

U.N. Special Session on Children



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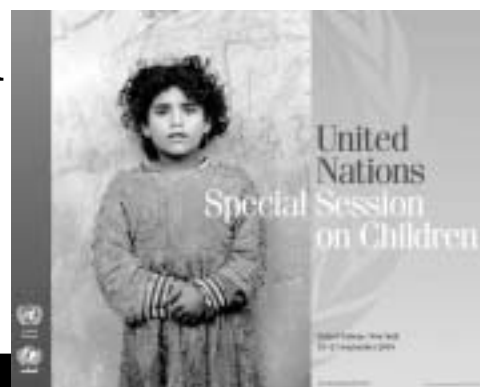


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Preparations for the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Children are gathering momentum around the world, with Governments, civil society organizations and the media committing themselves to work for the rights of children. This resolve “to give every child a better future” echoes the commitment made at the World Summit for Children in 1990, and will be reaffirmed at the Special Session in New York on 19-21 September.

REGIONAL PREPARATIONS

When Government representatives meet in New York September, they will have a unique opportunity to draw up concrete plans for a world that is fit for children: a world that will adhere to the principles contained in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and other human rights instruments. They will pledge to take action to ensure health, quality education and protection from abuse, exploitation and violence for future generations. There is much to be done. A review of reports from some 135 Member States on progress for children over the last ten years has shown that consistent and permanent progress for children remains elusive, with many national obligations and international commitments to chil-

dren yet to be achieved. The progress made to date, and the challenges remaining, have guided a series of intergovernmental and civil society deliberations during recent months.

IN AFRICA...

Leaders and intellectuals from Africa have been assessing the continent's progress in child well-being and the challenges that lie ahead in the coming decade. This assessment is timely, coming ten years after the World Summit for Children and the entry into force of the CRC and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, and eight years after the International Conference on Assistance to the African Child.

In a series of meetings in April and May 2001, leaders from many fields – Heads of State and Government, First Ladies, parliamentarians, scholars – and children themselves, identified the major challenges: the HIV/AIDS epidemic; the need to increase access to education and health care; the need to protect children from the ravages of trafficking and armed conflicts; and the urgent need to improve living conditions and alleviate poverty. They pledged to take action to fulfil children's rights.

First Ladies Summit on the Development of Young Girls

Morocco, 20-22 April 2001 – First Ladies from 22 African countries, meeting in Marrakech, Morocco, recommended the establishment of an Inter-African Network to focus on the particular needs of young girls. Analysing the cultural, social and economic barriers to the development of young girls, they called for better access to education, and for stronger legislation against female mutilation, child trafficking, gender discrimination and other forms of mistreatment. They also called on their constituents and Governments to support the Special Session on Children, in the context of the Global Movement for Children.

OAU Summit on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and other related Infectious Diseases

Nigeria, 24-27 April 2001 – Seventeen Heads of State, together with Government representatives from another 13 African countries, agreed to form a strong alliance against a new common enemy – HIV/AIDS – at the OAU Summit in Abuja, Nigeria in April. They fully acknowledged the impact of HIV/AIDS across the continent and the threat posed to the future of their people and their countries.

Agreeing to take personal responsi-

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bility and provide leadership for the activities of National AIDS Commissions and Councils, they pledged to ensure that at least 15 per cent of annual budgets were made available for a comprehensive, multisectoral response to HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other related infectious diseases. As an emergency measure, participants pledged to import and/or produce generic drugs, preferably in partnership with donors and pharmaceutical companies.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan appealed for the creation of a Global Trust Fund. He estimated that between \$7 billion and \$10 billion was needed each year to fight the deadly disease. This proposal has gained widespread support in the lead up to the Special Session on HIV/AIDS in June 2001.

