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**Preparatory Committee for the Special Session
of the General Assembly on Children**
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Second revised draft outcome document

A world fit for children

Second revised draft submitted by the Bureau of the Committee

Summary

In its resolution 54/93 of 7 December 1999, the General Assembly decided to convene a special session to review the achievement of the goals of the World Summit for Children, and decided that the special session would undertake a renewed commitment and consider future action for children in the next decade.

In its resolution 55/26 of 20 November 2000, the General Assembly decided to hold the special session on children from 19 to 21 September 2001.

The Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly on Children, at its second session (New York, 29 January-2 February 2001), authorized its Bureau to prepare, with the support of the substantive secretariat, a revised version of the draft outcome document (A/AC.256/CRP.6/Rev.1), taking into account the views expressed during its second substantive session, for consideration at its third substantive session.¹

The present second revised draft has been prepared accordingly.

¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-seventh Special Session, Supplement No. 2* (A/S-27/2), para. 20.



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I. Declaration

1. Eleven years ago, at the World Summit for Children, world leaders made a joint commitment and issued an urgent, universal appeal to give every child a better future.

2. Since then, much progress has been made, as documented in the report of the Secretary-General entitled “We the Children”¹ Millions of young lives have been saved, more children than ever are in school, and important treaties have been concluded to protect children. Yet a brighter future for all has proved elusive, and overall gains have fallen short of national obligations and international commitments.

3. We, the Governments participating in the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Children, are determined to seize this historic opportunity to change the world for and with children.² Accordingly, we reaffirm our commitment to complete the unfinished agenda of the World Summit for Children and to address other emerging issues vital to the achievement of the longer-term goals and objectives endorsed in commitments made at recent major United Nations summits and conferences, in particular the Millennium Declaration.³

4. We reaffirm our obligation to safeguard the rights of all children through national action and international cooperation. Every one of us has the power to influence each child, acknowledging that the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,⁴ the most universally embraced human rights instrument in history, and other relevant human rights instruments constitute the standards for the promotion and protection of the rights of the child.

5. We hereby call on all members of society to join us in a global movement that will help build a world fit for children by upholding the following principles:

- **Put children first.** In all matters related to the well-being of children, the best interests of the child shall always be our primary consideration.
- **Fight poverty: invest in children.** We reaffirm our vow to break the cycle of poverty within a single generation, united in the conviction that the efforts to eradicate poverty must begin with children and the realization of their rights.
- **Leave no child behind.** Each girl and boy is born free and equal in dignity and rights; therefore, all forms of discrimination affecting children must end.
- **Care for every child.** The survival and development of children in good health and with proper nutrition must be regarded as the essential foundation of human development. No child should go hungry. Every effort should be made to ensure that children get the best possible start in life.
- **Educate every child.** All girls and boys must receive a basic education of good quality.
- **Stop harming and exploiting children.** All acts of violence, exploitation and abuse against children are intolerable and must be stopped.
- **Protect children from war.** Children must be protected from the horrors of armed conflict.

- **Combat HIV/AIDS.** Children and their families must be protected from the devastating impact of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) and other infectious diseases.
- **Listen to children.** We regard children and adolescents as resourceful citizens capable of helping to build a better future for all. We must respect their rights to express themselves and to participate in decisions that affect them.
- **Protect the Earth for children.** We must safeguard our natural environment, with its diversity of life, its beauty and its resources, all of which enhance the quality of human life, for present and future generations.

6. In line with these principles, we adopt the Plan of Action contained in section III below, confident that together we will build a world in which all girls and boys can enjoy childhood — a time of play and learning, in which they are loved, respected and cherished, their safety and well-being are paramount, and they can grow to adulthood in health, peace and dignity.

II. Review of progress and lessons learned

7. The World Declaration and the Plan of Action of the World Summit for Children⁵ are among the most rigorously monitored and implemented international commitments of the 1990s. Annual reviews were held at the national level and monitoring reports presented to the General Assembly. A mid-decade review and an extensive global end-decade review were conducted. The latter included high-level regional meetings in Beijing, Berlin, Cairo, Kathmandu and Kingston, which reviewed progress; ensured follow-up to the Summit and other major conferences; promoted renewed commitment to child rights; and guided actions for the future. A wide range of actors participated in the reviews, including government bodies, parliamentarians, civil society organizations, young people's organizations, religious groups, academic institutions, the media, United Nations agencies, donors and major international non-governmental organizations.

