national exhibits be displayed at the UN building during the Special Session?***

Due to the global nature of the Special Session and the limited area allocated for displays at the UN building, requests for exhibits that are national in scope cannot be considered.

#### **4. GOVERNMENT AND NGO PARTICIPATION**

***What are the main opportunities for national leaders to participate?***

The key events at which Heads of State or Government will have the opportunity to express their views will include:

- **Debate in Plenary:** National leaders may deliver statements of up to five minutes.
- **Round tables:** Speakers will have the opportunity to address key issues related to children in an interactive forum.
- **Secretary-General's Luncheon:** The Secretary-General will host a luncheon on Thursday 9 May for Heads of State or Government and their spouses, as well as other high-level guests. Guests of honour will include Mr. Nelson Mandela and Mr. Bill Gates Jr.
- **Other Supporting Events:** Leaders are encouraged to participate in the supporting events organized by governments, UN entities and NGOs, as an opportunity to interact with representatives from civil society and with children.
- **Bilateral Meetings:** There will be ample opportunity for bilateral meetings among leaders during the Special Session, as well as with the Secretary-General and with the Executive Director of UNICEF.
- **Press Briefings:** Arrangements are in place to provide leaders with the necessary facilities to hold press briefings. Throughout the Special Session all press conferences will be held in Room S-226. Missions to the UN are responsible for organizing press conferences and other events involving the media. The booking of rooms for press conferences can be done through the Office of the Spokesman for the Secretary-General (phone 212- 963 5183; fax 212 - 963 7055).

***Which NGOs have been invited to the Special Session in New York?***

As indicated above, the NGOs approved for accreditation by the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session have been re-invited to the Special Session. These NGOs have consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (see list at [www.un.org](http://www.un.org)) or have a collaborative relationship with UNICEF (see list at [www.unicef.org/specialsession/ngo/index.html](http://www.unicef.org/specialsession/ngo/index.html)).

***My organization would like to attend the special session. Can we still apply for accreditation?***

The process of application and approval of NGO accreditation was open from January to October 2000, allowing for appropriate information and preparation. The process has now been closed.

***Last year, I pre-registered for the special session when it was expected to take place in September 2001. What should I do to attend in May 2002?***

All accredited NGOs were sent a re-invitation letter with a new pre-registration form in March 2002. Complete the form and submit it by fax no later than 19 April. A confirmation will then be sent to you by fax.

***Must the representatives be the same people named last year?***

No. Use the new pre-registration form to indicate the names of all four representatives.

***Why is there a limit of four representatives per NGO?***

Nearly 3,700 NGOs have been invited to the Special Session. To ensure that each NGO has an equal opportunity to participate and in view of the constraints of space, time and security, the number of representatives per NGO has been limited to four. Only NGO representatives with a special picture conference pass will have access to the UN. Other UN passes will not be valid during the Special Session. Child delegates and their chaperones must be part of the four-member NGO delegation.

***Can more than 2 representatives from an NGO be present in events of the official programme at the same time?***

No. Due to space and security constraints, only two non-transferable passes will be issued per organization. Each NGO is responsible for ensuring that the passes are rotated equitably among their four representatives. Young people and their chaperones are counted as part of the four-member delegation.

***Where can I get conference passes for my NGO?***

NGO registration will be set up at the UN, at selected times from Saturday 4 May to Tuesday 7 May. Late registration will also be available (8-10 May).

***Can NGOs speak at the Special Session?***

Time permitting, a limited number of NGOs will have the opportunity to make statements in the plenary and in the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole. The NGO Committee on UNICEF has been facilitating the selection of those NGOs for consideration by the President of the General Assembly and by Member States.

***Are there other ways for NGOs to participate?***

Some NGOs will be able to attend the plenary sessions. NGO attendance will also be possible for the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole. The plenary and round table proceedings will be broadcasted in an over-flow room. Additionally, NGOs can participate in a number of supporting events organised for the Special Session, including workshops, panel discussions and caucus meetings. NGO plenaries will take place at lunchtime on each of the three days of the Session. An NGO reception will be hosted by the NGO Committee on 7 May. A complete programme of supporting events will be posted by mid April on the websites [www.unicef.org/specialsession/activities/index.html](http://www.unicef.org/specialsession/activities/index.html) and [www.ngosatunicef.org](http://www.ngosatunicef.org). Further details on access to official and supporting events will be provided at the NGO Orientation Session on 7 May.

