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Statement by Mr. James P. Grant Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) at the Opening of the 1992 Session of the UNICEF Executive Board

"A New World for Children...Off to a Fair Start!"

New York 15 June 1992



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UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND Executive Board 1992 session

FOR INFORMATION

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New York -- 15 June 1992

"A NEW WORLD FOR CHILDREN...OFF TO A FAIR START!"

Madame Chairperson, distinguished members and observers, colleagues of our National Committees and NGOs and friends:

I join our Chairperson in welcoming the members of the Executive Board, the observer delegations, and our colleagues and allies among the National Committees for UNICEF and the non-governmental organizations.

Our Chairperson has continued the tradition of her activist predecessors. In addition to paying visits to UNICEF-supported field programmes in Namibia and Nigeria, Ms. Mira Seth has provided insightful leadership at a variety of events critical to keeping the promise to children in the 1990s, including: the WHO-UNICEF Joint Committee on Health Policy meeting in Geneva; the UNESCO-UNICEF Joint Committee on Education discussion in Paris; the global conference on micro-nutrient deficiencies in Montreal; and, earlier this month, a successful regional meeting on women and the girl child in Delhi. She helped the world commemorate attainment of our 1990 immunization goal, and she has maintained a fruitful dialogue with the Secretariat throughout the

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I particularly would like to take a moment to recall a colleague who is not with us for this Board session, nor will he be again. Normally, our tributes to colleagues who have left us are reserved for my closing remarks. But Bjorn Oldaeus was a very special colleague. Especially for the UNICEF Executive Board. Bjorn was a dear friend, a trusted and brilliant advisor, an extraordinarily effective Secretary of the Board, Director of Programme Funding, Special Representative in Phnom Penh, and previously, member of the Swedish delegation to this Board. He is terribly missed. To Bjorn's good life, I say, "amen".

Madame Chairperson, two weeks ago Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali opened the Earth Summit by requesting two minutes of silence in respectful tribute to the planet Earth. I now take the liberty, with your permission, of asking the Executive Board to observe a moment of silent respect for the 40,000 children who, dying this day largely from readily preventable and environmental causes, are losing their chance to enjoy the potential benefits and opportunities of Mother Earth ... and the 40,000 who lost that chance yesterday ... and the 40,000 children who will lose it tomorrow and every day. These deaths are not only the ultimate waste of the most precious resources of our planet, they are increasingly becoming an obscenity as we learn how to prevent them. Morality marches with changing capacity.

I have asked for this moment of silence and repeated these familiar statistics to remind us of the urgency of our work, and of the larger context in which we function. And yet, one can legitimately question — as has occured in many fora in Rio these past two weeks — what is the "larger context"? Is it pollution? Is it abuse of our air and water? Is it overuse of our land? Or is it, as many are now beginning to suggest, a context which begins with the health and wellbeing and nurturing of children. Children, who are only part of the present but are the wellspring of 100 percent of the future. Children, whose individual survival reduces the pressures on parents to have more and more children, grossly exacerbating the problem of over-population. Children, whose good health and strength reduces the drain on the resources of their families and communities, thus enabling those resources to be invested in improving the lot of those families and communities. Children, whose education and stimulation and steady growth are the key to sustainable development of their nations and our global society.

We have long recognized that we must better preserve our planet in order to nurture our children; belatedly we are learning that we must better nurture our children if we are to preserve our planet. It is becoming increasingly clear that any society which cannot care for its children cannot regard its development as in any sense sustainable. We see it in the too long continuing population explosion, emanating primarily from the areas of greatest poverty and underdevelopment. We see it in intolerable poverty, which — as Prime Minister Brundtland aptly expressed it — is the greatest pollution of the environment: social pollution. We see it in the hundreds of thousands of street children in Brazil, and we saw it in the explosive riots of Los Angeles. It affects us all.

This is the context from which I believe so many of the world's problems emerge...and can be addressed — if only we put priority on the context of children. And this is where our work, as UNICEF, begins and ends. This is why we have so welcomed the two first truly global summits: first, the World Summit for Children in 1990, and now the Earth Summit whose Plan of Action — Agenda 21 — in chapters on health, education, women, children and youth explicitly incorporates all of the Summit for Children's goals as indispensable elements for preserving Planet Earth. Both Summits now call for support for and regular monitoring of the year 2000 goals set for children by this Executive Board in April 1990.

Children in a new world

Madame Chairperson, over the past few years we have noted the incredibly momentous changes which have been transforming our world. And each year, the past changes seem to pale in comparison to those more recent. This past year, of course, continues that inexorable movement. These transformations have turned the 1990s into one of those rare 'windows of opportunity' that seem to open only once or twice a century to permit quantum leaps of human progress. We now have within our power, if we have the will — and we are beginning to see this will — to address, once and for all, the evils that are holding up global progress and threatening our collective future.

Never before has so much global change occurred in so short a span of time. Not in the past 1000 years has the 'window of opportunity' been open wider: the end of the cold war ... the imminent end of apartheid ... the liberation of Eastern Europe and the break-up of the Soviet Union ... the turn toward democracy there and in much of the developing world ... the move away from centrally-managed economies ... the start of significant reductions in arms expenditures ... the strengthening of the United Nations — to mention only some of the transformations that have taken place in the blink of an historical eye.

We are living through, and participating in, a worldwide revolution — a revolution unlike those of the past. No guns or guillotines, but televisions and satellite links, fax machines and computer modems. They are the tools for crafting a new world.

These are the same revolutionary tools which, albeit less dramatically, made possible the Child Survival and Development Revolution over the past decade and continuing. And it has been, as members of the Board well know, a revolution.

It is revolutionary when we secure the signatures — after an unprecedented World Summit for Children — of the chief leaders of some 137 countries to a Declaration of principles — and, particularly, a commitment to accord a "first call" to children — and a Plan of deliberate action for achieving the Goals and Strategies for Children for the 1990s which this Executive Board formulated in 1988-90. [See Annex A] And, to date, some 130 governments have completed or are in the process of completing their own National Programmes of Action to implement that global Plan in their own national contexts. [See Annex B] That is revolutionary.