8. As documented in the end-decade review of the Secretary-General on follow-up to the World Summit for Children, the decade 1990-1999 was a decade of great promises, moderate efforts and modest achievements for the world's children. On the positive side, the Summit and the entry into force of the Convention on the Rights of the Child⁶ helped accord political priority to children. A record 192 countries ratified, acceded to or signed the Convention. Some 155 countries prepared national programmes of action to implement Summit goals. Ground-breaking regional commitments were made. International legal provisions and mechanisms strengthened the protection of children. Three million fewer children are dying now than a decade ago; polio is on the brink of eradication; and, through salt iodization, 90 million newborns are protected every year from a significant loss of learning ability.

9. Yet much more needs to be done. The resources that were promised at the Summit have yet to fully materialize. Critical challenges remain; more than 10 million children die each year although most of those deaths could be prevented; 100 million children are still out of school, 60 per cent of them girls; 150 million children suffer from malnutrition; and HIV/AIDS is spreading with catastrophic speed. There is persistent poverty and exclusion and inadequate investment in social

services. The childhood of millions continues to be devastated by hazardous and exploitative labour, the sale and trafficking of children and women, the militarization and prostitution of children, and general abuse, exploitation and violence.

10. The experience of the past decade has confirmed that the needs and rights of children must be a priority in all development efforts. There are many key lessons: change is possible — and children's rights are an effective rallying point; policies must address both immediate factors affecting or excluding groups of children and wider and deeper causes of inadequate protection and rights violations; vertical approaches and targeted interventions that achieve rapid successes need to be pursued, with due attention to sustainability and participatory processes; and programmes for children in early childhood and support to families, especially in high-risk conditions, merit special support because they provide lasting benefits for child growth, development and well-being.

III. Plan of action

A. Creating a world fit for children

11. We recognize that choices made and actions taken on behalf of children affect not only how children develop but also how countries progress, which is why children's physical, social, emotional, cognitive and spiritual development must become national and global priorities.

12. A world fit for children is one in which all children get the best possible start in life, receive a quality basic education, and in adolescence, have ample opportunity to develop their individual capacities in a safe and supportive environment. It is the kind of world children deserve — and that we as adults have an obligation to create.

13. Our commitment to creating such a world for children begins with the family, which is the fundamental unit of society and holds the primary responsibility for the protection, upbringing and development of children. All institutions of society should respect and render appropriate assistance to parents and families so that children can grow and develop in a safe and stable environment, supportive of the fulfilment of their rights.

14. We are determined to promote access by families, parents, legal guardians, caregivers and children themselves to a full range of information and services to promote child survival, development, protection and participation.

15. We also recognize that considerable numbers of children live without parental support, such as children living on the street, children in refugee situations, children subject to trafficking and sexual exploitation, and children who are incarcerated. Special efforts are needed to support institutions, facilities and services that care for these children.

16. Children are hardest hit by poverty because it strikes at the very roots of their potential for development — their growing minds and bodies. There are stages in life when a child is either capable of growing in leaps and bounds — physically, intellectually and emotionally — or when he or she is particularly vulnerable to

risks which lead to stunted growth, failed learning, trauma or death. If a child's cycle of growth and development is interrupted by poverty, this often turns into a handicap for life. Elimination of child poverty must therefore be a key objective of all development efforts, following goals and strategies agreed upon at the Millennium Summit.

17. Globalization and continuing rapid technological advances offer unprecedented opportunities for social and economic development. At the same time, they present serious challenges, including widespread financial crises, insecurity, poverty, exclusion and inequality within and among societies. Our challenge is to harness the forces of globalization to make them work for the benefit of all children. Massive investment in education and training to enable all children to partake in the breakthroughs in information and communication technologies will help close the "digital divide", ensuring that globalization becomes more inclusive and that its benefits are shared evenly and equitably.

18. Discrimination promotes a self-perpetuating cycle of social and economic exclusion. We will make every effort to tackle the causes and impact of discrimination on children, whether rooted in race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status.

19. We will take all necessary measures to ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by children with disabilities, ensuring their dignity, promoting their self-reliance, and facilitating their active participation in the community, including access to services.

20. The achievement of goals for children, particularly for girls, will be advanced if women enjoy equality within families and societies and are protected against violence and abuse. We are determined to provide special attention and protection to the girl child, as she is so often an object of discrimination from the earliest stages of life. We will promote full gender equality and equal access for girls and boys to services, including education, primary health care and nutrition, and will mainstream a gender perspective in all development policies and programmes.