OAU Pan-African Forum on the Future of Children in Africa

Egypt, 28-31 May 2001 – A special Pan-African Forum was held in Cairo in May to discuss the future of the African child and to build momentum for a dynamic movement for children across the continent. This alliance of Governments, civil society, young people, and a whole range of other constituencies and institutions would be dedicated to advocacy and action on behalf of children, as part of the Global Movement for Children. The Forum was organized by the OAU and hosted by the Government of Egypt. The First Lady of Egypt, Suzanne Mubarak, invited First Ladies from countries throughout Africa, as well as other prominent leaders, scholars and children and youth delegates.

Despite the impressive global achievements for children over the past decade, social indicators continue to show a marked deterioration in the social and economic welfare of African children as a result of poverty, conflict and HIV/AIDS. In a frank appraisal of progress made in the last ten years, and in an effort to set targets for the next decade, the Forum discussed such issues as child survival and development; children in armed conflict; the central role of education; children and young people as actors for change; leadership and accountability; and the right to information and technology.

The Forum adopted a common African position as a contribution to the Special Session on Children, as proposed by the OAU Labour and Social Affairs Commission in April 2000 and endorsed by the OAU Summit in July 2000. The common African position has one objective – the preparation of a better life for Africa's children in the 21st century. It reinforces a long-term commitment to child welfare on the part of OAU members, who were among the first countries to ratify the CRC and the Convention to ban anti-personnel mines.

IN THE AMERICAS AND CARIBBEAN ...

The Kingston Consensus on Children and Social Policy in the Americas: Fifth Ministerial Meeting on Children and Social Policy in the Americas:

Jamaica, 13 October 2000 – The Kingston Consensus, signed on 13 October 2000 by representatives at the 5th Ministerial

Meeting on Children and Social Policy in the Americas, is a commitment to ensuring that children reach their full potential through policies and actions that recognise their human rights. The Consensus urges signatory Governments to develop a Future Agenda for Children in the region and commits them to sign, ratify and implement international human rights instruments related to the protection of children's rights.

This agreement also commits Governments to act to break inter-generational cycles of poverty; to eliminate the exclusion and discrimination suffered by ethnic, indigenous and other groups; and to protect children from all forms of abuse and exploitation.

Governments also pledged to promote alliances with civil society to identify the values that uphold respect for human rights in a pact of equality, peace, tolerance, justice, solidarity and gender equality. The Kingston Consensus calls for continued progress towards universal access to health and education services and increased resources for early childhood care. It also acknowledges that human development can only be achieved through protection and promotion of the rights and well-being of children.

The Panama Declaration on Children and Adolescents: 10th Summit of Ibero-american Presidents and Heads of State

Panama, 18 December 2000 – The determination of the Ibero-American region to promote the rights of children and affirm their identity was expressed in the Panama Declaration on Children and Adolescents, signed by 21 Presidents and Heads of State at their tenth Summit in Panama City in December.

The Declaration hails recent gains in Latin American countries, such as reduction of infant and child mortality, eradication of certain preventable diseases, increased school enrolment and primary school completion and the reduction of illiteracy. It also recognises, however, persistent poverty, socioeconomic exclusion and inequality, and insufficient health and education services. These challenges require renewed efforts to safeguard children's rights.

The Declaration also includes pledges to increase access to early childhood education and to free and compulsory education for all children by 2015; to halve maternal mortality by 2010; and to support research into prevention, treatment and control of HIV/AIDS. And it seeks to promote legislation to punish those who participate or collaborate in the criminal acts of trafficking or kidnapping of children, the sale of human organs, and the sexual exploitation of children.

The Summit approved a proposal to request the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) to evaluate the situation of children in the region and identify new goals for a Future Agenda for Children, in coordination with the Ibero-American Pro-Tempore Secretariat and UNICEF. This report will contribute to de-

liberations before and during the Special Session on Children.

IN EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC ...

