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Notes

Preparatory & Reference Documentation on the World Summit for Children: this reference book contains background & preparation material for the World Summit in Five Chapters: 1-The Planning Committee; 2-Schedule & Program of the World Summit for Children; 3-draft Declaration of the World Summit for Children and draft Plan of Action; 4-Report of Meetings; 5-UNICEF Executive Board

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JOHN MANFREDI

John Manfredi

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29-30 September 1990
United Nations • New York

World Summit for Children • Sommet Mondial pour les Enfants • Cumbre Mundial en favor de la Infancia
مؤتمر القمة العالمي من أجل الطفل • Всемирная встреча на высшем уровне в интересах детей • 世界儿童问题首脑会议

1st Meeting of the Working Group on Format

New York - 10 April 1990

SUMMARY RECORD OF DISCUSSION AND DECISIONS

1. Overview discussion of a framework for the Summit weekend

The representatives of the United Kingdom, France, Egypt and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics noted they could not make commitments on their Head of State or Government attending the Summit. The representatives asked that item 2 on the Draft Agenda for the meeting be amended. (ATTACHMENT I)

The representative of Canada proposed that the words "of State or Government" be deleted from the Agenda. The Chairman accepted the proposal.

The Executive Secretary introduced the Secretariat discussion paper, Summit Format Models. (ATTACHMENT II)

The representative of Mali noted the experience of the Organization of African Unity. The Representative suggested that the World Summit for Children include brief public statements by Heads of State or Government and opportunities for private consultations. The Representative noted that much of the substantive work of the Summit should be completed prior to the Summit meeting by Representatives of Heads of State or Government, particularly by technical experts on the various issues. The Representative of Mali's comments were supported further by the Representatives of Algeria, Egypt, France, Indonesia, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Senegal, Uganda, the United Kingdom and Zimbabwe.

The representatives of China, the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics noted that resolving many of the issues related to item two of the Agenda were dependent on knowing how many Heads of State or Government would attend.

The representative of Nigeria suggested the presence of children be felt during one of the proposed sessions. The presence of children during some part of the Summit was also supported by the representatives of Canada and Zimbabwe.

World Summit for Children

The representative of Algeria noted the experience of the recent UN General Assembly special session on Drugs, where technical meetings were held simultaneously with the main plenary.

The representatives of Egypt and Italy commented that only a single working session for the Heads of State or Government was needed, and not "multiple plenaries".

The Chairman summarized the discussion on item 1 and noted issues related to item 2 of the Agenda were also raised. The Chairman proposed that there be a General Debate of Heads of State or Government. The Chairman noted that the Working Group had not yet resolved whether such a session should be open or closed. The Chairman proposed that technical meetings be held by representatives, but noted that the Working Group had not resolved whether such meetings should be held prior to, or during the Summit.

2. General discussion of the challenges involved in ensuring participation for all Heads of State or Government

The Executive Director introduced, and the Executive Secretary commented on, the Secretariat discussion paper Ideas for Visibility.

The representative of the Netherlands commented on the need for closed working sessions for Heads of State or Government. The Representative's comments were supported by the representatives of India, Sweden, the United Kingdom and Zimbabwe.

The representative of India suggested that ministerial representatives might participate in closed working sessions while Heads of State or Government could participate in open, public sessions.

The representative of Venezuela commented that the first priority should be to ensure the participation of Heads of State or Government.

The Chairman requested that members of the Format Working Group submit their suggestions to the Summit Secretariat and that the Executive Secretary report these suggestions to the Working Group at its next session.

The Chairman requested the Summit Secretariat to further explore opportunities for children to have a presence during the Summit.

3. General discussion of other ideas and possibilities for the Summit weekend

--- should the Summit "report to the General Assembly" with its conclusions?"

The representatives of Canada, China, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, Pakistan and Sweden noted general agreement that some report of the Summit should be delivered or submitted to the United Nations General Assembly.

- should there be a parallel "technical" or "Plan of Action" meeting at the ministerial level, in which all Governments can participate regardless of whether their Head of State/Government is attending the Summit itself?

The representatives of Algeria, Mexico, Malaysia and Zimbabwe supported some type of parallel meetings or meetings of technical experts on Saturday. The representatives of Canada, China, France, India, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Senegal and Sweden commented that either the Planning Committee or the Working Groups should handle all technical issues prior to the Summit.

- how might the messages of leading representatives of international institutions and the non-governmental community be communicated to the Summit - and be seen to be communicated?

The representatives of Algeria, Canada, India, Italy, Indonesia, Ireland, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, Pakistan, Sweden and Zimbabwe spoke in support that some avenues for inputs of NGOs should be made possible. Comments included that an NGO representative be able to make a presentation to the Summit, and that NGOs participate in the technical or preparatory meetings including perhaps the Planning Committee and its Working Groups.

- should there be a substantive meeting arranged for "First Spouses"?

Most participants agreed that some programme arrangements be made for "First Spouses". The Representative of Egypt commented that a programme for spouses should be dependent on the availability of funds.

- should the Planning Committee encourage Heads of State/Government to include parliamentarians among their delegations? should there be any organized activity for parliamentarians?

Most participants did not feel parliamentarians should be encouraged to attend. Some representatives noted that this decision should be left to the individual Government. The representative of Japan noted that the experience of his Government was positive in regard to including parliamentarians among its delegations.