21. It is vital that national goals for children include targets for reducing disparities, many of which arise from discrimination and form a core violation of the rights of the child. This will help to highlight gaps in performance and focus efforts on reducing disparities between girls and boys, between rural and urban families, and between wealthy and poor children.

22. A number of global environmental trends need to be addressed to ensure the future well-being of children, including the challenges of inadequate sanitation, poor hygiene, unsafe drinking water, air pollution, hazardous wastes and crowded housing, all of which harm the physical and mental development of hundreds of millions of children.

23. We will therefore take measures to manage our natural resources prudently and help to break the vicious cycle of poverty and environmental degradation. We will work to change wasteful consumption patterns and help to inspire all children to respect the natural environment.

24. Many international treaties and United Nations conventions are essential foundations for building a world fit for children. We encourage all countries to sign and ratify or accede to and implement these instruments⁷ as soon as possible.

25. The principles contained in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other relevant human rights instruments, which ensure the best interests of the child, non-discrimination, participation, and survival and development, provide the best normative framework for all our actions. We therefore commit ourselves to implementing this Plan of Action by:

(a) Strengthening legislation and policies, and allocating resources to advance the rights of the child;

(b) Enhancing widespread understanding of child rights;

(c) Establishing national mechanisms, such as independent ombudspersons for children, to assess the impact of our actions and to hold us accountable for our obligations to children.

Partnerships and participation

26. Our nations and communities are united in solidarity with children, and we recognize that everyone can be a leader for children. We will strengthen our partnership with the following actors in particular, who have unique contributions to make, and encourage the use of all avenues for participation to advance our common cause — the realization of children's rights:

- **Children** themselves, around the world, must be enabled, in accordance with their evolving capacities, to identify their own priorities and participate in processes and decisions that affect them. Their energy and creativity must be nurtured so they can actively take part in shaping their environment, their societies and the world they will inherit.
- **Adolescents**, as children in transition to adulthood, must be enabled to express their views freely, acquire knowledge and skills to cope with the demands of adult life, such as conflict resolution, decision-making and communication, and be empowered to build a better future. Disadvantaged and marginalized adolescents in particular need attention and support in order to have access to services, build self-esteem and take responsibility for their own lives.
- **Families** have a critical role and responsibilities for the well-being of children and must be supported so that parents, guardians and caregivers have the capacity to fulfil their obligations. Policies and programmes should also promote shared responsibility of parents, women and men, and society as a whole in this regard.
- **NGOs** and community-based organizations will be supported in their work, and mechanisms must be established to facilitate the participation of civil society in matters relating to children. Civil society actors have a special role to play in promoting, supporting and monitoring positive behaviour and attitudinal change at the community and family levels that will bring about social transformation in favour of children.
- The **private sector** and corporate entities have a special contribution to make, from adopting and adhering to practices that demonstrate social responsibility

to providing resources for microcredit and community improvement schemes that benefit children.

- **Local governments and authorities**, through strengthened partnerships at all levels, can ensure that children are at the centre of agendas for development and the strengthening of communities, building on initiatives with mayors and local leaders to establish child-friendly communities and cities without slums so that the lives of children may be significantly improved.
- **Parliamentarians or members of legislatures** are urged to ensure legislative reform and expanded awareness-raising necessary for implementing this Plan of Action, allocate increased financial resources and monitor their effective utilization.
- **Religious, spiritual and cultural leaders**, with their tremendous outreach, have a key role as front-line actors for children, translating priorities into terms relevant to their communities and mobilizing and inspiring people to take action for children.
- The **mass media** have a key role to play in raising awareness of the situation of children, calling attention to the challenges facing them as well as initiatives that promote the fulfilment of their rights.

B. Goals, strategies and actions

27. The world now has the normative framework, the communications capacity, the technical know-how and the financial resources to meet the most pressing needs of children and to fulfil their rights.

28. Since the World Summit for Children, many goals and targets relevant to children have been endorsed by major United Nations summits and conferences, including the Millennium Summit. As a step towards building a strong foundation for attaining the 2015 international development targets, we resolve to achieve a set of intermediate goals and targets during the course of this decade (2000-2010) in the priority areas of action set out below.

