

# **PROMOTING PARTICIPATION IN A WORLD OF RIGHTS**

**The participation of children and young people,  
and civil society in the regional process towards  
the Special Session for Children**

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Save the Children Sweden is a non-profit organization. It does not hold any religious or political affiliation. With approximately 90,000 members, since its foundation in November 1919 it has focused its activities on the promotion and defense of children's rights, helping children at risk and sensitizing public opinion in these fields.

Save the Children Sweden founds its work on the United Nations International Convention on the Rights of the Child. It is a member of the International Save the Children Alliance, the world's largest independent movement struggling for the rights of children and young people.

Save the Children's Regional Office for South America is located in Lima, Peru. It operates through its counterparts, mainly non-governmental organizations, in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Uruguay, Venezuela and Peru. The regional program aims at ensuring the rights of children and young people by creating the appropriate conditions in society and the State. Its activities are performed in the framework of respect for each country's social and cultural context. In all its work, it has adopted a gender perspective and enforces the principles of non-discrimination and tolerance for diverse local and national values. Save the Children Sweden seeks to expand knowledge of and the exercise of children's rights to enhance the quality involvement of children and young people in their communities.



## *Foreward*

This document systematizes the local and national level interventions by civil society, including children and young people, in the Latin American process towards the special session of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session for Children.

The process has contributed to strengthen the region's follow up tasks regarding the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Through its Regional Office for South America, Save the Children Sweden has sought to promote broad-based and inclusive participation of children and adolescents in local and national processes by strengthening civil society organizations and fostering involvement through exchange and cooperation among civil society actors. Through its exchanges with national administrations it has also sought to have an impact on the materialization of the commitments that will allow to enforce children's rights beyond the Special Session.

For this reason, we have cooperated with theme-based networks, children and young people' organizations, national coalitions working on the oversight and monitoring of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as international organizations around the region. Our work was done in coordination with Save the Children Headquarters in Sweden, other Save the Children organizations in Latin America, and members of the Save the Children Alliance.

We expect this process to be another step bringing us closer to implementing the Convention and its various mechanisms throughout the region. Broad-based involvement in this experience should increase community acceptance for and understanding of children and adolescents' participation in all areas of concern to them.

Latin American countries covered by this systemization include Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Our gratitude goes to the members of non-governmental organizations, international agencies and organizations, and the children and young people of 16 Latin American countries involved in this systematization who are the expression of the region's effective commitment towards children and young people.

**Save the Children Sweden  
Regional Office for South America**



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### General reference framework

In Resolution 54/93, of December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1999 the United Nations' General Assembly decided to call for an extraordinary session period to follow up on the World Summit for Children that took place in 1990. In Resolution 55/26, the Assembly decided to convene an extraordinary session from 19 through 21 September, 2001. This session was called the "Extraordinary Period of Sessions on Childhood" which finally took place from 8 to 10 May, 2002.

General Assembly's Resolution 54/93 established that during the extraordinary period of sessions, in addition to monitoring progress in the enforcement of the World Declaration for the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and the Action Plan for the Enforcement of the 1990 World Declaration, new commitments would be made and consideration given to activities on behalf of children in the coming decade. In addition, the General Assembly confirmed the major role played by relevant agents, including non-governmental organizations, in enforcing the Action Plan. Resolution 54/93 also underscored the need for these organizations to become actively involved in this process.

Additionally, in resolution 55/26, the Assembly underscored the major role played by children and young people in this process. In this regard, it encourages national states to facilitate and promote the latter's active contribution to the preparatory process<sup>∞</sup> including tasks by the Preparatory Committee<sup>∞</sup> and to the Extraordinary Sessions Period.

Based on these resolutions adopted in June 2000, the first Substantive Meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Children took place in New York in June 2000.

National government and civil society representatives from the United Nations' member countries, as well as representatives of international organizations, met during the special session after an invitation made by the New York UNICEF office acting in compliance with the mandate given by the Preparatory Committee.

This initial international meeting was a fundamental step in the process to draft the United Nations' international documents on behalf of children.

The process begins with the explicit mandate by the United Nations to acknowledge all actors working for children's rights around world as valid and qualified interlocutors for analyzing and preparing proposals aimed at improving the quality of living of children and adolescents.

It then explicitly recognizes the importance of involving in the process to draft the document for approval by the Special Session on behalf of children, not only the government representatives discharging this task in each country, but also civil society organizations, as well as the children and young people themselves, to the extent of their ability to contribute to the drafting process.

The process started with a world evaluation of compliance with the goals proposed in the 1990 Summit.

“We, the boys and girls: Honoring the promises of the World Summit for Children” is a document prepared by the Secretary General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, evaluating the progress made towards honoring the commitments made ten years earlier to the world’s boys and girls in the World Summit for children. It includes a summary of the best practices in place, the lessons learned, roadblocks to further progress, and an action plan to build a just world for children.

A compilation of individual country contributions, this document provided a fundamental contribution to prepare the final document “A world fit for children” drafted for the Special Session, and to assist national states to set their goals on behalf of children for the next ten years.

The individual country reports and the documents prepared by the Secretary General, together with contributions made during the Preparatory Committee meeting, contributed a number of elements to the drafting of the final document. These contributions deserve highlighting and consideration, specifically for the Latin American region:

1. Start with an in-depth evaluation at the national, regional and world levels.
2. Analyze the goals set and identify the obstacles that prevented reaching them. Identify the facilitators that contributed to achieving progress.
3. In preparing the document, consider:
  - a) International, regional and national goals fitting individual conditions.
  - b) Quantitative and qualitative indicators that will allow more certain and regular measuring over time.
  - c) Comparable indicators that provide a view of reality not only in the global context but also regionally and country by country, thus allowing to identify the diversity of equity and exclusion conditions, among others.
  - d) Identifying key players in the diagnoses and document drafting:
    - Government representatives concerned with this issue
    - Civil society representatives involved with children and adolescents
    - Representatives of children and young people themselves, chosen in the most democratic and participatory way possible, taking into consideration individual, national/regional conditions.
4. Finally, mention is made of the clear political will expressed by the United Nations during the stage leading to the Special Session to promote, manage and include at each (country, region, world) level the processes that helped to turn the document about to be approved into the international foundation for national childhood policies. It should also help in designing the respective National Action Plans (NAPs) for the next 10 years, while ensuring the active involvement of all national-level stakeholders and the availability of financial resources for implementation and follow up initiatives.

Two years after the first Preparatory Committee Meeting, the Special Session for Children took place in New York, US, from 8 to 10 May, 2002.

For two consecutive years, childhood topics were not only included in the agenda of world summits and events, involving a range of actors, but became also a matter of interest and concern in regional countries.

It is clear we have not arrived at the end of the process. On the contrary, a new stage begins now for the world's and Latin America's children. Given the importance of building on past experience, Save the Children Sweden proposed to prepare "Promoting participation in a world of rights," a document to be used as an input for further developing and subsequently meeting the commitments already made.

This systematization seeks to share the experiences civil society, and children and young people throughout Latin America went through during the preparation period towards the Special Session, as well as during the session itself.

Expert and significant viewpoints of various stakeholders involved in preparing the meeting were used in drafting this paper. Their contributions include a range of position papers and documents, reports, diverse periodicals, communications and personal communications from throughout the region. Altogether they provided the core materials for this work.

It is expected that the wealth of elements included in this paper will contribute to the ongoing and fundamental task of ongoing building of regional social policies for children that will ensure the active enforcement of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

## Objectives

This document presents two main objectives:

- a) Systematizing the involvement of civil society and that of children and young people in the Latin American region during the process leading to the Special Session.
- b) Preparing a critical analysis of the process based on the participation of the above actors during the process itself.

A compilation of the major initiatives included in the process, this paper presents the viewpoints of the involved stakeholders and players, and a critical analysis that takes into consideration the strengths, difficulties and obstacles along the way. This approach builds on the information and opinions gathered, and a range of general information documents and materials.

## Methodology

An encompassing and in-depth gathering of information required a two-pronged approach. On the one hand, a detailed study of existing information at various NGOs, and international agencies and organizations. On the other, information collected directly from the main players (civil society, girls, boys and adolescents), who by looking back on their respective experiences would identify the most relevant components of their involvement.

We prioritized the following sources of information:

- a)- Consultation / surveys using pre-designed questionnaire forms with key actors, both NGOs representatives and girls, boys and adolescents who participated in various events during the process.

- b)- Gathering and review of correspondence among members of the Latin American and Caribbean Caucus.
- c)- Information gathered from the Internet published by various international organizations or the NGOs themselves and relating to the Special Session.
- d)- Reports on the Preparatory Committees, the Special Session and main regional events prepared by international organizations, NGOs and the Latin American and Caribbean Caucus Coordination Office.
- e)- Documents, publications and materials packages from various organizations involved in the process.

It is worthwhile mentioning that in compiling and organizing the data, an effort was made to include as many events, documents and commission reports as possible. However, despite the comprehensive approach adopted to examine local, national and international activities, the process was so fruitful that many activities which also contributed to enrich the process may have taken place but are not listed here. Nevertheless, the information we gathered reflects to a large extent the vitality and commitment of the various participating actors, as well as the pledges made throughout the region.

## *Regional Commitment*

Without a doubt, the Latin American and Caribbean region was among the world's regions that showed greater initiative and interest in the process leading to the Special Session. Ratification by all regional countries of the Convention on the Rights of the Child led to building a wealth of social capital that served as the basic foundation for the process. Several components were implicated: the existence of national NGO coalitions set up to oversee and follow up the progress achieved in implementing the CCR in most countries, as well as other civil society initiatives. To these efforts is added the active participation of the Rio Group and of other groupings of regional states involved in country-level negotiations vis-à-vis the Special Session.

Prompt and leading initiatives were the consequence of social processes already underway. The Special Session provided an unsurpassed opportunity for the convergence of a gamut of current efforts, to channel actions with and for children and young people, to mobilize resources and to secure universal commitments.

More appropriate perhaps is to allude to a regional commitment that started long before the Special Session and which gained international prominence during the session, thus allowing to renew efforts and lay firm foundations for the immediate future.

Analyzing individual governments' involvement exceeds the scope of this systematization. However, it is appropriate that in this instance we should recognize the significant role played by the Rio Group in world-level negotiations. This group clearly championed the Convention on the Rights of the Child when decisions were made relating to the goals for the next ten years, and also adopted an open and heedful attitude towards civil society proposals, thus assisting in ensuring the region's positions would be acknowledged and eventually included in the final document for approval.

Lastly, the regional network within the Latin American and Caribbean Caucus is, without a doubt, a most significant achievement as it permitted civil society to emerge as a single body during the process. The Caucus<sup>∞</sup> a network created to facilitate the exchange of lessons learned and contributions, and to disseminate the viewpoints of civil society and children and young people of regional countries vis-à-vis changing environments<sup>∞</sup> is proof of the region's maturity to take up its role to contribute to policy-making regarding children and adolescents. It also demonstrated the region's ability to get organized, remain informed and establish the alliances needed to ensure joint actions. However, its most lasting and deeper achievement may be the strengthening of individual country capacity and motivation to foster changes for the benefit of girls, boys and adolescents.

### **Events**

#### **Protagonism and sense of ownership**

This section describes the main events that took place in Latin America in the process leading to the Special Session. To provide a comprehensive view of the various events and initiatives, as well as national and local-level detail, the collected information is presented in a two-entry table enclosed as Annex I to this document.

Activities are organized and identified by level of territorial implementation (local, national, sub-regional, regional e international; <sup>1</sup> date<sup>2</sup> and type of beneficiary and participants. An evident characteristic of this process is the gradual involvement of various actors.<sup>3</sup>

A first look at the 155 events that were organized leads to the following general reflection about the position this issue fills in the agendas of governments and civil society around the region.

Beyond the commitments made and the various levels of materialization, during this period and through various initiatives by NGOs, the review and enforcement of children's rights have taken the forefront of the political scene, as reflected by the multiple events and dissemination efforts that were prepared and carried out in various countries. Moreover, almost all the events actively involved civil society.

By location, these events can be classified as follows:

- € 5 international events
- € 11 regional events
- € 10 subregional events
- € 128 national and local events

Of the 155 events under review:

- € 154 involved civil society
- € 1 event was exclusively for government representatives
- € 102 involved the State, civil society and, in many instances, international organizations and agencies

102 actively involved children and young people, as well as NGOs, States and international agencies.

If we read the above information by country and type of process, we will realize that, initially, these activities emerged spontaneously. Subsequently, a strategic and well-organized plan evolved, as national level processes grew stronger.

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1 a.- "event" here means one-time activities (e.g. seminars, meetings, workshops, conferences, etc.) organized in a given country or region.  
b.- a "national level event" means one for which country-level efforts are required.  
c.- "local event" means that involving part of a country (e.g. some provinces, local governments, departments, or regions within a country).  
d.- "regional" and "subregional" events involve players from the region or subregion.  
e.- "international events", involve several international countries and regions.

2 These appear in a double entry table including:

- A timeline by date of occurrence.
- The level for each activity, whether local, national, sub regional, regional and international, including the location where the event took place.

3 Information about participants in events was organized following the criteria below:

- (a) : civil society organizations (NGOs),
- (b) : government participants,
- (c) : boys, girls and adolescents participants,
- (d) : international organizations and agencies.

The Second Preparatory Committee and the subsequent meetings in January and February 2001 organized in Colombia are a turning point in events in the region. At these meetings, a framework of organized and strategic initiatives was agreed upon and planned to be enforced in each country and the region at large. Among other activities, these framework agreements<sup>∞</sup> defined by the UNICEF Regional Office, Plan International and Save the Children with involvement of Latin American and Caribbean Caucus's representatives<sup>∞</sup> will be reflected in country-level consultations, participation and surveying activities with children and young people.

In a different department, the involvement of government organizations and agencies from the various countries is worth underscoring as 67% of all events involved government representatives. Their involvement always took place in close coordination with civil society organizations. Among the initiatives bringing together governments and their representatives<sup>∞</sup> in addition to seminars, meetings and workshops, etc.<sup>∞</sup> were visits to and interviews with presidents, candidates to public office, ministers and major policy makers for children's and adolescents' issues are all worth highlighting.

Several NGOs contributed to organizing these meetings and assisted in making them known to the general public, thus adding transcendence to the process leading to the Special Session. An analysis of the involvement of both sectors (government and non-governmental) during the past decade shows that significant progress has been made in having those actors acknowledge the issue, as well as regarding the challenge to coordinate and complement initiatives. However, some interviewees mentioned many promises were made during the events but there was scarce will to implement the decisions. *"These events are characterized by the political image (participants) wish to project and the commitments they make. However, these promises do not materialize in political actions or budgets for implementing them."* (Adult from Guatemala).

We examine below the level of responsibility and compliance with the commitments made by governments.

*" (...) we have been invited to talk to some government members about the enforcement of children's rights. We have to take advantage of these opportunities to advocate those rights."* (Adult from Guatemala).

Additionally, we must underscore the emphasis given to dissemination events and to adopting a common approach towards children's rights implying the active participation of children and young people.

Of all national and local level events, we identified 67% that actively involved children and young people. A total of 102 events included boys and girls in the preparation stage. Several innovative proposals aimed at enhancing their vigorous contribution, including opinion polls to gain a more clear understanding of the responsibilities involved in the process, and participation in regional or international gatherings.

*"The experience was extremely positive for boys and girls and also proved to be a learning experience for local governments and NGOs. Boys and girls found there a major space for participating while making their voices heard at the various meetings throughout the process."* (Adult from Ecuador).

Additionally, all the major listed stakeholders participated in all 67 events.

The events are classified as follows: dissemination and press briefings, consultation and report presentations, campaign launchings, and topic-centered events. The "Say Yes to Chil-

dren” campaign was particularly important in various countries and was supported by international agencies, the mass media and other stakeholders.

The following topics were highlighted during the vents: participation and opinion of children and young people; sexuality and protection against child abuse, and the rights of indigenous children.

Gradually, each country clarified its own individual position and defined an agenda that allowed to identify the outcomes expected from the events. A case in point was participatory consultation with adolescents and the subsequent feedback of that information to public opinion in the regional countries.

Various international organizations and agencies played a significant role, as they supported most events where children and young people were present.

## **Documenting the process**

Written materials<sup>∞</sup> such as position papers, reports, commitments, topical publications and others<sup>∞</sup> were a key tool to providing continuity to and strengthening the process, whether in individual countries or regionally, in the various efforts leading to the Special Session.

The outcomes from the various events materialized in graphic products and, in some cases, audiovisual productions, thus becoming effective commitment tools. In particular, video and CD-ROM productions were increasingly used as a general dissemination tool to impact public opinion.

Gradually, a commitment emerged to prepare position and statement papers. Initial agreements were of a general nature but they progressively focused on specific issues.

Individual country papers provided sound groundwork for further region-wide progress and declarations. They include statements made by civil society groups; children and young people’ organizations and national governments.

If we include in our survey all the events that took place during this period, we could clearly recognize a process that gradually gained in depth, richness and momentum. It is expected that the documented main agreements reached at the events will provide inputs for more general papers to support larger scale and broader scope events and activities in future.

Moreover, documenting the process also blazes the trail to move beyond the specific goals set by the Special Session. For instance, the agreements with government representatives may translate into specific local initiatives for the benefit of girls, boys and adolescents. Documenting people’s participation gives rise to commitments that gradually drive players into adopting new positions in their daily lives.

Documents were prepared by participants from NGOs and national governments, as well the children and young people themselves. Simultaneously, specialized organizations prepared topic-centered publications, including academic contributions. Of note were the contributions from universities and the world of academe that gradually became increasingly drawn into the process.

Most of the materials were prepared and published with support from international agencies and organizations, including UNICEF, Save the Children, Plan International and World Vision.

The organization and systemization annexed to this paper (Annex II) took into consideration the document's origin, whether national, regional or international. Subsequently, the following classification scheme was enforced:

- **Statements/position papers.** Documents resulting from agreements, or consensus papers, reflecting the positions assumed or the declarations that aim at having an impact on more global documents.
- **Reports/systematization.** These documents bring together and organize a number of reports, specific outcomes from events, and studies prepared in the framework of the process leading to the Special Session.
- **Topic papers.** Documents focusing on a topic of interest as part of the process leading to the Special Session.
- **Dissemination documents.** Materials prepared to publicize an event, a particular condition or a campaign.

## Responsibilities

Based on the activities that took place during the period leading to the Special Session, individual countries realized the need to create working committees or groups charged with providing follow up for the tasks underway. At the same time, local and national commitments were increasingly identified and made explicit, against the background of the goals proposed for the coming years.

## Working committees or groups

The groups were organized on the basis of existing childhood and adolescent networks that assumed the topic as a priority. Alternatively, new groups emerged which were mostly national level and showed various degrees of integration, depending on the different countries. For instance, independently-organized NGOs or including representatives from national governments or children and young people' organizations. The groups provided steering and eventually became a major engine for awareness raising and disseminating the challenges and goals the Special Session posed to and in each country.

Organizational roles and initiatives were as varied as the groups themselves. However, we were able to identify a number of common functional objectives as follows:

- Promoting broad and active involvement of all those organizations (both public and private) working nationally or locally with children and adolescents.
- Promoting children and young people' participation in the various activities that took place.
- Disseminating the importance of the issue at hand and of all progress made around it.
- Identifying strategic alliances to assist in working effectively and providing follow up of all tasks undertaken at the regional and international levels, as well as subsequent continuity.
- Mobilizing existing resources to ensure appropriate participation and significant contributions from regional and international instances.

- Uniting efforts in following up specific issues related to children and their rights, as well as the Special Session process, thus getting the most out of the existing networks and of progress made.
- Following up on the topics already discussed and finding ways to include them in national agendas, in a manner suitable to each country's conditions.
- Preserving active and fluid exchanges within the regional network thus ensuring country-level participation in decision-making.

Of the 16 countries included in the systematization, 14 confirmed the existence of a national reference group during the process (Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Perú, Uruguay and Venezuela).

Four of the working groups were made up of already existing networks while the other 10 were established specifically for this purpose. Some countries created more than one group.

All groups included representatives from civil society, mostly NGOs. In five of them, the respective commission included government representatives while two countries mentioned a specific youth group was created for this task.

Ten are still operational and have set as their goal to continue working after the Special Session for following up on the agreements signed there. Three failed to continue operating.

Among their objectives, it's worthwhile mentioning the development of internal capacities to preserve a comprehensive vision of this process, thus recognizing the need to gather efforts in the search for common goals and the importance of actions rooted in civil society and in initiatives by the children and young people themselves.

To perform their duties and actions, working groups almost always counted on the support of international and regional organizations and agencies (remarkably UNICEF, Save the Children, Plan International and World Vision). In some countries, these organizations' contributions were combined with assistance from government agencies and private sector support.

In many cases, these groups became benchmark organizations that managed substantial impact and make significant contributions to public policy making in the field of children and adolescents issues.

