



**OPENING STATEMENT FROM THE  
CHILDREN'S FORUM  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY PLENARY SESSION ON THE  
COMMEMORATIVE EVENT OF THE  
SPECIAL SESSION/WORLD FIT FOR  
CHILDREN+5**

11<sup>th</sup> of December, 2007

Ninety-three young people,  
Thirty-seven boys and fifty-six girls,  
Aged eleven to eighteen representing,  
Fifty-one countries,  
Despite our twenty different languages,  
We are united for one cause, to create a “World Fit  
for Children”.

Five years ago, children like us spoke for the first  
time in this General Assembly and they presented a  
document called “A World Fit for Us”.

Since then, we young people have been taking  
actions to make that World, A World Fit for Us.

We have raised our voices and taken responsibility for those issues that directly impact us.

We are becoming increasingly involved in forums and organizations, like Children's Parliaments which allow for a free environment for children to learn about their rights and express their opinion.

We have fought for equality in all aspects of gender, age, ability, race and religion.

We believe that our rights are universal, including boys and girls, minority groups, and Indigenous people.

We undertake projects in our home countries that benefit a wide variety of children.

We take various actions to combat issues such as malnutrition, child trafficking and HIV/AIDS, including countries affected by disaster, conflict and war.

We denounce all forms of child exploitation, violence and abuse against children.

We need to establish and maintain those partnerships between young people and those who can ensure that rights are being enforced.

Promises were made in 2002, and we are eager to hear from you as to what has been achieved, and what still is needed to be achieved.

This meeting is a time for honesty, real action and meaningful change, to end poverty and discrimination, to educate our children and fight disease. This is the time for us to come together. This is the time to listen to our words not only with your ears, but also with your hearts.

There are no better people to consult on children's rights, than children themselves. Together, we can continue building A World Fit for Us.

Thank you.

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Delivered by : Mr. Longeni Matsi, 14-year old boy from Namibia – participant in the WFFC+5 Children's Forum.

New York  
Tue 11 December 2007  
10.00 hrs