1. Promoting healthy lives

29. It is unconscionable that more than 10 million children under five years of age die every year of preventable diseases and malnutrition; that complications in pregnancy and childbirth kill more than half a million women and adolescent girls a year and injure many more; that more than one billion people cannot obtain safe drinking water; and that more than two billion people lack access to adequate sanitation.

30. We are determined to break the intergenerational cycle of malnutrition and poor health by providing a safe and healthy start in life for all children, providing primary health care in all communities and promoting a healthy lifestyle among adolescents and adults. Accordingly, we resolve to achieve by 2010:

- (a) Reduction in the infant and under-five mortality rate by at least one third;
- (b) Reduction in the maternal mortality ratio by at least one third;

(c) Reduction of child malnutrition among children under five years of age by at least one third, with special attention to children under two years of age;

(d) Reduction in the number of people without access to hygienic sanitation facilities and affordable and safe drinking water by at least one third;

(e) Development and implementation of national early childhood development policies and programmes to ensure the enhancement of children's physical, social, emotional, cognitive and spiritual development.

31. To achieve these goals and targets, we will carry out the following strategies and actions:

- Ensure that the reduction of maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality is a health sector priority, and that all women and adolescent girls have access to affordable, quality reproductive health services, as agreed at the International Conference on Population and Development and reaffirmed at its five-year review, including birth spacing, prenatal care and essential obstetric care and care for newborns.
- Protect, promote and support exclusive breastfeeding of infants for about six months, and continued breastfeeding with adequate complementary foods well into the second year.
- Ensure routine childhood immunization of at least 80 per cent of children under one year of age in every district; reduce deaths due to measles by half by 2005; eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus by 2005; and extend the benefits of new and improved vaccines and other preventive health interventions to children in all countries.
- Certify by 2005 the global eradication of poliomyelitis.
- Eradicate guinea worm disease.
- Provide education and information to parents, caregivers and families to promote early childhood development programmes, using nationally defined goals and indicators to monitor children's physical, psychosocial and intellectual development.
- Intensify proven, cost-effective actions against diseases and malnutrition that are the major causes of child mortality and morbidity, including by reducing by one third deaths due to acute respiratory infections and by one half deaths due to diarrhoea among children under the age of five; reduce by half the burden of disease associated with malaria; reduce by half tuberculosis deaths and prevalence; and reduce the incidence of intestinal parasites and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS.
- Improve maternal and child nutrition through household food security, access to basic health services and adequate caring practices, and reduce the rate of low birth weight to less than 10 per cent.
- Strengthen health and education systems to provide integrated and effective health, nutrition and child care in families, communities, schools and primary health care facilities.
- Reduce child injuries caused by accidents.

- Ensure access by children with disabilities to proper treatment and care.
- Provide appropriate, user-friendly and accessible health services, including reproductive and mental health services, to adolescents.
- Promote healthy lifestyles among adolescents, especially to protect against the harmful effects of tobacco, alcohol and drug abuse, which are often associated with accidents, violence and suicide among adolescents.
- Achieve sustainable elimination of iodine deficiency disorders by 2005 and vitamin A deficiency by 2010; reduce by one third the incidence of anaemia, including iron deficiency, by 2010; and accelerate progress towards reduction of other micronutrient deficiencies, through food fortification and supplementation.
- In efforts to ensure universal access to safe water and adequate sanitation, pay greater attention to building family and community capacity for managing existing systems and promoting behavioural change through health and hygiene education.

2. Providing quality education

32. Education is a human right — and a key to reducing poverty and child labour and promoting democracy and development. Yet more than 100 million children of primary school age, the majority of them girls, are not enrolled in school. Millions more are taught by untrained and underpaid teachers in overcrowded, unhealthy and poorly equipped classrooms. And one third of all children do not complete five years of schooling, the minimum required for basic literacy.

33. Ensuring free, compulsory primary education of good quality to all children is therefore a high priority, as is the progressive provision of secondary education. As a step towards achieving the goals set at the World Education Forum, we resolve to achieve the following targets:

- (a) Eliminate gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2005;
- (b) Reduce the number of primary school-age children who are out of school by 50 per cent and increase net primary school enrolment to at least 90 per cent by 2010;
- (c) Improve the quality of basic education to enhance children's levels of learning in numeracy, literacy and life skills.