Most of these groups have set themselves the goal to continue monitoring the commitments made during the Special Session, with a priority on ensuring the design and implementation of National Action Plans.

## Commitments

The commitments made around the general issues or, more specifically, issues of major concern for individual countries, were a major tool in mobilizing initiatives for children.

They allow to involve a growing number of actors, from both the public and private sectors. Thus, the need arose for them to take up various medium and long term challenges and responsibilities concerning the condition of children and the search for solutions.

This overall trend throughout the period became clear in all regional countries and was further fueled by several sub-regional, regional and international events that resulted in a

number of documents, oral presentations with the media, inter-institutional agreements and a set of clear objectives for the future.

Once assumed, these assumed commitments and responsibilities tell the success story of joint efforts by national governments, civil society and children and young people, that materialized in a rich document providing the arguments for reflecting on and building the National Action Plans for Children. Additionally, they provide guidelines for steering and monitoring initiatives in the wake of the Special Session.



### **Confirming the commitment of civil society towards boys, girls, and adolescents.**

Looking back over the last 20 years, the region as a whole seems to have made substantial progress towards greater respect for human rights. The gradual return of democracy and respect for the rights of citizens to participate are clearly a sign of the times. Simultaneously, the need to create clear and fair legal frameworks suitable to the changes underway has emerged. International agreements like the Convention on the Rights of the Child 12 years ago meant a turning point for this segment of the population and created a new paradigm for children and adolescents' rights. Subsequently, individual countries progressively adapted children's codes, and included the issue of children in the agendas of State and government regional summits, while adopting a framework of rights under the principle of comprehensive protection.

Analyzing the involvement of civil society in the long process leading to the Special Session implies acknowledging one more time the significant role played by NGOs in defining childhood policies around the region. However, we should underscore their role in defending the full exercise of children's rights. A view of children as rights bearers and efforts aimed at introducing mechanisms to ensure compliance have led to in-depth changes in traditional conception of social policies and policy-making. Therefore, NGO initiatives generally drive actors, whether in the target or government sectors, towards the search for and construction of responses appropriate to a new vision of childhood.

We are living in a period where public policies are becoming increasingly amenable to joint efforts with communities and movements working for children. Since the early 1990s, Latin America and the Caribbean have seen a number of initiatives for joint work in the defense of human rights through both individual national schemes and regional coalitions for following up on the enforcement of the Convention.

In an initial stage great attention was paid to initiatives promoting the Convention and which provided momentum for the role of various childhood organizations. During those years representation issues troubled the scene and led to the subsequent gradual loss of interest in and commitment to children and adolescents issues. Many institutional practices in those times lacked a rights approach or failed to become part of daily work with children and young people. As a result, the Convention on the Rights of the Child became but empty rhetoric.

Participating NGOs have come a long way in actively involving and becoming involved in grassroots activities with children and young people and their communities, as well as in collective spaces such as national networks, regional alliances and various regional and international events. Moreover, overall NGOs have developed a major ability to partner and bring new organizations into the

fold of the process. A broader view of children rights led to the greater and more active involvement of organizations related to issues like gender equity, local development, environmental issues, leadership building, sexual and reproductive health training, and other topics. The whole process, therefore became a more encompassing initiative with a greater capacity to mobilize social players as it was clearly “more open,” as compared to previous stages, and involved new actors invited to participate actively.

Essentially work has focused on managing initiatives and contributions for change, building a culture of participation and bringing together all agencies involved in initiatives for children and adolescents throughout the region.

#### a. From observation to proposals

During the process, the various organizations evolved a more participatory and energetic role.

Their initial observing and listening attitude gave way to a more active and proposal-making role. Identifying clear stages and predictable results helped in developing participation towards achieving concrete products. This way of acting made it possible for the model to be replicated in individual countries and provided additional motivation for local players.

- € *“From less to more. We saw a process of increasing interest among various organizations. Mainly among those from the national capital and to a lesser extent from the other states. However, organizations are having increasing impact on initiatives for children and adolescents, and to a large extent this is a result of the process.” (Adult from Mexico).*
- € *“The role of civil society has been extremely dynamic, suggestive, motivating and a source of consultations and agreements.” (Adult from Ecuador).*
- € *“I think in the Central American subregion their role was timely and significant because it allowed to jump start information, consensus- building and proposal making processes.” (Adult from Guatemala).*
- € *“Taking the debate on the condition of children and adolescents, the involved problems and their rights to other social sectors has been very important. Having prepared and presented specific proposals, opened and facilitated spaces for active and proposal-making participation of children and young people and having accompanied them throughout this process [ has been likewise important ].” (Adult from Guatemala).*
- € *“Throughout the Latin American Region the Caucus played a critical role in creating a regional space for materializing the objectives and desires concerning the rights of children, the socialization of information, and consensus building around proposals, and submitting them to the Río Group, as well as for presentations at the Special Session.” (Adult from Guatemala).*
- € *“Nicaragua met all expectations, increased its capacity to convene actors and has come out stronger to push for enforcement of an agenda which it contributed to prepare.” (Adult from Nicaragua).*
- € *“I think the main achievement was opening up the NGOs. I wonder if I see these changes because I am now involved in NGO work or because that change actually happened. In*

*our country theirs may not be the most common face shown but it is that of the most active player. And this is not a face people were much aware of before, but I think it's all changing. Perhaps because under the present circumstances people need to get closer to NGOs ...". (Adolescent from Uruguay).*

**b.- Filling new forums and developing new strategies: a collective task.**

Starting with the follow up meetings, the various organizations progressively took the responsibility for coordinating and integrating their initiatives in the framework of the preparatory reunions and regional efforts. These initiatives led to the launching of joint actions that materialized in a common forum called the Latin American and Caribbean Caucus.

*"Deciding to become part of a process that we did not fully know initially made us get ourselves organized and look for shared approaches we had not identified before. This led to building the national networks of childhood NGOs that set themselves the challenge of participating as such in other regional and international forums." (Adult from Chile).*

Additionally, joint initiatives between civil society and national government gradually took shape, first through specific efforts that were latter complemented by better structured activities. In many instances, these initiatives materialized in declarations and specific proposals for the national plans.

The following **strengths** can be identified among the organizations. They may give some hope for significant growth in the commitments and challenges ahead:

- Potential for involvement in world and regional level decision-making.
- Greater distribution of information among peers and for communities.
- Improved capacity to mobilize local, national and regional actors.
- Greater knowledge gained from negotiations with national governments and civil society.
- Capacity to bring about nationwide joint actions with national governments and civil society.
- Potential to mobilize the government sector to make specific commitments.
- Fund raising capacity for various actions leading towards the Special Session.
- Enhanced management and negotiation abilities before international agencies organizing the event.
- Ability to rally and work with children and young people and potential for follow up and strengthening.
- Capacity to talk to national administrations, in particular for following up and monitoring the agreements.
- Ability to partner and coordinate with international NGOs with a multiplier effect on initiatives.

However, initiatives were hampered by difficulties and roadblocks identified along the way. The most relevant follow:

- Individual countries suffered from weak ability to identify civil society participants to the process. Few countries implemented participatory consultation systems to choose their representatives to the Summit's events. Nevertheless, all countries recognize the need for change and have underscored the need to build more organic structures to ensure the best possible representation. To the above impediments, we must add the lack of clear and explicit criteria for identifying potential participants.
- In some regional countries, scarce involvement of national administrations had a negative impact on and limited the scope of agreements and coordination efforts.
- Specific political issues "contaminated" some fields to be addressed in the Special Sessions. In many instances, it was said, debate had been contaminated by international political issues related to terrorism and other affairs, clouding issues inherently related to children's rights.
- Difficulty to raise or lack of financial resources was a major constraint hampering more participation by many organizations. Although support from international organizations was available, several organizations expressed their difficulties in raising sufficient funds.
- Deadlines. "Insufficient time" for reading and reviewing reports and documents during the meetings and preparing the corresponding recommendations was considered a major obstacle. Other comments related to overlapping schedules of activities of interest to NGOs.
- Difficulties in ensuring appropriate, necessary and timely dissemination of information. Papers were produced and distributed at a pace "impossible to follow."

*"Civil society still plays a weak role because few [organizations] are aware of the events underway. In other words, there is little dissemination and truly this poses a challenge for all of us who are committed to changing this situation in which we live. This creates a vicious circle among those who are involved in the process and who represent a mass of people who are almost totally ignorant of what is going on."* (Adolescent participant from Peru).

*"Although we are aware that, unfortunately, our detailed work was not reflected in the final document, at least we had the opportunity of conducting in-depth debate, voicing our opinions, and fundamentally, strengthening networking throughout the region."* (Adult from Argentina)

### **c. Participation and commitments: a bet for the future**

Among the various commitments made by the participating NGOs, we may highlight:

- Strengthening the system for the comprehensive protection of children and adolescents.
- Creating a culture of participation among all social sectors.
- Having an influence on the creation, design and implementation of public policies for children and adolescents.

- Encouraging governors and local majors to work towards the enforcement of commitments included in the “*A World Fit for Children*” document.
- Sensitizing congress and parliament members around their role towards girls, boys and adolescents.
- Strengthening and opening forums for children’s participation in various national scenarios.
- Supporting children and adolescents’ associations.
- Strengthening the community oversight networks run by boys, girls, and adolescents.
- Undertaking concrete initiatives to create opportunities that give people the means and ways to defeat poverty.
- Strengthening close working relationships among NGOs that care for children.
- Designing strategic plans for topics included in the “*A World Fit for Children*” document.
- Providing communities with the tools they need to guarantee the fundamental rights of children and adolescents.
- Promoting a climate of social peace and security that will allow children and young people to enjoy their rights.
- Protecting children and adolescents from all types of mistreatment, violence, abandonment, sexual abuse and other types of cruelty.
- Recognizing childhood and adolescence as an absolute priority.
- Involving the mass media in the process to promote and defend children’s rights.
- Drafting the National Action Plan.
- Providing participation opportunities for younger children using simple strategies and reflection processes through which they can convey their needs and priorities as individuals.
- Developing systematic work with non-governmental and government organizations.
- Educating and training human resources for supporting work for children.
- Disseminating the International Convention for Rights of Children.
- Disseminating the results of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session for Children.
- Encouraging the participation of children and young people in preparing, designing and executing National Action Plans.

In sum, as articulated by a Venezuelan teenager, “generally and compared to the previous decade, social organizations have made interesting progress that must be acknowledged. In most cases there is no government support and consolidating the projects by those organizations requires much **creativity**, persuasive power, innovative strategies and abilities to debate and negotiate, so that as a result international organizations (or their peers) will provide funding for the projects. However, I have seen that many civil society organizations are not yet cooperating. There are some weaknesses that have diminished the desired **impact** and regional, national or local - level strengths. These are weaknesses that must be overcome. There are weaknesses in communication and organization but this is nothing that cannot be solved..”

## *Currents favoring participation of children and young people in the regional process.*

Against the regional background described above for participation of civil society, it must be underscored that throughout the process of consolidation of regional democracies— and in particular concerning the emergence of children and young people as citizens of their respective countries— the process towards the Special Session is a historical landmark to be recognized. Their role was fundamental in the emergence and dynamism of those forums where they participated reflecting about and contributing to the topics of direct concern to them and which also actively involve them in building the agenda for the next decade.

The fact that those spaces were created is not, however, the only significant achievement. Just as meritorious was the fact that children and adolescents effectively used them. Since the first Preparatory Committee Session, the number of participating children and young people increased gradually. Initially, they were represented by a single adolescent while over 400 children and young people from all over the world attended the Special Session. Of this total, 63 children and young people came from our region, representing 14 Latin American countries. Additionally, boys and girls made up approximately 20% of all Latin American attendees at the Special Session.

Despite the major difficulties faced by regional countries to provide the appropriate social, political and economic conditions that would meet the general needs of the population, we may safely hold that children are gradually being seen as rights bearers.

Though still at a rhetorical level, a vision is gradually emerging that recognizes the importance of involving boys and girls in issues of their concern.

We are still far from being able to ensure full participation. Nevertheless, existing international and regional documents signed by all states aim at promoting participation. Simultaneously, there is a critical mass of citizens from national governments and civil society organizations willing to create the necessary conditions to promote and ensure participation.

Indeed, a current is growing in Latin America towards increased participation of boys and girls.

### **a. Making participation visible**

**“ ... and children were visible at last. Clearly visible and participating.”**  
(Adult from Mexico).

During the First Meeting of the Preparatory Committee in May 2000 a Colombian adolescent, the only one invited at that opportunity said what she felt then, talked about the lives of the boys and girls in her country, but most of all she sharply asked, as a complaint:

—**“Why am I the only one? Where are the other boys and girls of the world?”**

## b. Looking at participation from the standpoint of inclusion

Looking back at events and recording the issues that the boys and girls pointed at during the process allows us to adopt a different viewpoint in our understanding of issues.

After examining all the instances where boys and girls were present, both at the national and international-levels, from the personal and collective viewpoint, and consulting the various consulted actors, the following can be said about boys' and girls' involvement:

- They **joined** from the moment they were given the opportunity to attend and receive support from the adult world to do so.
- They showed **great interest** in becoming involved in debates, exchanges and to make decisions around present topics of their concern and about future projects.
- They showed **great disposition** to be involved in areas close to their daily lives but also to meet challenges that required **contributions in the national, regional and international levels**.
- They demonstrated great **flexibility to adapt** to an infrastructure and flow of events that were clearly conceived by and for adults.
- They showed great **capacity to get organized**, mobilize in groups and set priorities for initiatives and topics that address everybody's interest.
- They showed ability to **contribute their ideas** and viewpoints **in writing** and so make specific contributions to debate documents.
- They **were coherently integrated to their respective delegations**. These teams **showed a great diversity** as they involved boys and girls of various social, economic, ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

Finally, meeting the challenge of inclusion for all, is, as explained by a Peruvian adolescent, a **learning process**.

A learning process that boys, girls, adolescents and adults have already started through broad-based participation in activities underway. Their participation has been made possible through local and national initiatives where children and young people showed that integration is possible, and not only as a one-time effort.

An adolescent from Venezuela declared: "it seems to me that (the participation of boys and girls) means we can fully exercise our capacities as citizens and we showed what we can actually do in the defense of our rights and to create a culture of respect for our rights."

## c. Lobbying for participation

Before the process no indicators were available to determine the measure of influence of boys and girls. Therefore, the challenge is now to adopt a technically rigorous way to identify such participation. Two viewpoints were chosen to visualize and identify it. One the one hand, analyzing the extent to which the proposals made by boys and girls in writing are included in the future agenda of the *A World Fit for Children* document. On the other hand, to examine the level of incidence of the process on the personal and social lives of participating girls and boys.

### Including proposals in the *A World Fit for Children* final document

A close review of the final document and the children and young people' proposals included in it on June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2001 allows is to objectively visualize to what extent the children's demands and proposals are effectively included in the documents prepared by adults.

The document prepared by boys and girls prioritizes five areas: education, the environment, health, child labor and participation. In turn, these topics break down into 16 areas of interest. An examination of these topics as they are included in the final document approved by the Special Session shows that:

- The topics prioritized by children are included in the final document.
- Out of the 16 points of concern, only 3 have not been included, of which 2 relate to the participation issue and 1 to child labor.
- The 13 remaining points are included in the document mainly reflecting the children's proposals and in most cases also the general sense of the text.
- In all topics, the final document includes a broader range of issues than those proposed by boys and girls.

To the extent the work issuing from the boys and girls' participation is fully included in the final document, we think that their effort was worthwhile. Both documents are enclosed as an attachment to this systematization (Annexes III and IV ).

### Integrating participation into everyday life

As important as the above is each boy and girl's personal life experience, as well as those of their families, communities and schools. Each of these experiences is part of the influence each boy and girl had in activities in those spheres. It would be impossible to describe here each and every one of these experiences because they are as numerous as there were boys and girls that went through this process. However, what we can draw from their stories is the likely impact that participation had on each one of them.

- The feeling of personal value they derive from having been given the opportunity to talk and be heard, as well as the pride of being their reference group's delegate or to represent their schools or communities.
- The importance of relating to the adult world in a different forum and to feel that they can also make decisions, not only because they are given the opportunity, but because they are capable of doing so and feel good about it.
- The responsibilities they assume in these forums, and which help them to think things can be different, if they make the decision to change them.
- Most of them have a strong identification with their communities and they were called to participate in forums where their presence was previously unthinkable. After having participated as delegates in the meeting they returned to their communities where they became involved in organizing workshops for their peers, and where they could share and spread out the result of their work. Among other activities, they promoted setting up support groups for community work.

However, not all results were positive. We must highlight as the main difficulty the frustration felt by boys and girls who, as time passes by, see that existing conditions do not change. It is expected that reading this chapter of the systematization will provide the tools for further work concerning these issues. The result of this reading should be a valuable contribution to other participatory processes.

—“*Children and adolescents have taken their roles seriously. They have pushed us adults to a position of greater commitment and placed us before a higher challenge. We can’t disappoint them. In the Special Session they very clearly said they don’t want promises but concrete actions*”.

(Adult from Guatemala).

### A joint assessment of the steps taken

Evaluating the accomplishments and failures of the children and young people’s participation in the process leading to the Special Session implies sharing with them the bets and commitments many boys and girls throughout this region made during two years. To write about their experiences, joys and frustrations and many other ambiguous and contradictory feelings is an attempt at leaving a testimony of their involvement. Probably this experience will not be reproduced but drawing lessons from it will help to blaze the trail for future enhanced participation.

a) Based on the contributions made by members of their organizations, the adults, and the children and young people from all regional countries, we can draw some common views about the **accomplishments or achievements of participation**.

- € Participation of boys and girls provides continuity to the process to the extent they are witnesses of what was said and signed by all countries.
- € Sufficient boys and girls were involved to make them visible before the rest of participants.
- € They showed the ability to participate in thinking about the topics, to contribute their ideas and vision, to declare what were their needs and to contribute to the agenda for 2000-2010.
- € They put forth clear proposals and demonstrated a sense of initiative.
- € They were present in local, national, regional and international events where they shared their experience and knowledge.
- € The adult world recognized the importance of asking, informing and listening to them.
- € They took up the responsibility of sharing in decision-making.
- € They took an active role and showed capacity to value the space that opened before them.
- € They showed the ability to independently defend and represent themselves.
- € They defined their positions based on their reflections and expressed them in writing.
- € They played a multiplier role in their communities and organized workshops for their peers with whom they shared their experiences and the lessons learned.
- € They showed leadership abilities.
- € They were able to reflect from a national and regional perspective in an increasingly “global” scenario.

- € They were supported by the adult world either individually or through national or international organizations promoting the participation of boys and girls.
- € They dealt with the topics proposed in the document prepared by adults in child-friendly versions to make reading and understanding easier for boys and girls.

—“(...) *we had the opportunity to live through a learning process towards participation.*”  
(Adolescent from Peru).

Participants identified the following difficulties for and barriers to participation:

- € Despite interest in reaching broad-based and diverse participation, involvement was occasionally limited and at times it even stagnated.
- € Funding determined the extent of country-by-country involvement and oftentimes biased the children’s participation towards the funding agency’s interests or viewpoints.
- € It was hard to maintain ongoing active and committed participation.
- € Adults had trouble to address boys and girls’ frustration in given circumstances. For instance, when the Special Session was interrupted because their opinions were not heard during the events or when they were not elected as representatives, among others.
- € Carrying all the required information proved difficult.
- € Clear criteria were lacking when choosing representative boys and girls.
- € The boys and girls’ attendance to events was poorly prepared.
- € During the international events, there were major language barriers.
- € Organizational issues were not clearly defined and hampered appropriate decision-making and involvement.
- € Children with disabilities were scarcely represented.
- € Time was a major barrier to ensure true participation.

—“*Adults still see children as rights bearers and not as peers when giving opinions and making decisions.*”

(Adult from Paraguay).

—“*We lack permanent debate and participation forums where boys and girls can put into practice what they have learned.*”

(Adult from Mexico).