Beijing Declaration on Commitments for Children for 2001-2010: Fifth Ministerial Consultation on Shaping the Future of Children

China, 14-16 May 2001 – Governments from countries across East Asia and the Pacific have pledged to put the well-being of children – “the most important indicator of national and economic social progress” – at the centre of their agendas. The commitment came at the Fifth Ministerial Consultation on Shaping the Future of Children held in Beijing in May, attended by government ministers and representatives from UNICEF, development agencies, donor countries and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Vice-Premier Li Lanqing of China set the tone for the meeting, saying: “children are our future. Their well-being is the foundation for sustainable national growth. To love, care for and protect children has long been a national priority.” State Councillor Madame Wu Yi, Chairperson for the consultation, called on delegates to draw up a “blueprint for the next generation”.

This was the fifth in a series of high-level consultations in the region to review progress towards the goals of the World Summit for Children, and the first to feature the active participation of young people – several of them official members of government delegations. They presented feedback from the Children and young People’s Forum held in Thailand in April, including a list of priority actions for governments to ensure children’s rights. The highlights of a regional opinion survey of children and adolescents were also presented, covering 10,000 children in 17 countries and territories. The survey finds that young people are generally optimistic about their future, but that many lack basic knowledge about HIV/AIDS.

The Beijing Declaration recognises “the imminent threat of the HIV/AIDS epidemic” and calls upon Governments to institute broad-based strategies and programmes to halt its spread and provide care for those affected. An estimated 2.4 million people in East Asia and the Pacific are already infected, and the numbers are expected to rise dramatically in the coming years.

The Declaration commits Governments to work towards ensuring a larger share of budgets for social service programmes. It also urges Governments to ensuring the best interests of all children by giving them the best start to life, with optimal childhood care, quality basic education, and the opportunity to fully develop their capacities to participate in society.

Delegates also discussed the region’s high levels of child

malnutrition and maternal mortality, the trafficking of women and children and the need to boost access to safe drinking water and sanitation.

The need for good quality basic education for girls was stressed by UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy, who told delegates in Beijing: “Girl’s education is more than a cost-effective investment, more than an economic issue, more than a desirable aspiration that societies should try to provide. Education is a human right, proclaimed by global agreements ranging from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to the Convention on the Rights of the Child”

IN SOUTH ASIA ...

Kathmandu Understanding: Investing in Children in South Asia

Nepal, 22-23 May 2001 – The urgent need to increase investment in children to ensure their education, health and protection, was discussed by Finance and Planning Ministers, corporate leaders and children from seven South Asian countries in Kathmandu in May. The Kathmandu Understanding adopted by the participants outlines a consensus on the requirements for investing in children throughout the life cycle of the child, to make the necessary changes to allow the more effective investment of existing resources, to increase the overall level of investment in children and to focus on the results.

The participants agreed that Governments alone can no longer meet the social development goals of their nations and pledged to forge new alliances – with the private sector, civil society organizations, international partners, individuals and children, both girls and boys – to secure the required resources.

Children and young people – the ‘Change Makers’ – played a crucial role in the meeting, as noted by Hon. Ram Sharan Mahat, Minister of Finance of Nepal, who said: “The Change Makers set the tone by presenting their vision of the world as they want it to be.”

Participants at the gathering agreed to address a number of key areas such as the inclusion of children as a force for change; resource mobilization; partnerships with the private sector and with civil society.

The High Level Meeting was preceded by a two-day consultation with corporate leaders from the seven SAARC countries, representing the power and influence of the South Asian private sector. All were leaders with a proven track record of corporate social responsibility and support for business initiatives in the social sector, but this was their first opportunity to take part in a meeting of this kind and have direct discussions with children on child rights issues. They declared their readi-

ness to allocate resources to children in a framework of equal partnership with children and governments.

IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA ...

The Berlin Commitment: Conference on Children in Europe and Central Asia

Germany, 16-18 May 2001 – For the first time, representatives of more than 50 European and Central Asian countries and the Holy See gathered in Berlin in May to create a new agenda for children: The Berlin Commitment. The Commitment outlines priority goals for child well-being in these countries for the next decade. The diversity of the countries represented made the meeting unique in its scope, including well-established market economies, those seeking admission into Western European institutions, and others that face basic child survival and development problems in the face of growing poverty. In addition, conflict in 11 countries in the region in recent years has caused immense upheaval, with children and women bearing the brunt.