34. To achieve these goals and targets, we will implement the following strategies and actions:

- Develop and implement special strategies to ensure that schools are readily accessible to children and affordable for their families, and search more actively for children not enrolled in school and help them to enrol and succeed.
- Develop and implement special strategies for improving the quality of education, remove barriers to education for children excluded from school, and meet the learning needs of all.
- Create, with children, a child-friendly learning environment, in which students feel safe, are protected from abuse and discrimination and are encouraged to

learn. An essential part of this process is education for peace, tolerance, human rights and gender equality, using to maximum effect the opportunity presented by the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010).

- Develop and implement programmes that specifically aim to eliminate gender disparities in enrolment and gender-based discrimination in education systems, whether derived from discriminatory cultural traditions, social attitudes and practices, or legal and economic circumstances.
- Ensure that basic education programmes are responsive to the special learning needs of children with various forms of disabilities.
- Provide quality basic education for indigenous and minority children that enables them to preserve their cultural identity.
- Provide education and training opportunities to adolescents to acquire sustainable livelihoods.
- Promote innovative programmes to provide incentives to low-income families with school-age children to ensure that their children are not obliged to work in a way that interferes with their schooling.
- Enhance the status, morale and professionalism of teachers, ensuring appropriate remuneration for their work.
- Develop responsive, participatory and accountable systems of educational governance and management at the school, community and national levels.
- Meet the learning needs of children affected by crisis — including armed conflict, natural disasters and social instability — and conduct education programmes in ways that help to prevent violence and conflict.
- Provide opportunities for adequate and appropriate physical education, recreation and sports.
- Harness rapidly evolving information and communication technologies to support basic education at an affordable cost, while reducing inequity in access and quality.

3. Protecting against abuse, exploitation and violence

35. Social and economic pressures are undermining the crucial role of parents and families in ensuring that children grow up in a safe, stable and nurturing environment. During the 1990s, more than two million children died as a result of armed conflict, more than three times that number were permanently disabled or seriously injured, and, at the end of the decade, some 20 million children were internally displaced or driven from their countries as refugees. More than 100 million children are trapped in the worst forms of child labour. Millions of children are victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation.

36. Children have the right to be protected against all abuse, exploitation and violence. Societies must ensure that no form of violence against children is ever considered acceptable. Accordingly, we resolve to:

- (a) Protect children from all forms of abuse, exploitation and violence;

- (b) Protect children from the impact of armed conflict and forced displacement, and ensure compliance with international humanitarian law;
- (c) Eliminate sexual exploitation and all forms of trafficking of children;
- (d) Eliminate the worst forms of child labour.

37. To achieve these goals, we will implement the following strategies and actions:

General protection

- Develop systems to ensure the registration of every child at or shortly after birth.
- Encourage all countries to adopt and enforce laws and improve the implementation of policies and programmes to protect children from all forms of violence, whether at home, in school or other institutions or in the community.
- End impunity for crimes against children by bringing perpetrators to justice and publicizing the penalties for such crimes.
- Through political and religious leadership, advocacy and community education, make known the illegality and harmful consequences of failing to protect children from violence, abuse and exploitation.
- Promote law enforcement and separate juvenile justice systems that fully safeguard children's rights, with specially trained staff, and that promote children's reintegration in society.
- Protect children from torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, including corporal punishment.
- End harmful traditional practices, such as early marriage and female genital mutilation, that undermine the rights of children and women.
- Establish mechanisms to provide special protection and assistance to children without primary caregivers.
- Adopt special measures, including campaigns at the community level, to eliminate discrimination against children who are disabled, orphaned, migrant or stateless, and those belonging to minority or indigenous groups, and ensure their access to education, health and social services.
- Adopt and implement policies for the protection, rehabilitation and reintegration of children working and/or living on the street, and ensure economic and social solutions to address their problems.
- Protect children from adoption practices that are exploitative and that are not in their best interests.
- Ensure that children affected by natural disasters receive timely and effective humanitarian assistance through a commitment to improved contingency planning and emergency preparedness, and that they are given all possible assistance and protection to help them resume a normal life as soon as possible.

