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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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**PROGRESS REPORT ON PREPARATIONS FOR THE
WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN**

SUMMARY

The present document reports on planning and preparations for the World Summit for Children undertaken since the special session of the UNICEF Executive Board in December 1989. It reviews the organization and proceedings of the intergovernmental Planning Committee for the World Summit and the preparations undertaken by UNICEF as the secretariat for the Summit.

An addendum will be issued to the present document containing three annexes to the progress report. Annex I will cover selected themes and topics for the Summit, annex II will provide a preliminary schedule of the Planning Committee and related meetings and activities, and annex III will list the pledges and contributions received to date.

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Background

1. The UNICEF Executive Board met in special session during the week of 18 to 22 December 1989 to consider the initiative of the heads of State or Government of Canada, Egypt, Mali, Mexico, Pakistan and Sweden to convene a world summit for children "to bring attention and promote commitment, at the highest political level, to goals and strategies for ensuring the survival, protection and development of children as key elements in the socio-economic development of all countries and human society". The initiating Governments had requested the endorsement of their initiative by the UNICEF Executive Board and that the Board authorize the Executive Director to provide secretariat support for the organization and preparation of the World Summit.
2. In decision 1989/31 adopted on 22 December 1989 (E/ICEF/1989/17), the Executive Board, inter alia, (a) welcomed the initiative; (b) requested the Executive Director to consult further on the determination of the dates of the Summit, to be held in association with the opening of the forty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly; (c) agreed that UNICEF should provide secretariat support; (d) encouraged that the Planning Committee be further expanded to accommodate other interested Governments; (e) requested that the Executive Board be informed of the preparations for the Summit; and (f) decided to review the preparations at its regular session in April 1990, as well as at a special session to be held later in the year.
3. The Executive Board also requested the Executive Director to revise the draft budgets for the Summit meeting and Summit-related mobilization activities, and established maximum ceilings of \$1.5 million for the Summit meeting and \$2.0 million for mobilization activities.
4. The Board authorized the Executive Director to establish special accounts for the Summit meeting and the mobilization activities, both to be financed from extrabudgetary resources, and stipulated that the funds should be utilized in accordance with UNICEF Financial Regulations and Rules and that funds could be transferred between allotment accounts as required. The Board further decided, as a temporary arrangement and until approval of the budgets by the Executive Board, that the Executive Director could enter into necessary committal expenditures from general resources in a receivable account for the preparation of the Summit meeting up to an amount of \$700,000 and for the mobilization activities up to an amount of \$650,000. The Board appealed to Governments to make voluntary contributions to the special accounts for the World Summit for Children.

Planning Committee

5. The first meeting of the Planning Committee was held on 12 January 1990 at United Nations Headquarters. The 6 initiating Governments had invited 12 additional Governments to join them as initial members of the Planning Committee. An additional two Governments requested to be present, and two other Governments indicated interest. The Planning Committee agreed that its membership

should be open to any State Member of the United Nations or member of its specialized agencies which communicated a strong interest to the Executive Director of UNICEF, according to the same procedure of correspondence with the head of State or Government as had applied to the original 18 members.

6. Nine Governments have communicated such interest and have been invited to join the Planning Committee, bringing its total membership to 27: Algeria, Bangladesh, Canada, China, Egypt, Finland, France, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal, Sweden, Uganda, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela, Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe.

7. The Planning Committee accepted the Statement of Agreement on the World Summit for Children, adopted by the six initiating Governments at Geneva in November 1989, and the decision of the UNICEF Executive Board, adopted in New York on 22 December 1989, as its terms of reference.

8. At its second meeting, on 19 March 1990, the Planning Committee endorsed the nomination of H.E. Ms. Benazir Bhutto, Prime Minister of Pakistan, and H.E. Mr. Brian Mulroney, Prime Minister of Canada, as co-chairmen of the World Summit for Children.

Dates of the World Summit

9. At its January meeting, the Planning Committee identified four alternative dates for the World Summit, and requested its members to advise the Executive Director of their preferences thereof. The Planning Committee authorized the Executive Director, in consultation with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to determine the date of the Summit. Following receipt of expressed preferences and further consultation with Governments and the United Nations Secretariat, the Secretary-General and the Executive Director determined that the World Summit for Children should be held on Saturday, 29 September, and Sunday, 30 September, and, if necessary, the morning of Monday, 1 October, prior to the convening of that day's session of the General Assembly.