Logo of the Berlin Conference on Children in Europe and Central Asia

While acknowledging the progress made for children in the region since 1990, delegates acknowledged the serious challenges that remain. The 20-point Berlin Commitment lists key actions to address poverty and social exclusion, violence and abuse, the severe impact of transition in many countries, health and environmental issues, intergenerational justice, the state of education and the need for the participation of children and young people in decisions that affect them. It stresses the need to invest in children as the key to peaceful and prosperous societies and seeks active collaboration with civil society to ensure that all children are reached.

The initial results of the Young Voices Poll were launched at the Conference, the largest ever survey of children in Europe and Central Asia, reflecting the views of over 90 million children from 35 countries. It finds that 6 out of 10 children say they face violence or aggressive behaviour in their families, and almost half feel that they lack basic information on HIV/AIDS.

“If we are to create a better world and better future for our children, we must put children and child’s rights at the top of our political agenda,” Slatko Lagumdžija, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, told delegates. “There can be no transition to a better future without ensuring all rights to all children, without protecting the welfare of all children and without providing for children to grow up in peace and without fear.”

The Conference was organized by the Governments of Germany and Bosnia and Herzegovina with the support of UNICEF and was attended by representatives of European Union, the Council of Europe, the United Nations system and NGOs, as well as young people. It was the culmination of a vast consultation process with decision-makers and activists at every level.

IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA ...

An Arab World Fit For Children: Regional Symposium on Children

Lebanon, 24-27 April 2001 – A Regional Plan of Action on the Rights of the Child entitled “An Arab World Fit for Children” emerged from the Regional Symposium on Children held in Beirut, Lebanon, in April, organized by the Economic and Social Council for Western Asia (ESCWA), the League of Arab States and UNICEF. The Symposium brought together more than 200 people from 16 countries and a number of civil society organizations. Among the participants were more than 90 experts and 15 young people, in addition to media professionals and representatives from United Nations agencies. Youth reporters covered the event for several newspapers and television stations.

Symposium participants discussed the situation of children in the Middle East and North Africa region, including child health, early childhood, access to quality education, poverty and labour, armed conflict, violence against women and children, information technology and media for children, girls education, youth, and children with special needs. The sessions also included presentations of the Call for Action created at the Regional Youth Forum held in Amman, Jordan in November 2000 and the recommendations of the Arab Regional Civil Society Forum, two regional meetings that are part of preparations for the Special Session on Children.

New and effective partnerships were created at the Symposium, and a special initiative was launched in cooperation with the government representatives to establish a Follow-up Committee.

The next step will be the Arab High-Level Conference on Children, to be held at the League of Arab States during the first week of July.

REGIONAL FOCUS ON FINANCING FOR CHILDREN ...

Conference of Arab-African Ministers of Finance

Morocco, 21-23 May 2001 – Arab and African Ministers of Finance from 39 countries met in Marrakech in May at an historic conference to review the situation of children and the need for financial resources in their favour. UN agencies and Arab-African financial institutions were represented at high

level as well as the World Bank and IMF, who played a major role in the debates. The Moroccan private sector was highlighted at a think-tank on the need to prioritize supplementary resources for children, while a forum for NGOs and local institutions reviewed their responsibilities and resources in relation to child well-being.

In a message read to delegates by UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy, United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan pointed out that physical, emotional and intellectual damage inflicted on children can mean a lifetime of suffering for them and a legacy of poverty for the next generation. In her comments, Carol Bellamy gave examples of the benefits of investment in children and particularly in girl's education.

The conference urged Ministers of Finance and budget and finance experts to make national budgets more efficient and effective for children. One major recommenda-

tion of the conference was the creation of "National Committees for Children's Budgets" including government departments, civil society, the private sector, UNICEF and children and young people themselves to create lobbies that will push for child-focused budgets and reorient existing budgets towards the priorities of "a world fit for children".