Protection from armed conflict

- Strengthen the protection of children affected by armed conflict and foreign occupation, including through the systematic monitoring of violations of their rights.
- Ensure that issues pertaining to the rights and protection of children are fully reflected in the agendas of peace processes and in ensuing peace agreements, and are incorporated into United Nations peace operations.
- End the use of child soldiers and ensure that children do not take part in hostilities.
- Curb the illicit flow of small arms and eliminate threats posed by landmines, unexploded ordnance and other war matériel that victimize children.
- Protect refugee children, unaccompanied children seeking asylum and internally displaced children, who are particularly exposed to risks in connection with armed conflict, and pay particular attention to programmes for voluntary repatriation and, wherever possible, local integration and resettlement, to give priority to family tracing and reunification.
- Ensure safe and unhindered access to children affected by armed conflict, and give particular emphasis to education and family reunification.
- Assess and monitor the impact of sanctions on children, and ensure humanitarian exemptions that are child-focused and formulated with clear guidelines for their application in order to address possible adverse effects of the sanctions.

Elimination of child labour

- Develop effective and time-bound programmes to eliminate the worst forms of child labour through prevention, protection and rehabilitation.
- Ensure access to free, quality basic education and, wherever possible and appropriate, vocational training for all children.
- Give greater visibility to child labour through strengthened data collection, analysis and dissemination.
- Promote awareness of children's rights to protection from economic exploitation, and the need for priority action against the worst forms of child labour.

Elimination of sexual exploitation of children

- Raise awareness of the illegality and harmful consequences of the sexual exploitation of children, identify and address the underlying causes of sexual exploitation and protect the safety of victims of trafficking and exploitation.
- Enlist the support of the private sector in a campaign against trafficking and sexual exploitation of children, especially through tourism and the Internet.
- Monitor and share information regionally and internationally on the cross-border trafficking of children, and educate border and judicial officials to respect the dignity of women and children who have been trafficked.

- Enhance international cooperation to combat the criminal use of information technologies, such as the Internet, for the sale of children and for child prostitution and pornography.

4. Combating HIV/AIDS [to be updated and informed by preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS]

38. The HIV/AIDS pandemic is having a devastating effect on children and those who provide care for them. This includes the 13 million children orphaned by AIDS, the nearly 600,000 infants infected every year through mother-to-child transmission, and the millions of HIV-positive young people living with the stigma of HIV but without access to adequate counselling, care and support.

39. To combat the devastating impact of HIV/AIDS on children, we resolve to take urgent and aggressive action to:

(a) Reduce HIV infection rates in young persons aged 15 to 24 by at least 25 per cent in the most affected countries by 2005, and by 25 per cent globally by 2010;

(b) Provide at least 75 per cent of HIV-infected women throughout the world by 2010 with effective treatment and care to reduce mother-to-child transmission of HIV;

(c) By 2003, all countries should have in place explicit plans to provide orphans and children in families affected by HIV/AIDS, access to education, health and social services on an equal basis with other children, and to regularly monitor the care, health and well-being of all orphaned children.

40. To achieve these goals, we will implement the strategies and actions endorsed by the General Assembly at its special session on HIV/AIDS, in particular:

- Prevent new infections through bolder action to ensure that all children, adolescents and caregivers are fully informed about HIV/AIDS and provided with life skills and learning opportunities to reduce their vulnerability.
- Take special actions to reduce the vulnerability of children and adolescents at particularly high risk of HIV infection — adolescent girls, street children, injecting drug users, sexually exploited children, and children and adolescents affected by violence and conflict.
- Expand and strengthen efforts to work effectively with young people as partners in planning and implementing interventions for prevention, care and support of children and adolescents affected by HIV/AIDS, and promote the access of adolescents to information, life skills, services, care and support that can help them protect themselves from HIV/AIDS and that address the particular vulnerability of adolescent girls.
- Minimize mother-to-child transmission of HIV by preventing HIV infection in pregnancy, while expanding access to voluntary, confidential care and testing to enable pregnant women to know their status and be supported in decisions related to their own health and that of their child. This will entail improving antenatal care and ensuring safe delivery through the use of anti-retroviral drugs, promotion of appropriate infant feeding, and care for the health and well-being of mothers living with HIV.

- Strengthen health and education services and family and community networks to provide care and support for children, adolescents and parents living with HIV/AIDS. Sensitize parents, caregivers, health workers and teachers, and equip them to respond to the special care needs of HIV/AIDS-affected children.
- Provide special assistance to support children orphaned by HIV/AIDS.
- Pursue all options to expand access to essential drugs, including anti-retroviral drugs. Use global trade policies more effectively to increase the availability of low-cost generic drugs, and pursue opportunities for compulsory licensing and expansion of national manufacturing capacities, where appropriate, to ensure the availability of affordable drugs.

