



# The 20th Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

November 20th, 2009  
United Nations, Trusteeship Council Chamber



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10:00 am – 12:00 pm UN Trusteeship Council Chamber

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### Welcome and Opening Remarks

Master of Ceremony Ishmael Beah

### *20 Years of the Convention*

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon  
President of UNICEF Executive Board H.E. Mr. Oumar Daou  
UNICEF Executive Director Ann M. Veneman

### *All Rights, All Children*

#### Youth Testimonials

Mayra Avellar Neves – Brazil  
Syed Aown Shahzad – Pakistan  
Millicent Atieno Orondo – Kenya

#### Musical Interlude

Composed by UNICEF Canada Ambassador Steve Barakatt  
featuring the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France  
led by UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Maestro Myung-Whun Chung

#### Civil Society Panel Discussion

Moderated by Ann M. Veneman

Emilio Garcia Mendez	Jeroo Billamoria
Archbishop Felix Machado	Nyaradzayi Gubonzvanda
Ioana Maria Barbu	Timothy Shriver

#### *Dream of the Convention*

Music by Baaba Mall

### Master of Ceremony

#### **Ishmael Beah, Author, Activist**

Born in 1980 in Sierra Leone, West Africa, Ishmael is the New York Times bestselling author of *A Long Way Gone, Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*. He is a UNICEF Advocate for Children Affected by War, a member of the Human Rights Watch Children's Advisory Committee, co-founder of the Network for Young People Affected by War (NYPAW).

### Youth Testimonials

#### **Mayra Avellar Neves, Youth Activist**

Mayra is the 2008 Child Peace Prize winner, recognized for her work in advocating for peace and access to education in her native Brazil. Ms. Avellar Neves led a peace march in protest of the violence in the favela where she lives in Rio De Janeiro, prompting the re-opening of schools in her neighbourhood.

#### **Millicent Atieno Orondo, Youth Activist**

Seventeen-year-old Millicent Atieno Orondo lives with her father in an informal settlement, Kangemi, in the outskirts of Nairobi. She was elected by a group of international peers to deliver the closing statement, with recommendations, at the General Assembly's "World Fit for Children, +5" plenary session in 2007.

#### **Syed Aown Shahzad, Youth Activist**

Syed Aown Shahzad is a sixteen-year-old Pakistani exchange student who is currently studying at Middletown High School in New York. Syed comes from an agricultural background. He was a member of the youth delegation that took part in the Secretary-General's High-Level Summit on Climate Change.



## Civil Society Panelists

### **Ioana Maria Barbu, Young Activist**

Barbu, a national of Romania, participated in the global youth consultation on the UN Violence Study in New York in 2006, where she proved to be a youth leader who is passionate about child rights. She is the founder and president of a Romanian NGO that promotes youth leadership.

### **Jeroo Billimoria, Executive Director, Aflatoun International**

Billimoria is a serial social entrepreneur who has founded six organizations including Child Helpline International and Aflatoun, an international NGO that provides children with basic life skills, encourages them to save their resources and start social and financial microenterprises.

### **Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda, General Secretary, World YWCA**

Gumbonzvanda, a trained human rights lawyer from Zimbabwe, has worked on women and children's rights, violence against women, HIV and AIDS, property rights and conflict resolution for more than twenty years. World YWCA is a global network of women leading social and economic change in 125 countries.

### **Emilio Garcia Mendez, Child Rights Expert**

Garcia Mendez, a lawyer and member of the National Parliament of Argentina, is recognized as one of Latin America's foremost experts on child rights, with a particular expertise in juvenile justice and social policies.

### **Felix Machado, Archbishop World Day of Prayer and Action for Children (DPAC), Planning Committee Member**

Ordained as Archbishop of the Catholic Diocese of Nashik, India in 2008, Archbishop Machado is recognized as a champion of inter-religious dialogue. DPAC is a multi-stakeholder initiative that seeks to bring together people of religion and goodwill to safeguard the inviolable dignity of children and promote their well-being.

### **Timothy Shriver, Chairman, Special Olympics International**

As Chairman of Special Olympics since 1996, Shriver serves 3.1 million Special Olympics athletes and their families in 175 countries. Shriver launched the organization's ambitious agenda to recruit more than 2 million new athletes. He has also worked with world leaders to advance the Special Olympics vision.