10. The public announcement of the convening of the World Summit for Children was made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations at a press conference at the United Nations Headquarters on 8 February 1990.

11. During February, invitations to the World Summit for Children were addressed by the Secretary-General, on behalf of the six initiating Governments, to the head of State or Government of States Members of the United Nations participating in the General Assembly and members of the specialized agencies of the United Nations.

Preparation of the agenda and communiqué of the World Summit

12. At its January meeting, the Planning Committee invited its member Governments to submit to the secretariat their suggestions of themes and topics to be included

on the agenda for the World Summit. The Planning Committee also requested the Executive Director to invite similar suggestions from appropriate international organizations and agencies, as requested by the Executive Board in its decision.

13. Seventeen Governments and 15 international organizations responded to this invitation. Their collected suggestions have been shared with all members of the Planning Committee, along with four secretariat documents that summarize the suggestions following a common format. These secretariat documents, collectively titled "Suggested themes and topics for the World Summit for Children", were received by the Planning Committee as the basis for its further consideration in establishing the agenda and preparing the documentation proposed for adoption by the Summit. The Planning Committee decided that this document should be shared with the Executive Board of UNICEF as the basis for its commentary and advice to the Planning Committee.

14. At its March meeting, the Planning Committee established an open-ended Working Group on the Declaration, charged with drafting the proposed political documents of the World Summit. H.E. Mr. Hans Dahlgren of Sweden was elected chairman of the Working Group on the Declaration.

15. Representatives of 22 Governments participated in the first meeting of the Working Group on the Declaration held on 2 April 1990. Following an overview discussion of the objectives of the Summit and further comments by Governments on suggestions for priority themes and topics to be addressed, the Working Group concluded that two documents should be proposed for adoption by the Heads of State or Government participating in the World Summit:

(a) A short, compelling political declaration of commitment for action;

(b) A plan of action that elaborated upon specific child-related goals and strategies for the 1990s.

16. It was agreed that the Declaration should provide a message which, in different forms, could be communicated to and understood by all sectors of society. It was also agreed that the topics and themes submitted by Governments and agencies provided a useful base of issues that might be included in the plan of action, supplemented by other suggestions that might emerge from the UNICEF Executive Board or other sources. It was also suggested that the plan of action should address the need for mobilizing additional resources and enhancing international co-operation and national action for programmes benefiting children and that specific global goals should be proposed as a basis for adaptation to the needs and capacities of countries. The plan of action should also provide for mechanism(s) for follow-up, monitoring and action.

17. The Working Group requested the Chairman, in consultation with interested members, to prepare preliminary drafts of the Declaration and the plan of action after taking into account the suggestions and comments put forward during the course of the UNICEF Executive Board session, including further comments that might be offered by other international organizations and agencies. The Working Group took particular note of the Executive Board's planned consideration of the paper,

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"Development goals and strategies for children: priorities for UNICEF action in the 1990s" (E/ICEF/1990/L.5), and indicated that the Summit documents should reflect the results of that exercise.

18. The Working Group scheduled its second meeting for 15 May and requested that the Chairman's preliminary drafts be circulated to members of the Planning Committee prior to that meeting. The Working Group's anticipated work plan and schedule for the preparation and review of subsequent drafts of the documents is reflected in the tentative schedule for the Planning Committee and related meetings and activities.

Planning of the format and structure of the Summit

19. At its January and March meetings, the Planning Committee discussed and acknowledged the intent of the six initiating heads of State or Government that the World Summit for Children was intended as a summit meeting of heads of State or Government. That intent was first put forward in the initiators' Statement of Agreement, which was noted by the UNICEF Executive Board at its special session in December 1989 and subsequently accepted as the terms of reference for the Planning Committee in January. The Planning Committee has discussed, but reached no conclusion as to whether Governments could be represented at other than the head of State or Government level and whether provisions should be made for a parallel meeting at other than the head of State or Government level.

