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Role of UNICEF in the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, from James Grant, 2 July 1992, (Essential Document).

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JOHN MANFREDI

John Manfredi

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United Nations Children's Fund

Headquarters

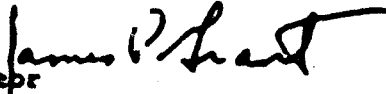
EXECUTIVE DIRECTIVE

17/1989/1992-012

2 July 1992

FOR ACTION

TO: Regional Directors
Representatives and Assistant Representatives
Directors - Copenhagen, Florence, Geneva, Tokyo/Sydney
Executive Staff and Chiefs of Section
National Committees

FROM: James P. Grant 
Executive Director

RE: Role of UNICEF in the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

1. PURPOSE

A number of the elements in this Directive will be familiar to those of you who have been working to promote and implement the Convention in the field and in industrialized countries. With this in view, the aim of this Directive is to update and consolidate guidelines for actions to be taken by the end of 1993 to assist governments in implementing the Convention.

The following actions represent the initial phase incorporating into UNICEF work assistance to governments and others working toward full implementation of the Convention.

They are based on:

1. Guidelines for preparing NPAs;
2. Guidelines for preparing programme submissions;
3. Guidelines for preparing 1992 Annual Reports;
4. 1991 and 1992 Board Decisions on implementing the Convention and on follow-up to the Summit;
5. Guidelines on reporting obligations of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

2. INTRODUCTION

The policy paper for the 1991 Executive Board on The Role of UNICEF in the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child demonstrated how the steps being taken by UNICEF to facilitate and support implementation of the Convention are already natural and integral parts of ongoing country programmes, and how the achievement of the World Summit's goals for children will contribute significantly to attaining the standards enshrined in the Convention.

The discussions at the 1992 Executive Board, during the General Debate and in connection with policy papers on Summit Follow-Up, Medium-Term Plan 1992-95 and Education for Development, demonstrated the clear intention of the Board that UNICEF should make every effort to maintain the momentum for children's rights and to ensure that all work of UNICEF is aimed at supporting the implementation of the Convention.

Included is a list of policy and background documents.

3. ACTIONS

3.1 Country programme process and preparation of NPAs

Please refer to CF/PD/PRO/1991-001 and 1992/-002 which describe the linkages among the preparation of the NPAs, the country programme, and the implementation of the Convention. Revised guidelines on the preparation of the Situation Analysis reflecting the role of UNICEF in promoting and monitoring children's rights will be issued shortly.

Action: Country Offices

3.2 Reviews of national legislation

One of the first steps in the process of preparing reports on the situation of children's rights is to review and, if necessary, revise national legislation to harmonize it with the Convention. A number of UNICEF offices and National Committees have already contributed to this process. When appropriate, UNICEF should identify persons and organizations with competence to participate in such reviews. Reviews of national legislation, particularly with the participation of political parties, professional organizations and NGOs often create a very good opportunity for advocacy for children's rights.

Action: Country Offices
National Committees

3.3 Studies and research

The Executive Board has encouraged UNICEF to undertake studies and research in aspects of applying the Convention in specific circumstances where children are at greatest risk and where the problem is common to both developing and industrialized countries, for example, studies on the situation of children of migrants, the complementarity between implementing children's rights and women's rights, and the role of the family.

Action: Country Offices
Regional Offices
ICDC
National Committees
Headquarters

3.4 Liaison with Child Rights partners

Non-governmental

In the past few years a number of new non-governmental organizations, networks and coalitions has been established to promote and monitor the implementation of the Convention. Along with these new partners, Country Offices and National Committees should continue to work with established strategic partners, such as NGOs, parliamentarians and religious leaders to gather and disseminate information about the progress being made toward meeting the obligations of the Convention; to contribute to policy development; and to establish national monitoring mechanisms (ombudsman/commissioner for children).

UN System

The full implementation of the Convention is the ultimate objective of programmes for children and development, and as such is a useful basis for the inter-agency cooperation. UNICEF offices could play a lead role in bringing together the relevant agencies and offices of the UN system to assist governments in meeting their obligations under the Convention. At the global

and regional levels, UNICEF will continue to facilitate inter-agency consultations with the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Action: Country Offices
Regional Offices
Headquarters

3.5 Information and Education for Development

Information on the Convention should be aimed at moving the public to a high level of awareness, commitment and understanding, and should be seen as a key part of ongoing advocacy programmes. Country offices and National Committees should develop information and public education strategies for the promotion of children's rights aimed at the specific situation in each country.

The Executive Board policy paper on Education for development (E/ICEF/1992/L.8) outlines a comprehensive framework for helping children and youth to explore the issues of children's rights and to participate in the process of change. Country Offices and National Committees are encouraged to consider activities that address the information needs of children and youth on child rights through the strategies suggested in the paper.

Action: Country Offices
National Committees

3.6 Staff training

The Training Section has prepared a training programme on child rights for UNICEF staff. Every region should include this workshop in their training programme.

In addition headquarters should work with National Committees to strengthen the knowledge of their staff in order to enable them to play a role in the implementation of the Convention in their countries, as appropriate. Headquarters will assist National Committees to develop a training programme on child rights for staff, volunteers and national partners.

Action: Headquarters
Regional Offices

3.7 Reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child

Nearly 120 countries have now ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Many of them are in the process of preparing their first reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child on steps they are taking to implement the Convention. The first fifty-seven countries are due to report by the end of 1992.

Country Offices and National Committees should give appropriate support to government counterparts for the preparation of reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. Reference to Summit goals as standards against which to measure implementation of relevant provisions of the Convention, e.g., education, health, should be encouraged. UNICEF should not, however, write the report. You will find additional information on reporting obligations and UNICEF support to this process in the 5 March 1992 memorandum from Richard Reid.

Action: Country Offices
National Committees

4. REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

Suggested Guidelines for the Preparation of the Progress Report on the Implementation of the Declaration and Plan of Action of the World Summit for Children. E/ICEF/1991/17.

The Role of UNICEF in the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. E/ICEF/1991/L.7 and Board Decision 1991/9.

CF/PD/PRO/1991-001, 17 May 1991.

The Convention: Child Rights and UNICEF Experience at the Country Level. Innocenti Studies, ICDC, Florence, 1991.

Reporting obligations of States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. memorandum from Richard Reid, 5 March 1992.

CF/PD/PRO/1992-002, 15 April 1992.

Medium-Term Plan for the Period 1992-1995. E/ICEF/1992/3.

Progress Report on the Follow-Up to the World Summit for Children. E/ICEF/1992/12 and Board Decision 1992/13.

Education for Development. E/ICEF/1992/L.8.