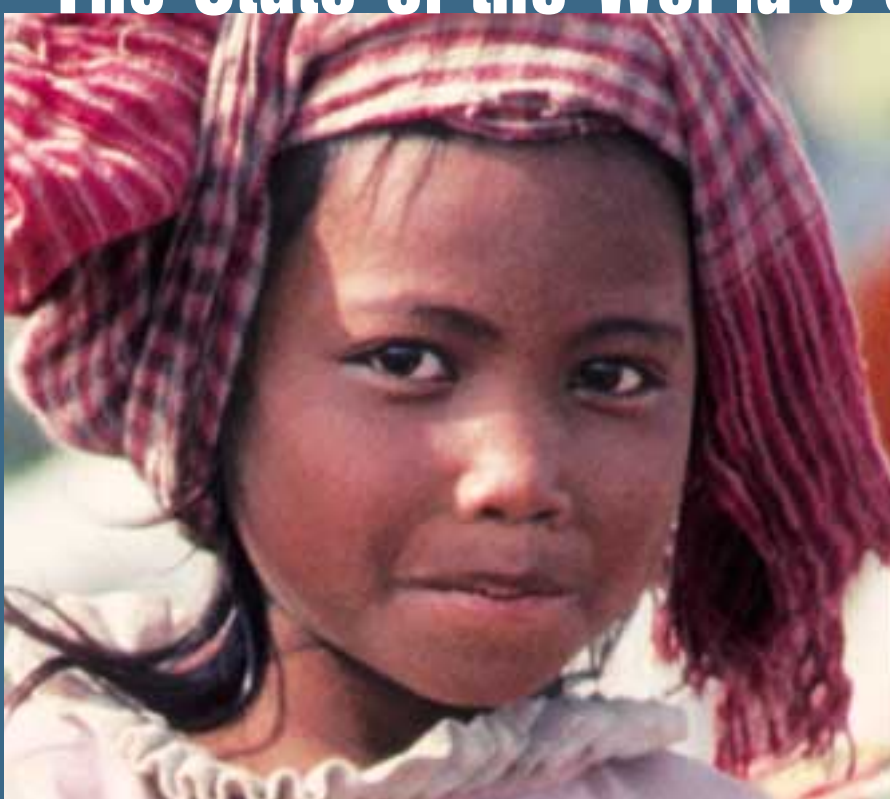




The State of the World's Children 2002

LEADERSHIP



From “The State of the World’s Children 2002”

“Can there be a more sacred duty than our obligation to protect the rights of a child as vigilantly as we protect the rights of every other person? Can there be a greater test of leadership than the task of ensuring these freedoms for every child, in every country, without exception?”

– **Kofi A. Annan**
Secretary-General, United Nations

“Ensuring the rights and well-being of children is the key to sustained development in a country and to peace and security in the world. Meeting this responsibility, fully, consistently and at any cost, is the essence of leadership. Heads of State and Government hold the lion’s share of this responsibility but commitment and action are also called for across the board: from community activists and entrepreneurs, from artists and scientists, from religious leaders and journalists – and from children and adolescents themselves.”

– **Carol Bellamy**
Executive Director, United Nations Children’s Fund

“The future of our children lies in leadership and the choices leaders make.”

– **Graça Machel and Nelson Mandela**
The Global Movement for Children

“We must move children to the centre of the world’s agenda. We must rewrite strategies to reduce poverty so that investments in children are given priority.”

– **Nelson Mandela**
Former President of South Africa

From children around the world

“We want a world where there is no discrimination between boys and girls, between the able and the disabled, between the rich and the poor. We want a healthy, safe and clean environment suitable for all. And we want a decent education and opportunities for play, instead of having to work.”

– **The Change Makers**
representing children from eight countries in South Asia

“... but I am also confident that everybody will contribute to this change, and that we will all live one day in a country with better opportunities for social and economic progress.”

– *El Salvador*

“But when the government officials come to listen to us, they do most of the talking and don’t let us speak enough. They should listen more and let us ask difficult questions.”

– *Ethiopia*

“Maybe they [families] want to listen and understand me, but they react so quickly to whatever I say that I decide to give up and next time not even start. So I tend to tell my problems to my friends, but they don’t have the experience to guide me.”

– *Islamic Republic of Iran*

“I like to live, and with all the problems in my life I look forward to another new year.”

– *Sri Lanka*