In this systematization of children and young people' as well as civil society's involvement in the regional process towards the Special Session, we have identified some lessons that we expect will contribute to future initiatives for and with boys and girls. Some of the most important lessons are listed below:

- **Start from daily experiences.** To the extent all topics identified were drawn from daily experiences, it was also possible to ensure that the emerging proposals would have a direct impact on conditions on the ground.
- **A call to involve actors.** To ensure that the topics chosen would address the interests and experiences of the participating actors, it was considered necessary to include their views and proposals as participants in a change process.
- **Creating true forums for participation.** Creating clearly defined forums adapted to their members' reality, accepted by all the involved parties, and related among themselves made possible the effective participation of all involved actors in childhood issues. In turn, these forums had to be open to comments and capable of making contributions in the various levels where they operated towards the event.
- **Integrating actions among national administrations, civil society and children and young people.** Vast spaces open to action made possible to exchange different ideas and ways of thinking, and also made possible to reach agreements. Joint instances of participation promoted commitment by each of the involved parties and allowed also to identify tangible shared achievements.
- **Ensuring the necessary resources.** Funding and other resources played a crucial role throughout the participation process. To the extent resources were ensured and made available to all, broad participation was guaranteed, as well as appropriate levels of representation.
- **Acknowledging the strategic role of international agencies and NGOs.** Involvement of international agencies and NGOs was relevant to the extent they:
  - Made possible everybody's participation
  - Legitimized before national governments the importance of involving civil society, as well as boys and girls.
  - Supported regional and national level mobilization.
- **Promoting the emergence of networks ensuring the process's quality and continuity.** Building local, national and regional networks allowed building a strong sense of ownership that increased commitment to and accountability for the process. Additionally, networks allowed exchanges and feedback on the knowledge and experiences that emerged as unique contributions from those processes.
- **Making information available to all.** Throughout the process, information was a fundamental tool for those who had access to it in ensuring understanding of the process

and adopting a position towards it. It became clear that to the extent information was made available to a growing number of national and regional players, a stronger ability to make proposals was created and the impact of those proposals, as expressed in the final document, was likewise increased.

- **Acting at various levels: local, national and regional.** To the extent a range of actors were mobilized across various levels, it was also possible to enhance the exchange of experiences while laying the ground (by building social capital) for future proposals that will help in materializing the goals set forth in the final document.
- **Recognizing regional union as a strategic tool to promote and guarantee country-level initiatives.** An element that characterized the region, compared to other areas around the world, was the regional network (caucus) that ensured information distribution, sharing, position building and feedback among all members. This allowed for active involvement and shared positions reflecting each country's condition while simultaneously contributing to a sense of ownership of the process. It also helped in building capacity to make contributions to the process and, basically, strengthened overall commitments to ensure the full enforcement of the Convention through child-oriented policies in each and every country throughout the region.
- **Promoting the strategic role of civil society in the process.** Civil society played a fundamental role by accepting the responsibility to materialize the process towards the Special Session in each country. It involved a range of actors from national governments in its activities and heightened the importance of involving children and young people in each of the building stages. Likewise, civil society organizations became focal points in each country for gathering initiatives by international agencies and NGOs.
- **Defining goals and stages.** Defining clear intermediate goals and stages made identifying accomplishments and progress easier while involving all participants in the process. Preparatory meetings at various levels played a fundamental role by allowing to debate, process and clarify the process underway, and the products sought.
- **Respecting cultural, pace and process differences.** The all-inclusive character of the process throughout allowed to take advantage of a wide range of proposals addressing the cultural diversity characterizing our region.
- **Involving children and young people as leading actors.** Gradual integration made the adult world acknowledge the spontaneous and innovative relationship established with children and young people, the earnest and responsible role they played, their ability to contribute to document drafting, as well as their multiplier role in the various forums where they participate, including their families, schools and communities. Their participation made the adult world reconsider the existing forums, as well as establish channels of communication, to adopt more flexible positions where the forums occupied by boys and girls could also be included. Accepting true participation implies recognizing the children and young people role as leading actors in identifying their issues of concern.

Building on the lessons learned during the process towards the Special Session and accepting the importance of ongoing attention to the full enforcement of children's rights requires accepting the following issues in our vision of the future:

- 1) To promote the design, implementation and follow up of National Action Plans (NAPs) for children in each of the region's countries, as set forth in the final document approved by the Special Session.
- 2) To guarantee the full enforcement of the Convention for the Rights of Children when preparing NAPs.
- 3) To ensure that the design, implementation and monitoring of NAPs will involve all actors linked to these issues (national government, civil society, children and young people).
- 4) To promote the definition of clear stages and goals to project a possible future built by all.
- 5) To promote support and involvement of international agencies and organizations in the future project.
- 6) To support further consolidation of local and national networks that will act as valid players in the process and contribute to the dynamics and necessary representation required to ensure appropriate and plural participation.
- 7) To assist in ensuring a permanent regional network for information dissemination and exchanges on follow-up initiatives concerning the Special Session and the Convention on Children's Rights, and to feedback on the process in each regional country. Simultaneously, to ensure a closer relationship between the participating countries and the United Nations and Inter-American systems.

It is now indispensable for adults to design a general scenario that will include a new look at and thinking about the children's participation and their leading role. Thinking about including childhood in a world of rights requires imagining a "new" place for adults in it, as well as forums for reflecting, reviewing and analyzing new positions where boys and girls will occupy a new position and take up responsibilities gradually, as full exercise of the rights becomes a daily experience.

From the viewpoint of children's rights, adults must necessarily involve in changing structures and looking for mechanisms to challenge their own existing concepts and beliefs.

This new position will help in building a new place for children and will create effective conditions to unleash the change processes to build a new "feeling and doing" together with boys, girls, their families and their communities.

We are already on the way. In the regional process towards the Special Session, the leading actors demonstrated this journey is possible. Boys, girls, adolescents and adults shared in a process of reviewing present conditions and making new commitments. A process that will both unleash changes and raise new challenges.

It is now everybody's task, challenged by the transforming ability of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in the framework of the recent experience, to rise to the challenge of thinking about, questioning and contributing to new daily practice and thus assist in making social policies that will turn children's participation into a tangible component of everyday life in communities throughout the region.

## National, regional and international events

2000	National and local events	Sub-regional, regional and international events
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>∅ National consultation for boys, girls and adolescents. PERU</li> <li>∅ National consultation and national agenda meeting for children and adolescents. COSTA RICA</li> <li>∅ Regional meetings with Peruvian boys, girls and adolescents about the opinion survey. PERU</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>∅ First Meeting of the Preparatory Meeting towards the Special Session. US</li> </ul>
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>∅ National Agreement for Children and Adolescents. Declaration of July 2000. ECUADOR</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>∅ First Meeting for Central American and Caribbean Coordination. NICARAGUA</li> </ul>
August		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>∅ South Cone plus Brazil meeting. Fist agreements about the Special Session. ARGENTINA</li> </ul>
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>∅ Presentation of the National Agenda for children and adolescence. COSTA RICA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>∅ Sub regional meetings of Ecuadorian, Venezuelan and Peruvian coalitions. ECUADOR</li> </ul>
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>∅ “National Assembly of Children and Adolescents. Together for a society without violence”. Election of representative boys and girls for the second Prepcom. VENEZUELA</li> <li>∅ Implementation of the National Agenda. COSTA RICA</li> <li>∅ “National Assembly of Children and Adolescents. Together for a society without violence”. Maracaibo, State of Zulia; Barcelona, State of Anzoategui; Coro, State of Falcón; Mérida, State of Mérida; La Asunción, State of Nueva Esparta; Maturín; State of Monagas. VENEZUELA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>∅ V. Meeting on children and social policies in the Americas. JAMAICA</li> </ul>

2001	<i>National and local events</i>	<i>Sub-regional, regional and international events</i>
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>€ Forums on Children and Adolescents in Antofagasta, Concepción, Rancagua, Santiago and San Felipe. CHILE</li> <li>€ Workshops, road shows and meetings to disseminate and promote children's and adolescents' rights throughout various Ecuadorian provinces (states). ECUADOR</li> <li>€ Meetings of boys and girls in the various provinces to learn and discuss United Nations documents. ECUADOR</li> <li>€ Radio programs and spots based on the "A World Fit for Children" document, broadcast in Maya Quiche and Mam, Spanish languages. GUATEMALA</li> <li>€ Fifteen municipal and department-level minisummits for children and adolescents organized around the "A World Fit for Children" document. GUATEMALA</li> <li>€ Senate forum towards the Special Session. A process followed by NGOs regarding the role of legislature in enforcing Special Session's agreements. MEXICO</li> <li>€ Intercultural Session of the Children and Adolescents National Assembly concerning the rights of indigenous people (2001). Participation and evaluation of the World Summit's goals for children Maracaibo. VENEZUELA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>€ Second Prepcom meeting towards the Special Session. US</li> <li>€ Meeting of the Mexico, Central America and Panama subregional coordinating body. NICARAGUA</li> </ul>
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>€ Presentation of Report on the Condition of Children. MEXICO</li> <li>€ NGOs meet with Presidente V. Fox. MEXICO</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>€ Coordination meeting among Save the Children, Unicef, Plan International about the regional plan of the Latin American and Caribbean Caucus. COLOMBIA</li> </ul>
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>€ Meeting with presidential candidates. PERU</li> <li>€ Workshops on children's rights and outcomes documents. Tegucigalpa. HONDURAS</li> <li>€ Consultation with boys and girls on the outcomes documents and children's rights. Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula. HONDURAS</li> <li>€ Local surveys around the "A World Fit for Children" document. Caracas, National Capital District, Valencia, State of Carabobo; San Juan de los Morros, State of Guárico. VENEZUELA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>€ Coordination meeting among Save the Children, Unicef, Plan International about the regional plan for the Latin American and Caribbean Caucus and Caucus representatives. COLOMBIA</li> </ul>

2001	<i>National and local events</i>	<i>Sub-regional, regional and international events</i>
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>€ First National Meeting of Childhood NGOs. CHILE</li> <li>€ Preparatory and coordination meetings for the Special Session among government and NGO representatives. BOLIVIA</li> <li>€ Forum: Has Venezuela met the World Summit Commitments? Evaluating Venezuela's enforcement of agreements made in the World Summit Caracas. VENEZUELA</li> <li>€ A consultation with Civil Society (evaluating the present decade and demands for the coming decade). GUATEMALA</li> <li>€ "Say Yes to Children" Campaign (1<sup>st</sup> Stage). GUATEMALA</li> <li>€ New Momentum for the Global Movement. Promoting the Special Session. PANAMA</li> <li>€ "Say Yes to Children and Adolescents" campaign. A national consultation. (April –September). PANAMA</li> <li>€ Local workshops "Adolescents as living actors of the Preparatory Meeting for the World Summit" Involving adolescence in the process towards the Special Session. Rivera, Lavalleja, Paysandú, Maldonado, Canelones, Montevideo. URUGUAY</li> <li>€ Minisummit of the Mam and Quiche peoples of the Quetzaltenango region. Analysis of the "A World Fit for Children" document. GUATEMALA</li> <li>€ Press conference. Delivery of civil society document to the government's representative before the Special Session. GUATEMALA</li> </ul>	
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>€ National children meeting. A consultation on the "A World Fit for Children" document. PERU</li> <li>€ National Seminar towards the World Summit. NGOs and UNICEF . URUGUAY</li> <li>€ Beginning of the "Say Yes to Children" Campaign . URUGUAY</li> <li>€ National radiobroadcast consultation on "A World Fit for Children" . GUATEMALA</li> <li>€ Election of the boys and girls' representatives to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Prepcom. HONDURAS</li> <li>€ NGOs workshops. Civil society proposals to implement a ten-year plan of action for boys, girls and adolescents. GUATEMALA</li> <li>€ Assembly of local management committees for the rights of boys, girls and adolescents. ECUADOR</li> <li>€ Boys, girls and adolescents meeting about the national</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>€ WAWAKUNAMANTAK: For Our Children seminar. PERU</li> <li>€ International seminar and workshop on the condition of children and adolescents in Latin America: "The road towards the world summit for children" PERU</li> <li>€ Meeting of Adolescents from Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic. HONDURAS</li> </ul>

2001	<i>National and local events</i>	<i>Sub-regional, regional and international events</i>
May	<p>action plan for children and adolescents and the United Nations General Assembly Special Session in the framework of the National Conference for Social Development. PERU</p> <p>€ Indigenous children's congress. Meeting of boys and girls from various nationalities and peoples. Continental Meeting on Indigenous Children and Adolescents. ECUADOR</p> <p>€ Department-level alliances for children and adolescents in ten cities in Bolivia. BOLIVIA</p> <p>€ Consultations about the "A World Fit for Children" document. Caracas, National Capital District; Acarigua, State of Portuguesa; Maturín, State of Monagas, Mérida, State of Mérida; Valencia, State of Carabobo, San Juan de los Morros, State of Guárico. VENEZUELA</p> <p>€ "Our Voices" a video production . Maya adolescents talk about their world. Quetzaltenango, Costa Sur and Cantel, Llano del Pinal. GUATEMALA</p> <p>€ Youth meeting for the children's summit. COLOMBIA</p> <p>€ Consultations with children and adults organized by Codeni, the Special Prosecutor's Office, Conapina, and Save the Children on the outcomes document. NICARAGUA</p>	<p>€ 3<sup>rd</sup> coordination meeting of the Mexico, Central America and Panama subregion. Socializing national-level follow up processes regarding the Special Session. Subregional consensus on contributions to the document. NICARAGUA</p>
June	<p>€ NGOs press conference. MEXICO</p> <p>€ National Workshop. Preparing the national ten commandments based on department level commandments. BOLIVIA</p> <p>€ Consultations with the "Social Front" on the United Nations' document. ECUADOR</p> <p>€ National boys and girls forum on the outcomes document. NICARAGUA</p> <p>€ Meetings with the national government preparing for the Prepcom. CHILE</p> <p>€ National adults forum on the outcomes document. NICARAGUA</p> <p>€ A meeting with almost 100 local majors belonging to the Majors for Children Network. NICARAGUA</p> <p>€ Department (state) level workhops with children and adolescents in La Paz, El Alto, Oruro, Potosí, Cochabamba, Sucre, Tarija, Santa Cruz, Trinidad, Cobija. BOLIVIA</p> <p>€ Meeting with adolescents in the children's summit: "Young women and the action platform for the</p>	<p>€ 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session. US</p>

2001	<i>National and local events</i>	<i>Sub-regional, regional and international events</i>
	<p>Special Session and Adolescents' rights" . COLOMBIA</p> <p>€ A children's contribution based on the "A World Fit for Children" document. PARAGUAY</p>	
July	<p>€ Press conference / strategies for the Special Session. The national government and NGOs contributions. URUGUAY</p> <p>€ A round table on Law 12607. ARGENTINA</p> <p>€ National and local children and adolescents forum on the National Children Policy, the Special Session and the roles of NGOs. CHILE</p> <p>€ Beginning of the "Say Yes to Children Campaign" in municipalities and networks of the VI and VIII Regions. CHILE</p> <p>€ Roundtables between NGOs and the national government. ECUADOR</p> <p>€ Press conference to present Special Session strategies. San Pedro Sula. HONDURAS</p> <p>€ Cross-generational debate on poverty and its impact on children and adolescents. COLOMBIA</p> <p>€ Xela minisummit on children's rights. Quetzaltenango. GUATEMALA</p> <p>€ Workshops taught by adolescents participating in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Precom. San Juan Ostucalco, Cajola, Llano del Pinal, municipalities. GUATEMALA</p>	<p>€ "Adolescents from the Americas against sexual abuse". A meeting VENEZUELA</p> <p>€ Meeting of indigenous boys, girls and adolescents. ECUADOR</p>
August	<p>€ "Say Yes to Children Campaign". PARAGUAY</p> <p>€ 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of Childhood NGOs. CHILE</p> <p>€ "Say Yes to Children Campaign". National Commission on the rights of boys, girls and adolescents. PERU</p> <p>€ National and local children forums. "Rights in their world". CHILE</p> <p>€ "Say Yes to Children" Campaign. VENEZUELA</p> <p>€ " Say Yes to Children" campaign together with video productions, other written materials, songs and meetings with the media. NICARAGUA</p> <p>€ National Summit on Children and Adolescents. GUATEMALA</p> <p>€ Organization of the working committee towards the summit including representatives from three groups of children. Four meetings for document review, propos-</p>	<p>€ A workshop: world movement for children. A definition of actions during and after the Special Session. LONDON</p>

2001	<i>National and local events</i>	<i>Sub-regional, regional and international events</i>
	<p>als preparation and electing representatives to the meeting.  <b>PARAGUAY</b></p> <p>€ National Meeting with boys, girls and adolescents. Representatives election for the Special Session.  <b>BOLIVIA</b></p> <p>€ “Our voice is heard” . A document delivered to the Nation’s President.  <b>GUATEMALA</b></p>	
September	<p>€ Preparatory Workshops for the Special Session. Communication with boys, girls and adolescents.  <b>NICARAGUA</b></p> <p>€ Meeting with the community well-being minister to discuss rights and participation.  <b>GUATEMALA</b></p> <p>€ Forum to present the document for the World Summit to the National Government and Civil Society.  <b>PARAGUAY</b></p> <p>€ Meeting with the National President and Department level officials. Demonstrations. Presentation of the ten national commandments in La Paz and department capitals.  <b>BOLIVIA</b></p> <p>€ “Towards the United Nations General Assembly Special Session”. A position paper by organizations and institutions participating in the Special Session process.  <b>MEXICO</b></p> <p>€ Press conference. Dissemination and presentation of representatives to the Summit.  <b>PARAGUAY</b></p> <p>€ Signing of the inter-institutional agreement prepared by the Alliance for Children and Adolescents.  <b>BOLIVIA</b></p> <p>€ Meeting with children participating in the national and regional preparation meetings for the Summit.  <b>PARAGUAY</b></p> <p>€ “Towards the United Nations General Assembly Special Session”. A position paper by organizations and institutions participating in the Special Session process.  <b>PERU</b></p>	
October	<p>€ Meeting with NGOs and municipal governments. A progress report on the Special Session. Press briefing.  <b>COLOMBIA</b></p> <p>€ National march for campaign closing. Participation on the Firefighter band.  <b>PANAMÁ</b></p> <p>€ Audience with the National President.  <b>GUATEMALA</b></p>	<p>€ Ibero-American Conference of Children’s Ministers. Drafting of the Ibero-American children’s agenda for the next decade.</p>

2001	<i>National and local events</i>	<i>Sub-regional, regional and international events</i>
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>€ Seminar on Children's Rights. Children's rights Committee. URUGUAY</li> <li>€ Children's rights week. Events with boys, girls and adolescents. URUGUAY</li> <li>€ IV National Summit. "Boys, girls and adolescents: the need for a national agenda for the new decade". GUATEMALA</li> <li>€ Children's forum in Xela "Quetzalteca children. Driving change towards a world fair for children. GUATEMALA</li> <li>€ Delivery of outcomes from the "Say Yes to Children" campaign. VENEZUELA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>€ Consultation on comercial sex abuse. IIN –UNICEF. URUGUAY</li> </ul>
December		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>€ Seminar: "Workshop on working children and adolescents: After 11 years of the Convention on the Rights of Children". PERU</li> <li>€ First Latin American consultation on defense, oversight and follow up of children's rights. BRAZIL</li> </ul>

2002	<i>Local and national events</i>	<i>Sub-regional, regional and international events</i>
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>€ National meeting on children and adolescents: "Let's break the silence" . Boys, girls and adolescents talk about sexual exploitation and abuse. VENEZUELA</li> <li>€ Election of Paraguay representatives to the Latin American and Caribbean Caucus Regional Meeting. PARAGUAY</li> <li>€ "First National meeting of boys, girls and adolescence as community overseers". An analysis of the Ministry of Health and Social Development operating plan for 2002 and the draft document for the Special Session. VENEZUELA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>€ Regional meeting about UNGASS for Save the Children members from Central and South America. HONDURAS</li> </ul>
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>€ Participatory research involving local authorities on children's participation in national plans. GUATEMALA</li> <li>€ National Children and Adolescents Meeting towards the Special Session. Drafting of proposals for agreement follow up. VENEZUELA</li> <li>€ An assesment workshop with boys, girls and adolescents on children's rights. San Salvador. EL SALVADOR</li> <li>€ Roundtable on international documents and Public Policies for Youth and Sexuality in Colombia. A consultation on action plans with adolescents. COLOMBIA</li> <li>€ "Adolescents as leading actors in the process towards the World Summit" . National Consultation on action plans. URUGUAY</li> <li>€ A consultation with children and adolescents on national action plans. PERU</li> <li>€ A consultation with adolescents at 21 local events nationwide. ARGENTINA</li> </ul>	
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>€ A dissemination campaign on participatory research and drafting of the Maya adolescents' declaration delivered during the Special Session at the dialogue between chiefs of state and children from Latin America. GUATEMALA</li> <li>€ "Say Yes to Children" campaign. GUATEMALA</li> <li>€ «Meeting of adolescents for active involvement". Workshops with 60 adolescents from all the nation. ARGENTINA</li> <li>€ Meeting between the national vicepresident and the Uruguay delegation to the Special Session. URUGUAY</li> <li>€ Meeting with children and adolescents groups. Preparing the national post-summit platform. PARAGUAY</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>€ Regional consultation. A presentation of national consultation results after debating the "A World Fit for Children" document. PARAGUAY</li> </ul>

PROMOTING PARTICIPATION IN A WORLD OF RIGHTS

2002	<i>Local and national events</i>	<i>Sub-regional, regional and international events</i>
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>€ Beginning of the “Nearly existing is not enough” campaign. MÉXICO</li> <li>€ Organization of adolescents groups to ensure implementation of national plans and media based lobbying. GUATEMALA</li> <li>€ Socialization of the Final Special Session document. COSTA RICA</li> <li>€ Workshop with media before the Special Session. NICARAGUA</li> <li>€ Information campaign organized by children members of the media during the Special Session. NICARAGUA</li> <li>€ Information activities since the Special Session for Nicaragua and Central American media. NICARAGUA</li> <li>€ Dissemination workshop regarding the Special Session. MEXICO</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>€#Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGASS). US</li> </ul>
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>€ Press briefing organized by NGOs on the Special Session. ARGENTINA</li> <li>€ Press meeting organized by NGOs on civil society involvement in the process. MEXICO</li> <li>€ 8 press meetings around the process and the summit. NICARAGUA</li> <li>€ Dissemination workshops on the Special Meeting in Morelos. MEXICO</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>€#Meeting of the Mexico, Central America, Dominican Republic and Panama coordination comission. An analysis on the condition of children. NICARAGUA</li> </ul>



**Events, Written Documentation and Commitments at National, Regional and International Levels.**

**a. National**

**ARGENTINA**

• *Events*

**2001**

**July**

- Table/ Debate of Law 12607.  
Participants: Non Governmental Organizations (NGO) and the State.