And it is revolutionary when 117 governments have ratified — at a faster pace than any other human rights instrument in history — a Convention on the Rights of the Child, codifying for the first time a set of standards for society's obligations to its children, and the rights which those children ought to be able to exercise as young citizens of their communities, nations and world. We look forward to the early ratification of that revolutionary charter by the 30 additional states which have signed the Convention, and to early action by the three dozen which have not yet signed. [See Annex A] It was good to see at UNCED that pursuant to Article 12 of the Convention, children were finally allowed to speak to the plenary — receiving the one and only standing ovation by the delegates.

For those cynics who might say that these are just words -- speeches and proclamations -- there is more to be said. It is revolutionary when we are able to achieve, through the most massive peaceable global mobilization in history, the immunization of 80 per cent of the world's children against readily preventable diseases, now saving the lives of more than 10,000 children daily.. It is revolutionary when we are able to reduce dehydration deaths by more than 3,000 daily with a simple home solution of water, sugar, salts and potassium costing less than 10 US cents. Parenthetically, we are so used to these successes now with Oral Rehydration Therapy that we often miss its full significance. When cholera struck in Peru, the majority of health workers in the hospitals and clinics were on strike and remained on strike. In spite of this, death rates from over 300,000 cases of cholera in Peru have been kept to an unprecedented low percentage -- less than one per cent, compared to the normal more than 10 percent -- enormously helped by the use of ORS packets and the mobilization of tens of thousands of women at neighborhood "posts" to ensure their rapid use in local settings even when hospital services were hardly available.

Keeping the Promises

It has been two years since this Executive Board put forward its proposals for Goals and Strategies for Children for the decade ahead, the most comprehensive ever by any UN agency. Much further follow-up is required; possibly even more important, it is energizing to know how much has begun. Beyond the Convention and the first World Summit, which built directly on the work of this Board. Beyond the World Conference on Education for All which mapped a plan which is now incorporated in so many National Programmes of Action. We have participated in a great series of international conferences and meetings and initiatives which have plotted further details to guide the achievement of individual goals. Within months of the World Summit, the world was completing achievement of the Universal Immunization Goal for 1990. In the 18 months since, some countries have slipped backwards, but the great majority have not only sustained their 1990 accomplishments but have continued to push forward toward the goals for the year 2000 of polio eradication and 90 per cent immunization.

Last year, governments and experts and activists convened in Ottawa on how to protect children through Humanitarian Ceasefires, and then in Montreal on addressing the Hidden Hunger of micro-nutrient deficiencies. In early 1991, WHO and UNICEF were first approached by the Infant Formula Manufacturers,

anxious to put confrontation behind them and to collaborate on ending free and low-cost distribution of milk substitutes — a massive obstacle to reviving breastfeeding. This was the key which opened the door for our collective Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative mandated by the Executive Board last year together with the goal of ending free or subsidized distribution of infant formula in all countries by the end of 1992, now already achieved in 105 of 170 countries. [See Annex C] 1991 ended with the International Conference on Acute Respiratory Infections in Washington to address the world's now greatest killer of children.

Early in 1992, UNICEF foined in Washington with the World Bank, UNDP. UNFPA and WHO in further advancing the safe motherhood initiative, to combat the conditions which end the lives of some one-half million mothers a year in childbirth. We participated in WHO's World Conference on Tobacco or Health in Buenos Aires, an issue to which I believe that UNICEF must devote much greater attention as we watch the death tolls march upwards from 3 million annually today -- two million in developed countries and one million in developing -toward a ten million deaths level, with 3 million in the developed countries and 7 million in the developing, and with 80 per cent of the new smokers being under 18 and increasingly girls. And, of course, the World Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) must stand as the beginning of a major new world commitment and collaboration to protect and restore our natural environment. As I characterized the challenge, above, and in my address in Rio, "We must better preserve our planet in order to nurture our children; equally, we must better nurture our children in order to preserve our planet". In short, children and environment are increasingly recognized as inseparable, and both require a massive change in values, a change already well started for each.

Children -- and fulfilling the commitments of the World Summit for Children -- have also been a focus of every regional summit and even special regional summit-level gatherings since the World Summit, including in South Asia, Africa, Central America, Ibero-America, the Arab world, and for Islam.

But meetings alone do not keep the promises. Meetings join with new and further thinking, such as the World Bank's World Development Report of 1990 which spoke more strongly than ever on relieving the worst aspects of poverty through investment in human beings as the best investment nations can make toward sustainable development, and with the UNDP's Human Development Report, which urges that the focus of development should be on ends (long and healthy life, acquisition of income, education and skills to improve one's quality of life, and enjoyment of cultural and political freedoms) and not just on means (increasing the output of goods and services).

The promises are really kept in each country, in each national plan, in each national budget, in local and community plans and initiatives, and in the hard work of local authorities, NGOs, and everyday members of each community...as well as parents and siblings who are the child's first line of defense and first line of progress. And as our reports to the Executive Board reflect, these multi-layer mechanisms are now busy keeping the promises in the vast majority of the world's countries — South and North, developing and industrialized. The real work of follow-up is underway.

At a time when long-term planning is out of vogue, we are encouraged that so many nations are seriously planning for their children. Central Planning may be out of vogue — but vision, commitment and strategic thinking must not be. When we plan for children we must think long-term. On the other hand, the needs of children cannot wait. So action on behalf of children must be urgent. Well-prepared National Programmes of Action offer long-term vision with proposals for immediate action. I commend these to members of the Board. Many of them need work and greater refinement...but your positive consideration is imperative to encourage Governments and NGOs, parents and field workers who are looking to the NPAs as their contracts for meeting the needs of the most vulnerable of their children.

