‘A World Fit for Children’

Alternative NGO Text

September 21, 2001

Prepared by the Child Rights Caucus
in response to the draft outcome document,
as negotiated as of September 7, 2001

For the upcoming United Nations
General Assembly Special Session on Children

Summary

This “alternative text,” presents specific text revisions and additions to the draft outcome document that members of the Child Rights Caucus and other non-governmental organizations believe are needed to strengthen the document and fulfil its purpose. It was prepared based on broad consultation among NGOs around the world that are devoted to protecting and promoting the rights of children. A list of contributing NGOs and Caucuses is listed on the following page.

Inputs were originally based on the third revised draft outcome document, presented before the Third Substantive PrepCom held from 11-15 June 2001. The text has been subsequently updated to reflect governmental negotiations that have taken place since the Third PrepCom.

Additions and revisions to the original text are underlined. Paragraphs that are not yet agreed pending future negotiations are indicated by italics.
Organizations and caucuses providing input to this text include:

*The ISRRC is comprised of Action Canada for Population and Development, CEDPA, Center for Reproductive Law and Policy, Ipas, International Planned Parenthood Federation, International Women’s Health Coalition, Latin American Caribbean Youth Network for Sexual and Reproductive Rights, Network of Asia-Pacific Youth, Youth Coalition for ICPD.

*Individual organizations have not endorsed all changes proposed.*
I. 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, and made a joint commitment by adopting the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and Plan of Action.

2. Since then, much progress has been made, as documented in the report of the Secretary-General entitled “We the Children”. Millions of young lives have been saved, discriminatory practices are being eradicated, albeit selectively, 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. Significant advances have occurred in many countries to ensure that children participate actively in decisions about their lives. However, these achievements and gains have been uneven, and many obstacles remain, particularly in developing countries. A happy, stable and safe childhood for all has proved elusive, and overall gains have fallen short of national and international obligations and commitments.

3. We, the Heads of State and Government and representatives of States participating in the United Nations General Assembly Special Session 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 all United Nations summits and conferences, in particular the Millennium Declaration, through national action and international cooperation.

4. As States parties and signatories to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, we reaffirm our obligation to promote and protect the rights [delete: and well-being] of each child—every human being below the age of 18 years - and to secure, in all nations of the world, the full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. We acknowledge that [delete: the provisions of] the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the most universally embraced human rights treaty in history, [delete: and other relevant human rights instruments] constitutes the key framework for the realisation of children’s rights.

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 inter-relatedness 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 out commitments to the following principles and objectives:

• Put children first. In all actions related to children, the best interests of the child shall always be our primary consideration.

• Eliminate child poverty. We recognize our obligation and reaffirm our vow to break the cycle of poverty within a single generation and eradicate its root causes, united in the conviction that all children have the right to an adequate standard of living.
• **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. **We commit ourselves to prevent the exclusion of any child or group of children from the protection afforded by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and from the benefits of its implementation.**

• **Provide health care for every child.** All children have the right to the highest attainable standard of health. Their survival, protection, growth and maximum 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, protect children from harmful environmental conditions, and nurture children in a safe environment that enables them to be physically healthy, mentally alert, emotionally secure, socially competent and able to learn.

• **Educate every child.** All girls and boys must have access to early childhood education and complete primary education that is free, compulsory and of good quality which will promote full development of each child’s potential. Gender disparities in primary and secondary education must be eliminated.

• **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.

• **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, and receive assistance to deal with its impact.

• **Combat HIV/AIDS.** Children and their families must be protected from the devastating impact of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS).

• **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 fully in all matters affecting them. [delete: in accordance with their age and maturity.]

• **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 minimise the impact of natural disasters and environmental degradation on them.

• **Ensure a Legal Identity for Every Child.** We will register all children to guarantee their full citizenship, facilitate their access to services, and provide a measure of protection for them against exploitation.

8. **Pending paragraph re the mobilization and allocation of additional resources.**

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 the human rights of all girls and boys are realised — 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 they are enabled and supported to develop in health, peace and dignity.
II. Review of progress and lessons learned

10. The World Summit Declaration and Plan of Action 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, Kathmandu, and Kingston which reviewed progress; ensured follow-up to the World Summit for Children and other major conferences; promoted renewed commitment to child rights; and guided actions for the future. Complementing efforts by governments, a wide range of actors participated in the reviews, including children themselves, 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 (NGOs).

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 World Summit for Children 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 on the Rights of the Child. Some 155 countries prepared national programmes 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, three 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 both at national and international level have yet to fully materialize. Critical challenges remain; more than 10 million children die each year, most of which could be prevented; 100 million children are still out of school, 60 per cent of them girls; 150 million children suffer from malnutrition; 300,000 are being used as child soldiers, and HIV/AIDS is spreading with catastrophic speed. Children continue to be exposed to toxic pollutants in the air and water. Exclusion is growing and access to social services diminishing. The gap between North and South is widening while the ranks of the poor, 40% of whom are children, increase annually. Excessive military spending inconsistent with national security requirements, unilateral coercive measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, foreign occupation, hostage taking and all forms of terrorism, as well as the lack of efficient resources, among other factors, can constrain national efforts to combat poverty and to ensure the rights of children. The childhood of millions continues to be devastated by hazardous and exploitative labour; the sale and trafficking of children including adolescents; the impact of armed conflict; 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 immediate factors affecting or excluding groups of children and 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, strength and contribution. Multisectoral programmes focusing on early childhood, and support to families, especially in high-risk conditions, merit special support, as they provide lasting benefits for child growth, development and protection.

III. 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, have access to quality basic education, including primary education that is compulsory and available free to all, have a voice that helps shape the world they will inherit, and as adolescents, have ample opportunity to develop their individual capacities in a safe and supportive environment. It is a world in which there is no child poverty. 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, in its various forms, is the fundamental unit of society and holds the primary responsibility for the protection, upbringing and development of children, and the fulfilment of their rights. Governments and all institutions of society should respect children’s rights and well-being, and render appropriate assistance to parents, legal guardians and other caregivers in the performance of their responsibilities, so that children can grow and develop happily in a safe and stable environment, and in an atmosphere of happiness, affection, love, respect for diversity and understanding.

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 working away from home, children affected by trafficking, and sexual and economic exploitation, children who are incarcerated and children orphaned by war or HIV/AIDS. Special measures should be taken to support such children and their caregivers, to ensure that they are provided with family and community-based care whenever possible, and to build and strengthen children’s own abilities to protect themselves, and to facilitate their inclusion into the community.

17. We are determined to promote access by parents, families, legal guardians, caregivers and children themselves to a full range of accessible information and services to promote child survival, development, protection and participation.