The conference also recommended child-impact assessments to evaluate the effect of government policies on children and to create "national accountability for financial efforts in favour of children". Recommendations regarding partnerships with NGOs and local institutions, stimulated by initiatives from the private sector, were also adopted, as well as a call for greater international cooperation on behalf of children. Developed countries were asked to honour their promises, including the internationally agreed target of 0.7% of GNP for overseas assistance, the 20/20 initiative, debt conversion and other commitments.

The conference was chaired by His Majesty King Mohammed VI in the presence of Heads of States and Nelson Mandela.

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND CIVIL SOCIETY

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) have been extremely active around the world in the run-up to the Special Session.

IN AFRICA ...

Traditional Chiefs: Sub-Regional Symposium on Survival, Development and Child Protection

Niger, 11-13 April 2001 – Traditional Chiefs from eight West African countries met in Niamey, Niger, in April to debate their critical role in the promotion of child rights. Participants at the Sub-Regional Symposium on Survival, Development and Child Protection discussed

their role in polio eradication and routine immunization; in improving the health of children and women through strategies to end female mutilation and other harmful practices; and in putting a stop to early marriages and child trafficking.

Their recommendations included the creation of a sub-regional organization of Traditional Chiefs for promotion and protection of women's rights and the establishment of an association for the defence of children's rights.

The Chiefs also pledged to step up the fight against malaria and HIV/AIDS.

Participating in the Say Yes Campaign, the Chiefs took the opportunity to cast their votes on the ten issues that constitute the campaign's Rallying Call during the Symposium, which was organized by the Association of Tradi-

tional Chiefs and UNICEF Niger.

IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA ...

The Rabat Declaration: Arab Regional Civil Society Forum on Children

Morocco, 15-19 February 2001 – The Rabat Declaration, detailing areas for cooperation and action by Governments and civil society to improve conditions for children in the Middle East and North Africa, was issued in February at the Arab Regional Civil Society Forum. The Forum, in Rabat, Morocco, brought together more than 200 participants from 21 countries and 10 regional and international organizations

After examining the achievements for children in region over the last decade, the Forum looked at issues relating to children's development. Participants developed frameworks for action, set priorities for the region, and identified mechanisms to improve the state of children in the Arab countries in the light



Civil Society Forum, Morocco

of the region's challenges. They also expanded the circle of partnerships, drawing in other players involved in child rights issues; and developed a framework for future cooperation.

The Rabat Declaration for non-governmental and civil society representatives states that: (1) they will work in coordination and partnership with each other; (2) they will urge regional and

international organizations, as well as States, Governments and leaders worldwide, to be bound by the Convention on the Rights of the Child; (3) there can be no building of a new future for children unless it is with them and through them; (4) they will renew their commitment to work towards lifting sanctions and boycotts, and call for the cessation of wars, armed conflicts and occupation.

The Forum, held under the Patronage of His Majesty King Mohammad VI of Morocco was organized by the UNICEF Middle East and North Africa Regional Office, and included the Amman Arab Council for Childhood and Development in Cairo, the Arab Institute for Human Rights in Tunis, and L'Observatoire National des Droits de l'Enfant, in Rabat.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Children and young people are helping to shape recommendations for action on their behalf by governments and civil society organizations all over the world as the Special Session draws closer...

IN EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC ...

Children and Young People's Forum

Thailand, 24-26 April 2001 – Children in East Asia and the Pacific achieved an important 'first' in April when they met to talk about their lives and to prepare recommendations for the Fifth Ministerial Consultation on Shaping the Future of Children held in Beijing in May. More than 40 children aged 11 to 18 met in Jomtien, Thailand at the first of three regional

cultural and geographical disparities.

They called on governments to develop and implement annual plans of action for children to address these problems and to involve NGOs, community-based organizations and children in the formulation and implementation of plans.

The children also asked NGOs to support government-initiated programmes for children and organize their own efforts to promote and protect children's rights.