Finally, I would suggest, a great set of promises from the Summit for Children and the Earth Summit can be kept through the opportunity of the forthcoming OAU Conference on Africa's Children, to be held in Dakar in November. If the governments of Africa put forward truly realistic as well as ambitious plans for addressing the needs of their children -- a prerequisite which they themselves established for completion before this conference convenes and which is now well-started, and if the governments of the donor nations keep their promise "...to re-examine...their development assistance budgets, to ensure that programmes aimed at the achievement of goals for the survival, protection and development of children will have a priority when resources are allocated", then we have a chance at making real progress for children in the world's most critically affected region. No single event in 1992 -- and no single acts other than realistic proposals from Africa and genuinely forthcoming responses from the donor community -- will portend greater import for children -- and quite possibly for the environment -anywhere and everywhere than the success of the Dakar conference. suggest that the seriousness with which each African country and each donor nation responds to the OAU invitation will be a key -- possibly the key -test in 1992 of each nation's vision for the future and of the seriousness of its commitment to the World and Earth Summits' goals which it has pledged to support.

The good and the bad of the new world

Madame Chairperson, this new world obviously holds a potential for greatness, goodness and progress for all humanity unequalled in human history. And a potential for children which can lay a foundation for a far better, healthier, more prosperous world for all in the century ahead...if only we will keep the promises. And, I believe, a fair start is being made.

But this new world also proffers new challenges and new dangers. And demands new creativity and perseverance to overcome the risks. We know that independence sometimes results in reckless autonomy. We know that imperfect democracy sometimes abuses the rights of the minority, and is not always the fastest route to immediate satisfaction of legitimate expectations. We know that individual dignity is sometimes expressed in superiority or exclusivity, and we are seeing today in too many new or newly liberated countries — especially in the former Yugoslavia, in several of the republics of the former Soviet Union, and in the Horn of Africa — that personal dignity being

mal-expressed in the gross indignity and obscenity of hate, violence and subjugation of other populations.

Resolving these terrible conflicts, and helping all people to appreciate the essential rights and dignity of all people -- of <u>all</u> their neighbours, whether next door to their homes or next door to their new territories -- is probably the most acute political and social problem now afflicting our human community...and it will not be easily or quickly resolved.

How will the children be protected? How can they be exempted from the horrors of civil war and violence while "adults" pursue their differences and/or their opportunities for conciliation? How can the world community's newly strengthened willingness to take collective action in the common interest — and particularly to impose economic sanctions — be applied in ways that affect political authorities but without the current devastating impact on children and other most vulnerable groups? How can children's essential needs be addressed and assured, despite the devastation to their national economies and the disruptions to national and transnational infrastructures, which were never adequate to begin with?

I do not necessarily have answers, distinguished delegates. experience in recent years suggests some means, if the will is there. tragically, in too many situations, the protective embrace of "tranquility" -whether for a day, a week or longer -- has not yet been extended, either to children or anyone. The Conference on Humanitarian Ceasefires proposed some approaches, if the will is there. The Declaration of the World Summit for Children, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, assert certain principles and commitments, if the will is there. We anxiously encourage your suggestions, your good faith, your creativity -- not only as an executive board, but collectively and individually as governments. Children can be protected, if the will is there. And the will must begin with your authorities: in the way they deal with conflicts and disputes within your borders ... in how they respond to the situations of your neighbours ... in the decisions and actions which they take collectively on behalf of all of us through the mechanisms of international security and decency. If the will is there.

Certainly, one major step forward on collective concern, commitment and collaboration -- for children, and for all vulnerable populations -- was taken with the establishment of the United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs. This concept originated among you -- the Member States -- in your frustrations and explorations within ECOSOC and other bodies of this system. You were the creative impulse, you pushed it to fruition, and UNICEF actively supported and facilitated the process. And I must say that Secretary-General could not have made a more capable and visionary choice to lead that office and craft its role than our good friend, Jan Eliasson. His deputy and officer-in-charge in Geneva, Charles Lamuniere, has been seconded from UNICEF where he was ably in charge of Emergencies. Secretariat is fully committed and genuinely anxious to collaborate with our sister agencies in supporting the DHA and responding to its guidance on the many situations of extreme circumstances afflicting too many populations throughout the world, whether through man-made conflicts, neglect or abuse, or natural disasters. On UNICEF's part, I can assure you, the will is there. And it is reassuring to see the positive response where the new confidence exists, such as with Secretary-General Boutros Boutros Ghali's appeal for US\$850 million for meeting the unprecedented drought in Southern Africa which generated a US\$650 million response within a day.

Emergencies, old and new

Old emergencies are currently growing into newly acute emergencies. Southern Africa faces its most disastrous conditions in years of disastrous conditions. The current drought which has hit the ten countries of the SADCC region puts at risk the lives of approximately 18 million people, of whom some 14 million are women and children. The focus on food in drought situations often leaves the health-related effects of drought with little attention. UNICEF has a responsibility to ensure that the threat to household food security does not leave the already vulnerable groups of children under five, lactating mothers, and pregnant women in a state of malnutrition. Vaccines and medicines are required to protect children against diseases often associated with drought such as diarrhoea, cholera, measles and meningitis, among others. The availability of and access to clean water sources is essential for the prevention of water-borne diseases. While in Southern Africa the complex emergencies in Angola and Mozambique are further complicated by the drought, we need to always bear in mind that in the Horn of Africa there continues to exist a situation of complex emergency and drought as well, making great demands upon UNICEF to respond, and at times placing our staff at considerable risk. Earlier this year, we saw the tragic death of Dr. Martinka Pumpalova, a paediatrician working for UNICEF, in Somalia.

New emergencies emerge. Not only the conflict situations in Yugoslavia and in Eurasia, but the overall situation of collapsing or non-existent infrastructures and functional turmoil, economic dysfunction and hardships, and nascent new systems, new relationships, and new experiments extant throughout Central and Eastern Europe and the New Independent States (NIS) challenge our capacity and our creativity to respond, to counsel, to advocate, and to assist, even as we assure that our predominant attention is not turned from the ever extreme situations afflicting children, especially in Africa and elsewhere in the southern world.

Clear proposals are before the Board on how UNICEF should play its part, along with others in the UN system, in responding to the urgent human needs in the countries of Eastern and Central Europe and the New Independent States. We now know from the IMF, the World Bank and the recent Lisbon Conference on the NIS that more than US\$40 billion of external resources is likely to flow to the New Independent States in the next 12 months. How can we help assure, as they engage in the most massive economic restructuring in history, that this is done with "a human face", and that children do have a "first call" for their essentials as this restructuring takes place.