***Where can I find additional information on NGO participation at the Special Session?***

Additional information is available from:

- UNICEF NGO Information Desk  
UNICEF House 3 UN Plaza, Lobby  
New York, NY 10017  
Phone (212) 326-7711 E-mail: [nyhq.ngos@unicef.org](mailto:nyhq.ngos@unicef.org)
- NGO Committee on UNICEF  
UNICEF House. 3 UN Plaza, H-8A  
New York, NY 10017  
Fax: (212) 824-6466. E-mail: [ngocommittee@unicef.org](mailto:ngocommittee@unicef.org).  
Web site: <http://www.ngosatunicef.org>
- The Child Rights Information Network (CRIN)  
Web site: <http://www.crin.org>

**5. GLOBAL MOVEMENT FOR CHILDREN AND “SAY YES” CAMPAIGN*****What is the Global Movement for Children?***

The preparations for the Special Session are helping to strengthen processes and partnerships for children. However, the goals for children cannot be achieved by governments alone. The Global Movement for Children (GMC) is a grand alliance of all forces, public as well as private, joining hands with governments, international organizations and children and young people themselves.

GMC is a network of individuals and organizations that share a common vision of a world fit for children, and have the ability to turn that vision into reality. Spearheaded by some of the world's largest child rights organizations, the movement seeks to build a massive constituency of people from all walks of life to support child rights and demand accountability and action for children in the decade ahead. It is a call to leadership at every level of society – governments, private sector, media, NGOs, religious and community leaders, and households, adults and young people alike – to change the world for children and with children.

***What is the 'Say Yes for Children' campaign?***

*Say Yes for Children* is the first major initiative of the Global Movement for Children. Launched in April 2001, the unprecedented global pledging campaign has rallied people worldwide behind 10 key principles to improve and protect the lives of children. Over the Internet and on paper forms, *Say Yes* has gathered over 50 million pledges from more than 170 countries.

The campaign has been endorsed by international personalities such as UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, Nelson Mandela and Bill Gates Jr.

*Say Yes* has galvanized action and leadership for children at all levels of society, from political leaders to ordinary citizens, and particularly children and young people themselves. Inspiring worldwide debate and advocacy for children's rights, *Say Yes* has focused attention on the serious issues that face children today.

The global results of *Say Yes* will be presented to world leaders at the Special Session on Children. Beyond the Special Session, the Global Movement for Children will build on the momentum from *Say Yes* by turning pledges of support into meaningful action for the world's children.

For more information on the Global Movement for Children and to pledge support for *Say Yes*, visit the web site: <http://www.gmfc.org>. To view the results of *Say Yes* visit: <http://www.netaid.org>.

## **6. FUNDING**

***Is the Special Session fully funded?***

No. A total budget of US\$ 7.4 million was approved by the UNICEF Executive Board for support to substantive, technical and advocacy activities in preparation for the Special Session. UNICEF is facing a funding shortfall of US\$ 529,000 against the initial budget and funds are urgently needed. Governments are requested to consider making contributions towards this funding shortfall.

***Is financial support available for travel to the Special Session?***

**For Government delegates:** The UN provides financial support only to delegates from Least Developed Countries (LDCs). This support is for the round trip air ticket for ONE



delegate per country to attend the Special Session in New York. Missions of LDCs should address such a request to the UN Department of Management, Tel: (1-212) 963-8042.

**For Children from LDCs:** UNICEF will cover the cost of a round trip air ticket for ONE child delegate per LDC country. For this purpose, LDC countries should contact the relevant UNICEF field office as soon as possible.

**For NGO delegates:** No funds are available at the UN or UNICEF for NGO participation at the Special Session.

## **7. CONTACTS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

### ***Where can I find additional information on the Special Session?***

- The UNICEF web site is regularly updated with recent developments regarding the Special Session. This information is available in languages at the following addresses:  
 English: <http://www.unicef.org/specialsession/>  
 French: <http://www.unicef.org/french/specialsession/>  
 Spanish: <http://www.unicef.org/spanish/specialsession/>  
 Arabic: <http://www.un.org/arabic/ga/children/>  
 Russian: <http://www.un.org/russian/documen/gadocs/27spec/>  
 Chinese: <http://www.un.org/chinese/events/children/>
- An Information Centre with copies of all documents relevant to the Special Session has been set up at UNICEF headquarters (Room 222-2).

