

## Partnerships for change

Nelson Mandela, Nobel Peace Prize laureate, and Graça Machel, UN special expert on children in armed conflict, are working with UNICEF to build a broad-based constituency to change the world for children.

Together they are calling on leaders from government, civil society and the private sector to form a global partnership committed to ending discrimination against children and adolescents. Their hopes:

- To convince leaders to act
- To inspire and engage the public
- To hear what young people have to say.

The aim of the global partnership is to change the world for children and ensure that every child, without exception, is assured the right to dignity, security and self-fulfilment.

For further information, visit the UNICEF Web site: <[www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org)> or contact your local UNICEF office.

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*"We cannot waste our precious children. Not another one, not another day. It is long past time for us to act on their behalf."*

– Nelson Mandela and Graça Machel, open letter, 6 May 2000



UNICEF/00-0310/Pirozzi

The cover of the UNICEF report features a large, faded UN logo in the background. The title "What's so special about the Special Session on Children?" is written in a large, red, serif font. There are three inset photographs: a woman in a colorful headscarf in the top right, a young boy smiling in the middle right, and a young girl in the bottom left. The text "United Nations General Assembly September 2001" is printed in the bottom right corner.

# What's so special about the Special Session on Children?

United Nations General Assembly  
September 2001

## What is the Special Session on Children?

An unprecedented meeting of the UN General Assembly dedicated to the children and adolescents of the world, the Special Session on Children will bring together government leaders and Heads of State, NGOs, children's advocates and children themselves in September 2001 at the United Nations in New York City.

The gathering will present an extraordinary opportunity to change the way the world views and treats children.

## The Special Session and the 1990 World Summit for Children

The Special Session on Children is an important follow-up to the 1990 World Summit for Children, where 71 Heads of State and Government and other leaders signed the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and adopted a Plan of Action to achieve a set of precise, time-bound goals. The Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted in 1989, had set the foundation for these objectives.

At the 1990 Summit, world leaders agreed on specific goals to improve living conditions for children and their chances for survival by increasing access to health services for women and children; reducing the spread of preventable diseases; creating more opportunities for education; providing better sanitation and greater food supply; and protecting children in danger.

The commitment to realizing the World Summit goals has helped move children and child rights to a place high on the world's agenda.

## What does the Special Session on Children hope to accomplish?

- A review of the progress made for children in the decade since the 1990 World Summit for Children and the World Declaration and Plan of Action.

The end-decade review will comprise national, regional and global reports, charting the achievements of the last decade and serving to inform world leaders as they plan future actions for children.

- A renewed commitment and a pledge for specific actions for the coming decade.

World leaders will explore the long-standing challenges of serving and protecting children, as well as the issues emerging in this rapidly changing world. They will be asked to identify strategic solutions to the problems facing children and to commit the critical human and economic resources that will be called for.

## Expected outcomes of the Special Session

The Special Session is expected to produce a global agenda with a set of goals and plan of action devoted to ensuring three essential outcomes:

- The best possible start in life for all children
- A good-quality basic education for all children
- The opportunities for all children, especially adolescents, for meaningful participation in their communities.

