



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

10 December 2007

Excellency,

Please find enclosed for your reference the agreed draft Declaration to be adopted at the Commemorative High Level Plenary Meeting devoted to the follow-up to the outcome of the Special Session on Children.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Permanent Representative of Brazil, Ambassador Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, for her valuable work as Facilitator of the consultation process as well as all delegations for their active and constructive participation.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my sincerest appreciation.

Srgjan Kerim

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Srgjan Kerim', written over a light blue horizontal line.

All Permanent Representatives
to the United Nations

*Permanent Mission of Brazil
to the United Nations
New York*

Nº 465

New York, 10 December 2007

Excellency,

It is my honour to attach herewith the agreed draft Declaration as an outcome document to be adopted at the commemorative high-level plenary meeting on children.

Further to my appointment as facilitador, on your behalf, I conducted four informal consultations open to all Member States, the Observer State and observers, as well as a number of bilateral meetings with interested delegations.

I wish to thank all delegations for their active and constructive participation. Their spirit of flexibility and cooperation contributed decisively to a friendly atmosphere and a smooth process, which ensured the elaboration of a brief, yet substantive, draft Declaration. The final text conveys a strong message of reaffirmation of the commitments of all States to the full implementation of the Declaration and the Plan of Action contained in the document "A World Fit for Children".

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you once again for your confidence in entrusting me with this important task.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti)
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Brazil
to the United Nations

To
H.E Srgjan Kerim
President of the General Assembly

Draft Declaration of the Commemorative High Level Plenary Meeting devoted to the follow-up to the outcome of the Special Session on Children

1. We, the representatives of States gathered at the commemorative high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly, are encouraged by the progress achieved since 2002 in creating a world fit for children. Fewer children under five are dying each year. More children are in school than ever before. More educational opportunities are being equally extended to girls and boys. More medicines are available for children, including those infected by HIV/AIDS. More laws, policies and plans are in place to protect children from violence, abuse and exploitation. Our present and future actions should build upon those important gains.

2. Yet, many challenges persist. Eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge, as poverty poses difficulties to meeting the needs, protecting and promoting the rights of all children in the world. Despite encouraging achievements, the number of children dying before their fifth birthday remains unacceptably high. Malnutrition, pandemics, including HIV/AIDS, as well as malaria, tuberculosis and other preventable diseases continue to be a hindrance to a healthy life for millions of children. Lack of access to education remains a significant obstacle to their development. A large number of children are still subject to violence, exploitation and abuse, as well as to inequity and discrimination, in particular against the girl-child. We will work to break the cycle of poverty, achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, create an environment that is conducive to the well-being of children, and realize all the rights of the child.

3. We reaffirm our commitments to the full implementation of the Declaration and the Plan of Action contained in “A World Fit for Children”, recognizing that their implementation and the fulfillment of obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Optional Protocols thereto and other relevant international instruments are mutually reinforcing in protecting the rights and promoting the well-being of all children. In all our actions, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.

4. A scaled-up, cross-sectorial response by Governments, increased international cooperation and broader and more focused partnerships, including with the mass media and the private sector, and global, regional and national initiatives are critical to achieve the goals of the special session on children. We reaffirm our determination to pursue the agreed global targets and actions for mobilizing resources for children, in accordance with “A World Fit for Children”.

5. As we welcome the voices and views of children, including adolescents, heard at the commemorative plenary meeting, we strive to strengthen their participation in the decisions that affect them, in accordance with their age and maturity.

6. We renew our political will to intensify our efforts towards building a world fit for children. We are confident that our collective aspirations will be realized if all relevant actors, including civil society, are united for children. 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, bearing in mind that a child should grow up in a safe and supportive family environment. By giving high priority to the rights of children, to their survival and to their protection and development, we serve the best interest of all humanity. In solidarity, we will pursue our common vision of ensuring the well-being of all children in all societies, with a collective sense of urgency.

New York, 12 December, 2007