18. Widespread child poverty in the midst of global prosperity is a morally unacceptable violation of children’s rights. Poverty remains the single biggest obstacle to meeting the needs and fulfilling the rights of children. Efforts to fight poverty must first ensure a review of economic and social policies at the national level with a view to ensuring child rights. Poverty must be tackled on all fronts, from provision of basic social services to creation of employment opportunities, from the availability of microcredit to investment in infrastructure, from debt relief to fair trade practices, from support for disproportionately impoverished female-headed households to equitable allocation and better management of national resources and strengthened efforts to fight corruption. Children are hardest hit by poverty because it strikes at the very roots of their potential for development—their growing bodies and minds. Recognition of the right of every child to an adequate standard of living and the eradication of child poverty and reduction of disparities must therefore be a key objective of development efforts, and must be integrated into efforts to promote human development and human rights, including children’s rights. 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 fulfil and protect the rights and promote the well-being of children.

19. Globalisation and continuing rapid technological advances offer unprecedented opportunities for social and economic development. At the same time, they present serious challenges, including financial crises, insecurity, poverty, exclusion, environmental threats, inequality within and among societies, and marginalization of the poor. Globalisation has weakened many states that are
already ill-equipped to provide essential services for children. Our challenge is to make
globalisation work for the benefit of all, including children. We are committed to people-centered sustainable development, an open, equitable, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading and financial system and will work to reverse the adverse effects of globalisation, including disinvestments in public services. Consequently, it is necessary to review trade policies and commitments which may have adverse affects on children and to provide social safety nets and national protection mechanisms to protect children and their families from the negative effects of globalisation. [Delete: Investment in education and training will assist in this task, particularly, in enabling children to partake of the benefits of the breakthroughs in information and communication technologies to ensure that globalisation becomes more inclusive and that its benefits are shared more widely within and among nations.]

19 b) We commit to the peaceful resolution of conflict so that armed conflicts and foreign occupation become obsolete. Only then will children be spared the ravages of war.

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, age, colour, sex, language, religion, sexual orientation, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, economic, property, disability, birth, or other status.

21. We will take all measures to ensure that all children with disabilities have full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, without discrimination, with full citizenship and inclusion. We will ensure that all children with disabilities have access to community-based primary and specialized health services to support optimal growth and development, inclusive education, and recreational services, to ensure [delete: the recognition of] their dignity, to promote their self-reliance, independence, and to ensure their active participation in all aspects of social, economic and cultural life.

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. Children who are stateless are dispossessed of the material and legal protection afforded to citizens and are thus excluded from nationality and other civil rights, as well as from international protection and care. We shall take appropriate measures to end discrimination, to provide special support, and to fulfill the rights of these children, including access to community-based and other services.

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 recognize the inextricable link between the human rights of children and the human rights of women and will work for the full implementation of the human rights of women as the foundation for realising children’s human rights. We are determined to eliminate all forms of discrimination against the girl child throughout her life [delete: cycle] and to provide special attention to her needs, and [delete: in order to] to promote and protect all her human rights including her right to be free from coercion, and from harmful practices and sexual exploitation. We will promote full gender equality and equal access to basic social services, such as education, nutrition, health care, including sexual and reproductive health care, and mainstream a gender perspective in all development policies and programmes.

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 joint responsibility of both parents in education and in the raising of children, and make every effort to ensure fathers have opportunities to participate in their children’s lives.

25. It is vital that national goals for children include targets for reducing all disparities, in particular those which arise from discrimination on the basis of race, between girls and boys, rural and urban children, between wealthy and poor children, those with and without disabilities, between castes, between working and school-going children, between regions, and between indigenous, minority, displaced, migrant, stateless, and refugee children and other children.

26. A number of environmental problems and trends such as global warming, ozone layer depletion, air pollution, hazardous wastes, including the dumping of these wastes and the transfer of polluting industries into developing countries, exposure to hazardous chemicals and pesticides and herbicides, radiation, harmful uranium effluents, inadequate sanitation, poor hygiene, unsafe drinking water and food, inadequate housing and the negative effects of urbanization need to be urgently addressed to ensure the rights of children to optimal physical, emotional and mental development.

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. Recognising children’s rights to adequate housing, we will accordingly attach a high priority to protecting them against forced evictions and overcoming the housing shortage and other infrastructure needs, particularly for children in marginalised 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 and help to break the vicious cycle of poverty, and environmental degradation. We will re-examine and revise our industrial, commercial and development priorities and processes with a strong and effective imperative of preserving and regenerating the bio-diverse environment, and rapidly reducing and reversing environmental damage within a reasonable time frame. We will work to change unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, to focus on the use of clean energy, and 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 and other relevant international treaties and conventions are essential standards for building a world fit for children. Reservations to the Convention on the Rights of the Child should be reviewed regularly with a view to withdrawn as soon as possible. We encourage all countries to sign, ratify, accede and fully implement these instruments within the next five years. In addition, we affirm our commitment to goals agreed at international conferences, and their five-year reviews, including specific actions and strategies to be undertaken by governments to promote and protect the rights of children.

30. The principles contained in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other relevant human rights instruments-including the best interests of the child, non-discrimination, participation, and survival and development--provide the best normative framework for all our actions. We therefore commit ourselves to implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child and this Plan of Action through the following measures:

(a) Putting in place effective national legislation, policies, and action plans, and allocating adequate resources to promote and protect the rights of children, ensuring that all legislation is fully compatible with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

1 Including The Istanbul Summit, the Copenhagen Summit, the Fourth World Conference on Women, the International Conference on Population and Development, and the World Education Forum in Dakar.
Child and its Optional Protocols, incorporating the Convention into domestic law or ensuring that its principles and provisions take precedence in cases of conflict with national legislation:

(aa) Carrying out adequate budget analysis to determine the proportion spent on children, increasing allocations as necessary, and ensuring effective use of resources.

(b) Establishing or strengthening domestic bodies such as independent ombudspersons for children, and other institutions or processes to promote and protect the rights of children, coordinate and sustain implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and hold us accountable for our obligations to children.

(c) Developing permanent monitoring and evaluation systems at the national level, to assess the impact of our actions in promoting the rights of children, and ensure coordination of activities throughout all sectors of government.

(d) Enhancing widespread understanding of the rights of children, including through training for all those involved in government for children and working with or for children.

(e) Conducting child impact assessments of legislation, policies and resource allocations to ensure that they protect and promote the rights of children.

(f) Giving children’s rights priority in all forms of international cooperation, including in programmes for technical assistance.

(g) Ensuring that sufficient data are collected and used to improve the status of all children in each jurisdiction.

(h) Involving civil society, including children themselves, in the process of raising awareness, implementation and monitoring.