**2002**

**April**

- Meeting of teenagers for active participation.  
Participants: Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), boys, girls, adolescents and international organisms and agencies.
- 21 local (throughout the country) adolescent consultation events. Participants: Non Governmental Organizations (NGO) boys, girls, adolescents and of international organisms and agencies.

**May**

- Press conference summoned by NGO regarding Special Session process.  
Participants: Non Governmental Organizations (NGO).

• *Written Documentation*

**Statements / Positions**

- Report /Observations on the document, "A Just World for Children" from the Argentinean Pediatrics' Association.
- Children's World Summit - Position of the Argentinean Pediatrics' Association; Quinternion 2001.
- In the national event: "Meetings of Young People for Active Participation" (April 2002) the young participants wrote letters to different persons or institutions: Argentinean authorities, the President, and all world authorities.

**Reports / Systematisation**

- Participate, give opinions, debate. Debates and conclusions regarding the national meeting and the meeting in Paraguay. ADI. 2002.
- Thematic Publications

## Thematic Publications

- What can and what should a school do when faced with child abuse? National Program for the Rights of Children and Adolescents. The Nation's Ministry of Culture and Education. (Quinternion with cards).
- School Integration of children with special needs. Asociación por los Derechos de la Infancia - ADI (Association for Children's Rights). (Magazine). 2000.

## • *Work Groups or Committees*

- This process coincided in Argentina with the writing process of the NGO' report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva. Due to this, the NGO Collective on Childrens and Adolescents (Argentinean Coalition) formed a follow-up work group.
- Still active in order to exchange information regarding the status of children and adolescents, to continue carrying on an incidence process in public policies and to denounce infringements of rights. Also, to follow-up compliance of the Convention and the commitments made in the World Summit.
- At the end of the local meetings, the coordinators promised to get in touch again with the participants to invite them to the national meeting which was held in April.
- The groups, directly coordinated by ADI, promised to continue the task of accompanying the young people's participation at local and national meetings.
- After the national event, ADI promised to systematize the national process and to provide them, once the session ended, with a quinternion narrating the experience of the process toward the World Summit. It also promised to give a refund to all the participating groups on their return from the Regional Meeting in Paraguay.

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## BOLIVIA

### • *Events*

**2001**

**April**

- 
- ∓ Preliminary and coordination meetings related to the Special Meeting.  
Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), of the State and of international organisms and agencies.

**June**

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- ∓ National Workshop. Preparation of the Childrens National Decalogue.  
Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), of the State, boys, girls, adolescents and of international organisms and agencies.
  - ∓ Organization of Departmental Alliances for Children and Adolescents. Participants; Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs), of the State and of international organisms and agencies.
  - ∓ Departmental workshops on children's rights in the cities of La Paz, El Alto, Oruro, Potosí, Cochabamba, Sucre, Tarija, Santa Cruz, Trinidad, and Cobija.  
Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), of the State, boys, girls, adolescents and of international organisms and agencies.

September

##Session with the President of the Republic and with departmental authorities. Mobilizations. Presentation of the National Decalogue.

Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), of the State, boys, girls, adolescents and of international organisms and agencies

##Subscription of the inter-institutional agreement of the “Alianza Boliviana” (Bolivian Alliance for Children and Adolescents).

Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), of the State, boys, girls, adolescents and of international organisms and agencies.

*## Written Documentation*

**Declaraciones/ posicionamientos**

##0 Departmental decalogues and one national decalogue on the Rights of Children and Adolescents.

##Inter-Institutional agreement with the participation of representatives of government institutions - Ministry of Health and Social Insurance/ Adolescent Integral Health Program, Ministry of Sustainable Development/ Vice Minister of Gender, Generational and Family Affairs - and Non Governmental: SOS Children’s Village, Care Bolivia, Christian Children’s Fund-Bolivia; Local Development Study and Support Center/ CEADL, International Defence of Children - Bolivia Section; Ombudsman; ENDA Bolivia; Fe y Alegría - Bolivia; Food for the Hungry; Episcopal Committee for Social Pastoral CARITAS; Inti Watana; Alliance Mission of Norway; Pathfinder International; International Plan - Bolivia; Save the Children - Canada; Save the Children USA; Land of Men Platform- Germany; World Vision and UNICEFUNICEF.

*##Work Groups or Committees*

##The Bolivian Alliance for Children and Adolescents was established to work at the national and departmental levels. Its current objectives are to promote organized participation and to strengthen the protagonist social acting of boys, girls and adolescents; supervise the exercise of the rights of boys, girls and adolescents and denounce any violation, advocating its rapid restitution; to promote participation, mobilization and commitment of the community to achieve the exercise of the rights of boys, girls and adolescents.

##The members of the Bolivian Alliance for Children and Adolescents are committed to developing the following actions:

**a. State Institutions**

€ Prepare public policy guidelines addressing the effectiveness of the rights of boy, girls and adolescents within the framework of the Global Movement.

€ Coordinate, design and execute a Ten-year Plan and Annual Operational Plans for the Alliance, with the participation of organizations for boys, girls and adolescents and of other Non Governmental Organizations.

€ Guarantee the allocation of the necessary resources to ensure the execution of the Alliance Action Plan and Operational Plans.

€ Guarantee coordination spaces with organizations of Non Governmental Organizations.

**b. Non Governmental Organizations**

- €#Coordinate, design and execute a Ten-year Action Plan and Annual Operational Plans for the Alliance, with the participation of organizations of boy, girls and adolescents and of other Non Governmental Organizations,
- €#Look for and channel the necessary resources to ensure the execution of the Action Plan and the Annual Operational Plans of the Alliance.
- €#Accompany and support the design, execution and follow-up of the National Action Plan for Boys, Girls and Adolescents.
- €#Support the follow-up and assessment of programmed actions and the formulation of new initiatives regarding children and adolescents.

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**Chile**

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• *Events*

**2001**

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**April**

- € Childrens and Adolescents forums in Antofagasta, Concepcion, Rancagua, Santiago and San Felipe.  
Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and of boys, girls and adolescents.
- € First National Meeting of NGOs for Children.
- € Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

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**July**

- € National and local Children and Adolescents Forums.  
Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs), of the State, boys, girls, and adolescents.
- € Launching of the “Say Yes to Children” campaign in municipalities and networks of the VI and VIII Region.  
Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs), of the State, boys, girls, and adolescents and of international organisms and agencies.
- € Preliminary meetings with government representatives regarding Preparatory Committees.  
Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations and of the State.

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**August**

- € Second National NGO Children’s Meeting.  
Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO).
- € “Actual Rights” children forums at the national and local levels.
- € Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), of the State, boys, girls and adolescents and of international organisms and agencies. .

• *Written Documentation*

**Statements/ Positions**

- € Position on subjects regarding the Special Session.- Corporation Option. Document that analyses specific subjects in order to contribute a final document of the Special Sessions. (BUSCAR MAS INFORMACIÓN)
- € Children / adolescents. National Policy and integrated Action Plan on behalf of Children and Adolescents - Government of Chile - Publication - March 2001.

**Reports /Systematisation**

€ Systematisation of “Say Yes to Children” in the VI and VIII regions, prepared by ACHNU-PRODENI Document /Comments “A Just World for Children” July 2001.

**Thematic Publications**

€ “From Guardianship to Justice” Corporation Option. study documents, publication, 2002”.  
 € “Children and Human Rights: Speech on reality and prospects” Corporation Option, study documents, publication, 2002.

€ *Work Groups or Committees*

- Based on the organizations that participated in the process, a Work Group was formed during the same, which is still currently active.
- This work group was assumed as a commitment by the National Plan landing organizations at the regional level (VI region).
- Commitments with the children to carry out similar events (VIII region).
- The National NGO Children’s Network of Chile, which generated from the two mentioned national meetings, is still working at national and regional levels. There is a national table of eight members, two representatives of each region. Some of their main tasks are to:
  - Monitor compliance of the CDN.
  - Prepare an alternative report for the Geneva Committee.
  - Promote the participation of boys and girls in all national areas.
  - Generate proposals to government policies, in social, political and cultural areas that directly or indirectly affect the exercise of the rights of boys and girls.

**Colombia**

• *Events*

**2001**

**May**

€ Youth meeting in the Children’s Summit. Reflections: young women in the Special Session action platform and the rights of male and female adolescents.  
 Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), of the State, boys, girls and adolescents.

**July**

€ Intergenerational dialog, Poverty and how it affects children and adolescents.  
 Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), of the State, and of international organisms and agencies.

**October**

€ Meeting with NGO and municipalities. Indication of progress with regard to the Special Session. Press participation.  
 Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), and of the State.

**2002**

**March**

€ Establishment of the Work Table on International Documents and Colombian Public Policies, with emphasis on Youth and Sexuality.  
 Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), of the State, adolescents and of international organisms and agencies.  
 € Meeting with adolescents to consult them about the action plans.  
 € Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), of the State, boys, girls and adolescents.

- *Written Documentation*

**Statements/ positions**

- Position document of young Colombian boys and girls regarding the subjects that should be included in the Session's final document (during the first event).
- Document resulting from the consultation with young boys and girls and the final reports of the meeting.
- "An Adequate World for Children", which gathers the opinion of young boys and girls about the status of children in Latin America.

**Thematic Publications**

- Promise "A program for the healthy physical, emotional and intellectual development of small boys and girls" Systematisation of the CINDE program for working with children 0 to 7 years old.

- *Work Groups or Commissions*

- An alliance was formed by UNICEF, Save the Children, International Plan and national NGO, which is still in action in order to divulge the document "A World Fit for Children" and for the participatory structuring of a ten-year plan through regional forums and a national one.
- The Colombian Network of Young Pro-family Multipliers is working in this follow-up, together with the Latin American and Caribbean Network of Young People for Sexual and Reproductive Rights.
- Follow-up of the results obtained in the Special Session final document was proposed, working in the creation of National Action Plans.

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**Costa Rica**

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- *Events*

**2000**

**June**

∅ National Consultation and Preparation of the National Children and Adolescents Agenda, June.  
Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), of the State, boys, girls and adolescents.

**October**

∅ Presentation of the National Children and Adolescents Agenda.  
Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), of the State, boys, girls and adolescents.

**2002**

**May**

∅ Socialization of the Special Session Final Document.  
Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), and of the State.

- *Written Documentation*

**Reports /Systematisation**

- ∅ Document: Consultation and objectives, 10-year national agenda, children and adolescents.
- ∅ Document: Comparative analysis, children and adolescents national agenda and "A Just World for Children."
- ∅ Document: "an analysis made by boys, girls and adolescents of the Special Session document."

- *Work Groups of Committees*

€# Follow-up of the entire process toward the Special Session was carried out by COSECODENI, the NGO defence of rights federation.

€# It intends to be a platform for the defence, denouncement and compliance of the rights and supervision of the same.

The National Children and Adolescents Agenda has become a PANI Program (The Country's policy making body regarding children).

## Ecuador

- *Events*

### 2000

#### July

€ National Agreement regarding Children and Adolescents..

Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO) and of the State.

€ Sub-regional meeting among the national coalitions of Ecuador, Venezuela and Peru, with the participation of Save the Children Sweden.

### 2001

#### May

€ Assembly of local Management Committees for the Rights of Boys, Girls and Adolescents and the Assembly of Boys, Girls and Adolescents regarding participation in the Special Session, May.

Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), of the State, boys, girls and adolescents.

€ Indigenous Children Parliament. Meeting of boys and girls of different nationalities and nations. Continental Meeting about Indigenous Children and Adolescents.

Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), of the State, boys, girls and adolescents.

#### June

€ Various consultation with the Frente Social (Social Movement) regarding United Nation documents. Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), and of the State

€ Workshops, festivals, promotion and meetings for divulgation of the rights of children and adolescents in various provinces during the year 2001.

Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), of the State, boys, girls and adolescents, and international organisms and agencies.

€ Meetings of boys and girls in various provinces regarding knowledge and debate of United Nation documents during the year 2001.

Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), of the State, boys, girls and adolescents.

#### July

€ Dialog tables

Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO) and of the State.

- *Written Documentation*

Statements/Positions

- Documents/ national agreements on the approval of the new Children's Code, Execution of the Integral Protection System and proposals to be presented in the debates of the preparatory sessions of the United Nations General Assembly.
- "Children and Adolescents Agreement. The Rights of Children". Ecuadorian Forum on Children and Adolescents. Quinterion - July 2000.
- Proposal of the Assembly held in Ecuador by the Social Movement for the Rights of Boys, Girls and Adolescents. Local Management Committee and Boys and Girls organizations for their own rights. General outlines and demands. Document. June 2001.

- *Work Groups or Committees*

- An inter-institutional work group was formed with representatives of the public sector and of the NGO. The group is still in action in order to prepare the ten-year plan, provide follow-up of national agreements and support the execution of the integral protection system for children and adolescents. The commitments were defined as Agreements:
  - € For the preparation of the action plan.
  - € For building up of the integral protection system
  - € Of the boys and girls on national priorities in public policies for children and adolescents.
  - € With municipalities to contribute to the execution of the integral system.

## El Salvador

- *Event*

**2002**

**March**

- € Evaluation Workshop with boys, girls and adolescents.  
Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), of the State, boys, girls and adolescents, and of international organisms and agencies.

- *Written Documentation*

Reports /Systematisation

- Workshop Report on Children's rights. Letter addressed and delivered to the United Nations by children/as participants.
- Workshop Report on the evaluation of Children's rights. FUSANMIDJ - Quinternion. 2002.

- *Work Groups or Committees*

Although no specific work group was formed to follow-up the Special Session, national NGO promoted the subject.

The proposed committee are:

- To continue the constant denouncement of violations of children's rights/as Salvadorians.
- The Minister of Education promised to solve the petitions made by girls/boys in the event mentioned in the letter.

## Guatemala

- *Events*

**2001**

**April**

€ Consultation with Non Governmental Organizations (evaluation of the past ten years and demands for the next decade).

Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), of the State, boys, girls and adolescents, and of international organisms and agencies.

€ Mini-summit in the Mam and Quiche de Quetzaltenango region. Analysis of “A World with Dignity for Children.”

Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), of the State, boys, girls and adolescents.

€ “Say yes for the Children” Campaign. (First Phase).

Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), of the State, boys, girls and adolescents, and of international organisms and agencies.

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### May

€ Mass radio consultation about “A World with Dignity for the Children”, Quetzaltenango. Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), of the State, boys, girls and adolescents.

€ NGO Workshop, proposals of Non Governmental Organizations for the implementation of a ten-year Action Plan on behalf of boys, girls and young Guatemalans.

Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO).

€ Radio programs and sketches on the document “A Just World for Children” in Mayan Quiche, Mam and Spanish languages.

Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), boys, girls and adolescents.

€ Children and Adolescents Municipal and Departmental mini-summits, within the framework of the document “A Just World for Children.”

Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), boys, girls and adolescents, and of international organisms and agencies.

€ Press conference. Presentation of Non Government Organization document to the Special Session government delegate.

Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO) and of the State.

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### June

€ Video. “OurVoices”, Young Mayas analyse their reality, rights and obligations. Quetzaltenango, Costa Sur and Cantel, Llano del Pinal.

Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), of the State, boys, girls and adolescents.

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### July

€ Mini-summit in Xela on Children’s Rights. Quetzaltenango.

Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), boys, girls and adolescents.

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### August

€ Children and Adolescents National Summit (with the participation of Summit delegates). Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), of the State, boys, girls and adolescents.

€ Presentation of the document “OurVoice is Being Heard” to the President of the Republic. Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), of the State, boys, girls and adolescents.

€ Workshop given at the municipalities of San Juan Ostucalco, Cajola, Llano del Pinal by adolescents who participated in the Precom. Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), boys, girls and adolescents.

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**October**

- € Audience with the President of the Republic. Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO) and of the State.
- € Audience with the Minister of Social Welfare. Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), of the State, boys, girls and adolescents.

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**November**

- € IV National Summit for Children's Rights. "Need of a national agenda for the new decade for boys, girls and adolescents".  
Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), of the State, boys, girls and adolescents.
- € Children Forum in Xela, "Quetzalteca Children, encouraging changes for a Just World for Children, November.  
Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), of the State, boys, girls and adolescents.

**2002**

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**March**

- € Divulgement of the Participatory Investigation and preparation of the Mayan Youth Declaration, presented in the special session during the dialog with the Heads of State and Children of Latin America.  
Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), boys, girls and adolescents, and of international organisms and agencies.
- € Participatory Investigation with local authorities on the participation of children in national plans.  
Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), boys, girls and adolescents, and of international organisms and agencies.

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**April**

- € "Say Yes for the Children" campaign, April and following months.  
Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), of the State, boys, girls and adolescents, and of international organisms and agencies.

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**May**

- € Creation of Youth Groups to guarantee implementation of national plans and lobbying by radio and television.  
Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), boys, girls and adolescents.

*Written Documentation*

**Statements/ Positions**

- € Statement: Quetzalteca children and young people encouraging changes in a Just World for Children.
- € Proposal made by Non Governmental Organizations for the implementation of a ten-year plan between 2001 and 2010 on behalf of Guatemalan Boys, Girls and Young People.
- € Document including the Proposal made by Guatemalan Non Governmental Organizations to the Government Delegation that will participate in the Preliminary Meetings at the Children World Summit.

**Reports /Systematisation**

- € Document: Our Voice is Being Heard, which sums up the demands of children and young people to the Government and which was delivered to the President of the Republic.

- € Document: Results of the Say Yes to Children Campaign.
- € Video: Our Voices. Young Mayan people analyse their reality, rights and obligations.
- € Children, Young People: Second Independent Report of the NGO on compliance of the Rights of Boys, Girls and Adolescents in Guatemala. Divulgence quinternion. CIPRODENI
- € PRONICE - February 2001.

#### Thematic Publications

- € "Status of Children in Guatemala. And what about the children? - CIPRODENI - Publication - 2001.
- € Diagnosis of the Situation: Commercial sexual exploitation of boys, girls and young people in Guatemala. M. Eugenia Villareal, G. Dominguea, ECPAT - Publication/ January 2001.

#### • *Work Groups or Committees*

- € The Global Work Group for Children was formed, with NGO, government and international organization representatives.
- € Still in action in order to provide follow-up of national work within the framework of the document: "An Adequate World for Children." It proposes follow-up of the Special Session, commitment to National Plans on behalf of children, Negotiations with the Presidential Social Welfare Secretariat, entity in charge of children affairs in the Country's political structure.
- € A youth group was formed as motor of Mam and Quiche speakers in the Mayan area. It is currently in action to train other Maya children groups of 33 municipalities in Guatemala, through regional forums; to carry out a campaign by radio and television debates with adults and members of the government; to carry out a national children and government forum to promote inclusion of Maya children in the design, implementation, evaluation and verification of national plans for children.
- € The Social Welfare Secretariat of the Presidency (the executive entity in charge of all affairs related to Children and the Government's delegate for the Special Session process) promised to include the NGO's proposals in its presentations. Likewise, the President of the Republic offered the Adolescents who gave him their Document of Demands and Proposals, to take these into account. He also offered to organize meetings from time to time with the boys and girls and to evaluate what is being done with regard to children.

## Honduras

#### • *Events*

**2001**

**March**

- € Workshop on children's rights and the Document: "A Just World for Children", Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula.  
Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), of the State, boys, girls and adolescents, and of international organisms and agencies.
- € Consultations with boys and girls about the Document: "A Just World for Children."  
Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), boys, girls and adolescents, and of international organisms and agencies.

**May**

- ∄ Event for the election of boys and girls to participate in the Third Prepcom.  
Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), boys, girls and adolescents.

**July**

- ∄ Press Conference/ presentation of strategies related to the Special Session. City of San Pedro Sula.  
Participants: Non Governmental Organizations (NGO) and State representatives.

- ***Written Documentation***

- Statements/ Positions*

- ∄ “Boys and Girls in the next Ten Years” Document /Opinions of boys/girls and adolescents.  
March 2001.

- Reports /Systematisation*

- ∄ Analysis of the document: “National report on the compliance of goals pursuant to the Lima and World Summit agreements on behalf of Children”: NGO initiative for the world summit on behalf of Children/Coiproden.

