

ATTACHMENT 1

Announcement materials of 8 February 1990

World Summit for Children

Statement on the Call for the World Summit for Children

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney of Canada, President Mohammed Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, President Moussa Traoré of Mali, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari of Mexico, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan and Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson of Sweden have called a World Summit for Children, to be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 29-30 September 1990, to enhance political commitment for the benefit of children, nationally and internationally. Their initiative has been endorsed by the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

The proposal for a World Summit for Children was first put forward in December 1988 with the encouragement of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Javier Pérez de Cuéllar. During 1989, it was endorsed by over 100 Governments, and by summit meetings of the Francophone countries, the Organization for African Unity, the Non-Aligned Movement, and the Commonwealth nations.

The purpose of the World Summit for Children is 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 aim is to stimulate new initiatives in all countries, and among the international community, to address those issues that most critically affect children for the decades ahead. The meeting will result in a Declaration of commitment to achieving these goals in the 1990s. The Initiators believe that the Summit also can accelerate ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Experience in recent years with the approaches known generally as the "Child Survival and Development Revolution" has demonstrated that dramatic progress can be achieved in reducing child deaths and improving child health and well-being. The necessary mobilization of multiple sectors of government and society to achieve this progress invariably requires the personal and active involvement of national leaders. It has also been demonstrated that this improvement in the survival of children through the involvement of parents contributes to a subsequent greater voluntary reduction in births.

The growing impact on children of several critical global problems - notably war and violence, poverty, debt, degradation of the environment, and drugs - must also be a major concern of all political leaders. These issues present a challenge which demands concerted international action.

The Initiators would view, a new commitment by the world's leaders to protect the lives of children and to promote their well-being as a reaffirmation of the obligation under the Charter of the United Nations "to save succeeding generations". Making the survival, development and well-being of children a focus and a test of successful development efforts would affirm that the ultimate purpose of development is to enhance human capabilities and the human condition.

At the request of the Initiators and with the endorsement of the UNICEF Executive Board, the Secretary-General of the United Nations is extending invitations on their behalf to the Heads of State or Government of all Member States of the United Nations, with particular encouragement to those whose countries are members of the UNICEF Executive Board.

A Planning Committee has been established to manage preparations of the Summit. The Planning Committee consists of Personal Representatives of the Heads of State or Government of 22 countries: Bangladesh, Canada, China, Egypt, France, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mali, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sweden, the USSR, the United Kingdom, the United States, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, and Zimbabwe. UNICEF will serve as the Secretariat for the preparation and organization of the meeting.

In the process of preparing for the Summit, the Initiators encourage all sectors of society to consider their possibilities for contributing to the improved survival, protection and development of children. Important work in this field can be done by international organizations and institutions, non-governmental organizations, the media and professional associations, community organizations and public leaders, as well as authorities of government at various levels. The Initiators welcome efforts by UNICEF and other institutions to encourage this participation, and in various ways to seek to derive maximum benefit for children as a result of the call for the Summit.

Governments and non-governmental organizations and institutions are encouraged to contribute to the financing of the Summit and related activities, according to their means.

United Nations - New York
8 February 1990

United Nations

NEW YORK

Statement by H.E. Mr. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar
Secretary-General of the United Nations
announcing the World Summit for Children

United Nations - New York
8 February 1990

I am very pleased to announce today that a World Summit for Children will be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 29 and 30 September 1990.

Six heads of state or government - Prime Minister Brian Mulroney of Canada, President Mohammed Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, President Moussa Traoré of Mali, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari of Mexico, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan and Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson of Sweden - have taken the initiative of calling for this extraordinary meeting of Heads of State or Government of all countries. Their proposal was endorsed by the UNICEF Executive Board at a special session in late December. The United Nations stands ready to assist the six Initiating Governments, and UNICEF will provide secretariat support. I am today issuing invitations for this historic meeting.

The purpose of the World Summit for Children is 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 human society. It is intended to stimulate new initiatives throughout the world.

The Initiators expect that the meeting will result in a Declaration of commitment to achieving these goals in the 1990s. It is hoped that the Summit will also accelerate ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which was adopted by the General Assembly last November.