(i) Building partnerships with NGOs working to promote and protect the rights of children and implement this Plan of Action, including organizations led by children and youth, and enable and support their work.

Partnerships and participation

31. In order to implement the Convention and this 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 realization of their rights.

i) 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, decision-making and communication, to deal creatively with the issues and challenges that life experiences will present. The right of children and adolescents to express themselves 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 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 programmes to ensure meaningful participation by children, including adolescents, in decision-making processes, including in families, schools and at local and national levels.
ii) **Parents, families, legal guardians** and other caregivers have the primary role and responsibility for the physical and psychological well-being of children, and must be supported in the performance of their child-rearing responsibilities. All our policies and programmes should promote shared responsibility of parents, legal guardians and caregivers, and society as a whole in this regard.

iii) **Local governments and authorities**, through inter alia strengthened partnerships at all levels, can ensure that children are at the centre of agendas for development. By building on ongoing initiatives such as child-friendly and accessible communities and cities without slums, mayors and local leaders can significantly improve the lives of children.

iv) **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.

v) **NGOs** and community-based organizations, including those led by children and youth, 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 behaviours and creating an environment that is conducive to the rights of children.

vi) 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 microcredit.

vii) **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 favour of children.

viii) The **mass media** and their organizations have a key role to play in raising awareness of the situation of children and the challenges facing them; they should also play a more positive and active role to uphold the rights of children, and to inform children, parents, families and the general public on initiatives that protect and promote the rights of children; they should also contribute to educational programmes for children. In this regard, the media should be attentive to their influence on children and should establish and enforce a self-regulatory code of ethics against exploitative portrayal and harmful programming.

ix) **Regional and international organisations**, 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.

x) **People** who work directly with children have great responsibilities. It is important to enhance their status, morale and professionalism. **Professionals and policy makers** influencing the lives of children (e.g. pediatricians, teachers, psychologists, school counsellors, lawyers, child protective services specialists, social workers, police, architects) should receive training and support to understand and appreciate child rights principles and standards and apply them in their work.
B. Goals, strategies and actions

32. We resolve to secure, in all nations of the world, the full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child over the next decade. Since the World Summit for Children, many actions, goals and targets relevant to children have been agreed 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. These priority areas of action should be seen as part of overall efforts to implement the Convention in its entirety, and do not lessen the obligations of States Parties to implement the CRC in full.

1. Promoting healthy lives

33. Due to poverty and lack of access to basic social services, more than 10 million children under 5 years of age, nearly half of them in their neonatal period, die every year of preventable diseases and malnutrition; preventable injuries kill one million children under 15 each year and that many more are permanently disabled; complications related to pregnancy and childbirth, and maternal anemia and malnutrition kill more than half a million women and adolescents a year, injure and disable many more and lead to 8 million stillbirths and newborn deaths; approximately 5 million unsafe abortions every year are to girls aged 15 to 19; sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, affect millions of children, especially adolescent girls; more than 1 billion people cannot obtain safe drinking water; 150 million children under 5 years of age are malnourished; more than 2 billion people lack access to adequate sanitation; and children suffer from environmental exposures that lead to or exacerbate, among other conditions, asthma, cancer and learning and behavioural disorders.

34. We are determined to break the intergenerational cycle of malnutrition and poor health by ensuring each child’s right to the highest attainable standard of physical and psychological health. This includes ensuring safe motherhood, providing access to effective, equitable and sustained primary health care systems in all communities, ensuring access to confidential and non-judgemental information and referral services where needed; providing quality comprehensive early childhood development services; providing adequate water and sanitation services; and promoting a healthy lifestyle among children and adolescents. Accordingly, we resolve to achieve between the year 2000 and 2010:

(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, including adolescent maternal mortality, 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 inclusive programmes with nationally defined goals and indicators, to ensure the enhancement of children’s physical, social, emotional, spiritual and cognitive development to their fullest potential.

(f) Development and implementation of national health policies and programmes 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.

(h) Reduction by 75% in the gap between contraceptive use and the proportion of individuals expressing a desire to space or limit their families, where such gaps exist.

(i) Reduction by at least one-third the number of children suffering from respiratory disease.

33. To achieve these goals and targets, we will carry out the following strategies and actions:

- In the context of international co-operation, give priority to reforming and strengthening national health systems and infrastructure through increased, predictable and sustained resource flows and capacity building to ensure the provision of universal services.

- Ensure that the reduction of maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality is a health sector priority, and that all individuals of appropriate age, especially women and adolescent girls have full access to affordable, confidential, high quality sexual and reproductive information and health care and services, as agreed at the International Conference on Population and Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women, and reaffirmed at their five-year reviews.

- 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.

- With due respect to the rights, duties and responsibilities of parents, and in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the adolescent, taking into account the right of the child to information, privacy, confidentiality, respect and informed consent, promote and protect the right of adolescents to sexual and reproductive health education, information and services in order to promote gender equality and responsible and healthy sexual behaviour to prevent unwanted or early pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS.

- Increase the percentage of births assisted by skilled attendants to 85 per cent globally, and 50 per cent in areas where the maternal mortality is very high.

- Protect, promote and ensure maternity benefits for all women, including child care support for working women.

- Protect, promote and support exclusive breastfeeding of infants for about six months, and continued breastfeeding with safe, appropriate and adequate complementary foods up to two years of age or beyond, including implementation of the International Code of Marketing of Breast-Milk Substitutes and monitoring code compliance. Provide infant feeding counselling for mothers living with HIV/AIDS so that they can make free and informed choices;

- 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;