- ***Work Groups or Committees***

- ∄ Two national work groups were formed; The Children Global Movement Group and the Non Government Organization’s initiative to follow-up Summit commitments on behalf of children.
- ∄ Currently, only one remains active in order to coordinate the design of the National Action Plan and Promote Children’s Rights between Non Government Organizations and the State.

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## Mexico

- ***Events***

**2001**

**February**

- ∄ Presentation of the report on the status of Children.  
Participants: Non Governmental Organizations (NGO) and State representatives.
- ∄ NGO Interview with President Vicente Fox to present status of children.  
Participants: Non Governmental Organizations (NGO) and State representatives.
- ∄ NGO Press Conference with regard to the Special Session. Participants: Non Governmental Organizations (NGO) and State representatives.
- ∄ Senate forum about the Special Session. Process followed by the NGO regarding the role of the Legislative Power in the follow-up of the Special Session agreements.  
Participants: Non Governmental Organizations (NGO) and State representatives.

**2002**

**May**

- ∄ Launching of “It is not enough for them to exist” national campaign, May. Divulgement workshop of the Special Session, City of Mexico, May.  
Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), of the State, boys, girls and adolescents.

• *Written Documentation*

*Statements/ Positions*

- Position: Subjects of Special Session – Document: NGO and Government Institutions.
- Gathering of documents on children’s rights and copy of the document: “A Just World for Children”. Position document of the organizations and institutions involved in the follow-up of the process toward the Special Session.
- Triptych of adolescents in relation with the process toward the Special Session.

*Thematic Publications*

- “Forward and Backward: Balance of a Decade.” COMEXANI. Publication 2000
- Dialog of knowledge about child participation. Universidad Autonoma Metropolitana (Metropolitan Autonomous University), Comexani, UNICEF, Help in Action, México, Publication, 2001.

*Divulgement Documents*

- “Children’s Rights. They must not only exist... they must be exercised”. Network for Children’s Rights in Mexico. Brochures for divulgement campaign.

• *Work Groups or Committees*

- € Two work groups were established; one of NGO and representatives of government and international agencies to:
- € Share the reading of documents (the official ones and those proposed by the NGO) and reflect and analyse them and essay different consensual wordings. Invite Non Governmental Organizations (groups and individuals) and government agencies to participate, in some way, in the process toward the Special Session. Inform the public about this event and the process. Make more viable the problem of children in society in general and the protagonist role of children and adolescents.

The other group basically included NGO with the following objectives:

- € Monitor, follow-up and establish an effective network among its members (groups and individuals) regarding the documents, their contents and the event itself, both as to the position of the Mexican Government and the Latin American and Caribbean Caucus.

The following commitments were assumed :

- € After the Special Session, widely divulge the commitments made by the different States of the Republic.
- € Monitor and supervise compliance of these agreements.
- € Set up a follow-up committee to supervise fulfilment of these agreements.

**Nicaragua**

• *Events*

**2001**

**August**

- € “Say Yes to Children” campaign.  
Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), of the State, boys, girls and adolescents, and of international organisms and agencies.

**September**

- € Preparatory workshops on communication for the Special Session, with boys, girls and adolescents.  
Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), of the State, boys, girls and adolescents, and of international organisms and agencies.
- € Organization of consultations carried out by Codeni, the Special State's Attorney Office, Conapina and Save the Children regarding the Results Document, both with children and adults.  
Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), of the State, boys, girls and adolescents, and of international organisms and agencies.
- € A national boys and girls forum about the Results Document.  
Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), of the State, boys, girls and adolescents, and of international organisms and agencies.
- € A national forum for adults on the Results Document.  
Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), of the State, boys, girls and adolescents, and of international organisms and agencies.
- € Meeting with media owners and editors.
- € Meeting will almost 100 mayors of the Mayor Friends and Defenders of Children Network.  
Participants: Non Governmental Organizations (NGO) and State representatives.

## 2002

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### March

- € 8 Press conferences.

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### April

- € Workshop with journalists prior to the Special Session.  
Participants: Non Governmental Organizations (NGO)

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### May

- € Informative campaign carried out by boy and girl communicators during the Special Session.  
Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), boys, girls and adolescents, and of international organisms and agencies.
- € Information activities from the Special Session and Prepcom for the media in Nicaragua and the Central American region.

### • *Written Documentation*

Divulgement documents

Regarding the Say Yes to Children Campaign:

- € 300,000 Say Yes commitment vouchers were printed in Spanish, 10,000 in English and 5,000 in Miskito. The vouchers, in the form of triptychs, included a short presentation of the Children's Global Movement and the principles on which the 10 actions under consideration are based.
- € 1,000 posters displayed specially on school, municipality, bank and market walls of the participating communities.
- € 500 banners displayed in the localities that acted as gathering points for the vouchers.
- € 500 mailboxes with stickers distinctive to the initiative.
- € 12 radio spots, a series of 10 for each action under consideration and two generic spots summoning to participation in the survey.
- € A NGO song was composed and a video was made with the theme "For a Just world for Children", by the Guardabarranco Duet.
- € 100 information folders were prepared for the media.

Other prepared documents:

- € Boys and girls prepared municipal agendas for children and a national agenda.
- € Codeni prepared a national agenda and a book with contributions for a new children agenda.
- € 2 table calendars were made with the Say Yes to Children principles.
- € Headings were published in the Country's newspapers.

*Reports / Systematisation*

- € The III Precom Consultation Document was distributed.
- € The friendly version of the Children's Results Document was written and printed.
- € A version of the Results Document agreed to by the government and Non Governmental Organizations was written and presented at the III Prepcom.  
(faltan?"'???)

• **Work Groups and Committees**

- € On March 2001, an Ad Hoc Group was formed for the Special Session. The same included the National Council for Integral Attention and Protection of Children and Adolescents (CONAPINA), The National Coordinator of Organisms that Defend the Rights of Children and Adolescents (CODENI), the Special Attorneys Office for the Defence of the Rights of Children and Adolescents, Save de Children, International Plan and the Fund of the United Nations for Children (UNICEF). The work of the Ad Hoc Group permitted:
  - € Placing children in the national agenda, maintaining a dialog between the government and non governmental organizations. This contributed to an increased capacity for summoning and joining the capacities and resources of international and national organisms.
  - € Guaranteeing that the execution of the Future Agenda will be achieved in the National Action Plan, with the Implementation of the Convention and Children's Code.
  - € Talking with UNICEF and other actors so that the Action Plan execution process would be a joint and participatory exercise, mainly with regard to children
  - € Ensuring the effective participation of the children and their voices being heard in the preparation and monitoring of public policies, of the National Action Plan and in the allocation of the national budget destined to comply with the rights of children.

The specified commitments during the process were:

Prepare a strategy so that non governmental organizations can increase their capacity for submitting proposals and to achieve a critical attitude at the national and sub-regional levels, including the possession of their own monitoring instruments that will allow them to supervise compliance of goals.

- € Redefine the cooperation framework among all actors of the Ad-Hoc Group so that the identity and autonomy of the organizations are maintained, but, at the same time, they can carry out future joint and long term actions, such as the implementation of the Future Agenda and Action Plan; strengthen CONAPINA and CODENI, the defence of the Children's Code and the struggle for increase of the budget allocated to Children.

Contribute to the strengthening of the exchange of experiences, the consensus of positions, and follow-up among Children Coordinators at the regional level.

## Panama

• *Events*

**2001**

**April**

- € Relaunching of the Global Movement. Promotion of the Special Session.

Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), of the State, boys, girls and adolescents, and of international organisms and agencies.

- € Say Yes to Children and Adolescents campaign; consultations throughout the Country. Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), of the State, boys, girls and adolescents, and of international organisms and agencies.

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### September

- € Campaign Closing National March. Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), of the State, boys, girls and adolescents, and of international organisms and agencies.

- *Written Documentation*

Reports/Systematisation

- € Systematisation of the results prepared by the UNICEF Panama Office in which the most important points are prioritised for the Country.

## Paraguay

- *Events*

2001

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### June

- € Three groups of boys and girls are working in the document: "An Adequate World for Children". Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), boys, girls and adolescents.

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### August

"Say Yes to the Children" campaign  
Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), of the State, boys, girls and adolescents, and of international organisms and agencies.

- € A Work Committee has been formed to prepare for the Summit with representatives of the three groups of boys/girls that worked in the document: "An Adequate World for Children." Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), boys, girls and adolescents.

- € 4 Meetings of the Work Committee which includes 5 boys/girls and adolescents (study of documents, preparation of a document with the proposals of Paraguayan children, and election of the representatives that will participate)

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### September

- € Press Conference about the Special Session and presentation of the document on Paraguayan children. Participants: Non Governmental Organizations (NGO) and State representatives.
- € Work meeting with the representatives of the boys/girls Committee responsible for the official Paraguayan delegation and the UNICEF representative in Paraguay. Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), of the State, and of international organisms and agencies.

€ Forum for the presentation of the World Summit document, Government and non governmental organizations.

Participants: Non Governmental Organizations (NGO) and State representatives

€ Meeting with the groups of boys and girls who will participate in the national and regional meetings in preparation for the Summit to present the results of the same on the part of the Paraguayan representatives to the Summit.

Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), boys, girls and adolescents.

## 2002

### April

€ Meeting with boy/girl and adolescent organizations and project groups to analyze the Summit and prepare a national work platform of organized boys and girls for after the Children's Summit.

€ Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), boys, girls and adolescents.

€ Election of Paraguayan representatives to participate in the Regional Meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Caucus, held in Paraguay in April.

€ Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), boys, girls and adolescents.

### • *Written Documentation*

#### *Reports /Systematisation*

€ Reports of the boys, girls and adolescents about the children's diagnosis pursuant to their experiences, as well as the proposals to be followed-up after the Summit in their different organizations.

€ Document: Experience, commitment, hope. Latin American boys, girls and adolescents together for a better life.

€ "Compendium...children. Normative framework of the rights of children and adolescents in Paraguay" CDIA, UNICEF. Publication. 2001.

#### *Thematic Publications*

€ "Guarantee of Children's and Adolescent's rights in the Municipality" CODEEN-Global...Children, UNICEF Paraguay, Save the Children. December 2001 (quinternion).

### • *Work Groups or Committees*

A NGO network group and a group of 6 young people representing three children-youth organizations were formed to organize a platform or designate a Coordinator to follow-up the agreements reached, as well as the commitments assumed, by the Countries of the region.

The commitments made were:

€ Report to all members of their organization.

€ Look for support from adult referents.

€ Look for support from the competent authorities in each area.

€ Report on the results of the Special Session.

€ Form a more representative children's platform.

- € The State, through the National Secretariat for Children and Adolescents, is coordinating the preparation of a National Action Plan for Children and Adolescents (PNA), to which the groups of boys/girls who participated in the Summit process and other new ones that joined the former will be summoned. In October and November, consultations, a meeting of boy/girl groups, and a meeting of the delegates of these groups to make possible their participation in the preparation of the PNA will be held. Coordination will be made with CDIA, the main coalition of children's NGOs in Paraguay, to carry out this task.

## Peru

- *Events*

### 2000

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#### June

- € National consultation with boys, girls and adolescents.  
Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), boys, girls and adolescents, and of international organisms and agencies.  
Regional meetings with Peruvian boys, girls and adolescents regarding the consultations of opinion.  
Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), boys, girls and adolescents.

### 2001

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#### March

- € Consultation of the National Action Plan for Children and Adolescents within the framework of the Special Session on behalf of Children. Lima, Cuzco, Cajamarca, Chimbote, Trujillo, and Iquitos.  
Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), of the State, boys, girls and adolescents, and of international organisms and agencies.
- € Meeting with the possible presidential candidates presenting to them the status of children.  
Participants: Non Governmental Organizations (NGO) and State representatives.
- € Meeting of international and national organizations regarding the national position as to the final document. Lima, March, Save the Children Sweden.

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#### May

- € Meeting of boys, girls and adolescents about the National Action Plan for Children and Adolescents and the Special Session, within the framework of the National Social Development Conference. Lima.  
Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), boys, girls and adolescents.
- € National Meeting of Children. Consultation on the document: "An Appropriate World for Children."  
Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), of the State, boys, girls and adolescents.

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#### August

- € "Say Yes to the Children" campaign  
Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), of the State, boys, girls and adolescents, and of international organisms and agencies.

**September**

€ National Committee for the rights of boys, girls and adolescents. "Toward the Special Session of the United Nations," Position of the organizations and institutions with regard to the process toward the Special Session.

Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), of the State, boys, girls and adolescents.

**2002**

**March**

€ Consultation with children and young people about the National Action Plans.

Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), boys, girls and adolescents.

€ *Written Documentation*

*Statements/ Positions*

Voices and Proposals of Children and Adolescents - Workshop /Consultation Publications.

€ GIN- May 2001. A bulletin with the work group conclusions was edited and sent to those who participated in this event, and then divulged.

*Reports/Systematisation*

€ Balance of the National Action Plan for Children 1990-2000 - National Agenda for Children - Peru - GIN.

€ Peru: Toward the II World Summit for Children - Balance and Prospects. Magazine Children and Adolescents No. 10 - Special Edition - GIN March 2001.

€ Report on the "Say Yes to Boys, Girls and Adolescents" campaign, National Committee of the rights for boys, girls and adolescents, November 2001.

€ *Work Groups or Committees*

The GIN, as the NGO network, encouraged various activities with authorities and meetings with children to discuss the Special Session document and published, as well, the children's status balance and the Voices of Children.

The National Working Children and Adolescents Movement (MNNATSOP) and MANTHOC organized events at various times in the process for participation of working boys, girls and adolescents.

The national committee for the rights of boys, girls and adolescents (agencies, which include the State, non government organizations, churches and international cooperation), of which GIN is member of the Board of Directors, developed the "Say Yes to Children" campaign and consultations on the National Action Plan for Children and Adolescents. Their actions included:

€ Promoting participation of children and adolescents in various events and within organized groups.

€ Divulging in their bases and places of residence (radio, poster, triptychs, etc.) the special session to be held in New York.

€ Creating spaces for meetings to analyse at each place the document: "An Adequate World for Children."

**Uruguay**

• *Events*

**2001**

**May**

€ National Seminar Toward the Children's World Summit.

Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), of the State, boys, girls and adolescents, and of international organisms and agencies.

€ Launching of the "Say Yes to Children" campaign.

Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), of the State, boys, girls and adolescents, and of international organisms and agencies.

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**June**

€ Press conference: "Uruguay in the Special Session, main challenges"

Participants: Non Governmental Organizations (NGO) and State representatives.

€ Local workshops: "Protagonist adolescents in the meeting toward the World Summit".

Involve adolescents in the process toward the Special Session. Rivera, Lavalleja, Paysandu, Maldonado, Canelones, Montevideo.

Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), of the State, boys, girls and adolescents, and of international organisms and agencies.

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**July**

€ Press Conference/ presentation of strategies related to the Special Session.

Participants: Non Governmental Organizations (NGO) and State representatives.

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**November**

€ Children's Rights Week. Development of various events.

Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), of the State, boys, girls and adolescents, and of international organisms and agencies.

## 2002

Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), of the State, boys, girls and adolescents, and of international organisms and agencies.

€ "Protagonist Adolescents in the process toward the world summit." National consultation phase regarding Action Plans throughout the Country.

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**April**

Meeting with the Vice President of the Republic and the Uruguayan delegation to the Special Session within the framework of Uruguay's participation in the Special Session.

Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs), of the State, boys, girls and adolescents.

### € *Written Documentation*

#### *Statements/ Positions*

€ Subscription of a commitment with national legislators regarding the implementation and incorporation of the organizations and the boys, girls and adolescents themselves in the preparation of the next PNA.

#### *Reports/ Systematisation*

€ Systematisation "The opinion of Uruguayan adolescents regarding their participation in National Action Plans."

€ Documents generated from the "Preliminary Seminary for participation of Uruguay in the United Nations Special Session devoted to Children.", with Unicef's support:

- Reports from the Adolescent Groups
- Final reports of the Work Tables.

- € Document from the Preliminary Workshops for Children's Rights Week. Children's Rights Committee. November 2002.
- € "Special Session of the United Nations on behalf of Children." Guide Document within the follow-up framework of the Special Session. Children's Rights Committee. 2001.

#### Thematic Publications

- € Incorporation of Children's Rights into Uruguay's Public Policies. Non government organizations report of the application of the CDN in Uruguay. Balance for the 1996-2000 period - Children's Rights Committee. Publication - November 2000.
- € "Analysis of Children and Adolescents Status in Uruguay, within the framework of consultations with boys, girls and adolescents regarding participation in National Action Plans. Publication. Committee of Children's Rights ANNGO, Children's NGO Network UNICEF, Save the Children. 2002.

#### Divulgement Documents

- € "Participation of Uruguay's NGO in the Second United Nations Prepcom." Document for the press. January 2001.

#### Work Groups or Committees

- € Follow-up of the preparatory process was carried out based on the National Committee follow-up for the Special Session and was united by a group formed from the link of the main NGO networks throughout the Country (DDNN Committee of Uruguay, Children's NGO Network and National NGO Association). It is still active in order to provide follow-up of the commitments assumed in the Special Session; promote the design, implementation and follow-up of National Action Plans for Children, within the framework of the Children's Rights Convention.

## Venezuela

### • Events

#### 2001

#### April

- € Forum: Did Venezuela comply with the commitments of the World Summit? Evaluation of Venezuela's compliance scope with regard to agreements established in the World Summit, Caracas.  
Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), of the State, boys, girls and adolescents, and of international organisms and agencies.
- € Intercultural Session of the Children's and Young People's National Assembly 2001. Rights of Indigenous people. Participation.  
Evaluation of the World Summit goals on behalf of Children. Maracaibo.  
Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), of the State, boys, girls and adolescents.

Local consultations related to the Document: "An Adequate World for Children". Caracas, Distrito Capital, Valencia Edo. Carabobo, San Juan de los Morros Edo. Guárico  
Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), boys, girls and adolescents, and of international organisms and agencies.

#### May

€ “After Ten Years of the World Summit... Has Venezuela fulfilled its commitment? Children’s Rights National Week. May.

Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), of the State, boys, girls and adolescents, and of international organisms and agencies.

€ Consultations related to the Document: “An Adequate World for Children”. Caracas, D.C.

Acarigua, Edo. Portuguesa;

Maturin, Edo. Monagas,

Merida, Edo. Merida; Valencia, Edo. Carabobo, San Juan de los Morros, Edo. Guarico

Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), of the State, boys, girls and adolescents.

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### August

€ “Say Yes to Children” campaign.

Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), of the State, boys, girls and adolescents, and of international organisms and agencies.

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### November

€ Presentation of results of the “Say Yes to Children” campaign.”

Carabobo

Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), boys, girls and adolescents, and of international organisms and agencies. 11 /20

## 2002

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### February

€ Children and Adolescents National Assembly “Let us Break the Silence” Boys, girls and adolescents speak about exploitation and sexual abuse.

Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), of the State, boys, girls and adolescents, and of international organisms and agencies.

€ “First National Meeting of boys, girls and adolescents as Social Controllers” to analyse the 2002 Operational Plan of the Ministry of Health and Social Development, and analyse the Document project within the framework of the United Nation’s Special Session on behalf of Children.

Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), of the State, boys, girls and adolescents.

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### March

€ Children and Adolescent’s National Assembly - Toward the Special Session. Preparation of proposals for follow-up of the agreements.

Participants: Representatives of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), of the State, boys, girls and adolescents.

### • *Written Documentation*

#### *Statements /Positions*

€ Statement made by boys, girls and adolescents: Together for a Society Without Violence. Children and Youth National Assembly. Caracas, Venezuela. October 2000. Statements made by the Government.

€ Statements made by boys, girls and adolescents. Second Session of the Children and

Youth National Assembly. *Intercultural Session*. State of Zulia-Venezuela. January 2001  
 ≠ Caracas Statement on sexual exploitation and on adolescents of the Americas raise their voices regarding abuse and sexual exploitation. July 2001. Caracas, Venezuela.

*Reports /Systematisation*

Results of the “Say Yes to Children’s Rights” campaign and statements to the press.

≠ Results of the discussion and analysis made regarding the document: “An Adequate World for Children” II.

≠ General Report on the follow-up of the World Summit on behalf of children.

≠ CD- ROM. First Lady’s Office. Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

**Work Groups or Committees**

No committee or work group was formally established to support and follow-up the Special Session. Many non governmental organizations worked on the Special Session, providing participation and opinion spaces regarding this matter.