The idea of a summit for children first emerged in late 1988. I welcomed it then, and am very pleased that it has attracted increasing support. Over 100 Governments have expressed encouragement, as have several regional summit meetings, including those of the francophone countries, the Organization for African Unity, the Non-Aligned Movement, and the Commonwealth nations. I myself participated in the OAU and Non-Aligned Movement summits when they considered the issues of child survival and development, and know that world leaders believe that significant improvements can be made in the situation of children, provided that sufficient political will is mobilized.

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This has been convincingly demonstrated in the past decade, as nations and the international community have applied low-cost techniques and the benefits of social organization and modern technology in the approaches known as the "Child Survival and Development Revolution". They have been able to dramatically reduce child mortality and morbidity, despite severely adverse economic conditions. That progress must now be extended and expanded to reach every child.

In calling for a Summit, the Initiators recognize that it is not simply the fact of holding a meeting that will make the difference in the lives of children. Such a meeting can stimulate commitment, help to convey understanding and awareness, and encourage all sectors of society to be involved in addressing children's needs. I fully share the Initiators' belief that, as we prepare for this historic Summit, people everywhere should consider how they can contribute to improving the survival, protection and development of children. Important work in this field can be done, in particular, by international and non-governmental organizations, the media and professional associations, community organizations and public leaders, and government authorities.

Responsibility for organizing the World Summit for Children is now in the hands of a Planning Committee consisting of the Personal Representatives of the Heads of State or Government of some 22 countries. They are supported in their work by the UNICEF Secretariat, under Executive Director James P. Grant. The six Initiating Governments will continue to offer leadership in this process.

I now invite His Excellency Mr. Yves Fortier, Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations and the Personal Representative of Prime Minister Mulroney on the World Summit for Children, to elaborate on this initiative from the perspective of the Initiators, and to answer any questions you may have.

World Summit for Children

Statement by H.E. Mr. L. Yves Fortier
Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations
on behalf of the six Initiating Governments of
The World Summit for Children

Thank you, Mr. Secretary-General. Thank you not only for being here with us today, but, more importantly, for encouraging us in this effort, and for employing your good offices to make this unprecedented initiative possible.

I speak on behalf of my colleagues as Personal Representatives of our Heads of State or Government - His Excellency Mr. Esmat Abdel Meguid, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Egypt; His Excellency Mr. Abdoulaye Diallo, Minister of Health of Mali; His Excellency Mr. Andrés Rozental, Under Secretary of State of Mexico; His Excellency Senator Javed Jabbar, Minister of Science and Technology of Pakistan; and His Excellency Mr. Hans Dahlgren, Advisor to the Prime Minister of Sweden. As the Secretary-General has noted, it was our Presidents and Prime Ministers who initiated formal consultations among governments to explore the real possibilities for a world summit of world leaders, and who took the decision to proceed with this historic initiative.

We are conscious that this is an extraordinary moment in world affairs, as we begin the decade of the 1990s. The world is experiencing unprecedented change. Possibilities which could not even have been dreamed of a year or so ago now seem very real.

Our three Presidents and three Prime Ministers have dared to dream the seemingly impossible, too. They dream of a world in which parents are not - each day - confronted with the tragedy of burying some 40,000 children. They dream of a world in which needless child deaths have been avoided, and in which, each day, tens of thousands of more children do not suffer readily preventable diseases which will cripple and debilitate them for life. They dream that children should be protected from all forms of abuse and neglect. They dream that all governments should consider first the needs of their children, before determining economic, political and social policies which will significantly affect the lives of children.

Our Presidents and Prime Ministers have dreamed this dream...and they are determined to make it a reality.

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We are convinced that these simple goals are possible. But we recognize that they will only be achieved if the world makes the effort.

The World Summit for Children is our way of ensuring that effort.

Our Governments believe that bringing the leaders of the world together to address the needs of children, and to establish goals and strategies for their health, their education, and for community services to protect and nurture them, can generate the necessary national and international commitment to do the job.

We think this is a worthy premise for the first-ever North-South-East-West global summit of world leaders. Indeed, we don't think there could be any more worthy premise, because we believe that the world is ready to act in this cause, and that human society demands that we act.

A Summit - like no other possible action - will convey a message of attention and expectation to bureaucracies and the public at-large. It will remind us all that we have no higher obligation than to ensuring the survival, good health and bright potential of future generations.

