

INTERNATIONAL PEDIATRIC ASSOCIATION (IPA): HEALTHY CHILDREN FOR A HEALTHY WORLD

[This document, together with other information on the Special Session on Children, is available on the official site:

<http://www.unicef.org/specialsession>]

In a mood that acknowledged the 11 million children who still die needlessly from preventable or easily treatable diseases, the world's leading organization of paediatricians announced a Call to Action that would mobilize over 500,000 colleagues in all regions to support and promote efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and those of the outcome document of the UN Special Session on Children. "We have the knowledge," said Jane Schaller, President of the IPA. "What is required is to translate this knowledge into action."

Following the theme of this event, 'Healthy Children for a Healthy World', participants affirmed the importance of focusing on the whole child to ensure a healthy body, a healthy mind and a healthy environment." They agreed that a shared vision and shared action is the only way forward. It would mobilize resources and expand coverage of effective health interventions to reach every child and adolescent. National Immunization Days, the promotion of the use of iodized salt and the near-elimination of polio were cited as some of the achievements that can be matched by continued efforts. And Ihsan Dogramaci, a past president of the UNICEF Executive Board, reminded the paediatricians that they must influence policy makers even while they are treating their children.

In their Call to Action, the paediatricians of the world pledged to:

- (1) *Mobilize* our membership worldwide to support and promote efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and the goals outlined in 'A World Fit for Children'.
- (2) *Work* all together for children with other partners as advocates for the attainment of better health for all children everywhere.
- (3) *Join efforts to accelerate* the fight against the HIV/AIDS pandemic that has reached disastrous levels in Africa and is threatening other regions in the world.
- (4) *Promote* the care of mothers and newborns to assure that all children have the best possible start to life.

- (5) *Work for* the highest possible standards of care for children, and support policies that ensure equitable access to basic health care for all children.
- (6) *Foster* active collaboration among professionals, governments, UN agencies, universities, NGOs, institutions, and communities.
- (7) *Establish* Child Watch committees at country level, in collaboration with other partners, to monitor child health, to provide data for regional and global advocacy, and to find the ways forward for meeting child health goals.
- (8) *Advocate* for needed resources for children.
- (9) *Collaborate* with UNICEF, WHO, and other agencies in supporting global efforts that benefit children, such as immunization initiatives, Roll Back Malaria, Stop TB, the Integrated Management of Childhood Illness programme, maternal and newborn health, the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative, the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes, early childhood development, and adolescent health.
- (10) *Call upon* governments to place child health and development high on national and global agendas to ensure that the Millennium Development Goals and the goals outlined in 'A World Fit for Children' are reached in each country.