Photo used for the launching of "Say Yes for Children Campaign", Manila, Philippines.

meetings of young people from Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. Their discussions focused on four key areas: problems faced by young people in the region as highlighted in the End Decade Reports produced by their governments; their vision of an ideal world as presented in the World Fit for Children draft document; challenges facing the region; and recommendations for governments and non-governmental organizations.

The key issues identified by the children included: lack of, or poor access to, educational facilities and mistreatment of children by teachers; high levels of malnutrition and lack of basic health services; child abuse and exploitation; inadequate child protection, inadequate child participation in issues affecting them; lack of or poor access to information, and problems stemming from gender,

IN SOUTH ASIA ...

'Change Makers' at the consultation on Investing in Children in South Asia

Nepal, 22-23 May 2001 – "We want a world where there is no discrimination between boy and girls, between the able and the disabled, between the rich and poor. We want a healthy, safe and clean environment suitable for all. And we want a decent education and opportunities for play, instead of having to work." This vision for the future was articulated by the 'Change Makers', a group of children, talking to corporate leaders at the Investing in Children consultation in Kathmandu in May. The Change Makers, representing children from the seven countries in South Asia, generated a lively discussion at the meeting, which focused on corporate social responsibility for children.

IN EUROPE ...

Towards a Young People's Agenda for Europe and Central Asia

Hungary, 23-29 April 2001 – “If I could change one thing about the world, it would be that children and young people are involved in all decisions that affect their lives. There should be a shadow youth council for all government councils so that young people can review and have an input in what goes on in their area.” This was just one of the comments from the more than 50 children and young people from 27 countries across Europe and Central Asia who gathered in Budapest in April at the forum “Towards a Young People's Agenda for Europe and Central Asia.” The children prepared a joint letter to the government representatives who met in Berlin, 16-18 May 2001, outlining their own views on the role of governments, NGOs and young people in eradicating poverty, improving education systems and achieving peace.

The Forum was organized by UNICEF, Save the Children and the Council of Europe's European Youth Centre-Budapest (EYCB). The delegates, all aged-between 14 and 18 years, discussed issues ranging from poverty, drug abuse and HIV/AIDS to participation, unemployment, discrimination, and exploitation and abuse of young people.

Europe's Regional Director for Save the Children, Judy Lister, described the conference as an amazing experience. “Despite the fact that these young people have just met, they have quickly formed a team and are creating workable suggestions for problems that affect them. This is something which few adults could accomplish under the same circumstances.”

IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA ...

Middle East and North Africa Regional Youth Forum on 21st Century Issues

Jordan, 1 November 2000 – In a “Call for Action”, 70 young people from 16 countries in the Middle East and North Africa

made specific recommendations on the problems surrounding their education, health, employment, relationships with adults, the role of boys in society, media perceptions of youth and young people in violent situations. The young people came together at the Regional Youth Forum in Amman last November, held under the patronage of Jordan's Queen Rania, a



Queen Rania Al-Abdallah of Jordan, under whose patronage the Forum was held, with some of the youth participants.

strong supporter of children's rights in Jordan and throughout the region.

At the closing ceremony it was noted that young people are agents of change and must be included in all efforts to end the disparities, violence and injustice that undermine human rights and human development.

The Regional Youth Forum was a joint effort between UNICEF's Middle East and North Africa Regional Office and the Princess Basma Women's Resource Centre in Amman. The Canaan Institute for Pedagogy in Gaza provided resource persons and trainers. Additional support was provided by the UNICEF Jordan Country Office and the West Bank and Gaza Office.

SAY YES FOR CHILDREN

Say Yes for Children was the theme of rallies, parades, con-certs and street theatre, TV and radio spots in April and May 2001, as local and national campaigns gave a kick start to the Global Movement for Children in more than 70 countries. This international collaboration of governments, organizations and individuals is committed to improving the lives of children everywhere and is the initiative of six organizations: the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC), Netaid.org Foundation, PLAN International, Save the Children, the United

Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) and World Vision.