**II) Productos escritos a nivel REGIONAL**

**b. Regional**

• *Events*

**2000**

- V Ministerial Meeting regarding Children and the Social Policy of the Americas. Kingstong, JAMAICA
- First Meeting of the Central American and Caribbean Sub-regional Coordinator. Information on the process toward the Special Session. NICARAGUA.
- Meeting of the Southern Cone Countries and Brazil. Initial agreements related to the Special Session. ARGENTINA :
- Sub-regional meeting among the national coalitions of Ecuador, Venezuela and Peru and Save the Children Sweden. AndinaECUADOR

**2001**

- *Save the Children, UNICEF coordination meeting. International Plan regarding the regional plan process and cooperation with the Latin American and Caribbean Caucus. COLOMBIA.*
- *Second Meeting of the Sub-Regional Coordinator of Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean. January. NICARAGUA.*
- *Coordination Meeting, Save the Children, UNICEF, International Plan with representatives of the Latin American and Caribbean Caucus. COLOMBIA*
- *International Seminar: For our Children - on the Road to the World Summit for Children, WAWAKUNAMANTAQ, Huamanga, Ayacucho, PERU.*
- *Meeting of the Young People of Central America Panama and the Dominican Republic. San Pedro Sula. HONDURAS.*
- *Third Meeting of the Sub-regional Coordinator of Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean. May, NICARAGUA.*
- *Meeting: “Adolescents of the Americas raise their voices regarding sexual exploitation”. VENEZUELA*
- *Latin American Conference and Presidential Meeting. PERU*
- *Consultation on sexual commercial exploitation, IIN –UNICEF. URUGUAY*
- *Meeting of Latin American and Caribbean Children’s Networks. COLOMBIA*
- *Meeting of indigenous boys, girls and adolescents. ECUADOR*

## 2002

- UNGASS Regional meeting of Save the Children of Central and South America. HONDURAS
- Regional Consultation - Presentation of the national consultations results on the discussion of the document: "A Just World for Children". PARAGUAY
- Meeting of the sub-regional Coordinator of Mexico, Central America and Panama. Socialization of national follow-up processes of the Special Session. NICARAGUA
- Meeting of the sub-regional Coordinator of Mexico, Central America, Dominican Republic and Panama. Analysis on the status of children. Managua. NICARAGUA

- *Written Documentation*

### Statements / Regional Positions

- ∓ "An agenda on the rights of children for the next decade". Statement of the Children's Rights Caucus on the rights of children for the Children's Special Session of the Twenty First General Assembly of the United Nations. (Year 2000).
- ∓ Linking strategies of Latin American coalitions - Central America, Andean countries and Southern Cone Countries (June 2000).
- ∓ Statement of the Latin American Caucus in the First Preliminary Session for the United Nations General Assembly on the Children's World Summit. (June 2000).
- ∓ Panama Statement: "United for Children and Adolescents, Basis of Justice and Equality in the New Millennium", Subscribed by 21 Latin American countries on November 17 and 19, 2000. Second Latin American Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Children and Adolescents.
- ∓ The Kingston Consensus - V Ministerial Meeting on Children and Social Policy in the Americas (October 2000) – Kingston, Jamaica (October 2000).
- ∓ Proposal of Non Governmental Organizations to the future agenda within the framework of the V Ministerial Meeting on Children and Social Policy in the Americas (October 2000).
- ∓ Kingston Document. Contribution of boys, girls and adolescents to the future agenda within the framework of the V Ministerial Meeting on Children and Social Policy in the Americas (October 2000).
- ∓ Observations made by the Rio Group to the final provisional document project: "An Adequate World for Children", New York (January 31, 2001).
- ∓ Position of the Latin American and Caribbean Caucus with regard to the final provisional document: "An Adequate World for Children", New York (February 1, 2001).
- ∓ Position of the Latin American and Caribbean Caucus with regard to the document: "An Adequate World for Children" addressed to the governments of the region for the Rio Group (April 2001).
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- ∓ Position of the Regional Latin American and Caribbean Caucus regarding the III Preliminary UNGASS Meeting for Children (June 15, 2001).
- ∓ Proposals of Latin American boys, girls and adolescents for the Rio Group (July 12, 2001).
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#### Reports /Systematisations

- € Bases for the formulation of Policies on behalf of children, adolescents and women. Documents for discussion. Fifth American Ministerial Meeting on Children and Social Policy. Kingston, Jamaica. October 2000 (publication).
- € Human rights of children and adolescents in vulnerable social and juridical conditions. Documents for discussion. Fifth American Ministerial Meeting on Children and Social Policy. Kingston, Jamaica. October 2000 (publication).
- € HIV and AIDS in Latin America and the Caribbean: call to protect our youth. Documents for discussion. V American Ministerial Meeting on Children and Social Policy. Kingston, Jamaica. October 2000 (publication).
- € Investment in the Children of Latin American and the Caribbean. Documents for discussion. V American Ministerial Meeting on Children and Social Policy. Kingston, Jamaica. October 2000 (publication).
- € Friendly School for South American Boys and Girls. International Plan. South America. Guayaquil. August 2000.
- € Disabled and Sexually Abused Children – Exploratory Study. Save the Children. February 2001.
- € Discrimination and gender based on experiences and perceptions of boys, girls and adolescents. Work document - Save the Children. October 2001.
- € “Notes on the preparation of a pastoral instruction document regarding children and adolescents’ human rights” that could be useful, Bernard P. Byrne - Maryknoll Fathers - Lima, Peru. January 2001.
- € “We the Boys and Girls”, friendly version for boys and girls of the Save the Children summary document.
- € “A Just World for Boys and Girls”, friendly version for boys and girls of the revised draft of the Save the Children results document.
- € “The Adolescents of the Americas raise their Voices against sexual abuse and exploitation”. Caracas Statement. July 2001. Caracas, Venezuela.
- € “Third Latin American Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials in Charge of Children and Adolescents”, United Gurises Report Document. 2001
- € “Experience, commitment, hope, Latin American boys, girls and adolescents together for a better life”. Regional consultation: Latin American and Caribbean Caucus. Paraguay. Published for Save the Children Sweden. 2002.
- € “Manifest for Latin American Children and Adolescents”. Committee for children and adolescents. UNICEF Regional document. 2002.

#### Thematic Publications

- € “Rights and Obligations of Boys, Girls and Adolescents”. Building up Citizenship”. National Council for the Rights of Children and Adolescents. Quinternion. 2001.
- € “Learning and growing by overcoming difficulties” Guide for working with boys and girls. CECODAP. December 2000.
- € “All we want to know on the organic law for protection of children and adolescents”. CECODAP. Quinternion. 2001.
- € “Education and rights of children”. CECODAP. Quinternion. 2001.
- € “The responsibility of having rights”. CECODAP. Quinternion. 2001.
- € “Faces of Violence in Latin America and the Caribbean” (presentation of cases from 12

- countries in the region). International World View, Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean. 2001.
- € “Toward the strengthening of leadership and the institutional capacity for development and attention of the first infancy in Latin America. Report on the third meeting of children networks in Latin America. CINDE with the support of UNESCO, UNICEF, Save the Children, GC, OEI, University of Manizales. Cartagena, Colombia. November 2001.
  - € “Dialogue on knowledge about child participation”. Yolanda Corona, María Morfin. Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, Comexani (Comexani Autonomous Metropolitan University), UNICEF; Help in Action, Mexico. 2001.
  - € “Building up equality from infancy to adolescence in Latin America”. CEPAL, UNICEF, SECIB. 2001.
  - € “Second Latin American Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials in charge of Children and Adolescents”. SECIB Statement. 2000.
  - € “Toward the strengthening of leadership and the institutional capacity for development and attention of the first infancy in Latin America” Report on the third meeting of children networks in Latin America. CINDE, UNICEF, Childwatch, Save the Children. 2002.
  - € “Building up equality from infancy to adolescence in Latin America”. CEPAL, UNICEF, SECIB. 2001.

- *Work Groups or Committees at the Regional Level.*

Based on the process toward the Special Session, the Network or the Caucus of the Latin American and Caribbean Region.

This is a network of non governmental organizations, both national and international, with the common element of belonging to some of the countries of the region that have decided to participate actively in the preparatory process of the Special Session. This Caucus was created during the First Prepcom held in June 2000 in the city of New York. From then on, various national (in each Country), sub-regional and regional activities have been carried out that have allowed its consolidation. Its integration and role have grown throughout the process to allow full participation in the non governmental organizations of the region in the Special Sessions, and to support the resulting document of the same, guarantee compliance of the Convention and ensure complete effectiveness of all rights for all boys, girls and adolescents.

The current network is formed by 120 NGO Networks and NGOs of 24 Countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, with an approximate coverage of 2,500 NGO. Most of these are national associations of NGO centered around subjects such as: children, adolescents and young people, development, poverty, gender equality, youth leadership, promotion of sexual and reproductive health, follow-up of the Convention, etc.

The same is still active and has proposed as its first commitment the strengthening of the active role of the regional non governmental organizations and of boys, girls and adolescents; assuming the proposed commitments within the framework of the Special Session; and prioritising participation in the design, implementation and follow-up of the National Action Plans for children within the framework of the Convention on the rights of children.

c. At the International Level

• *Events*

**2000**

- First Preparatory Committee for the Special Session for Children of the United Nations General Assembly, New York, USA (Second Prepcom)

**2001**

- Second Meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session for Children of the United Nations General Assembly, New York, USA. (Second Prepcom).
- World Movement Workshop on behalf of Children. Definition of actions to be carried out during and after the Special Session. The Caucus participates as referent for the Latin American and Caribbean regions. London, ENGLAND.
- Seminar “Working Children and Adolescents and Eleven Years after the Children’s Rights Convention”. Lima, PERU.
- First Latin American Consultation on mechanisms for defence, control and follow-up of Children’s Rights”. Lima, PERU.
- First Latin American Consultation on mechanisms for defence, control and follow-up of Children’s Rights”. Sao Paulo, BRAZIL
- Third Preliminary Committee for the Children’s Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly. New York. USA. (Third Prepcom).

**2002**

- Children’s Special Session of the United National General Assembly (UNGASS). New York. USA.

• *Written Documentation*

*Reports /Systematisation*

- “First Period of the Substantive Sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session for Children of the United Nations General Assembly”. United Gurises. Report Document 2000.
- “Second Period of the Substantive Sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session for Children of the United Nations General Assembly”. United Gurises. Report Document 2001.
- “Third Period of the Substantive Sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session for Children of the United Nations General Assembly”. United Gurises. Report Document. 2001.
- “Special Session on Behalf of Children of the United Nations General Assembly” United Gurises. Report Document. September 2002. -09-05
- “Boys and Girls in Armed Conflict”, Doctors of the World Document. 2001.

*Publications*

- “We the Boys and Girls; promises made at the World Summit on behalf of Children”. Kofi Annan Secretary General of the United Nations. Publication 2001.
- “Taking Advantage of Abuse, an investigation of the sexual exploitation of our boys and girls”. UNICEF Publication. 2001.



**Proposals submitted by the boys, girls and adolescents of the Latin American region during the third Prepcom to be included in the document for the Special Session.**

**PROPOSALS OF THE LATIN AMERICAN BOYS, GIRLS AND ADOLESCENTS FOR THE RIO GROUP.  
JUNE 12, 2001.**

The boys, girls and adolescents of Latin America at the meeting that took place on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2001 have agreed on the following proposals. We are confident that the respective national governments will take them into account and they will not be forgotten. We expect national governments are aware that boys, girls and adolescents are not just the future but also the present and as such there is an urgent need for appropriate measures on our behalf.

### **EDUCATION**

- € Universal, mandatory, quality free education for all boys and girls in Latin America and the world is needed. This education should be based on the social and cultural context of the various peoples or groups that make up society. This will increase the access of various ethnic groups to education. This education should also include training on sexual and reproductive rights (contraceptive methods), where a gender perspective should be a fundamental component.
- However, we give the utmost importance to parent's education that will take due account of the family values concerning both boys and girls rights and parental duties.
- National states should pay attention to education for children with disabilities as we are very often discriminated against because of our physical and mental condition.
- The number of scholarships and grants for both high-performing and poor students should be increased.
- Leisure and recreation should be included in comprehensive education programs.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL**

- € National states should be concerned with creating and expanding programs for environmental conservation and improvement through clear investment policies with sufficient funding to ensure the preservation of the natural resource base thus ensuring future generations their good health and ability to develop their full potential.

### **HEALTH**

- All should have access to free and quality drugs and health care.
- Governments should take immediate action to fight child malnutrition as the main

contributor to child mortality worldwide (in accordance with Article 24 of the Convention on the Rights of Children).

- Governments should ensure sexual health through programs preventing sexually transmitted diseases.
- The number of specialized clinics and physicians in various medical fields should be increased.

### **CHILD LABOR**

- Child labor should be regulated following country-specific criteria but taking account of article 32 of the Convention on the Rights of Children and ensuring that children who need to work also fully enjoy the right to education.
- National governments should assure our parents a decent salary and, thereby, gradually reduce child labor.

### **PARTICIPATION**

- National governments should promote boys; girls and adolescents organizations committed to ensure national governments compliance with the principles outlined in this document.
- Boys, girls and adolescents' participation should not be used for furthering political or personal interests.
- National governments should create more and larger forums for developing both sports and cultural initiatives.
- Children should be actively involved in decision-making around issues of our concern.

## A world fit for children

### Declaration

1. Eleven years ago, at the World Summit for Children, world leaders made a joint commitment and issued an urgent, universal appeal to give every child a better future.
2. Since then, much progress has been made, as documented in the report of the Secretary-General entitled “We the Children”.<sup>1</sup> Millions of young lives have been saved, more children than ever are in school, more children are actively involved in decisions concerning their lives and important treaties have been concluded to protect children. However, these achievements and gains have been uneven, and many obstacles remain, particularly in developing countries. A brighter future for all has proved elusive, and overall gains have fallen short of national obligations and international commitments.
3. We, the Heads of State and Government and representatives of States participating in the special session of the General Assembly on children, reaffirming our commitment to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations are determined to seize this historic opportunity to change the world for and with children. Accordingly, we reaffirm our commitment to complete the unfinished agenda of the World Summit for Children and to address other emerging issues vital to the achievement of the longer-term goals and objectives endorsed at recent major United Nations summits and conferences, in particular the United Nations Millennium Declaration<sup>2</sup>, through national action and international cooperation.
4. We reaffirm our obligation to take action to promote and protect the rights of each child — every human being below the age of 18 years including adolescents. We are determined to respect the dignity and to secure the well-being of all children. We acknowledge that the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>3</sup> the most universally embraced human rights treaty in history, and its Optional Protocols contain a comprehensive set of international legal standards for the protection and well-being of children. We also recognize the importance of other international instruments relevant for children.
5. We stress our commitment to create a world fit for children in which sustainable human development, taking into account the best interests of the child, is founded on principles of democracy, equality, non-discrimination, peace and social justice and the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of all human rights, including the right to development.
6. We recognize and support parents and families or, as the case may be, legal guardians as the primary caretakers of children, and we will strengthen their capacity to provide the optimum care, nurturing and protection.
7. We hereby call on all members of society to join us in a global movement that will help

build a world fit for children through upholding our commitments to the following principles and objectives:

1. **Put children first.** In all actions related to children, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.
2. **Eradicate poverty: invest in children.** We reaffirm our vow to break the cycle of poverty within a single generation, united in the conviction that investments in children and the realization of their rights are among the most effective ways to eradicate poverty. Immediate action must be taken to eliminate the worst forms of child labor.
3. **Leave no child behind.** Each girl and boy is born free and equal in dignity and rights; therefore, all forms of discrimination affecting children must end.
4. **Care for every child.** Children must get the best possible start in life. Their survival, protection, growth and development in good health and with proper nutrition is the essential foundation of human development. We will make concerted efforts to fight infectious diseases, tackle major causes of malnutrition and nurture children in a safe environment that enables them to be physically healthy, mentally alert, emotionally secure, socially competent and able to learn.
5. **Educate every child.** All girls and boys must have access to and complete primary education that is free, compulsory and of good quality as a cornerstone of an inclusive basic education. Gender disparities in primary and secondary education must be eliminated.
6. **Protect children from harm and exploitation.** Children must be protected against any acts of violence, abuse, exploitation and discrimination, as well as all forms of terrorism and hostage-taking.
7. **Protect children from war.** Children must be protected from the horrors of armed conflict. Children under foreign occupation must also be protected, in accordance with the provisions of international humanitarian law.
8. **Combat HIV/AIDS.** Children and their families must be protected from the devastating impact of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS).
9. **Listen to children and ensure their participation.** Children and adolescents are resourceful citizens capable of helping to build a better future for all. We must respect their right to express themselves and to participate in all matters affecting them, in accordance with their age and maturity.
10. **Protect the Earth for children.** We must safeguard our natural environment, with its diversity of life, its beauty and its resources, all of which enhance the quality of life, for present and future generations. We will give every assistance to protect children and minimize the impact of natural disasters and environmental degradation on them.

8. We recognize that the implementation of the present Declaration and Plan of Action require not only renewed political will, but also the mobilization and allocation of additional resources at both the national and international levels, taking into account the urgency and gravity of the special needs of children.

9. In line with these principles and objectives, we adopt the Plan of Action contained in section III below, confident that together we will build a world in which all girls and boys can enjoy childhood — a time of play and learning, in which they are loved, respected and cherished, their rights are promoted and protected, without discrimination of any kind, where their safety and well-being are paramount and where they can develop in health, peace and dignity.

## Review of progress and lessons learned

10. The World Declaration and the Plan of Action of the World Summit for Children 4 are among the most rigorously monitored and implemented international commitments of the 1990s. Annual reviews were held at the national level and progress reports presented to the General Assembly. A mid-decade review and an extensive global end-decade review were conducted. The latter included high-level regional meetings in Beijing, Berlin, Cairo, Katmandu and Kingston, which reviewed progress; ensured follow-up to the Summit and other major conferences; promoted renewed commitment to the achievement of the goals of the world summit; and guided actions for the future. Complementing efforts by Governments, a wide range of actors participated in the reviews, including children, young people's organizations, academic institutions, religious groups, civil society organizations, parliamentarians, the media, United Nations agencies, donors and major national and international non-governmental organizations.
11. As documented in the end-decade review of the Secretary-General on follow-up to the World Summit for Children, the 1990s was a decade of great promises and modest achievements for the world's children. On the positive side, the Summit and the entry into force of the Convention on the Rights of the Child helped accord political priority to children. A record 192 countries ratified, acceded to or signed the Convention. Some 155 countries prepared national programs of action to implement the Summit goals. Regional commitments were made. International legal provisions and mechanisms strengthened the protection of children. Pursuit of the Summit goals has led to many tangible results for children: this year, 3 million fewer children will die than a decade ago; polio has been brought to the brink of eradication; and, through salt iodization, 90 million newborns are protected every year from a significant loss of learning ability.
12. Yet much more needs to be done. The resources that were promised at the Summit at both the national and international levels have yet to fully materialize. Critical challenges remain: more than 10 million children die each year although most of those deaths could be prevented; 100 million children are still out of school, 60 per cent of them girls; 150 million children suffer from malnutrition; and HIV/AIDS is spreading with catastrophic speed. There is persistent poverty, exclusion and discrimination, and inadequate investment in social services. Also, debt burdens, excessive military spending, inconsistent with national security requirements, armed conflict, foreign occupation, hostage-taking and all forms of terrorism, as well as the lack of efficient use of resources, among other factors, can constrain national efforts to combat poverty and to ensure the well-being of children. The childhood of millions continues to be devastated by hazardous and exploitative labour; the sale and trafficking of children, including adolescents, and other forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence.
13. The experience of the past decade has confirmed that the needs and rights of children must be a priority in all development efforts. There are many key lessons: change is possible — and children's rights are an effective rallying point; policies must address both the immediate factors affecting or excluding groups of children and the wider and deeper causes of inadequate protection and rights violations; targeted interventions that achieve rapid successes need to be pursued, with due attention to sustainability and participatory processes; and efforts should build on children's own resilience and strength. Multisectoral programs focusing on early childhood and support to families, especially in high-risk conditions, merit special support because they provide lasting benefits for child growth, development and protection.