The suggestion for a world summit about children was first made in The State of the World's Children, 1989, which UNICEF published in December 1988.

By last May, as support for a summit gained momentum, Prime Minister Carlsson - who had been the first Head of Government to speak out in favor of the idea, the day it was first put forward - asked Mr. Grant to identify a few other leaders who might be particularly interested in seriously exploring the possibility of a Summit. Mr. Grant suggested our five other leaders in addition to Mr. Carlsson. We then began consultations among ourselves and with others, and, in September, Personal Representatives of our Heads began to meet formally to discuss the issues. It didn't take long for them to be convinced that a Summit for Children could make a very important contribution - one which could not be replicated through any other approach. The Personal Representatives met three times - in September in Belgrade; in October in New York; and in November in Geneva, at which time they arrived at their Statement of Agreement on the Summit, which is reflected in the Statement on the Call for the Summit which is available to you today.

We especially appreciate the endorsement of the 41-nation UNICEF Executive Board, which authorized UNICEF to provide secretariat support for this project. We also welcome the 16 Governments whose Heads of State or Government have appointed Personal Representatives to join our six countries in the Planning Committee which will manage preparations for the Summit and develop its substantive content. Many of our colleagues - Permanent Representatives of these 16 Governments - are here today. I welcome their presence.

While this is an independent initiative by sovereign governments, we are very pleased with its close association with the United Nations. In deciding to call the Summit, our Governments asked that it be held at the United

Nations and with the support of the good offices of the United Nations and UNICEF for two reasons: both because a meeting in UN facilities would incur the least cost, so that our resources can be applied to the results of the meeting, rather than the arrangements for it; and because we believe that, ultimately, the United Nations system must lead the world community in addressing the needs of the most vulnerable. We seek and expect a natural linkage between this Summit and the work of such UN and other international agencies as WHO, UNESCO, UNDP, UNFPA, the World Bank, IMF and others, as well as UNICEF. We look forward to the collaboration of these agencies in developing the objectives of the Summit, and in ensuring that their workplans help implement the goals which are agreed.

We appeal to all sectors of society to join with us in this great effort. As the Secretary-General said, "people everywhere should consider how they can contribute to improving the survival, protection and development of children". It has been suggested that regional, national and community summits might also be held to help prepare for the World Summit, or to follow-up its global commitments with specific strategies applicable at each level. This would be an excellent means of ensuring that common international goals are applied in practical ways at the country and community level. And this applies to every country, not just those of the developing world. This is a World Summit, for the world's children. None of our countries is perfect in the way it deals with children; we all have room to improve, and to make new efforts. This Summit will be a stimulus to all of us.

World Summit for Children

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BHUTTO, MULRONEY TO CHAIR WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN

Prime Ministers Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan and Brian Mulroney of Canada will serve as co-chairmen of the World Summit for Children to be held at the United Nations 29-30 September, it was announced today.

The two leaders were elected Monday at a meeting of the 27-nation Planning Committee that is organizing the summit, Senator Javed Jabbar of Pakistan, co-chairman of the committee, told a news conference at the United Nations. The conference will be the first meeting ever held at the level of heads of state and government to deal with problems afflicting children around the world and also will be the first North-South-East-West summit, Mr. Jabbar noted.

The leaders are expected to seek to forge a major global commitment to enhance the status of children and sharply reduce the current child-death rate of 40,000 a day, most from preventable causes and almost all in developing countries.

Low-cost health measures pioneered in the 1980s saved several million children's lives. UNICEF estimated in its report on The State of the World's Children, 1990 that the death rate could be reduced by about one-third, meaning that 50 million lives could be saved in this decade with strong political support from governments and the public.

Aside from securing the lives and welfare of children, the summit conference is expected to emphasize the need for national economic and social policies that are sensitive to the needs of the young.

Monday's meeting also designated a working group, headed by Sweden, to draft a declaration on children to be presented for consideration by the leaders at the summit. Some of the major issues expected to be discussed include health and nutrition, education and rights of children.

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The Planning Committee also established a working group, chaired by Mali, to consider the structure and format of the summit meeting.