- Certify by 2005 the global eradication of poliomyelitis;
- Eradicate Guinea worm disease;
- Strengthen early childhood development by providing support, including through community-based programmes, to parents, including parents with disabilities, families, legal guardians and care-givers, especially during pregnancy, birth, infancy and early childhood, to ensure children’s physical, psychological, social, spiritual and cognitive development;
- Ensure that all families, caregivers and children have access to a full range of information, education and services to promote child survival, development, protection and participation.
- Ensure that all women have access to empowering literacy programmes linked to community development, which have been shown to improve health and nutrition outcomes for mothers and their children;
- Intensify proven, 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; one half, deaths due to diarrhoea among children under the age of five; one half, tuberculosis deaths and prevalence; one half developmental disabilities, and reducing the incidence of intestinal parasites, sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS, and ensuring that effective measures are affordable and accessible particularly in highly marginalized areas or populations.
- Reduce by one half the burden of disease associated with malaria, and ensure that 60% of all people at risk of malaria, especially children and women, sleep under insecticide-treated bed nets;
- Review, revise and adopt legislation, policies and programs to protect children from exposure to environmental contaminants in the air, water, soil and food, taking into account a child’s special vulnerability to these substances.
- Improve the nutrition of mothers and children, including adolescents, through household food security, access to basic health services, and adequate caring practices.
- Support populations and countries suffering from severe food shortages and famine.
- Strengthen health, education and training systems, both traditional and modern, and expand the social security systems to provide integrated, accessible, affordable and effective physical and mental health, nutrition and quality childcare in families, communities, schools and primary health care facilities, including prompt attention to marginalized boys and girls, and ensuring that such systems are sustained during armed conflict;
- Ensure appropriate and adequate mental health and psycho-social services for children and adolescents that are affected by violence, displacement and war;
- Reduce child injuries due to accidents or other causes through identification of local injury patterns and the development, implementation and monitoring of appropriate preventive measures;
- Enhance the inherent value of diversity and afford children with disabilities and their families the dignity of life.
• Ensure access by children with disabilities to meaningful services that promote family-based care, and affordable and accessible support systems for families, legal guardians and caregivers and their children. Ensure that all doctors, community health care and other health workers are trained in early identification; and that early intervention and accessible community support services are available that promote family-based care and community-based support for families, legal guardians and caregivers of such children.

• Provide adequate special assistance to parents in disadvantaged situations, especially those with either physical or mental disabilities or illnesses, as well as to adolescent, indigenous and sole parents, to ensure that these parents can properly care for their child(ren); ensure that removal of children from their biological parents is a last resort in most situations, except where the child is a victim of physical, sexual or psychological abuse.

• Provide special help to children suffering from mental illnesses or psychological disorders.

• Provide appropriate, specific, user-friendly and accessible health education, information and services, including sexual and reproductive health and mental health services, to adolescents;

• Promote physical, mental and emotional health among children, including adolescents, through play, sports, recreation, artistic and cultural expression.

• (Pending paragraph re promoting healthy lifestyles to avoid sexually transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancies.)

• Develop and implement policies and programmes 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 programmes especially against tobacco and alcohol.

• Develop policies and programmes aimed at children, including adolescents, for the reduction of violence and suicide.

• Achieve sustainable elimination of iodine deficiency disorders by 2005; and vitamin A deficiency by 2010; reduce by one third the prevalence of anaemia, including iron deficiency, by 2010; and accelerate progress towards reduction of other micronutrient deficiencies, through food fortification and supplementation;

• In efforts to guarantee universal access to safe water and adequate sanitation facilities, ensure that definitions of adequate access realistically reflect the practical needs of children and their caregivers, and pay greater attention to building family and community capacity for managing existing systems and promoting behavioural change through health and hygiene education.

• Address any disparities in health and access to basic social services, including health care services to indigenous children and children belonging to minorities.

• Develop and implement policies and legislation to protect children from a polluted environment and eliminate exposure to hazardous substances.

2. Providing quality education for all

36. Education is a human right -- a key to the realisation of all children’s rights, reducing poverty and child labour and promoting democracy, sustainable development, and respect for human rights. Yet more than 100 million children of primary school age, the majority of them girls, are not enrolled in school. Millions work long hours and try to combine education and work. Millions more are taught by untrained and underpaid teachers in overcrowded, unhealthy and poorly
equipped schools. One third of all children do not complete five years of schooling, the minimum required for basic literacy, and millions of secondary school age children are not in school.

37. As agreed at the World Education Forum in Dakar which reconfirmed the mandated role of UNESCO of 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 and that is relevant to children’s needs and circumstances, with special emphasis on girls, the poorest, children with disabilities, those from ethnic and linguistic minority groups, working and other marginalized children. We will also aim at the progressive provision of secondary education. As a step towards these goals and our obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, we resolve through the allocation of necessary resources and development of national plans of action complete with time-bound targets to achieve the following targets:

(a) Expand and improve comprehensive early childhood care and education, 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 programmes and retention of both girls and boys 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, and so as to reduce by 50 per cent current disparities in numeracy, literacy and life skills between social groups and/or geographic areas;

(e) Ensure that the learning needs of all young people are met through access to appropriate learning and life skills programmes;

(f) Achieve a 50 per cent improvement in levels of adult literacy by 2015, especially for women;

(g) Achieve free and compulsory primary education of good quality for all children by 2015;

(h) Reduce by a third the number of secondary school age children not in school or other training programs.

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

- Increase budgetary allocations for education as necessary and ensure that by 2015 no less than 6% of GNP be spent on education;

- Take urgent steps, including amending policies and allocating appropriate resources, to ensure that schools and learning materials are readily accessible to all children and adolescents, regardless of race, colour, language, sexual orientation, religion, economic or other status, national, ethnic or social origin or disability including the immediate abolition of user fees for state primary schools and the gradual removal of fees at lower secondary level;

- Promote innovative programmes 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, [delete: children with special needs], children with disabilities, migrant children, minority children, indigenous children, street children.
pregnant girls and young mothers, children in detention or institutional care, children of
imprisoned mothers, orphans, child-headed households and children affected by armed
conflict, including child soldiers and refugee and internally displaced children, and help
them enrol, attend, and successfully complete their education involving governments as
well as families, communities and NGOs as partners in the educational process. Special
measures should be put in place to prevent dropout due to, inter alia, entry into
employment.

- 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.
- Ensure that all basic education and early childhood programmes are accessible, inclusive
  and responsive to children with special learning needs and for children with various forms
  of disabilities, and that all teachers receive adequate training to work with children with
  disabilities;
- Ensure that children belonging to minorities and indigenous children are able to receive
  education on the same basis as other children, in a manner appropriate to their heritage,
  and promoting mother-tongue teaching for the early years of primary school, in order to
  develop respect for and preserve their cultural identity, language and values.
- Develop and implement special strategies for improving the quality of education and
  meeting the learning needs of all, by encouraging locally developed, non-traditional or non-
  formal solutions to reaching excluded children; recognizing, supporting and integrating
  such approaches within the government system; making curricula and teaching materials
  more relevant, useful and responsive to children’s own environments; and enabling children
  to make informed choices about their education;
- Create, with children, a child-inclusive learning environment, in which students feel cared-
  for, respected and safe, are protected from all forms of abuse, violence, harassment and
discrimination, are healthy, and encouraged and have opportunities to play and to learn and
  are supported to develop their potential and talents. Ensure that education programmes and
  materials fully reflect the promotion and protection of human rights and the values of peace,
tolerance, critical thinking, and gender equality, sustainable development, humanitarian
  values and effective participation in democratic processes, using every opportunity presented
  by the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of
  the World (2001-2010);
- Establish disciplinary measures that respect the rights and the dignity of the child, making
  illegal all forms of corporal and psychological punishment in schools by 2005.
- Strengthen early childhood care and education by providing services, developing and
  supporting programmes directed to families, legal guardians, caregivers and communities.
- Provide education and training opportunities to adolescents, particularly for those in crisis,
to help them acquire sustainable livelihoods, in particular vocational and professional
  training to facilitate their social and economic integration, and independence;
- Make education the fourth pillar of humanitarian response and end targeting of schools in
  conflict situations;
- Incorporate into educational systems, both in and outside of schools, sex education
  programmes that enhance gender equality and equity as well as responsible sexual
behaviour and prevent unwanted and early pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS, sexual abuse, incest and violence in order to enable young people to make informed choices; and ensure the active involvement and participation of parents, youth, community leaders and organizations for the sustainability, increased coverage and effectiveness of such programmes. Implement programmes that enable pregnant adolescents and adolescent mothers to continue and complete their education;

• (Pending para re programmes to provide adolescents with reproductive and sexual health information and services.)