C. Mobilizing resources

41. Promoting healthy lives, providing quality education, protecting children from abuse, exploitation and violence, and combating HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases are achievable goals and are clearly affordable for the global community.

42. Investments in children are extraordinarily productive if they are sustained over the medium to long terms. Investing in children lays the foundation for a strong economy, a just society and a world free of poverty.

43. We will use, to the maximum extent, all available resources, both nationally and, where needed, within the framework of international cooperation, including South-South cooperation, to implement the goals and objectives of this Plan of Action.

44. Accordingly, we resolve to pursue the following global targets for mobilizing resources for children:

(a) Encourage donor and recipient countries, based on mutual agreement and commitment, to fully implement the 20/20 Initiative, in line with the Oslo and Hanoi consensus documents, to ensure universal access to basic social services;

(b) Strive to fulfil the yet-to-be-attained internationally agreed target of 0.7 per cent of the gross national product of developed countries for overall official development assistance as soon as possible;

(c) Accelerate debt relief for poverty reduction in developing countries, in particular least developed countries and the heavily indebted poor countries;

(d) Adopt a policy of duty- and quota-free access for all exports but arms from least developed countries;

(e) Make efforts to mobilize domestic resources for social development and reduce disparities at the national level.

45. We will give priority attention to the needs of children in least developed countries and in sub-Saharan Africa.

46. We will respond positively to the special needs of developing countries, in particular of the landlocked developing countries, small island developing countries, and countries in transition, in their efforts to improve the well-being of children and the protection of their rights.

47. The fulfilment of the rights of the child merits new partnerships with civil society, including with NGOs and the private sector, and innovative arrangements for mobilizing additional resources, both private and public.

48. We call on the private sector to assume greater corporate social responsibility, to monitor the impact of their policies and practices on children, and to make the benefits of research and development in science, medical technology, food fortification, education and mass communication available to all children, particularly to those in greatest need.

49. We call for the full collaboration of all relevant United Nations bodies, as well as the Bretton Woods institutions, multilateral agencies and civil society, to take determined, sustained action and give high priority to the achievement of the goals of this Plan of Action, as well as to other agreed international development targets, to accelerate progress for children.

D. Follow-up actions and monitoring

50. We will develop national and, where appropriate, regional action plans by the end of 2002, with a set of specific, time-bound and measurable goals and targets based on this Plan of Action, with appropriate adaptation to specific country situations. We will make these goals for children an integral part of our national and subnational development programmes, poverty reduction strategies, sector-wide approaches and other relevant development plans.

51. We will monitor progress towards the goals and targets in this Plan of Action and other relevant international development targets. Accordingly, we will strengthen our national statistical capacity to collect, analyse and disaggregate data, including by sex, age and relevant disparities, and build community capacity for self-monitoring and planning. At the regional level, we will hold high-level periodic reviews, as appropriate, to share best practices, strengthen partnerships, and accelerate progress.

52. We will conduct periodic reviews of progress in order to more effectively address obstacles and accelerate actions. Therefore:

(a) We request the Committee on the Rights of the Child to include, in its review of national reports, efforts made by States parties to achieve the goals and targets for children as agreed in the present Plan of Action.

(b) We request the United Nations Children's Fund, as the world's lead agency for children, to periodically prepare, in collaboration with relevant United Nations organs, agencies and mechanisms, the Bretton Woods institutions and other multilateral bodies, as well as with civil society, a consolidated analysis of actions taken by individual countries and the international community in support of the objectives of the present Plan of Action.

(c) We request the Secretary-General to report regularly to the General Assembly on the progress made in implementing the present Plan of Action.

53. We hereby commit ourselves to create a world fit for children, building on the achievements of the past decade and guided by the principle of a "first call for children". In solidarity with a broad range of partners, we will lead a global movement for children that creates unstoppable momentum for change. We make

this solemn pledge, secure in the knowledge that in serving the best interests of children, we serve the best interests of all humanity.

Notes

¹ A/S-27/3.

² “Children” are defined as all human beings under the age of 18.

³ General Assembly resolution 55/2.

⁴ General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex.

⁵ A/53/186.

⁶ General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex.

⁷ The Convention on the Rights of the Child and its optional protocols on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (General Assembly resolution 54/263, annexes I and II); the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex); International Labour Organization Conventions Nos. 138 and 182 on child labour; the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (A/CONF.183/9); the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (see CD/1478); the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (General Assembly resolution 55/25, annex I); and the Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption.