20. The Planning Committee also discussed issues related to whether all or part of the Summit meeting should be open or closed to the public, whether the meeting should be structured for prepared statements or a free exchange of opinions, and how all participating heads of State or Government might have an appropriate opportunity to speak during the course of the meeting, especially if a large number of them were present.

21. At its March meeting, the Planning Committee established an open-ended working group on the format of the World Summit, charged with preparing plans for the schedule, structure and guidance of the meeting. H.E. Mr. Abdoulaye Diallo of Mali was elected Chairman of the Working Group on Format.

22. The first meeting of the Working Group on Format was held on 10 April 1990. The Chairman has proposed an overview discussion of a framework for the Summit weekend, as well as general discussions on the challenges of ensuring appropriate participation for all attending heads of State or Government and on how to ensure that the Summit as a whole achieved maximum public impact through the media and in eliciting the active support of multiple sectors of society in fulfilling the commitments of the Summit Declaration.

23. The Working Group's anticipated work plan and schedule for the preparation and review of a basic plan for the World Summit is reflected in the tentative schedule for the Planning Committee and related meetings and activities.

Revised budget estimates

24. As requested by the Executive Board in its decision 1989/31 of 22 December 1989, the Executive Director prepared revised budget estimates for the World Summit for Children and UNICEF Summit-related mobilization activities (E/ICEF/1990/AB/L.11). The revised budget estimates were prepared in compliance with the further provisions of the Executive Board decision, which requested the Executive Director to take into account the views expressed during the special session of the Executive Board and which set maximum ceilings of \$1.5 million for the Summit meeting (reduced from the original proposal of \$1.9 million) and \$2.0 million for Summit-related mobilization activities (reduced from the original proposal of \$2.9 million). The revised budget estimates were submitted to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for review in January 1990. The report of the Advisory Committee is contained in document E/ICEF/1990/AB/L.3.

Secretariat for the World Summit

25. Pursuant to the decision of the Executive Board, the Executive Director has proceeded to provide a secretariat for the World Summit for Children and its preparatory process. Within the interim ceiling on necessary committal expenditures of \$700,000, as approved by the Executive Board, Summit secretariat posts have been established according to the schedule indicated in the revised budget estimates, and the secretariat is operational. The Executive Director assigned the Counsellor to the Executive Director, Mr. Michael Shower, to the dual tasks of Executive Secretary for the World Summit for Children and Chairman of the UNICEF Summit Task Force, which co-ordinates Summit-related mobilization activities.

UNICEF Summit-related mobilization activities

26. Pursuant to the decision of the Executive Board, the Executive Director has proceeded to initiate a programme of Summit-related mobilization activities to take full advantage of the opportunity of the World Summit to increase awareness and strengthen commitment to programmes for children. Within the interim ceiling on necessary committal expenditures of \$650,000, as provided by the Executive Board, UNICEF secretariat posts have been established according to the schedule indicated in the revised budget estimates to supplement existing UNICEF capacity to specialize in Summit-related responsibilities. Efforts are under way to initiate and/or encourage activities by UNICEF field offices, National Committees for UNICEF, non-governmental organizations and other allies and to reach out to broader constituencies for children. In support of those efforts, some financial assistance has been extended, within the constraints of the interim ceiling, and tentative planning levels have been indicated to allow preparatory activities in anticipation of further resources within the total proposed expenditures of \$2.0 million.

Funding

27. Pursuant to the Executive Board appeal for voluntary contributions to the special accounts for the World Summit for Children and Summit-related mobilization activities, the Executive Director addressed appeal letters to all Governments in late January. National Committees for UNICEF and other non-governmental sources have also been encouraged to contribute in support of these activities.

28. To date, pledges and contributions totalling \$763,925 have been received for the Summit meeting account, and pledges and contributions totalling \$499,609 have been received for the Summit-related mobilization account. Several additional Governments have indicated that they anticipate contributing to one or both accounts, including India and Finland, which have expressed their intentions in writing. A recent meeting of the chief executives of the 15 largest private foundations in the United States discussed the opportunities presented by the World Summit for Children and all indicated that they would positively consider specific grant proposals to support mobilization activities. These proposals are now being prepared by the United States Committee for UNICEF.