• Develop and implement programmes involving leaders at all levels, as well as parents and educators, to promote positive male role models that enable boys to become gender-sensitive adults, and encourage them to support, promote, and respect women’s human rights;

• Develop and implement programmes that prepare girls to participate actively, effectively and equally with boys at all levels of social, economic, political and cultural leadership;

• Urge the continued development and implementation of programmes for children including adolescents, especially in schools, to prevent and 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 effective 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;

• Promote innovative programmes 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;

• Develop and implement programmes 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. Such measures should include removing gender bias from textbooks and curricula; ending the exclusion of pregnant girls and young mothers from schools; protecting all pupils, and especially girls, from abuse and sexual harassment; training and supporting more women as teachers, head teachers, and education officials; and providing incentives for schools with an equitable gender distribution.

• Enhance the status, morale, training and professionalism of teachers and early childhood educators, ensuring appropriate remuneration for their work and opportunities and incentives for their development;

• Take immediate steps to make systems of educational governance and management more responsive, participatory, equitable and accountable at school, community and national levels, and ensure that children and parents are involved in school management, including the monitoring of teachers’ performance and children’s learning;

• Meet the specific learning needs of children affected by crisis by ensuring that education is provided during and after crisis, and conduct education programmes to promote a culture of peace in ways that help to prevent violence and conflict and promote the rehabilitation of victims;

• Provide accessible recreational and sports opportunities and facilities at schools and in communities;
Harness the rapidly evolving information and communication technologies to support States in their obligations to provide free basic education [delete: at an affordable cost] including open and distance education, and to end inequality in access and quality;

Develop strategies to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS on education systems and schools, teachers, students and learning.

Mobilize the media to play a primary and quality role by promoting quality education, and help to create a learning environment in the community as a whole.

3. Protecting against abuse, exploitation and violence

Social and economic pressures, armed conflict, foreign occupation and forced displacement are undermining the crucial role of parents, families, caregivers and communities in ensuring that children grow up in a safe, stable and nurturing environment. During the 1990s, more than 2 million children died as a result of armed conflict, some as a direct result of participating in hostilities; more than three times that number were permanently disabled or seriously injured, and, at the end of the decade, some 20 million children were internally displaced or driven from their countries as refugees. More than 100 million children are trapped in the worst forms of child labour, including child slavery, forced labour, trafficking, debt bondage, servitude, sexual abuse, commercial sexual exploitation, and pornography. An estimated 2 million girls aged 5 to 15 are forced into the commercial sex market every year. Millions of children are physically, mentally or sexually abused in their families, schools, workplaces, communities or on the street. Over 40 million children are unregistered at birth, violating their right to a name and the rights to acquire nationality, citizenship, legal status and other basic human rights. Domestic violence against women and children is a serious problem in all parts of the world.

All children have the right to be protected from all acts of physical, psychological and sexual violence, abuse and exploitation, and of physical and psychological neglect. Societies must eliminate all forms of violence against children. Accordingly, we resolve to:

(a) Strengthen national and international legislation and take other appropriate measures to protect children from neglect and all forms of abuse, exploitation and violence, physical, psychological and sexual;

(b) Protect children from the impact of armed conflict, foreign occupation, sanctions and forced displacement and ensure compliance with international humanitarian and human rights law and the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.

(c) Eliminate all forms of sexual exploitation and trafficking through the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Stockholm Agenda for Action.

(d) Eliminate child labour beginning with the immediate elimination the worst forms of child labour as defined in ILO Convention 182.

(e) Improve the plight of millions of children who live under especially difficult circumstances.

(f) Achieve universal ratification by 2005 of the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, the protocol on the traffic of human beings related to the Convention on Transnational Organized Crime, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and of their Destruction, Convention Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (International Labor Organization No. 182), and ratification of other ILO Conventions implicating children, particularly 138, as rapidly as possible.
41. To achieve these goals, we will implement the following strategies and actions:

**General protection**

- Develop systems to ensure the registration of every child at or shortly after birth, and fulfill his or her right to acquire and maintain a name and nationality, in accordance with national laws and relevant international instruments;

- Encourage all countries by end 2003 to adopt and enforce laws, and improve the implementation of policies and programmes, to protect children from all forms of violence, neglect, abuse, and exploitation, whether at home, in school or other institutions, in the workplace, in the community or on the street, educate children about their right to safe relationships, allow children, their parents and/or guardians to lodge complaints; and set out provisions establishing the right to reparation, compensation and rehabilitation;

- Ensure that child survivors of violence and exploitation are not criminalized, and protect their safety. Provide a full range of health services, play opportunities and psycho-social support and rehabilitation to children who are survivors of violence and abuse, including children subject to sexual violence and exploitation, trafficking and the effects of armed conflict.

- Adopt special measures to eliminate discrimination against children on the basis of race, colour, sex, age, language, religion, political or other opinion, sexual orientation, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status and ensure their equal access to education, health and basic social services.

- End impunity for all crimes against children by establishing and strengthening appropriate mechanisms at every level to bring alleged perpetrators to justice and by publicizing the penalties for such crimes;

- Through political and religious leadership, advocacy, community education and media campaigns, make known the illegality and harmful consequences of failing to protect children from violence, abuse, exploitation, and neglect, and where applicable, harmful traditional practices;

- 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.

- Protect children from torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, including corporal and psychological punishment;

- End through legal and educational means, as well as through media campaigns, harmful traditional or customary practices, such as early or forced marriage, crimes committed in the name of honor, dowry, bride price, virginity testing and female genital mutilation, and enact and implement legislation establishing eighteen as the minimum age of marriage for boys and girls;

- Adopt and promote a holistic approach to respond to all forms of violence and abuse against girls including girls with disabilities, as well as vulnerable and marginalized girls in order to address their diverse needs including education, provision of appropriate health care and services and basic social services.

