



S-27/2. A world fit for children

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4. We reaffirm our obligation to take action to promote and protect the rights of each child – every human being below the age of 18 years, including adolescents. We are determined to respect the dignity and to secure the well-being of all children. We acknowledge that the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the most universally embraced human rights treaty in history, and the Optional Protocols thereto, contain a comprehensive set of international legal standards for the protection and well-being of children. We also recognize the importance of other international instruments relevant for children.

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Excerpted from Annex I. Declaration

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Partnerships and participation

32. In order to implement the present Plan of Action, **we will strengthen our partnership with the following actors**, who have unique contributions to make, and encourage the use of all avenues for participation to advance our common cause — the well-being of children and the promotion and protection of their rights:

1. **Children, including adolescents**, must be enabled to exercise their right to express their views freely, according to their evolving capacity, and build self-esteem, acquire knowledge and skills, such as those for conflict resolution, decision-making and communication, to meet the challenges of life. The right of children, including adolescents, to express themselves freely must be respected and promoted and their views taken into account in all matters affecting them, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child. The energy and creativity of children and young people must be nurtured so that they can actively take part in shaping their environment, their societies and the world they will inherit. Disadvantaged and marginalized children, including adolescents in particular, need special attention and support to access basic services, to build self-esteem and to prepare them to take responsibility for their own lives. We will strive to develop and implement programmes to promote meaningful participation by children, including adolescents, in decision-making processes, including in families and schools and at the local and national levels.
2. **Parents, families, legal guardians and other caregivers** have the primary role and responsibility for the well-being of children, and must be supported in the performance of their

child-rearing responsibilities. All our policies and programmes should promote the shared responsibility of parents, families, legal guardians and other caregivers, and society as a whole in this regard.

3. **Local governments and authorities through, *inter alia*, strengthened partnerships at all levels, can ensure that children are at the centre of agendas for development. By building on ongoing initiatives, such as child-friendly communities and cities without slums, mayors and local leaders can improve significantly the lives of children.**

4. **Parliamentarians or members of legislatures** are key to the implementation of the present Plan of Action, the success of which will require that they promote awareness-raising, adopt necessary legislation, facilitate and appropriate the financial resources needed for this purpose, and monitor their effective utilization.

5. **Non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations** will be supported in their work and mechanisms should be established, where appropriate, to facilitate the participation of civil society in matters relating to children. Civil society actors have a special role to play in promoting and supporting positive behaviour and creating an environment that is conducive to the well-being of children.

6. **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, including innovative sources of financing and community improvement schemes that benefit children, such as microcredits.

7. **Religious, spiritual, cultural and indigenous leaders**, with their tremendous outreach, have a key role as front-line actors for children to help to translate the goals and targets of the present Plan of Action into priorities for their communities and to mobilize and inspire people to take action in favour of children.

8. **The mass media** and their organizations have a key role to play in raising awareness about the situation of children and the challenges facing them. They should also play a more active role in informing children, parents, families and the general public about initiatives that protect and promote the rights of children, and should also contribute to educational programmes for children. In this regard, the media should be attentive to their influence on children.

9. **Regional and international organizations, in particular all United Nations bodies, as well as the Bretton Woods institutions and other multilateral agencies**, should be encouraged to collaborate and play a key role in accelerating and achieving progress for children.

10. **People who work directly with children** have great responsibilities. It is important to enhance their status, morale and professionalism.

[...]

Excerpted from Annex III. Plan of Action

[...]

59. **To facilitate the implementation of actions committed to in this document, we will develop or strengthen as a matter of urgency, if possible by the end of 2003, national and, where appropriate, regional action plans with a set of specific time-bound and measurable goals and targets based on the present Plan of Action**, taking into account the best interests of the child, consistent with national laws, religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of the people and in conformity with all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

We will therefore strengthen our national planning and ensure the necessary coordination, implementation and resources. We will integrate the goals of the present Plan of Action into our national Government policies as well as **national and subnational development programmes**, poverty eradication strategies, **multisectoral approaches** and other relevant development plans,

in cooperation with relevant civil society actors, including non-governmental organizations working for and with children, as well as children, in accordance with their age and maturity, and their families.

60. **We will monitor regularly at the national level and, where appropriate, at the regional level and assess progress towards the goals and targets of the present Plan of Action at the national, regional and global levels.** Accordingly, we will strengthen our national statistical capacity to collect, analyse and **disaggregate data**, including by sex, age and other relevant factors that may lead to disparities, and support a wide range of **child-focused research**. **We will enhance international cooperation to support statistical capacity-building efforts and build community capacity for monitoring, assessment and planning.**

61. **We will conduct periodic reviews at the national and subnational levels** of progress in order to address obstacles more effectively and accelerate actions. **At the regional level, such reviews will be used to share best practices, strengthen partnerships and accelerate progress.**

Therefore:

(a) We encourage States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child to consider including in their reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child information on measures taken and results achieved in the implementation of the present Plan of Action;

(b) As the world's lead agency for children, the United Nations Children's Fund is requested to continue to prepare and disseminate, in close collaboration with governments, relevant funds, programmes and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, and all other relevant actors, as appropriate, information on the progress made in the implementation of the Declaration and the Plan of Action. The governing bodies of the relevant specialized agencies are requested to ensure that, within their mandates, the fullest possible support is given by these agencies for the achievement of the goals outlined in the Plan of Action and to keep the General Assembly of the United Nations, through the Economic and Social Council, fully informed of progress to date and additional action required during the decade ahead, using existing reporting frameworks and procedures;

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

62. We hereby recommit ourselves to spare no effort in continuing with the creation of a world fit for children, building on the achievements of the past decade and guided by the principles of first call for children. In solidarity with a broad range of partners, we will lead a global movement for children that creates an unstoppable momentum for change. We make this solemn pledge secure in the knowledge that, in giving high priority to the rights of children, to their survival and to their protection and development, we serve the best interests of all humanity and ensure the well-being of all children in all societies.

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Excerpted from Annex D. Follow-up actions and assessment