We will turn to these in both the General Debate and in the Programme Committee. But let me add here that all our proposals have been carefully constructed to ensure that UNICEF's responses, while positive and building on our comparative advantages, will not involve significant diversion of our

resources from our priority concerns in Africa and other poorer parts of the developing world.

Sustaining capacity for children

Even in these times of budgetary restraint, UNICEF is very grateful to all donors who have maintained their level of support in 1991-92 after the remarkable 25 per cent increase of 1990. A number of governments have even increased their contribution in national currencies, which helped to compensate in part for the shortfall of about US\$60 million due largely to the appreciation of the U.S. dollar in 1991. Norway, Sweden and Finland deserve particular commendation for their extraordinary per capita support to UNICEF, all in excess of US\$10 per person. They set an example of generosity and commitment which we hope others will emulate.

Far more important than income for UNICEF's programmes and operations, however, is the overall level of resources for children -- for all organizations engaged in this great alliance, for each national government, and within every community. The signs on this front are both hopeful as well as subject to the usual tardiness and reluctances. In the year and a half since the World Summit for Children, allocations for child-related programmes in several national budgets have increased by billions of dollars. In the United States, the Congress appropriated some US\$8 billion in additional funding for domestic programmes over three years, and increased USAID's allocations for child survival and development to US\$250 million, as well as increasing the U.S. general resources contribution to UNICEF for 1992 to US\$85 million...the second US\$10 million annual increase in a row. forthcoming VIII Plan, India is increasing its allocations for elementary education by Rs. 10 billion, 12 times over the outlay in the previous Plan. Together with adult education, 59 per cent of the budget for the education sector will now be allocated to Basic Education.

But in too many countries, too little has been done to increase resources for children, and there is little sign yet that enough countries are seriously making that effort — whether for their own children, or in assistance to the children of less developed countries.

UNDP's 1991 Human Development Report suggested that a desirable level of public expenditure to promote optimum human development would be to allocate some 40 per cent of national budgets and ODA to the social sectors and within these sectors to allocate 50 per cent or more to human priorities — including basic education, primary health care, low cost safe drinking water and sanitation systems, family planning and nutrition programmes. At present most developing countries are investing considerably less than those suggested ratios. In the case of ODA, the 1992 Human Development Report indicates that only 6.5 per cent of total bilateral ODA is currently going to human priorities. [See Annex D] If all major donors were to raise the proportion of their bilateral ODA for human priorities to 20 per cent — an additional US\$4.6 billion could be raised for programmes for women and children, roughly two-thirds of the US\$6-7 billion additional external assistance estimated to be required to achieve the World Summit goals for the 1990s — goals

reaffirmed last week at the Rio Earth Summit.

Again, we look forward to both recipient and donor countries, and international agencies, thoroughly reviewing their development budgets as called for in the Plan of Action of the World Summit for Children.

A stronger United Nations system...and a stronger UNICEF for the 1990s and into the 21st century

Madame Chairperson, many perspectives have been at work in recent years considering how to strengthen the United Nations system to more effectively respond to the challenges of the newly emerging world. This search for improvement is not new to UNICEF. It is a search in which I believe we—governments and secretariat—have been actively engaged on three fronts throughout the past decade: administrative efficiency; strengthened governance and guidance; and more focussed priorities through programmes which do the most good at the least cost for the most children and their families.

Since I have been Executive Director, we have taken a number of important initiatives to achieve greater administrative efficiency in the Secretariat. As illustrations of this, I cite such initiatives and responses to Executive Board expectations as our consolidation of Supply operations in Copenhagen, where a reduced staff has nearly doubled its output ... in our submission of UNICEF's budgets and major administrative issues to review by the ACABQ and our shift to biennial budgetting, and successive improvements in the clarity of our budget format and other documentation ... the now clear division of responsibilities between regional and country offices which were located in the same city ... and our massive strengthening of Africa by the transfer of core posts from other regions. On other fronts, improvements in internal coordination and programming, higher throughputs, improved staff capacity may be cited.

We have sought improved means for the Executive Board's determination and oversight of UNICEF policies and objectives, and improved governance in general. The Board has expanded from 30 members to 41 to better reflect the growing membership of the United Nations, and from my memories of only 5 or so active observer delegations in the early 1980s, we now usually welcome even more observer governments than members. We also have grown accustomed to strong participation from National Committees for UNICEF, many participating as members of national delegations, as well as the participation of many NGOs, allies with UNICEF in our efforts for children. A glance around this room has shown how far we have come — and the breadth of our alliance which I know the Board will always protect and encourage.

The Board has also changed its procedures in many ways to build a more organized and structured decision-making capacity, adapting many of the Board's traditions and guidelines to keep pace with the changing norms and legitimate expectations of the membership. With the Secretariat's assistance, issues before the Board have been "clustered" so that overall themes can be addressed as a group, rather than repeating them for each issue. The

Executive Board's "pre-Board meeting" — formerly a quick session in the winter, has been transformed into a formal session to review the agenda and provide early identification of key issues. Board decisions are no longer the product of a quick scribble of a paragraph, but the result of considered negotiation through drafting sessions...too often running late into the night! But the Board's guidance is clearer and more explicit as a result. And, perhaps most innovatively, this Executive Board has established a new standard for the entire UN system: your meetings start on time, twice each day!

To enable a mutual understanding of issues before they become problems, your Secretariat invited Board members to meet regularly through the year, each time on a different issue, to allow us to brief you, for you to offer initial reactions, and then for you to consult with your capitals. We instituted the practice of pre-Board briefings in your capitals, so that your authorities could hear our presentations and explanations and react to us with their thoughts on a first-hand basis. And, as in the past weeks, we have conducted regional briefings here in New York just prior to the annual session.

Your Secretariat encouraged a new perspective on the Bureau of the Executive Board. First, in the early 1980s, regional vice-chairs were added. Since then, the Bureau has gently shifted from a group of individuals who helped move decisions through the annual sessions to a stronger, more expert and more "tuned" group which could provide counsel and feedback to the Secretariat on several occasions through the course of the year...to better prepare for the annual session. From meeting only briefly on procedural issues in the winter, and during the Board session itself, the Bureau now meets over two days in the autumn, again in the late winter, and just prior to the Executive Board, as well as throughout the session. The Bureau has become an invaluable sounding board for me and my senior colleagues.