- Adopt measures to strengthen the role of families and establish effective mechanisms to provide special protection and assistance to children without primary caregivers, in order to provide the best possible environment in which children can thrive and grow safely to their maximum potential.
• 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, migrant children, children working and/or living on the street, children living in extreme poverty, affected by natural disasters, refugee, internally displaced, stateless, indigenous, minority, and lower caste children, children seeking asylum, and children with disabilities and ensure their access to education, health, shelter and social services as appropriate;

• Ensure the right of unaccompanied children seeking asylum and refugee children to security through the appointment of legal guardians, access to relevant information and to immediate and adequate education and health services as well as their right to be heard in the judicial and administrative proceeding affecting them.

• As many victims of abuse often tend to abuse others, provide children who have been abuse with the treatment necessary to prevent them from continuing the cycle of abuse;

• Protect children from adoption practices that are illegal, exploitative or that are not in their best interest;

• Address cases of international kidnapping of children by one of the parents;

• Combat and prevent the use of children and adolescents in the illicit production and trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

• *Promote comprehensive programmes to protect children from engaging in substance and drug abuse and from exploitation and drug trafficking, and undertake rehabilitation and treatment measures for drug dependence.*

• Make appropriate treatment and rehabilitation accessible for children, including adolescents, dependent on narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, inhalants and alcohol.

• 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;

• Encourage measures to protect children from violence or harmful websites, computer programmes and games that negatively influence the psychological development of children, taking into account the responsibilities of the family, parents, legal guardians and caregivers.

• Strengthen and/or establish national and international institutions, such as the International Committee of the Red Cross’ Central Tracing Agency, to investigate and trace missing persons for the purpose of reuniting separated children with their families.

**Protection of Children in Conflict with the Law:**

• Establish and maintain child-friendly juvenile justice systems, separate from adults, where children’s dignity and worth are promoted and their education, rehabilitation and social reintegration is the primary focus, based on the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and elaborated in the UN Rules and Guidelines on Juvenile Justice;

• Eliminate the death penalty, life imprisonment and mandatory sentencing for crimes committed before the age of eighteen;

• Establish a minimum age of criminal responsibility and promote prevention and implement alternatives to prosecution and custodial measures to decrease the rate of incarceration for children;

• Ensure that deprivation of liberty is a measure of last resort and for the shortest possible time;

• Ensure that at-risk or neglected children are not processed through the juvenile justice system but rather through appropriate social services;
• Put an end to the criminalisation of poverty whereby children are detained for status offenses or for minor offences such as begging or ‘vagrancy’. Ensure that the principle of non-discrimination in matters of juveniles justice be applied so as to end the harassment of any child on any grounds;

• Protect children from violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect by all those individuals in the juvenile justice system, investigate allegations and impose appropriate disciplinary or penal sanctions against those responsible;

• Enhance the status, morale, training (with a particular emphasis on children’s rights) and professionalism of all those employed in juvenile justice systems, ensuring appropriate remuneration for their work and opportunities and incentives for their development.

Protection from armed conflict

• Strengthen the protection of children affected by armed conflict and adopt effective measures for the protection of children under foreign occupation, including through the systematic monitoring of violations of their rights, including regular consideration by the Security Council;

• Ensure that issues pertaining to the rights and protection of children are fully reflected in the agendas of peace-making processes and in ensuing peace agreements, and are incorporated into United Nations peace-keeping operations and peace-building programmes; and involve children where possible in these processes;

• End the use of child soldiers and ensure that children do not take part in hostilities; ensure their demobilization and effective disarmament, and implement effective measures for their rehabilitation, physical and psychological recovery and reintegration into society. Develop effective measures to address the political, social and economic factors that facilitate the use of children as soldiers. Enact legislation by 2005 which make illegal the raising of funds in Member State territories by non-governmental groups recruiting or using children as soldiers.

• Impose targeted sanctions against parties who violate international standards protecting children in armed conflict, and impose targeted bans on exports such as national resources from war-affected areas that directly benefit parties to armed conflict who have targeted children;

• Establish early-warning systems for conflict-prone situations to report threats to the security and rights of children, track the price and availability of small arms, pay specific attention to the security of girls; and report on the scale and method of recruitment;

• 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 of and by children are addressed and that appropriate child-sensitive procedures are provided;

• Take concrete action against all forms of terrorism, which causes serious obstacles to the development and well-being of children.

• Provide appropriate training and education in child rights and protection as well as in international humanitarian law to all civilian, military and police personnel involved in peacekeeping operations;

• Curb the illicit flow of small arms and light weapons and their deleterious effect on children by promoting and properly financing weapons collections and destruction programmes and by enacting legislation to ensure that arms sales be conducted in the public arena and that all arms and ammunitions are marked at the time of manufacture to allow tracing back to source; and eliminate threats posed by landmines, unexploded ordnance and other war material that [delete: victimize] kill and disable children during and after conflict.
• Protect refugee children, unaccompanied children seeking asylum, internally displaced children and stateless; ensure their rights to education, health and safety, including special measures to protect them from sexual and labour exploitation and recruitment by government and other forces, guarantee their legitimate right to return to their homeland, and provide support for programmes of voluntary repatriation and, where appropriate, local integration and resettlement;

• Ensure safe and unhindered access to children affected by armed conflict, and give particular emphasis to education, family reunification and assistance to disabled children;

• 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.

• Take all necessary measures to protect children from being taken as hostages.

• Develop specific strategies to protect and provide for the special needs and particular vulnerabilities of girls affected by armed conflict including their use in armed conflict and sexual exploitation, with the accompanying risks of HIV/AIDS, other sexually transmitted diseases, pregnancies, and child care needs;

• Prosecute as war crimes all wartime incident of rape and other sexual violence and torture.

• Ensure the special protection of all children living under occupation and child detainees through the strict application of international human rights and humanitarian law, including international standards on juvenile justice and the use of lethal force;

• End all military training programs for children.

Elimination of child labour

• Take immediate, time-bound and effective measures to secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour as a matter of urgency. Provide for the rehabilitation and social integration of children removed from the worst forms of child labour through interalia ensuring access to free compulsory, accessible and good quality basic education and, whenever possible and appropriate, vocational training;

• Take appropriate steps to assist one another in the elimination of the worst forms of child labour through enhanced international cooperation and/or assistance including support for social and economic development, poverty eradication programmes and universal education.

• Elaborate and implement effective strategies to protect all 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.