### ***Who at UNICEF headquarters can provide further information on the Special Session?***

A list of country-specific contact persons at UNICEF headquarters for Member States and Observer Missions in New York is being distributed separately. These missions and UNICEF field offices are invited to approach the contact persons according to the concerned country.

Queries requiring specialised assistance can be addressed to the following focal points at UNICEF headquarters, according to their area of work:

Area of Work	Focal Point at UNICEF
Secretariat of the Special Session	Nora Galer, Hernando Clavijo and Aqeelah Akbar Fax: (1-212) 303-7992 E-mail: <a href="mailto:hclavijo@unicef.org">hclavijo@unicef.org</a> , <a href="mailto:ngaler@unicef.org">ngaler@unicef.org</a> , <a href="mailto:aakbar@unicef.org">aakbar@unicef.org</a>
Coordination with entities of the UN System	Ado Vaheer UN Affairs Fax: (1-212) 326-7758 E-mail: <a href="mailto:avaher@unicef.org">avaher@unicef.org</a>
Children and youth participation, Children's Forum	Jeannette Wijnants and Josephine Rajasegera Fax: (1-212) 824-6470 E-mail: <a href="mailto:jwijnants@unicef.org">jwijnants@unicef.org</a> , <a href="mailto:jrajasegera@unicef.org">jrajasegera@unicef.org</a>
NGOs registration and participation	Registration: Sabeen Rana and Katharina Borchardt E-mail: <a href="mailto:srana@unicef.org">srana@unicef.org</a> , <a href="mailto:kborchardt@unicef.org">kborchardt@unicef.org</a> Fax: (1-212) 303-7990/ 326-7594/ 824-6466 General information: Rosemary Musumba Tel: (1-212) 326 7711 Fax: (1-212) 303-7990/ 326-7594/ 824-6466 E-mail: <a href="mailto:rmusumba@unicef.org">rmusumba@unicef.org</a>
Forum on Women's' Leadership for Children	Anupama Rao Singh Division of Programme Fax: (1-212) 824-6471 E-mail: <a href="mailto:araosingh@unicef.org">araosingh@unicef.org</a>
Supporting Events	Bertrand Desmoulins Secretariat of the Special Session on Children Fax: (1-212) 303-7992 E-mail: <a href="mailto:bdesmoulins@unicef.org">bdesmoulins@unicef.org</a>
Say Yes Campaign	Corinne Woods Division of Communication Fax: (1-212) 326-7518 E-mail: <a href="mailto:cwoods@unicef.org">cwoods@unicef.org</a>
Global Movement for Children	Hironobu Shibuya Fax: (1-212) 303-7992 E-mail: <a href="mailto:hshibuya@unicef.org">hshibuya@unicef.org</a>
Media	Patsy Robertson Division of Communication Fax: (1-212) 326-7518 E-mail: <a href="mailto:probertson@unicef.org">probertson@unicef.org</a>

## Special Session on Children: 8 – 10 May 2002

### Tentative Organisation of Work

as of 8 April 2002

Time	5 – 7 MAY	8 MAY		9 MAY		10 MAY	
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM	<i>Children's Forum</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Opening</b> (G.A. Hall): President of GA Secretary-General</li> <li>• <b>Debate</b> (G.A. Hall)</li> <li>• <b>Ad hoc Committee of the Whole</b> (Conference Room 2)</li> </ul>	<i>Supporting Events</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Debate</b> (G.A. Hall)</li> <li>• <b>Round table 2</b> (9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.)</li> </ul>	<i>Supporting Events</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Debate</b> (G.A. Hall)</li> <li>• <b>Round table 3</b> (9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.)</li> </ul>	<i>Supporting Events</i>
1:00-3:00 PM			<i>Supporting Events</i>		<i>Supporting Events</i>		<i>Supporting Events</i>
3:00 – 7:00 PM	<i>Children's Forum</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Debate</b> (G.A. Hall)</li> <li>• <b>Round table 1</b> (3:00 to 6:30 p.m.)</li> </ul>	<i>Supporting Events</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Debate</b> (G.A. Hall)</li> <li>• <b>Ad hoc Committee of the Whole</b> (Conference Room 2)</li> </ul>	<i>Supporting Events</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Debate</b> (G.A. Hall)</li> <li>• <b>Closing</b> (G.A. Hall)</li> </ul>	<i>Supporting Events</i>

(**Bold:** official programme. *Italics:* non-official events)