With the **Say Yes for Children** campaign, hundreds of thousands of people are signing pledge forms or voting in support of a child's rights to grow in health, peace and dignity. Voting takes place on the Movement's Web site at (www.gmfc.org) where presidents and queens, government officials and celebrities, NGO leaders and Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) parents, teachers, children and adolescents themselves, are voting or signing pledge forms.

The pledge includes a list of ten im-

peratives or obligations to children, which are: leave no child out; put children first; care for every child; fight HIV/AIDS; stop harming and exploiting children; listen to children; educate every child; protect children from war; protect the earth for children; and fight poverty by investing in children.

Say Yes for Children has already had a significant impact and is bringing people from around the world closer together. In Mozambique in early April, Nelson Mandela, Graça Machel and Kamo Masilo, a 12 year old South African boy, were filmed as they cast their

pledge on the Global Movement for Children's Web site.

In Turkey, Mrs. Nane Annan, wife of the UN Secretary-General, listened to child representatives from 41 countries from Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and Baltic States as they challenged countries to go beyond words and make the protection of children their number one priority. Mrs. Annan then signed the first pledge for that region.

In Mexico City, thousands of children, young people and adults gathered at the largest children's museum to make their pledge, while in China, *Say Yes for Children* was launched at a banquet in Beijing's Great Hall of the People.

SAY YES AND THE SPECIAL SESSION ON CHILDREN

The tally of the *Say Yes for Children* pledges, which come in through the Web site and on the printed forms, will be presented to the delegates gathered at the



Special Session in New York in September. Because those signing the pledge also identify the three children's issues that are most pressing in their country, their opinions can help to build a picture of public aspirations and guide decisions about policies and programmes.

BEYOND THE SPECIAL SESSION

The *Say Yes for Children* campaign and the Special Session on Children itself are the most vis-

ible aspects of the new Global Movement for Children. With its roots in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, this new Movement has taken on the challenge of transforming the world into a place where children are nurtured and protected and where each child is allowed to fully enjoy his/her rights. While the Global Movement for Children is the initiative of six organizations, its collective force stems from the work

of hundreds of NGOs and other international organizations and from thousands of individuals, all of them driven by their commitment to the rights of children.

For further information on the Global Movement for Children, please visit:

<http://www.gmfc.org>

<http://www.unicef.org>

For more on the Special Session:

Visit the UNICEF Web site

Comprehensive and updated information on the preparations for the Special Session is posted at the following Internet 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>

Chinese: <http://www.un.org/chinese/events/children/>

Russian: <http://www.un.org/russian/document/gadocs/27spec/>

Or please contact:

- Secretariat of the Special Session on Children.
UNICEF House, 3 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017.
Fax: (1-212) 303-7992
- The NGO Facilitation Team
UNICEF House, 3 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017.
Fax: (1-212) 824-6466 or 303-7990 or 326-7594

"A WORLD FIT FOR CHILDREN"

The second revised draft outcome document for the Special Session: "A World Fit for Children", dated 17 May 2001, has been finalized by the Preparatory Committee Bureau, following earlier comments from member states, UN agencies and NGOs and from the recent informal consultations held at the UN in New York. It is available at the following address:

<http://www.unicef.org/specialsession/>

"WE THE CHILDREN"

The Report of the Secretary-General, "We the Children: End-decade Review of Follow-up to the World Summit for Children" is also available at the following address:

<http://www.unicef.org/specialsession/>

This is the companion document to "A World Fit for Children", and includes a review of the implementation and results of the World Summit for Children Declaration and Plan of Action and recommendations for further action. It draws upon a wide and rich range of sources, including analyses of a decade's worth of data on child-related indicators; end-decade review reports submitted by countries, United Nations and other international agencies; and outcomes of regional processes. The report will be considered at the Third Substantive Session of the Preparatory Committee (11-15 June) and presented in a revised format at the Special Session in September 2001.