• As a short-term measure towards eliminating child labor, improve living and working conditions for working children who do not work in the worst form of child labor by promoting quality basic education, vocational training and social and economic policies aimed at poverty reduction to help families of working children with employment and income generating opportunities;

• Promote international cooperation to assist developing countries upon request in addressing child labour and its root causes, inter alia, through social and
economic policies aimed at poverty eradication, while stressing that labour standards should not be used for protectionist trade purposes.

- **Strengthen the collection, analysis and dissemination of disaggregated data on child labour to raise awareness, inform policy-making and direct action to address its root causes and monitor progress toward the effective elimination of child labor:**

- **Promote awareness of children’s rights to protection from economic exploitation, and mobilise partners in eliminating child labour and prevent the entrance of young children into child labor:**

- **Mainstream action against child labour into national poverty reduction and development efforts, especially in policies and programmes in the areas of health, education, employment and social protection.**

**Elimination of trafficking and sexual exploitation of children**

- **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.**

- **Implement the Stockholm Agenda for Action against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and raise awareness of the illegality and harmful consequences of sexual abuse, exploitation and trafficking of children;**

- **Develop effective, time-bound policies and programs to eliminate sexual exploitation, including by enlisting the support of appropriate partners including the private sector, the tourism industry, and the media for a campaign against sexual exploitation and trafficking of children;**

- **Identify and address the underlying causes and the root factors, including external factors, leading to sexual abuse, exploitation and trafficking of children and implement preventive strategies against sexual abuse, exploitation and trafficking of children;**

- **Ensure the safety, protection and security of victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation, decriminalise the involvement of children engaged in commercial sexual activities by 2005 and provide assistance and services to facilitate their recovery and social reintegration;**

- **Take necessary action to criminalize and penalize effectively 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 or transfer of organs for profit, and engagement in forced child labour and all other forms of exploitation while ensuring that, in the treatment by the criminal justice system of children who are victims, the best interest of the child shall be the primary consideration, and take the necessary measures to eliminate the demand for child sexual exploitation;**

- **Monitor and share information regionally and internationally on the cross-border 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 and provide these officials with special training in this respect: ensure that trafficked children are not criminalized for the illegality of their entry or residence in countries of transit or destination.

- Take necessary measures including through enhanced international cooperation between governments, intergovernmental organizations, private sector, and the NGOs 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. Combatting HIV/AIDS

40. The HIV/AIDS pandemic is having a devastating effect on children and young people, especially girls, 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, particularly adolescent girls, living with the stigma of HIV but without access to adequate counselling, care and support.

42. To combat the devastating impact of HIV/AIDS on children, we resolve to take urgent and aggressive action as agreed at the United Nations Special Session 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 15-24 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, counselling 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 counselling and testing, access to treatment, especially antiretroviral therapy and, promotion of appropriate infant feeding and the provision of a continuum of care also by 2005, ensure that at least 50 per cent, and by 2010, at least 95 per cent of children and young people living with AIDS have access to essential drugs, including retrovirals;

(c) By 2003, develop and by 2005 implement national policies and strategies to: build and strengthen governmental, family and community capacities to provide a supportive environment for orphans and girls and boys infected and affected by HIV/AIDS and households which are child headed as a consequence of AIDS, including by providing appropriate counselling and psycho-social support as well as medical and special care; 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;

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

- 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 marginalisation; 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 most 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 fundamental 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;

- By 2005, ensure that at least 90 per cent, and by 2010, ensure that 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 appropriate, specific, user-friendly and accessible information care and services without discrimination to address effectively their reproductive and sexual health needs, 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. These programmes should, inter alia, build adolescent girls' self esteem and help them take responsibility for their own lives; promote gender equality and responsible sexual behaviour and eliminate all forms of discrimination against children affected by HIV/AIDS;

- 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 antiretroviral drug, diagnostics and related technologies, as well as quality medical, palliative and psycho-social care;

- 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;
By 2003, develop and/or strengthen strategies, policies and programmes, which recognise the importance of the family in reducing vulnerability, inter alia in educating and guiding children and taking account of cultural, religious and ethical factors, 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 that education workers are fully informed about HIV/AIDS and incorporating HIV/AIDS modules into all teacher training programmes; ensuring safe and secure environments, especially for young girls; expanding good quality youth-friendly information and sexual health education and counselling service; strengthening reproductive and sexual health programmes; and involving families and young people in planning, implementing and evaluating HIV/AIDS prevention and care programmes, to the extent possible;

By 2003, develop and begin to implement national strategies that incorporate HIV/AIDS awareness, prevention, care and treatment elements into programmes or actions that respond to emergency situations, recognising that populations destabilised 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 programmes;

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;

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

45. Promoting [delete: healthy] quality lives, including good nutrition and control of infectious diseases and a clean and sustainable environment, providing quality and inclusive education and early stimulation, protecting children from abuse, exploitation, violence, and armed conflict, and combating HIV/AIDS, are legal obligations and achievable goals and are clearly affordable for the global community.

46. The primary responsibility for the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and this Plan of Action, and for ensuring an enabling environment in which the rights [delete: and well-being] of each and every child are promoted and protected rests with each individual country, recognizing that new and additional resources, both national and international, are required for this purpose. Governments are urged to monitor this allocation of resources and ensure transparency and accountability in this process.
47. Sustained investments in children are extraordinarily productive over the medium to long term. Investing in children from birth lays the foundation for a just society that fulfills their rights, a strong economy, and a world free of poverty.

48. Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in its entirety and this 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 the economic and social development necessary to guarantee the fulfilment of the rights of all children.

49. 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% of their gross national product for overall development assistance, and increase official development assistance, where appropriate, to fulfil the targets of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for overall development assistance as soon as possible, ensuring that aid is untied and that it actively contributes to increasing the capacity of Southern based expertise to win contracts; 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% to 0.20% of GNP as ODA to LDCs as agreed, taking into account the urgency and gravity of the special needs of children.

(b) Provide full financing for the speedy and effective implementation of the enhanced HIPC Initiative, and cancel all official bilateral debts of those countries that make demonstrable commitment to poverty reduction;

(c) Work towards adopting and implementing a policy that offers developing countries easier access to the markets of developed countries, including duty-free and quota-free access for all products from LDCs;

(d) Mobilise 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 sound use of existing resources. Further, ensure to the greatest possible extent that social expenditures that benefit children are protected and prioritised during both short-term and long-term economic and financial crises;

(e) Explore new ways of generating public and private financial resources for children, inter alia, through fighting corruption and through the reduction of excessive military expenditures and the arms trade and investment in arms production and acquisition including global military expenditures, [delete: taking into consideration national security requirements];

(f) Restructure national budgets and aid flows to fully implement the 20/20 Initiative, in line with the Oslo and Hanoi Consensus documents, in order to ensure universal access to basic social services.