I will not repeat a detailing of the third front of our search for greater effectiveness -- the better focussing of our priorities and objectives. But I cite two landmarks in this evolution: first, the appreciation and articulation of the potential for a Child Survival and Development Revolution through low-cost, mass-application techniques and technologies; and, second, Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar's exhortation, later in the 1980s, that the United Nations system must match its new usefulness and new successes in the political sphere with equally impactful advances in the socio-economic field. It was this challenge which led to new programmatic initiatives, and, particularly, to the consolidation of commitments and opportunities through the World Summit for Children. The progress on this great front is reflected in the comments I have already made, and especially in the programme reports which are before the Executive Board. The record of a decade -- the record of a worldwide revolution in child survival and development which UNICEF has helped to plan, to stimulate, and to pursue -- is self-evident.

Madame Chairperson, what are the next steps?

Many ideas and proposals are afloat, including notably the Nordic study recommendations on governance and finance in the United Nations system. Many of these ideas should be implemented early; several offer great potential for

further development and stimulate new thinking. At the same time, I know we all agree on the importance of not fixing what already works, or, indeed, breaking or abandoning what works.

I would like to offer two sets of contributions to these discussions — one in the arena of overall reform of the United Nations system, and the other in the arena of the continuing evolution of UNICEF's own governance and effective guidance.

I do not think that this Executive Board session is the appropriate forum at this time, per se, to attempt to resolve or even make substantial headway on the challenges of reforming the UN system. ECOSOC and the General Assembly are the appropriate fora for your governments to consider and act upon proposals on reform of the overall system. However, I do think that it could be useful for these bodies to draw upon the experience and perspective of UNICEF and other UN organizations. I am therefore circulating a note of suggestions from UNICEF's working experience on how we might improve the operational activities of the United Nations system. These suggestions might at least be "first steps" in this arena, and are consistent with my standing beliefs that action and objectives should be the guiding principle; that structure should follow substance; that we should build on proven experience before we try to change constitutional or institutional systems and that we should not lose the speed of our action. One concrete example of this experience is before you at this session in the form of a joint UNICEF/UNFPA policy paper on our inter-agency collaboration on population and family planning. Delegates may wish to begin discussion of these suggestions at tomorrow morning's Informal Meeting on Inter-Agency Cooperation and United Nations Reform.

At the same time, I believe that there is much more we can try within the UNICEF arena to further experiment — and possibly set more examples for the full system — and to advance our continuing evolution in governance and management. The procedural and perspective suggestions that I would make in our home arena are transitional experiments. They are measures that I think can improve the Executive Board's capacity to guide and govern the Secretariat. They are measures which I believe should ultimately have a place in long-term reform. But, for the moment, they are measures which can be taken without constitutional alteration, and without pre-empting longer term models and standards.

The Executive Board is under ever-increasing pressures. As I noted earlier, the membership has increased by some 25 percent; the observer delegations have increased some ten-fold or more. All want and are entitled and expected to have their opportunity to participate in debate and to help formulate decisions about a programme which has more than doubled in volume and significance in the past decade. Each of you needs to be heard, especially on the central issues of policy, objectives, governance, and financial and administrative management.

But, I ask, should your debates "start from scratch"? And need they be marathons? Should all the collective work be done here in these two weeks? (Some would propose more than two weeks.) How serious and considered can your attention be when you are compelled to address an ever longer agenda of ever

more detailed issues? In many ways, the Board sessions -- every morning, afternoon and evening -- have become endurance tests for delegates and Secretariat alike, with proposals for adding a third week or more parallel sessions to allow more time for discussion. That is not effective governance; that is not efficient management oversight. This was the central topic at your March organizational session.

These pressures can also contribute to tension within the Executive Board and between governments and Secretariat. And a particular facet of this problem is that, faced with urgent situations or time-bound opportunities, your Executive Director may not take timely action, or, he may feel compelled to initiate actions without the benefit of the Board's immediate guidance — actions which at least some Board members later indicate their preference to have discussed at an earlier stage. And when the Board does get to discuss a subject, time pressures often prevent proper consideration...or the opportunity is already waning.

To begin to address this problem and reduce these pressures, I would make one particular suggestion: $\frac{\text{further strengthen the evolving role of your}}{\text{Bureau.}}$

Start by expanding the Bureau somewhat further to ensure it best represents the full membership of the Board, and is open to any member of the Board. Perhaps add a second vice-chair for each of the two committees? These additional seats, increasing the Bureau to 11 members, would increase your ability to ensure broad and full geographical distribution and donor/recipient partnership. They would also provide additional representative leaders able to help resolve complex issues, whether during the Board session or through their good counsel throughout the year.

Second, regularize more frequent meetings of the Bureau. I would auggest that it meet every 2-3 months throughout the year, on an established schedule, having a notified agenda in advance, with each meeting lasting 1-2 full days. This would ensure the Secretariat much more immediate and timely access to the counsel and guidance of your collective elected representatives.

Third, charge your Bureau with better preparing issues for your consideration. Invite their examination of any issue which is on the Board's agenda, or which may arise that ought to be; ask them to identify the questions within those issues, set forth the options, and offer their recommendations.

Fourth, empower your Bureau to identify priority issues for consideration when the system is still overloaded...when the accumulation of topics and reports which the Board has requested over time exceed the Board's capacity to seriously address. Therefore, empower the Bureau to decide, subject to your disagreement, that "Issue X" or "Report Y" really must be deleted from the Board's agenda.

Fifth, and most important, <u>authorize your Bureau to address and determine</u> either specific issues which you identify, or narrow categories of issues which you identify. An example: the question of Headquarters Accommodation,

as indicated in my report, nears a point of resolution, but is not quite there, and to act prematurely would undermine UNICEF's capacity to derive the best possible deal and conserve the greatest amount of resources for programme. Likewise, acting too late — a year from now — would likely waste the opportunities of the present slack real estate market and the pressures now extant on local authorities. And, of course, some 100 governments cannot effectively negotiate a lease or contract. Therefore, I would suggest that next week you offer your guidance. Set your parameters and criteria. And then, I encourage, delegate to your Bureau the authority to act upon the Executive Director's recommendations on this specific issue after hearing the views of the ACABQ. The exact parameters of this suggestion might be refined by the Bureau for decision at next year's Board session.

Such an experiment as this in management leadership could go a long way in reducing the pressures on the Board (and Secretariat as well), allowing more considered and detailed address of the most important policy issues, while ensuring that more administrative and procedural issues are given adequate and proper attention by your representative leaders. These suggestions are elaborated in a separate paper available in this Conference Room.

Administrative strengthenings already under way

I take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to the members of the Reference Group for providing guidance to the Secretariat throughout the past year as proposals on the structure and format of budget documents were prepared for Executive Board review and decision at this session. Since mid-1991 the Reference Group has held 22 meetings with representatives of the Secretariat in an attempt to provide greater clarity and transparency in UNICEF documents dealing with income projections, financial plans, staffing, classification of posts and staff costs, programme proposals including country programme recommendations and global funds, and the Administrative and Programme Support Budget. The documents have also been reviewed by the ACABQ and I am thankful to the Chairman of ACABQ for his report. I am pleased with the outcome of this joint effort and look forward to receiving further guidance and approval of the recommendations by the Executive Board at this session. The revised format and related guidelines, if approved by the Board, will be applied in the preparation of the Administrative and Programme Support Budget for the 1994-1995 biennium as well as the global fund programme budget and country programme recommendations for review and approval by the Board at the 1993 session.

And where shall UNICEF make its home for the decades ahead? Manhattan? Long Island City? New Rochelle? Elsewhere in the world? As Board members have seen from the documents you have received, including from the ACABQ—and from coverage in the New York area media of the lively competition for our hearts, we are well into an extensive and detailed analysis of UNICEF's options. Following your guidance from last year, and that of the Advisory Committee, we have carefully sought to identify realistic possibilities without preconceived notions. Our first round of investigation sought to focus almost exclusively on basic logistical and straight—line financial considerations: where could UNICEF find a home which provided the best and

most complete facilities at a cost which preserved maximum resources for programmes in developing countries.

As this process advanced, our Host City turned its attention to preserving the viability for us of the UN district, and, particularly, UNICEF House. In response to competition from outside, substantially improved terms have been offered to us for the long-term, and the City of New York would help us find workable additional nearby facilities for our expansion.

Active discussions and negotiations are still in process to clarify and improve the options.

The identification of these several options is bringing us to the second phase of our search, which requires a broader perspective. The challenge is to balance complete logistical efficiency, maximum cost reduction, and the many locational factors which shape our Headquarters effectiveness—especially the relationship with our partner agencies, with you and other government representatives, with the UN leadership and Secretariat, with our NGO friends, and with the media and other important external contacts.

UNICEF's decisions on long-term commitments should not be prematurely concluded, but we should be in a position to act quickly and decisively when the moment is right in the weeks immediately ahead.

Moving toward 2000

Madame Chairperson and distinguished delegates, despite the many storm clouds still on the horizon and those over us even now, never before in UNICEF's history have children stood on such a bright and promising threshhold to their future. They have been given explicit promises by their governments. They have benefitted from unprecedented progress in the decades past...progress which gives proven experience of the further improvements in their lives which can be achieved. They are being born and are passing the young years of their lives in a world which, in so many geo-political and economic ways, is dramatically changed from the world which confronted their siblings at birth.

Never before has the possibility been so great that nations could — if the will is there — devote adequate resources and attention to meeting the basic needs of children and families, and alleviating the worst aspects of the poverty and underdevelopment which cripples them...and, in turn, cripples their nations' futures.

The business of these two weeks of the 1992 UNICEF Executive Board session is the policies, programmes and management of this organization. The record of the past decade is that the Executive Board has wisely acted to strengthen our administrative efficiency, to progressively improve your oversight and governance of the Secretariat, and to focus our programming on highest and most impactful priorities. I am confident that in these two weeks you will further that record still more, and further reinforce the unique qualities which have enabled the widely reknown effectiveness of this organization.

But the greatness of UNICEF derives from its vision...from its capacity to appreciate the larger context which affects the lives and wellbeing of children, and the potential of well-meaning people, organizations and governments to change children's lives for the better. As we nurture and prune each tree, we do not lose sight of the forest.

And the forest is full, and lush, and offers incredible potential. Our challenge is to husband that potential. To clear away stifling underbrush as we help each tree to grow. But our challenge is also, always, to recognize what works and grows, and cultivate and propagate it.

Under your leadership, we have done well at that. Under your leadership, I know that we will continue as we move toward the year 2000. And I know that, more than any previous moment in history, there is substantial will (though we need still more) to ensure the survival, protection and development of children. We have helped create that will through our advocacy born of programme experience; we helped to build it through the remarkable achievements of the 1980s; we helped to consolidate it through the historic compacts of 1990 — the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Declaration of the World Summit for Children — and, most recently, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

And now we work to sustain and advance the will — and to keep it from dissipating — with each country, with our National Committees and other allies, with thousands of NGOs, with other international agencies, and, most immediately, with the ECOSOC and the General Assembly as this summer they conduct their reviews of progress toward achieving the World Summit for Children goals.

In short, we are off to a fair start, but with many storms and difficulties — money, first of all — still ahead. It is certainly an exciting task in which we are engaged. It is an unprecedented opportunity for all of us as individuals. It is a challenge which your Secretariat welcomes and embraces with gusto.

SIGNATURE OF THE DECLARATION OF THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN RATIFICATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

(AS OF 10 JUNE 1992)

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	AUSTRIA*	-	GUATEMA		•		AKISTA:	u*	•	YUGOSLAVIA	:		CAMBODIA	
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	BULGARIA	:	IRAN*		-		USSIA*		**	ANGOLA	:		MOLDOVA	
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	COMOROS*	**	LESOTHO)#	:	s	CLOHON	ISLANDS*	**	MALTA	:			•
	CONGO*	:	LIECHTE	NSTEI	N :*		PAIN			MYANMAR	:		!	į m. v
**	COSTA RICA	:	LUXEMBO	JURG		• s	RI LAN	KA*	:	QATAR	:			
	COTE D'IVOIRE*	**	MADAGAS	CAR*			UDAN		**	SAN MARINO	:			
	CUBA*		MALAWI*		:	_	URINAM	E	:	SAUDI ARABIA	:			
**	CZECK&SLOVAK REP	:	MALAYSI	A*	:		WAZILA			SEYCHELLES	:			
	DEM.REP.OF KOREA*						WEDEN		:	SINGAPORE	:			
	DENMARK		MALI		:		WITZER	LAND*	:	SOMALIA	:			
	DJIBOUTI		MAURITA	NIA*		-	ANZANI		:	SYRIA	:			
	DOMINICA	:**	MAURITI	US*			HAILAN		:	UAE	:			
**	DOMINICAN REP.*	:**	MEXICO			* T	OGO*		:		:			
	ECUADOR*	:	MONACO					& TOBAGO*			:			
	EGYPT*	:**	MONGOL 1	A*	:*	* T	UNISIA		:		:			
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	GUI NEA*	:**	NAMIBIA				KRAINE		:		:			
	FINLAND		NEPAL*					KINGDOM	:		:			
	FRANCE	:	NETHERL				RUGUAY		_					

^{*} SIGNED AFTER THE SUMMIT

^{**} COUNTRIES THAT HAVE RATIFIED THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD (117)

WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN STATUS OF NATIONAL PROGRAMMES OF ACTION (AS OF 10 JUNE 1992)

SUB-SAHARAN	LATIN AMERICA &	ASIA	MIDDLE-EAST &	INDUSTRIALISED
AFRICA	THE CARIBBEAN	:	, NORTH AFRICA	COUNTRIES
* 26 ** 11 *** 4	*7 **5 *** 16	*9 ** 7 *** 11	*10 **3 *** 5	(Continued)
* ANGOLA	ANTIGUA &	AFGHANISTAN	* ALGERIA	HUNGARY
* BENIN	BARBUDA	***BANGLADESH	* BAHRAIN	ICELAND
* BOTSWANA	** ARGENTINA	** BHUTAN	***DJIBOUTI	IRELAND
		BRUNE	* EGYPT	ISRAEL
** BURKINA FASO	BAHAMAS	CAMBODIA	***!RAN	* ITALY
** BURUNDI	* BARBADOS			***JAPAN
* CAMEROON	***BELIZE	***CHINA	IRAQ	
* CAPE VERDE	** BOLMA	* COOK ISLANDS	** JORDAN	KAZAKHSTAN
***CEN.AFR.REP.	** BRAZIL	i ** FIJI	* KUWAIT	KYRGYZSTAN
**CHAD	**CHILE	** INDIA	* LEBANON	LATVIA
* COMOROS	***COLOMBIA	***INDONESIA	LIBYA	LIECHTENSTEIN
* CONGO	***COSTA RICA	* KIRIBATI	***MOROCCO	LITHUANIA
* COTE D'IVOR.	***CUBA	** KOREA DPE	* OMAN	LUXEMBOURG
* ETHIOPIA	DOMINICA	***KOREA R	* QATAR	MALTA
* EQ.GUINEA	***DOMINICAN REP	LAOS	* SAUDI ARABIA	MOLDOVA
GABON	***ECUADOR	** MALAYSIA	***SUDAN	MONACO
** GAMBIA	***EL SALVADOR	** MALDIVES	* SYRIA	** NETHERLANDS
** GHANA	GRENADA	***MARSHALL ISL.	***TUNISIA	* NEW ZEALAND
** GUINEA	***GUATEMALA	MICRONESIA	** TURKEY	* NORWAY
* GUINEA BISSAU	* GUYANA	* MONGOLIA	* U.A.E.	POLAND
** KENYA	HAITI	* MYANMAR	** YEMEN	* PORTUGAL
* LESOTHO	***HONDURAS	***NEPAL		ROMANIA
LIBERIA	***JAMAICA	***PAKISTAN	INDUSTRIALISED	RUSSIA
* MADAGASCAR	***MEXICO	* PAPUA NEW	COUNTRIES	SAN MARINO
* MALAWI	***NICARAGUA	GUINEA	*6 **2 *** 9	SLOVENIA
***MALJ	***PANAMA	***PHIUPPINES	1	* SPAIN
* MAURITANIA	***PARAGUAY	SAMOA	ALBANIA	***SWEDEN
* MAURITIUS	***PERU	***SINGAPORE	ARMENIA	SWITZERLAND
** MOZAMBIQUE	* ST. KITTS &	* SOLOMON ISL	** AUSTRALIA	TAJIKISTAN
* NIGER	NEVIS	***SRI LANKA	AUSTRIA	TURKMENISTAN
* NIGERIA	* ST.LUCIA	** THAILAND	AZERBAJAN	UKRAINE
***NAMIBIA	* ST.VINCENT &	* TUVALU	***BELGIUM	***UK
**RWANDA	THE GRENADINES	* VANUATU	BELARUS	* USA
* SAO TOME &	* SURINAME	***VIETNAM	BOSNIA &	UZBEKISTAN
PRINCIPE	* TRINIDAD &		HERZEGOVINA	YUGOSLAVIA
***SENEGAL	TOBAGO	Į.	* BULGARIA	
* SEYCHELLES	** URUGUAY	į.	***CANADA	
* SIERRA LEONE	***VENEZUELA		CROATIA	
SOMALIA			CYPRUS	1
SOUTH AFRICA	•		CZECH & SLOVAK	:
* SWAZILAND	İ		***DENMARK	1
* TANZANIA			ESTONIA	1
* TOGO			***FINLAND	
** UGANDA	ļ		* FRANCE	ļ
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* ZAMBIA ** ZIMBABWE	1		GREECE ***HOLY SEE	
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^{*} Preparation Underway(60)