## Plan of Action

### A. Creating a world fit for children

14. A world fit for children is one in which all children get the best possible start in life and have access to a quality basic education, including primary education that is compulsory and available free to all, and in which all children, including adolescents, have ample opportunity to develop their individual capacities in a safe and supportive environment. We will promote the physical, psychological, spiritual, social, emotional, cognitive and cultural development of children as a matter of national and global priorities.
15. The family is the basic unit of society and as such should be strengthened. It is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support. The primary responsibility for the protection, upbringing and development of children rests with the family. All institutions of society should respect children's rights and secure their well-being and render appropriate assistance to parents, families, legal guardians and other caregivers so that children can grow and develop in a safe and stable environment and in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding, bearing in mind that in different cultural, social and political systems, various forms of the family exist.
16. We also recognize that a considerable number of children live without parental support, such as orphans, children living on the street, internally displaced and refugee children, children affected by trafficking and sexual and economic exploitation and children who are incarcerated. Special measures should be taken to support such children and the institutions, facilities and services that care for them, and to build and strengthen children's own abilities to protect themselves.
17. We are determined to promote access by parents, families, legal guardians, caregivers and children themselves to a full range of information and services to promote child survival, development, protection and participation.
18. Chronic poverty remains the single biggest obstacle to meeting the needs, protecting and promoting the rights of children. It must be tackled on all fronts, from the provision of basic social services to the creation of employment opportunities, from the availability of microcredit to investment in infrastructure, and from debt relief to fair trade practices. Children are hardest hit by poverty because it strikes at the very roots of their potential for development — their growing bodies and minds. Eradication of poverty and reduction of disparities must therefore be a key objective of development efforts. The goals and strategies agreed upon at recent major United Nations conferences and their follow-ups, in particular the Millennium Summit, provide a helpful international framework for national strategies for poverty reduction to fulfill and protect the rights and promote the well-being of children.
19. We recognize that globalization and interdependence are opening new opportunities through trade, investment and capital flows and advances in technology, including information technology, for the growth of the world economy, development and improvement of living standards around the world. At the same time, there remain serious challenges, including serious financial crises, insecurity, poverty, exclusion and inequality within and among societies. Considerable obstacles to further integration and full participation in the global economy remain for developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, as well as for some countries with economies in transition. Unless the benefits of social and economic development are extended to all countries, a growing number of people in all countries and even entire regions will remain marginalized from the global economy. We must act now in order to overcome

those obstacles affecting peoples and countries and to realize the full potential of opportunities presented for the benefit of all, in particular children. We are committed to an open, equitable, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading and financial system. Investment in, inter alia, education and training will assist in enabling children to partake of the benefits of the breakthroughs in information and communication technologies. Globalization offers opportunities and challenges. The developing countries and countries with economies in transition face special difficulties in responding to those challenges and opportunities. Globalization should be fully inclusive and equitable, and there is a strong need for policies and measures at the national and international levels, formulated and implemented with the full and effective participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to help them respond effectively to those challenges and opportunities, giving high priority to achieving progress for children.

20. Discrimination gives rise to a self-perpetuating cycle of social and economic exclusion and undermines children's ability to develop to the fullest. We will make every effort to eliminate discrimination against children, whether rooted in the child's or his or her parent's or legal guardian's race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status.
21. We will take all measures to ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including equal access to health, education and recreational services, by children with disabilities and children with special needs; to ensure the recognition of their dignity; to promote their self-reliance; and to facilitate their active participation in the community.
22. Indigenous children, children belonging to minorities and vulnerable groups, are disproportionately disadvantaged in many countries due to all forms of discrimination, including racial discrimination. We shall take appropriate measures to end discrimination, to provide special support, and to ensure equal access to services for these children.
23. The achievement of goals for children, particularly for girls, will be advanced if women fully enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, are empowered to participate fully and equally in all spheres of society and are protected and free from all forms of violence, abuse and discrimination. We are determined to eliminate all forms of discrimination against the girl child throughout her life cycle and to provide special attention to her needs in order to promote and protect all her human rights, including the right to be free from coercion and from harmful practices and sexual exploitation. We will promote gender equality and equal access to basic social services, such as education, nutrition, health care, including sexual and reproductive health care, vaccinations, and protection from diseases representing the major causes of mortality, and will mainstream a gender perspective in all development policies and programs.
24. We also recognize the need to address the changing role of men in society, as boys, adolescents and fathers, and the challenges faced by boys growing up in today's world. We will further promote the shared responsibility of both parents in education and in the raising of children, and will make every effort to ensure that fathers have opportunities to participate in their children's lives.
25. It is vital that national goals for children include targets for reducing disparities, in particular those which arise from discrimination on the basis of race, between girls and boys, rural and urban children, wealthy and poor children and those with and without disabilities.

26. A number of environmental problems and trends, such as global warming, ozone layer depletion, air pollution, hazardous wastes, exposure to hazardous chemicals and pesticides, inadequate sanitation, poor hygiene, unsafe drinking water and food and inadequate housing, need to be addressed to ensure the health and well-being of children.
27. Adequate housing fosters family integration, contributes to social equity and strengthens the feeling of belonging, security and human solidarity, which are essential for the well-being of children. Accordingly, we will attach a high priority to overcoming the housing shortage and other infrastructure needs, particularly for children in marginalized peri-urban and remote rural areas.
28. We will take measures to manage our natural resources and protect and conserve our environment in a sustainable manner. We will work to change unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, bearing in mind principles, including, inter alia, the principle that, in view of different contributions to global and environmental degradation, States have common but differentiated responsibilities. We will help to educate all children and adults to respect the natural environment for their health and well-being.
29. The Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols contain a comprehensive set of international legal standards for the protection and well-being of children. We also recognize the importance of other international instruments relevant for children. The general principles of, inter alia, the best interests of the child, non-discrimination, participation and survival and development provide the framework for our actions concerning children, including adolescents. We urge all countries to consider, as a matter of priority, signing and ratifying or acceding to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, its Optional Protocols, as well as the International Labor Organization Conventions 138 and 182. We urge States Parties to fully implement their treaty obligations and to withdraw reservations incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention and to consider reviewing reservations with a view to withdrawing them.
30. We welcome the entry into force of the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and urge States Parties to fully implement them.
31. We, the Governments participating in the special session, commit ourselves to implementing the Plan of Action through consideration of such measures as:
  - a) Putting in place, as appropriate, effective national legislation, policies and action plans and allocating resources to fulfill and protect the rights and to secure the well-being of children;
  - b) Establishing or strengthening national bodies, such as, inter alia, independent ombudspersons for children, where appropriate, or other institutions for the promotion and protection of the rights of the child;
  - c) Developing national monitoring and evaluation systems to assess the impact of our actions on children;
  - d) Enhancing widespread awareness and understanding of the rights of the child.

## Partnerships and participation

32. In order to implement the present Plan of Action, we will strengthen our partnership with the following actors, who have unique contributions to make, and encourage the use of all avenues for participation to advance our common cause — the well-being of children and the promotion and protection of their rights:
1. Children, including adolescents, must be enabled to exercise their right to express their views freely, according to their evolving capacity, and build self-esteem, acquire knowledge and skills, such as those for conflict resolution, decisionmaking and communication, to meet the challenges of life. The right of children, including adolescents, to express themselves freely must be respected and promoted and their views taken into account in all matters affecting them, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child. The energy and creativity of children and young people must be nurtured so that they can actively take part in shaping their environment, their societies and the world they will inherit. Disadvantaged and marginalized children, including adolescents in particular, need special attention and support to access basic services, build self-esteem and to prepare them to take responsibility for their own lives. We will strive to develop and implement programs to promote meaningful participation by children, including adolescents, in decision-making processes, including in families and schools and at the local and national levels.
  2. Parents, families, legal guardians and other caregivers have the primary role and responsibility for the well-being of children, and must be supported in the performance of their child-rearing responsibilities. All our policies and programs should promote the shared responsibility of parents, families, legal guardians and other caregivers, and society as a whole in this regard.
  3. Local governments and authorities, through, inter alia, strengthened partnerships at all levels, can ensure that children are at the center of agendas for development. By building on ongoing initiatives, such as child-friendly communities and cities without slums, mayors and local leaders can significantly improve the lives of children.
  4. Parliamentarians or members of legislatures are key to the implementation of this plan of action, the success of which will require that they promote awareness raising; adopt necessary legislation; facilitate and appropriate the financial resources needed for this purpose; and monitor their effective utilization.
  5. Non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations will be supported in their work and mechanisms should be established, where appropriate, to facilitate the participation of civil society in matters relating to children. Civil society actors have a special role to play in promoting and supporting positive behavior<sup>7</sup> and creating an environment that is conducive to the well-being of children.
  6. The private sector and corporate entities have a special contribution to make, from adopting and adhering to practices that demonstrate social responsibility to providing resources, including innovative sources of financing and community improvement schemes that benefit children, such as microcredits.

7. Religious, spiritual, cultural and indigenous leaders, with their tremendous outreach, have a key role as front-line actors for children to help translate the goals and targets of this Plan of Action into priorities for their communities and to mobilize and inspire people to take action in favor of children.
8. The mass media and their organizations have a key role to play in raising awareness about the situation of children and the challenges facing them; they should also play a more active role in informing children, parents, families and the general public about initiatives that protect and promote the rights of children, and should also contribute to educational programs for children. In this regard, the media should be attentive to their influence on children.
9. Regional and international organizations, in particular all United Nations bodies, as well as the Bretton Woods institutions and other multilateral agencies, should be encouraged to collaborate and play a key role in accelerating and achieving progress for children.
10. People who work directly with children have great responsibilities. It is important to enhance their status, morale and professionalism.

## **B. Goals, strategies and actions**

33. Since the World Summit for Children, many goals and targets relevant to children have been endorsed by major United Nations summits and conferences and their review processes. We strongly reaffirm our commitment to achieve these goals and targets, and to offer this and future generations of children the opportunities denied to their parents. As a step towards building a strong foundation for attaining the 2015 international development targets and Millennium Summit goals, we resolve to achieve the unmet goals and objectives as well as a consistent set of intermediate targets and benchmarks during the course of this decade (2000-2010) in the following priority areas of action.
34. Taking into account the best interests of the child, we commit ourselves to implement the following goals, strategies and actions with appropriate adaptations to the specific situation of each country and the diverse situations and circumstances in different regions and countries throughout the world.

### **1. Promoting healthy lives**

35. Due to poverty and lack of access to basic social services, more than 10 million children under five years of age, nearly half of them in their neonatal period, die every year of preventable diseases and malnutrition. Complications related to pregnancy and childbirth and maternal anemia and malnutrition kill more than half a million women and adolescents each year, and injure and disable many more. More than one billion people cannot obtain safe drinking water; 150 million children under five years of age are malnourished; and more than two billion people lack access to adequate sanitation.

We are determined to break the intergenerational cycle of malnutrition and poor health by providing a safe and healthy start in life for all children; providing access to effective, equitable, sustained and sustainable primary health care systems in all communities, ensuring access to information and referral services; providing adequate water and sanitation services; and promoting a healthy lifestyle among children and adolescents. Accordingly, we resolve to achieve the following goals in conformity with the

outcomes of recent United Nations conferences, summits and special sessions of the General Assembly, as reflected in their respective reports:

- a) Reduction in the infant and under-five mortality rate by at least one third, in pursuit of the goal of reducing it by two thirds by 2015;
  - b) Reduction in the maternal mortality ratio by at least one third, in pursuit of the goal of reducing it by three quarters by 2015;
  - c) Reduction of child malnutrition among children under five years of age by at least one third, with special attention to children under two years of age, and reduction in the rate of low birth weight by at least one third of the current rate;
  - d) Reduction in the proportion of households without access to hygienic sanitation facilities and affordable and safe drinking water by at least one third;
  - e) Development and implementation of national early childhood development policies and programs to ensure the enhancement of children's physical, social, emotional, spiritual and cognitive development;
  - f) Development and implementation of national health policies and programs for adolescents, including goals and indicators, to promote their physical and mental health;
  - g) Access through the primary health-care system to reproductive health for all individuals of appropriate ages as soon as possible and no later than 2015.
37. To achieve these goals and targets, taking into account the best interests of the child, consistent with national laws, religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of its people, and in conformity with all human rights and fundamental freedoms, we will carry out the following strategies and actions:
1. Ensure that the reduction of maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality is a health sector priority and that women, in particular adolescent expectant mothers, have ready and affordable access to essential obstetric care, well-equipped and adequately staffed maternal health-care services, skilled attendance at delivery, emergency obstetric care, effective referral and transport to higher levels of care when necessary, post-partum care and family planning in order to, inter alia, promote safe motherhood.
  2. Provide access to appropriate, user-friendly and high-quality health-care services, education and information to all children.
  3. Address effectively, for all individuals of appropriate age, the promotion of their healthy lives, including their reproductive and sexual health, consistent with the commitments and outcomes of recent United Nations conferences and summits, including the World Summit for Children, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women, their five-year reviews and reports.
  4. Promote child health and survival and reduce disparities between and within developed and developing countries as quickly as possible, with particular attention to eliminating the pattern of excess and preventable mortality among girl infants and children.
  5. Protect, promote and support exclusive breastfeeding of infants for six months and continued breastfeeding with safe, appropriate and adequate complementary feeding up to two years of age or beyond. Provide infant feeding informed choices.

6. Special emphasis must be placed on prenatal and post-natal care, essential obstetric care and care for newborns, particularly for those living in areas without access to services.
7. Ensure full immunization of children under one year of age at 90 per cent nationally, with at least 80 per cent coverage in every district or equivalent administrative unit; reduce deaths due to measles by half by 2005; eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus by 2005; and extend the benefits of new and improved vaccines and other preventive health interventions to children in all countries.
8. Certify by 2005 the global eradication of poliomyelitis.
9. Eradicate guinea worm disease.
10. Strengthen early childhood development by providing appropriate services and support to parents, including parents with disabilities, families, legal guardians and caregivers, especially during pregnancy, birth, infancy and early childhood, so as to ensure children's physical, psychological, social, spiritual and cognitive development.
11. Intensify proven, cost-effective actions against diseases and malnutrition that are the major causes of child mortality and morbidity, including reducing by one third deaths due to acute respiratory infections; reducing by one half deaths due to diarrhea among children under the age of five; reducing by one half tuberculosis deaths and prevalence; and reducing the incidence of intestinal parasites, cholera, sexually transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS and all forms of hepatitis, and ensure that effective measures are affordable and accessible, particularly in highly marginalized areas or populations.
12. Reduce by one half the burden of disease associated with malaria and ensure that 60 per cent of all people at risk of malaria, especially children and women, sleep under insecticide-treated bednets.
13. Improve the nutrition of mothers and children, including adolescents, through household food security, access to basic social services and adequate caring practices.
14. Support populations and countries suffering from severe food shortages and famine.
15. Strengthen health and education systems and expand the social security systems to increase access to integrated and effective health, nutrition and childcare in families, communities, schools and primary health-care facilities, including prompt attention to marginalized boys and girls.
16. Reduce child injuries due to accidents or other causes through the development and implementation of appropriate preventive measures.
17. Ensure effective access by children with disabilities and children with special needs to integrated services, including rehabilitation and health care, and promote family-based care and appropriate support systems for parents, families, legal guardians and caregivers of these children.
18. Provide special help to children suffering from mental illnesses or psychological disorders.

19. Promote physical, mental and emotional health among children, including adolescents, through play, sports, recreation, artistic and cultural expression.
20. Develop and implement policies and programs for children, including adolescents, aimed at preventing the use of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and inhalants, except for medical purposes, and at reducing the adverse consequences of their abuse as well as support preventive policies and programs, especially against tobacco and alcohol.
21. Develop policies and programs aimed at children, including adolescents, for the reduction of violence and suicide.
22. Achieve sustainable elimination of iodine deficiency disorders by 2005 and vitamin A deficiency by 2010; reduce by one third the prevalence of anemia, including iron deficiency, by 2010; and accelerate progress towards reduction of other micronutrient deficiencies, through dietary diversification, food fortification and supplementation.
23. In efforts to ensure universal access to safe water and adequate sanitation facilities, pay greater attention to building family and community capacity for managing existing systems and promoting behavioral change through health and hygiene education, including in the school curriculum.
24. Address any disparities in health and access to basic social services, including health-care services for indigenous children and children belonging to minorities.
25. Develop legislation policies and programs, as appropriate, at the national level and enhance international cooperation to prevent, inter alia, the exposure of children to harmful environmental contaminants in the air, water, soil and food.

## 2. Providing quality education

38. Education is a human right and a key factor to reducing poverty and child labor and promoting democracy, peace, tolerance and development. Yet more than 100 million children of primary school age, the majority of them girls, are not enrolled in school. Millions more are taught by untrained and underpaid teachers in overcrowded, unhealthy and poorly equipped classrooms. And one third of all children do not complete five years of schooling, the minimum required for basic literacy.
39. As agreed at the World Education Forum in Dakar, which reconfirmed the mandated role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in coordinating Education For All partners and maintaining their collective momentum within the process of securing basic education, we will accord high priority to ensuring by 2015 that all children have access to and complete primary education that is free, compulsory and of good quality. We will also aim at the progressive provision of secondary education. As a step towards these goals, we resolve to achieve the following targets:
  - a) Expand and improve comprehensive early childhood care and education, for girls and boys, especially for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children;
  - b) Reduce the number of primary school-age children who are out of school by 50

per cent and increase net primary school enrolment or participation in alternative, good quality primary education programs to at least 90 per cent by 2010;

- c) Eliminate gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2005; and achieve gender equality in education by 2015, with a focus on ensuring girls' full and equal access to and achievement in basic education of good quality;
- d) Improve all aspects of the quality of education so that children and young people achieve recognized and measurable learning outcomes especially in numeracy literacy and essential life skills;
- e) Ensure that the learning needs of all young people are met through access to appropriate learning and life skills programs;
- f) Achieve a 50 per cent improvement in levels of adult literacy by 2015, especially for women.

40. To achieve these goals and targets, we will implement the following strategies and actions:

1. Develop and implement special strategies to ensure that schooling is readily accessible to all children and adolescents, and that basic education is affordable for all families.
2. Promote innovative programs that encourage schools and communities to search more actively for children who have dropped out or are excluded from school and from learning, especially girls and working children, children with special needs and children with disabilities, and help them enroll, attend, and successfully complete their education, involving governments as well as families, communities and non-governmental organizations as partners in the educational process. Special measures should be put in place to prevent and reduce drop out due to, inter alia, entry into employment.
3. Bridge the divide between formal and non-formal education, taking into account the need to ensure good quality of the educational services, including the competence of providers, and acknowledging that non-formal education and alternative approaches provide beneficial experiences. In addition, develop complementarity between the two delivery systems.
4. Ensure that all basic education programs are accessible, inclusive and responsive to children with special learning needs and for children with various forms of disabilities.
5. Ensure that indigenous children and children belonging to minorities have access to quality education on the same basis as other children. Efforts must be directed to providing this education in a manner that respects their heritage. Efforts must also be directed at providing educational opportunities so that indigenous children and children belonging to minorities can develop an understanding of, and sustain their cultural identity, including significant aspects such as language and values.
6. Develop and implement special strategies for improving the quality of education and meeting the learning needs of all.
7. Create, with children, a child-friendly learning environment, in which they feel safe, are protected from abuse, violence and discrimination, and are healthy and encouraged to learn. Ensure that education programmes and materials fully reflect the promotion

and protection of human rights and the values of peace, tolerance and gender equality, using every opportunity presented by the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010).

8. Strengthen early childhood care and education by providing services, developing and supporting programs directed to families, legal guardians, caregivers and communities.
9. Provide education and training opportunities to adolescents to help them acquire sustainable livelihoods.
10. Design, where appropriate, and implement programs that enable pregnant adolescents and adolescent mothers to continue to complete their education.
11. Urge the continued development and implementation of programs for children, including adolescents, especially in schools, to prevent/discourage the use of tobacco and alcohol; detect, counter and prevent trafficking, and the use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances except for medical purposes, by, inter alia, promoting mass media information campaigns on their harmful effects as well as the risk of addiction and taking necessary actions to deal with the root causes.
12. Promote innovative programs to provide incentives to low-income families with school-age children to increase the enrolment and attendance of girls and boys and to ensure that they are not obliged to work in a way that interferes with their schooling.
13. Develop and implement programs that specifically aim to eliminate gender disparities in enrolment and gender-based bias and stereotypes in education systems, curricula and materials, whether derived from any discriminatory practices, social or cultural attitudes or legal and economic circumstances.
14. Enhance the status, morale, training and professionalism of teachers including early childhood educators, ensuring appropriate remuneration for their work and opportunities and incentives for their development.
15. Develop responsive, participatory and accountable systems of educational governance and management at the school, community and national levels.
16. Meet the specific learning needs of children affected by crises, by ensuring that education is provided during and after crises, and conduct education program to promote a culture of peace in ways that help to prevent violence and conflict and promote the rehabilitation of victims.
17. Provide accessible recreational and sports opportunities and facilities at schools and in communities.
18. Harness the rapidly evolving information and communication technologies to support education at an affordable cost, including open and distance education, while reducing inequality in access and quality.
19. Develop strategies to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS on education systems and schools, students and learning.