Members of the committee also noted that a wide range of mobilization activities are planned in a number of countries to raise public awareness about issues related to child survival and development in preparation for the summit.

A number of heads of state or government have already indicated their intention to participate in the summit, Mr. Jabbar said, adding that other leaders are expected to confirm participation soon.

Accepting her nomination as co-chairman, Ms. Bhutto said: "The summit will serve to emphasize the urgent need for all nations to join hands in building a hopeful, harmonious and tranquil world. This we owe to our children and to our future generations. They deserve a fuller and more productive life."

Mr. Mulroney said: "The crisis for children is so great that it requires the urgent attention of all governments and societies. We need to establish goals and policies to enhance the well-being of the world's children, especially those with the greatest and most urgent needs. The focus of the summit must be on doing the doable."

Ms. Bhutto, one of the few women leaders of government in the world, was elected prime minister of Pakistan in 1988. Mr. Mulroney was first elected to head the Canadian government in 1984 and was re-elected in 1988.

Ms. Bhutto and Mr. Mulroney are among six heads of state or government who originally proposed the summit last November. The others are Presidents Mohamed Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, Carlos Salinas de Gortari of Mexico and Moussa Traore of Mali and Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson of Sweden.

Aside from the six initiators of the summit, the other members of the planning committee are: Algeria, Bangladesh, China, Finland, France, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Senegal, Uganda, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom, the United States, Venezuela, Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe. UNICEF is serving as the secretariat for the summit.

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World Summit for Children

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8 February 1990

WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN ON 28-29 SEPTEMBER

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar announced Thursday that a World Summit for Children will be held at the United Nations in New York on 29 and 30 September to secure the highest political commitment for strategies to ensure the "survival, protection and development of children."

The Secretary-General made the announcement at a U.N. news conference accompanied by the representatives of six initiating governments - Canada, Egypt, Mali, Mexico, Pakistan and Sweden. He said the summit "is intended to stimulate new initiatives throughout the world."

In calling for a summit, Mr. Perez de Cuellar said, the initiators recognized that it was not simply the fact of holding a meeting that would make the difference in the lives of children. Such a meeting could stimulate commitment, help to convey understanding and awareness, and encourage all sectors of society to be involved in addressing children's needs, he said.

Executive Director James P. Grant of UNICEF, which will serve as the secretariat for the summit, enthusiastically welcomed the announcement. "It presents a major opportunity to help end the obscenity of 40,000 children dying every day," he said.

Speaking on behalf of the six initiating countries, Ambassador Yves Fortier of Canada said, "our governments believe that bringing the leaders of the world together to address the needs of children, and to establish goals and strategies for their health, their education, and for community services to protect and nurture them, can generate the necessary national and international commitment to do the job."

Ambassador Fortier welcomed suggestions that regional, national and community summits might be held to help prepare for the world summit or to follow-up its global commitments with specific strategies.

"This would be an excellent means of ensuring that common international goals are applied in practical ways at the country and community level," he said. "This applies to every country, not just those of the developing world."

"This is a world summit for the world's children," Fortier said. "None of our countries is perfect in the way it deals with children: we all have room to improve, and to make new efforts."

The Secretary-General is to issue invitations to the summit to the heads of state or government of all member states participating in the U.N. General Assembly and the U.N. specialized agencies.

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The immediate purpose of the Summit is to focus world attention on the plight of children, leading to a major new commitment by governments at the highest level to improve the conditions of children through both specific interventions in their behalf and by ensuring that the interests of children are protected in national economic and social policies. The unprecedented summit meeting is seen as the launching of a decade of government action and society-wide mobilization for the benefit of children, built upon the encouraging experience of the 1980s in which major progress for children was made despite difficult economic conditions and constrained resources.

UNICEF reported in its report on The State of the World's Children, 1990 that some 40,000 children die every day - about one every two seconds - more than half of them from readily preventable causes. A substantial number are left disabled. But it also reported that several million fewer children are dying as a result of low-cost interventions for children pioneered in the 1980s, and that further extension of these efforts - with strong political support - could prevent some 50 million child deaths over the 1990s.

Most of the endangered children are in the developing countries, but their counterparts in the industrialized world are increasingly imperilled by drugs, crime, homelessness and neglect.

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