Total: Countries Preparing NPAs(193)

^{**} Draft/Outline received (28)

NPA Finalised (45)

STATUS REPORT ON CESSATION OF FREE AND LOW-COST SUPPLIES OF INFANT FORMULA

= 1992

		<u> </u>	1	
EAPRO	ESARO	WCARO	TACRO	INDUST. CO.
ni. Brunei ni. Cambodia p. CHINA ni. Cook Isl FIJI a. INDONESIA ni. Kiribati ni. Korea, DPE KOREA REP. ni. Laos p. MALAYSIA ni. Marshall Isl ni. Micronesia ni. Mongolia ni. Myanmar PAPUA NG a. Philippine ni. Somoa SINGAPORE ni. Solomon Isl a. Thailand ni. Tuvalu ni. Vietnam	ni. Angola BOTSWANA ni. Burundi ni. Comoros ETHIOPIA a. Kenya LESOTHO ni. Madagascar ni. Malawi MAURITIUS a. Mozambique NAMIBIA p. Rwanda ni. Sao Tome Pr ni. Seychelles ni. Somalia SO AFRICA a. SWAZILAND ni. Tanzania ni. Uganda ni. Zambia ni. Zimbabwe	mi. Benin ni. Burkina F. CAMEROON ni. Cape Verde ni. Cen Af Rep ni. Chad ni. Congo a. Cote d'Iv. ni. Eq Guinea a. Gabon ni. Gambia p. GHANA GUINEA ni. Guinea Bis. ni. Liberia p. Mali MAURITANIA NIGER a. Nigeria SENEGAL ni. S. Leone TOGO ni. Zaire	ni. Antigua ARGENTINA ni. Bahamas a. Barbados BELIZE a. Bolivia a. Brazil p. CHILE p. COLOMBIA COSTA RICA ni. Cuba ni. Dominica DOMIN.REP. ECUADOR p. EL SALVADOR ni. Grenada p. GUATEMALA ni. Guyana ni. Haiti HONDURAS p. JAMAICA a. Mexico ni. Nicaragua PANAMA	ni. Albania AUSTRIA a. AUSTRALIA BELGIUM ni. Belarus ni. Bosnia ni. Bulgaria CANADA ni. Croatia ni. Cyprus ni. Czech Slov ni. Denmark ni. Estonia ni. Finland FRANCE GERMANY ni. Greece ni. Hungary ni. Iceland ni. Ireland ni. Israel ITALY JAPAN ni. Latvia
ni. Vanuatu	MENA a. Algeria BAHRAIN p. Djibouti a. Egypt p. Iran ni. Iraq JORDAN ni. Kuwait p. LEBANON	H ——	ni. Nicaragua	<u>JAPAN</u>

<u>KEY:</u> <u>CANADA</u> = Supplies distributed.

Canada = No supplies.

a. = ACTION taken by Government.p. = PENDING action by Government.

ni. = No information yet.

NOTE: UNICEF's commitment is to secure Government action. IFM commitment is to end free and low-cost supplies where Government action is secured. UNICEF and partners to monitor actual cessation.

Human Priorities in bilateral aid*

	Percentage of ODA to social sectors	Percentage of social sector ODA to human priorities*	Percentage of ODA for human priorities*
Country	1988/89	1988/89	1988/89
Norway	27.2	72.3	19.7
Switzerland	35.8	50.6	18.1
Finland	38.0	41.4	15.7
Canada	23.8	45.9	10.9
Denmark	19.2	55.4	10.6
Netherlands	21.1	44.5	9.4
UK	13.4	65.8	8.8
_Italy	18.0	47.3	8.5
USA	16.4	50.4	8.3
Austria	13.4	60.6	8.1
Sweden	17.0	41.5	7.1
France	11.0	35.9	4.0
Japan	10.7	25.5	2.7
Australia	6.4	31.4	2.0
Germany	8.9	21.4	1.9
Total	14.8	43.7	6.5

Human priorities in soltilateral aids

Human priorities in multilateral aid*						
Agency	Percentage of ODA to social sectors 1988/89	Percentage of social sector ODA to human priorities* 1988/89	Percentage of ODA for human priorities* 1988/89			
UNICEF	91.7	85.9	78.8			
IFAD	16.8	100.0	16.8			
IDB(including special)	27.8	54.4	15.2			
ASDB(including special)	17.5	64.5	11.3			
IBRD/IDA	17.5	47.7	8.3			
AFDB/African Dev. Fund	16.6	32.4	5.4			
Total	19.1	49.1	9.9			

*Human priorities include basic education, primary health care, safe drinking water, adequate sanitation, family planning and nutrition programmes.

Source: UNDP, Human Development Report: 1992 (page 43)

Bilateral ODA for Human Priorities*

Country	Total ODA 1990 (US\$ millions)	Bilateral ODA 1989 (US\$ millions)	Estimated bilateral ODA for human priorities (in US\$ million)	Percentage of bilateral ODA for human priorities
USA	10166	6827	570	8.3
France	6277	6135	250	4.0
Italy	3395	2189	190	8.5
Japan	9054	6779	180	2.7
Canada	2470	1581	170	10.9
Netherlands	2580	1511	140	9.4
United Kingdom	2639	1463	130	8.8
Norway	1207	555	110	19.7
Sweden	2007 .	1275	90	7.1
Switzerland	750	423_	80	18.1
Finland	846	435	70	15.7
Germany	6320	3175	60	1.9
Denmark	1171	522	60	10.6
Austria	389	201	20	8.1
Australia	955	706	10	2.0
TOTAL	50226	34229	2130	6.5

*Human priorities include basic education, primary health care, safe drinking water, adequate sanitation, family planning and nutrition programmes.

Source: Based on UNDP Human Development Report 1992, Table 3.14, and OECD Development Co-operation Report 1991

Note: Some donors channel a significant proportion of their ODA through multilateral development agencies with a social and human development focus. Hence their actual contribution to human priority programmes may be higher than the figures in this table indicate. On the other hand, others which allocate a much smaller share of their ODA through such multilateral agencies, have considerable room for increased support to human priorities through both bilateral and multilateral channels.

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