### 3. Protecting against abuse, exploitation and violence

41. Hundreds of millions of children are suffering and dying from war, violence, exploitation, neglect and all forms of abuse and discrimination. Around the world children live under especially difficult circumstances: permanently disabled or seriously injured by armed conflict; internally displaced or driven from their countries as refugees; suffering from natural and man-made disasters, including such perils as exposure to radiation and dangerous chemicals; as children of migrant workers and other socially disadvantaged groups; as victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. Trafficking, smuggling, physical and sexual exploitation and abduction, as well as the economic exploitation of children, even in its worst forms, are daily realities for children in all regions of the world, while domestic violence and sexual violence against women and children remain serious problems. In several countries, there have been social and humanitarian impacts from economic sanctions on the civilian population, in particular women and children.
42. In some countries, the situation of children is adversely affected by unilateral measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that create obstacles to trade relations among States, impede the full realization of social and economic development and hinder the well-being of the population in the affected countries, with particular consequences for women and children, including adolescents.
43. Children have the right to be protected from all forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence. Societies must eliminate all forms of violence against children. Accordingly, we resolve to:
- a) Protect children from all forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence; (b) Protect children from the impact of armed conflict and ensure compliance with international humanitarian law and human rights law;
  - c) Protect children from all forms of sexual exploitation including paedophilia; trafficking, and abduction;
  - d) Take immediate and effective measures to eliminate the worst forms of child labor as defined in International Labor Organization Convention No. 182, and elaborate and implement strategies for the elimination of child labor that is contrary to accepted international standards;
  - e) Improve the plight of millions of children who live under especially difficult circumstances.
44. To achieve these goals, we will implement the following strategies and actions:

#### General protection

1. Develop systems to ensure the registration of every child at or shortly after birth, and fulfill his or her right to acquire a name and a nationality, in accordance with national laws and relevant international instruments.
2. Encourage all countries to adopt and enforce laws, and improve the implementation of policies and programs to protect children from all forms of violence, neglect, abuse and exploitation, whether at home, in school or other institutions, in the workplace, or in the community.
3. Adopt special measures to eliminate discrimination against children on the basis of race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status and ensure their equal access to education, health and basic social services.

4. End impunity for all crimes against children by bringing perpetrators to justice and publicizing the penalties for such crimes.
5. Take steps with a view to the avoidance of and refrain from any unilateral measure not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impedes the full achievement of economic and social development by the population of the affected countries, in particular children and women, that hinders their well-being and that creates obstacles to the full enjoyment of their human rights, including the right of everyone to a standard of living adequate for their health and well-being and their right to food, medical care and the necessary social services. Ensure that food and medicine are not used as tools for political pressure.
6. Raise awareness about the illegality and harmful consequences of failing to protect children from violence, abuse and exploitation.
7. Promote the establishment of prevention, support and caring services as well as justice systems specifically applicable to children, taking into account the principles of restorative justice and fully safeguard children's rights and provide specially trained staff that promote children's reintegration in society.
8. Protect children from torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Call upon the Governments of all States, in particular States in which the death penalty had not been abolished, to comply with the obligations they have assumed under relevant provisions of international human rights instruments, including in particular articles 37 and 40 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and articles 6 and 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
9. End harmful traditional or customary practices, such as early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, which violate the rights of children and women.
10. Establish mechanisms to provide special protection and assistance to children without primary caregivers.
11. Adopt and implement policies for the prevention, protection, rehabilitation and reintegration, as appropriate, of children living in disadvantaged social situations and who are at risk, including orphans, abandoned children, children of migrant workers, children working and/or living on the street and children living in extreme poverty, and ensure their access to education, health, and social services as appropriate.
12. Protect children from adoption and foster care practices that are illegal, exploitative or that are not in their best interest.
13. Address cases of international kidnapping of children by one of the parents.
14. Combat and prevent the use of children, including adolescents, in the illicit production and trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.
15. Promote comprehensive programs to counter the use of children, including adolescents, in the production and trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.
16. Make appropriate treatment and rehabilitation accessible for children, including adolescents, dependent on narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, inhalants and alcohol.
17. Provide protection and assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons, the majority of whom are women and children, in accordance with international law, including international humanitarian law.
18. Ensure that children affected by natural disasters receive timely and effective humanitarian assistance through a commitment to improved contingency planning and emergency preparedness, and that they are given all possible assistance and protection to help them resume a normal life as soon as possible.
19. Encourage measures to protect children from violent or harmful web sites, computer programs and games that negatively influence the psychological development of children, taking into account the responsibilities of the family, parents, legal guardians and caregivers.

### Protection from armed conflict

20. Strengthen the protection of children affected by armed conflict and adopt effective measures for the protection of children under foreign occupation.
21. Ensure that issues pertaining to the rights and protection of children are fully reflected in the agendas of peacemaking processes and in ensuing peace agreements, and are incorporated, as appropriate, into United Nations peacekeeping operations and peace-building programs; and involve children where possible in these processes.
22. End the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict contrary to international law and ensure their demobilization and effective disarmament, and implement effective measures for their rehabilitation, physical and psychological recovery and reintegration into society.
23. Put an end to impunity, prosecute those responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes and exclude, where feasible, these crimes from amnesty provisions and amnesty legislation, and ensure that whenever post-conflict truth and justice-seeking mechanisms are established, serious abuses involving children are addressed and that appropriate child-sensitive procedures are provided.
24. Take concrete action against all forms of terrorism, which causes serious obstacles to the development and well-being of children.
25. Provide appropriate training and education in children's rights and protection as well as in international humanitarian law to all civilian, military and police personnel involved in peacekeeping operations.
26. Curb the illicit flow of small arms and light weapons and protect children from landmines, unexploded ordnances and other war materiel that victimize them and provide assistance to victimized children during and after armed conflict.
27. Resolve to strengthen international cooperation, including burden sharing in and coordination of humanitarian assistance to countries hosting refugees, and to help all refugees and displaced persons, including children and their families, to return voluntarily to their homes in safety and dignity and to be smoothly reintegrated in their societies.
28. Develop and implement policies and programs, with necessary international cooperation, for the protection, care and well-being of refugee children and children seeking asylum and for the provision of basic social services, including access to education, in addition to health care and food.
29. Give priority to programs for family tracing and reunification, and continue to monitor the care arrangements for unaccompanied and/or separated refugee and internally displaced children.
30. Assess and monitor regularly the impact of sanctions on children and take urgent and effective measures in accordance with international law with a view to alleviating the negative impact of economic sanctions on women and children.
31. Take all necessary measures to protect children from being taken as hostages.
32. Develop specific strategies to protect and provide for the special needs and particular vulnerabilities of girls affected by armed conflict.

### Combating child labor

33. Take immediate and effective measures to secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labor as a matter of urgency. Provide for the rehabilitation and social integration of children removed from the worst forms of child labor through inter alia ensuring access to free basic education and, whenever possible and appropriate, vocational training.

34. Take appropriate steps to assist one another in the elimination of the worst forms of child labor through enhanced international cooperation and/or assistance including support for social and economic development, poverty eradication programs and universal education.
35. Elaborate and implement strategies to protect children from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development.
36. In this context, protect children from all forms of economic exploitation by mobilizing national partnerships and international cooperation, and improve the conditions of children through, inter alia, providing working children with free basic education and with vocational training and their integration into the education system in every way possible and encourage support for social and economic policies aimed at poverty eradication and at providing families, particularly women, with employment and income-generating opportunities.
37. Promote international cooperation to assist developing countries upon request in addressing child labor and its root causes, inter alia, through social and economic policies aimed at poverty eradication, while stressing that labor standards should not be used for protectionist trade purposes.
38. Strengthen the collection and analysis of data on child labor.
39. Mainstream action relating to child labor into national poverty eradication and development efforts, especially in policies and programs in the areas of health, education, employment and social protection.

#### Elimination of trafficking and sexual exploitation of children

40. Take concerted national and international actions as a matter of urgency to end the sale of children and their organs, sexual exploitation and abuse, including the use of children for pornography, prostitution and paedophilia, and to combat existing markets.
41. Raise awareness of the illegality and harmful consequences of sexual exploitation and abuse, including through the Internet, and the trafficking of children.
42. Enlist the support of the private sector, including the tourism industry and the media, for a campaign against sexual exploitation and trafficking of children.
43. Identify and address the underlying causes and the root factors, including external factors, leading to sexual exploitation and trafficking of children and implement preventive strategies against sexual exploitation and trafficking of children.
44. Ensure the safety, protection, and security of victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation and provide assistance and services to facilitate their recovery and social reintegration.
45. Take necessary action, at all levels, as appropriate, to criminalize and penalize effectively, in conformity with all relevant and applicable international instruments, all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, including within the family or for commercial purposes, child prostitution, paedophilia, child pornography, child sex tourism, trafficking, the sale of children and their organs and engagement in forced child labor and any other form of exploitation, while ensuring that, in the treatment by the criminal justice system of children who are victims, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.
46. Monitor and share information regionally and internationally on the crossborder trafficking of children; strengthen the capacity of border and law enforcement officials to stop trafficking and provide or strengthen training for them to respect the dignity, human rights and fundamental freedoms of all those, particularly, women and children who are victims of trafficking.

47. Take necessary measures, including through enhanced cooperation between governments, intergovernmental organizations, the private sector and nongovernmental organizations to combat the criminal use of information technologies, including the Internet, for purposes of the sale of children, for child prostitution, child pornography, child sex tourism, paedophilia and other forms of violence and abuse against children and adolescents.

#### 4. Combating HIV/AIDS

45. The HIV/AIDS pandemic is having a devastating effect on children and those who provide care for them. This includes the 13 million children orphaned by AIDS, the nearly 600,000 infants infected every year through mother-to-child transmission and the millions of HIV-positive young people living with the stigma of HIV but without access to adequate counseling, care and support.
46. To combat the devastating impact of HIV/AIDS on children, we resolve to take urgent and aggressive action as agreed at the special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS, and to place particular emphasis on the following agreed goals and commitments:
  - a) By 2003, establish time-bound national targets to achieve the internationally agreed global prevention goal to reduce by 2005 HIV prevalence among young men and women aged 15 to 24 in the most affected countries by 25 per cent and by 25 per cent globally by 2010, and to intensify efforts to achieve these targets as well as to challenge gender stereotypes and attitudes, and gender inequalities in relation to HIV/AIDS, encouraging the active involvement of men and boys;
  - b) By 2005, reduce the proportion of infants infected with HIV by 20 per cent, and by 50 per cent by 2010, by: ensuring that 80 per cent of pregnant women accessing antenatal care have information, counseling and other HIV prevention services available to them, increasing the availability of and by providing access for HIV-infected women and babies to effective treatment to reduce mother-to-child transmission of HIV, as well as through effective interventions for HIV-infected women, including voluntary and confidential counseling and testing, access to treatment, especially anti-retroviral therapy and, where appropriate, breast milk substitutes and the provision of a continuum of care;
  - c) By 2003, develop and by 2005 implement national policies and strategies to: build and strengthen governmental, family and community capacities to provide supportive environment for orphans and girls and boys infected and affected by HIV/AIDS including by providing appropriate counseling and psycho-social support; ensuring their enrolment in school and access to shelter, good nutrition, health and social services on an equal basis with other children; to protect orphans and vulnerable children from all forms of abuse, violence, exploitation, discrimination, trafficking and loss of inheritance.
47. To achieve these goals, we will implement the following strategies and actions:
  - I. By 2003, ensure the development and implementation of multisectoral national strategies and financing plans for combating HIV/AIDS that: address the epidemic in forthright terms; confront stigma, silence and denial; address gender and age-based dimensions of the epidemic; eliminate discrimination and marginalization; involve partnerships with civil society and the business sector and the full participation of people living with HIV/AIDS, those in vulnerable groups and people mostly at risk, particularly women and young people; are resourced to the extent possible from national budgets without excluding other sources, inter alia, international cooperation; fully promote and protect all human rights and funda-

- mental freedoms, including the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; integrate a gender perspective; and address risk, vulnerability, prevention, care, treatment and support and reduction of the impact of the epidemic; and strengthen health, education and legal system capacity;
2. By 2005, ensure that at least 90 per cent, and by 2010, at least 95 per cent of young men and women aged 15 to 24 have access to the information, education, including peer education and youth-specific HIV education, and services necessary to develop the life skills required to reduce their vulnerability to HIV infection; in full partnership with youth, parents, families, educators and health-care providers;
  3. By 2005, develop and make significant progress in implementing comprehensive care strategies to: strengthen family and community-based care including that provided by the informal sector, and health care systems to provide and monitor treatment to people living with HIV/AIDS, including infected children, and to support individuals, households, families and communities affected by HIV/AIDS; improve the capacity and working conditions of health care personnel, and the effectiveness of supply systems, financing plans and referral mechanisms required to provide access to affordable medicines, including anti-retroviral drugs, diagnostics and related technologies, as well as quality medical, palliative and psycho-social care;
  4. By 2005, implement measures to increase capacities of women and adolescent girls to protect themselves from the risk of HIV infection, principally through the provision of health care and health services, including sexual and reproductive health, and through prevention education that promotes gender equality within a culturally and gender sensitive framework;
  5. By 2003, develop and/or strengthen strategies, policies and programs that recognize the importance of the family in reducing vulnerability, inter alia, in educating and guiding children and taking account of cultural, religious and ethical factors, in order to reduce the vulnerability of children and young people by: ensuring access of both girls and boys to primary and secondary education, including on HIV/AIDS in curricula for adolescents; ensuring safe and secure environments, especially for young girls; expanding good quality youth-friendly information and sexual health education and counseling service; strengthening reproductive and sexual health programs; and involving families and young people in planning, implementing and evaluating HIV/AIDS prevention and care programs, to the extent possible;
  6. By 2003, develop and begin to implement national strategies that incorporate HIV/AIDS awareness, prevention, care and treatment elements into programs or actions that respond to emergency situations, recognizing that populations destabilized by armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, including refugees, internally displaced persons and, in particular, women and children, are at increased risk of exposure to HIV infection; and, where appropriate, factor HIV/AIDS components into international assistance programs;
  7. Ensure non-discrimination and full and equal enjoyment of all human rights through the promotion of an active and visible policy of de-stigmatization of children orphaned and made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS;
  8. Urge the international community to complement and supplement efforts of developing countries that commit increased national funds to fight the HIV/AIDS epidemic through increased international development assistance, particularly those countries most affected by HIV/AIDS, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean, countries at high risk of expansion of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and other affected regions whose resources to deal with the epidemic are seriously limited.

### C. Mobilizing resources

48. Promoting healthy lives, including good nutrition and control of infectious diseases, providing quality education, protecting children from abuse, exploitation, violence and armed conflict and combating HIV/AIDS are achievable goals and are clearly affordable for the global community.
49. The primary responsibility for the implementation of the Plan of Action and for ensuring an enabling environment for securing the well-being of children, in which the rights of each and every child are promoted and respected, rests with each individual country, recognizing that new and additional resources, both national and international, are required for this purpose.
50. Investments in children are extraordinarily productive if they are sustained over the medium to long term. Investing in children and respecting their rights lays the foundation for a just society, a strong economy, and a world free of poverty.
51. Implementation of the present Plan of Action will require the allocation of significant additional human, financial, and material resources, nationally and internationally, within the framework of an enabling international environment and enhanced international cooperation, including North-South and South-South cooperation, to contribute to economic and social development.
52. Accordingly, we resolve to pursue, among others, the following global targets and actions for mobilizing resources for children:
  - a) Express our appreciation to the developed countries that have agreed to and have reached the target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product (GNP) for overall official development assistance (ODA) and urge the developed countries that have not done so to strive to meet the yet to be attained internationally agreed target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for overall ODA as soon as possible. We take upon ourselves not to spare any efforts to reverse the declining trends of ODA and to meet expeditiously the targets of 0.15 per cent to 0.20 per cent of GNP as ODA to least developed countries, as agreed, taking into account the urgency and gravity of the special needs of children;
  - b) Without further delay, implement the enhanced heavily indebted poor countries initiative (HIPC) and agree to cancel all bilateral official debts of heavily indebted poor countries as soon as possible, in return for their making demonstrable commitments to poverty eradication, and urge the use of debt service savings to finance poverty eradication programs, in particular those related to children;
  - c) Call for speedy and concerted action to address effectively the debt problems of least developed countries, low-income developing countries and middle-income developing countries in a comprehensive, equitable, development-oriented and durable way through various national and international measures designed to make their debt sustainable in the long term and thereby to improve their capacity to deal with issues relating to children, including, as appropriate, existing orderly mechanisms for debt reduction such as debt swaps for projects aimed at meeting the needs of children;
  - d) Increase and improve access of products and services of developing countries to international markets through, inter alia, the negotiated reduction of tariff barriers and the elimination of non-tariff barriers, which unjustifiably hinder trade of developing countries, according to the multilateral trading system;
  - e) Believing that increased trade is essential for the growth and development of the least developed countries, aim at improving preferential market access for those countries by working towards the objective of duty-free and quota-free market access for all products of the least developed countries in the markets of developed countries;

- f) Mobilize new and substantial additional resources for social development, both at national and international level, to reduce disparities within and among countries, and ensure the effective and efficient use of existing resources. Further, ensure to the greatest possible extent, that social expenditures that benefit children are protected and prioritized during both short-term and long-term economic and financial crises;
  - g) Explore new ways of generating public and private financial resources, inter alia, through the reduction of excessive military expenditures and the arms trade and investment in arms production and acquisition, including global military expenditures, taking into consideration national security requirements;
  - h) Encourage donor and recipient countries, based on mutual agreement and commitment, to fully implement the 20/20 Initiative, in line with the Oslo and Hanoi Consensus documents, to ensure universal access to basic social services.
53. We will give priority attention to meeting the needs of the world's most vulnerable children in developing countries, in particular in least developed countries and sub-Saharan Africa.
54. We will also give special attention to the needs of children in Small Island Developing States, landlocked and transit developing countries and other developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition.
55. We will promote technical cooperation between countries in order to share positive experience and strategies in the implementation of the present Plan of Action.
56. Meeting our goals and aspirations for children merits new partnerships with civil society, including with non-governmental organizations and the private sector, and innovative arrangements for mobilizing additional resources, both private and public.
57. Bearing in mind that corporations must abide by national legislation, encourage corporate social responsibility so that it contributes to social development goals and the well-being of children, inter alia, by:
- 1. Promoting increased corporate awareness of the interrelationship between social development and economic growth;
  - 2. Providing a legal, economic and social policy framework that is just and stable to support and stimulate private sector initiatives aimed at achieving these goals;
  - 3. Enhancing partnerships with business, trade unions and civil society at the national level in support of the goals of the Plan of Action. We urge the private sector to assess the impact of its policies and practices on children and to make the benefits of research and development in science, medical technology, health, food fortification, environmental protection, education and mass communication available to all children, particularly to those in greatest need.
58. We resolve to ensure greater policy coherence and better cooperation between the United Nations, its agencies, and the Bretton Woods institutions, as well as other multilateral bodies and civil society, with a view to achieving the goals of the present Plan of Action.

#### D. Follow-up actions and assessment

59. To facilitate the implementation of actions committed to in this document, we will develop or strengthen as a matter of urgency, if possible by the end of 2003 national and, where appropriate, regional action plans with a set of specific timebound and measurable goals and targets based on this Plan of Action, taking into account the best interests of the child, consistent with national laws, religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of its people and in conformity with all human rights and fundamental freedoms. We will therefore strengthen our national planning and ensure necessary coordination, implementation and resources. We will integrate the goals of

this Plan of Action into our national government policies as well as national and subnational development programs, poverty eradication strategies, multisectoral approaches and other relevant development plans, in cooperation with relevant civil society actors, including non-governmental organizations working for and with children, as well as children, in accordance with their age and maturity, and their families.

60. We will regularly monitor at the national level and, where appropriate, at the regional level and assess progress towards the goals and targets in this plan of action at national, regional and global levels. Accordingly, we will strengthen our national statistical capacity to collect, analyze and disaggregate data, including by sex, age and other relevant factors that may lead to disparities, and support a wide range of child-focused research. We will enhance international cooperation to support statistical capacity-building efforts and build community capacity for monitoring, assessment and planning.
61. We will conduct periodic reviews at national and subnational levels of progress in order to more effectively address obstacles and accelerate actions. At the regional level, such reviews will be used to share best practices, strengthen partnerships and accelerate progress. Therefore:
  - a) We encourage States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child to consider including in their reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child information on measures taken and results achieved in the implementation of the present Plan of Action;
  - b) As the world's lead agency for children, the United Nations Children's Fund is requested to continue to prepare and disseminate, in close collaboration with Governments, relevant funds, programs and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, and all other relevant actors, as appropriate, information on the progress made in the implementation of the present Declaration and Plan of Action. The governing bodies of the relevant specialized agencies are requested to ensure that, within their mandates, the fullest possible support is given by these agencies for the achievement of the goals outlined in the Plan of Action and to keep the General Assembly of the United Nations, through the Economic and Social Council, fully informed of progress to date and additional action required during the decade ahead using existing reporting frameworks and procedures;
  - c) We request the Secretary-General to report regularly to the General Assembly on the progress made in implementing the present Plan of Action.
62. We hereby recommit ourselves to spare no effort in continuing with the creation of a world fit for children, building on the achievements of the past decade and guided by the principles of first call for children. In solidarity with a broad range of partners, we will lead a global movement for children that creates an unstoppable momentum for change. We make this solemn pledge secure in the knowledge that, in giving high priority to the rights of children, to their survival and to their protection and development, we serve the best interests of all humanity and ensure the well-being of all children in all societies.

*Notes*

1 A/S-27/3.

2 General Assembly resolution 55/2.

3 General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex.

4 A/45/625, annex.