(g) Implement a Global Initiative, as agreed at the World Education Forum, to mobilize the resources and harness the political will necessary to achieve free and compulsory education of good quality for all.
(h) Adopt fiscal policies targeted towards the eradication of absolute poverty such as the taxation of speculative currency transactions and domestic banking investment in microcredit and microenterprise programmes.

(i) Ensure that structural adjustment measures do not undermine the right of all children to benefit from basic social services and ensure that programmes for the decentralisation of the planning, design and delivery of basic services for children are accompanied by adequate financing to support their implementation.

50. We will give priority attention to meeting the needs of the world’s most vulnerable children, including those in developing countries, in particular in LDCs and sub-Saharan Africa.

51. 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.

52. We will promote technical co-operation between countries in order to share positive experiences and strategies in the implementation of the Convention and this Plan of Action.

52 b) We will ensure coordination in development related activities in order to ensure that resources are used effectively;

52 c). We commit ourselves to mobilising resources for children in a way that prioritises the social sector over military expenditures.

53. The fulfilment of the rights and well-being of children merits new partnerships with civil society, including with NGOs and the private sector, and innovative arrangements for mobilizing additional resources, both private and public.

54. Bearing in mind that corporations must abide by national legislation, encourage corporate social responsibility so that it contributes to social development goals and the rights of children inter alia by:

(i) Promoting increased corporate awareness of the inter-relationship between social development and economic growth;

(ii) 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;

(iii) 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 exercise greater corporate social responsibility for the realization of children’s rights, to anticipate and monitor the impact of its policies and practices on children to ensure that they do not violate children’s rights, to allocate a percentage of their profits to programs and services which will advance children’s rights, 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.

55 Through our membership in the governing bodies of all relevant United Nations bodies, and the Bretton Woods institutions and multilateral agencies we will ensure their full collaboration in giving high priority, in their work and in their allocation of resources, to the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and to achieving the goals of this Plan of Action.

D. Follow-up actions and monitoring
56. To facilitate the implementation of actions committed to in this document, we will develop by the end of 2002, comprehensive national and, where appropriate, regional action plans, in consultation with non-governmental organizations and civil society, adopting a set of specific time bound and measurable goals and targets based on this plan of action and full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, with the full involvement of children, appropriate adaptation to specific country situations. We will therefore strengthen our national planning and ensure necessary co-ordination, implementation and funding. We will make these goals for children an integral part of our national government policies as well as of national and subnational development programmes, poverty reduction strategies, sector-wide approaches and other relevant development plans in co-operation with all relevant civil society actors including with children themselves.

57. In cooperation with civil society, non-governmental organizations and other partners, we will ensure full and regular monitoring and assessment towards the full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the goals, targets, strategies and actions in this Plan of Action at local, national, regional and global levels. Accordingly, we will strengthen our national statistical capacity to collect, analyse and disaggregate data, including by sex, age, disability and other relevant factors that may lead to disparities and support a wide range of child-focused research. We will enhance international co-operation to support statistical capacity building efforts, and build community capacity for monitoring, assessment and planning. We will support the establishment and participation of children’s organizations, recognizing the developing capacity for children to plan, monitor and report themselves.

57 a) We request UNICEF, UNESCO, UNDP, ILO, UNFPA and other relevant United Nations bodies by 2003 to develop outcome and process indicators, with regard to their mandate, for monitoring the rights of children at the national level, including special measures to monitor the rights of children in difficult circumstances, including children with disabilities; and to assist any of us who may request it in developing national systems of monitoring, analysis and reporting; We will ensure that the human, material, and organizational resources to be allocated to the monitoring processes are used as cost effectively as possible and without affecting the funds and programs that are directly benefiting children.

57 b) Recognizing that human rights bodies provide a central mechanism for protecting the rights of children, we will make full use of the United Nations Human Rights machinery, and all other existing mechanisms of monitoring international treaties relevant to child rights, including any regional human rights systems to which we may be a party.

57 c) We will use our Country Reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and to other human rights bodies, as a meaningful exercise upon which to evaluate the state of children under our jurisdiction and the governmental laws and actions, as well as actions by private parties, that impact upon those children. We will ensure that our country reports are assembled in consultation with the full panoply of national or local ministries whose work is implicated in the Convention, and to ensure the participation of non-governmental organizations and children in the process. We will ensure that our periodic country report, and the subsequent Concluding Observations of the Committee, are debated in National Parliaments, made available to the media, and widely disseminated, particularly among young people.

57 d) We will build on the monitoring system for the Convention on the Rights of the Child which is already in place, at national and international levels – including the elaboration of elements for a petition procedure under the CRC by the Commission on Human Rights;
58. We will conduct annual reviews at national and sub-national 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 [delete: consider] include in their reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, information on measures taken and results achieved in the implementation of this Plan of Action and invite the Committee on the Rights of the Child to include, in its examination of national reports, an analysis of these measures to achieve the goals and targets for children. In order that it might fulfill this responsibility, we will strengthen the Committee on the Rights of the Child and ensure that it has the necessary resources and support, and we will strengthen the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights to respond effectively to violation of the rights of children during armed conflict, including a mandate for immediate investigation of reported violations which threaten the survival of children or cause them permanent damage, and for reporting to the Security Council.

(b) We invite the United Nations Children’s Fund, as the United Nation’s lead agency for children, to continue to periodically prepare and disseminate, in collaboration with the Committee on the Rights of the Child, relevant United Nations organs, agencies and mechanisms, the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and other multilateral bodies, as well as with civil society, including non-governmental organizations and children, information on actions taken by individual countries and the international community in support of the objectives of this Plan of Action, including models of best practice.

(c) We request the Secretary-General to report regularly to the General Assembly on the progress made in implementing the Plan of Action and to include in his annual reports to the Security Council on children and armed conflict progress made towards the protection of children from the impact of armed conflict as stipulated in this Plan of Action.

59. We hereby commit ourselves to spare no efforts to create a world fit for children, building on the achievements of the past decade and challenge its shortcomings. We are guided by [delete: the provisions of] the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the principle of a first call for children. In solidarity with children and 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 realising the rights of children, we serve the best interests of all humanity.

Notes

1 A/S-27/3.
2 General Assembly resolution 55/2.
3 General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex.
4 A/53/186.
5 The Convention on the Rights of the Child and its optional protocols on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (General Assembly resolution 54/263, annexes I and II); the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex) and its Optional Protocol; International Labour Organization Conventions Nos. 138 and 182 on child labour; the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (A/CONF.183/9); the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (see CD/1478); the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (General Assembly resolution 55/25, annex I) and its Optional Protocols on
women and children and Trafficking in Migrant Workers; and the Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption.