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UNICEF
1988

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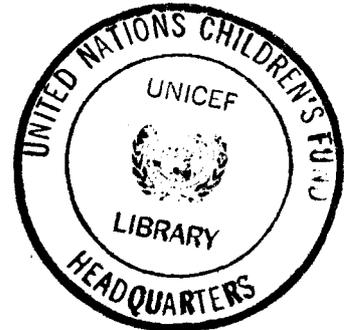
U2.4 Grant, James P.
UNICEF Strategies for
1988 children for the
1990's
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CF/EXD/1988-2919
13 June 1988

To: Regional Directors
Divisional Directors
Representatives
Assistant Representatives

From: James P. Grant *JPG.*
Executive Director

Subject: Strategies for Children for the 1990's



The 1988 Executive Board approved several resolutions which bear on the subject of strategies for children for the coming decade and goals for UNICEF towards the year 2000. The Board also approved the Medium-Term Plan for the period leading up to the year 1991, including the four basic goals to guide UNICEF's work and country programmes during this period (see para. 7, page 5 of E/ICEF/1988/3). This same paragraph of the Medium-Term Plan also notes that UNICEF "will need to begin a careful assessment of its goals for the 1990's". The purpose of this memorandum is to initiate this process.

The Executive Board resolution most directly relevant to this subject is entitled "Strategy for Children", and a copy is enclosed. (Attachment I). There are two principal action requirements following from this resolution: (1) UNICEF is called upon to present to the 1989 Board session "a report on the goals, targets and elements of a global strategy for the well-being of children as an essential part of overall development"; and (2) UNICEF is requested to "work with countries and Governments directly and at regional or subregional level, to help initiate a process of exploration and discussion leading to the formulation of relevant goals for the survival, protection and development of children".

There was also a proposal that regional working groups be formed to assist with the development of a global strategy which would help take into account broad regional variations of conditions and opportunities affecting children. Some donors may be willing to provide special financial support to UNICEF for the work of these regional working groups and for technical meetings. We are now exploring these prospects and hope to have additional information for you within the next few weeks.

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1988

In formulating strategies and goals for the 1990's, it will be important to encourage assessments of past progress towards achieving existing goals for children. Another resolution of the 1988 Board, copy attached (Attachment II), which deals with the observance of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Child, invites Governments to assess achievements during the past decade in relation to the goals which may have been established nationally during IYC. It further urges Governments to ensure "that long-term strategies, within the framework of national development plans, set clear objectives for the overall improvement of the situation of children, including the achievement of the goal to halve the child mortality rates of 1980 by the year 2000, or to reduce them to 70 per 1,000 live births, whichever achieves the greater reduction".

Following the Board meeting, we initiated both formal and informal consultations with Regional Directors and others taking part in the Post Board meetings, regarding the next steps which are required by way of follow-up to these Board decisions. Since the schedule for the preparation of the report to be presented to the 1989 Board is very tight, we reached the decision that the Planning Office should take the lead in preparing a basic draft for this paper. The draft will cover both a first overview of goals and basic elements of strategy and an outline of the process of refining and adapting them during 1989-90 in relation to country, sub-regional and regional situations and to the other parts of the national and international process of planning and strategy making which will be underway in different areas of the world.

To keep the different parts of UNICEF together as this process proceeds, we are also proposing to establish a high-level Working Group, including members from each of our Regions as well as from several Headquarters Divisions. Originally we had hoped that it might be possible for this Group to have its first meeting sometime in July. We are now exploring several alternative dates between July and September. One of the principal purposes of this first meeting would be to reach an agreement on the broad outline of a planning process and workplan to guide this entire effort, especially over the coming 20-22 months leading up to the 1990 Board. We will need nominations of at least one participant from each Regional Director as soon as possible following receipt of this memo. If Regional Directors themselves wish to participate in this first meeting, they should feel free to include a second staff member who may be closely involved in the follow-through for this process. In any event, one participant from each region should have the responsibility to obtain and synthesize contributions of country offices.

Whatever process is finally agreed upon for the longer period leading to the 1990 Board, we will need to ensure that inputs from the field offices for the 1989 Board paper reach New York by early October. In doing so, we should be sure to take full advantage of the substantial work which has already been accomplished in many countries both through situation analyses and country programme recommendations, especially for recent Board submissions.

In responding to this request for regional inputs for the 1989 Board paper, I would request that country and regional offices consider the extent to which the goals recommended in the recently approved "Talloires Declaration", copy enclosed (Attachment III) of the "Bellagio Task Force on Child Survival and Development" may serve as the basis for initial consultations with Governments regarding their goals and targets for children for the coming decade. As you know, these goals were also endorsed at the recent summit conference in Addis Ababa of the Organization of African Unity (OAU). It would also be helpful to have your feedback on the extent to which you expect the Draft Convention on the Rights of the Child to be useful in connection with the goal-setting process and suggestions you may have for enhancing the usefulness of this important opportunity. Contributions towards goal-setting going beyond Talloires or the Draft Convention are also welcome, particularly if further elaboration in the fields of education, nutrition and water supply and sanitation is found necessary.

Fortunately, we can proceed according to a schedule allowing for more thorough internal and external consultation and analysis in 1988 and 1989, leading to the global strategy paper for the 1990 Board, as well as to other actions in 1990 and 1991 concerning implementation strategies for children responding to the differing needs of children in different countries and regions, as well as among different regions within countries. Accordingly, I am also suggesting that the next round of Representatives Meetings or other regional consultations include an initial discussion of appropriate steps and medium-term planning processes for each Region. This should include a discussion of the usefulness of holding some form of regional and sub-regional meeting for government officials and other leaders on goals and child strategies for the 1990s. This may involve a small task force to plan and prepare such a meeting. The SAARC meeting of 1986 may provide something of a model, and I enclose a report (Attachment IV). I am requesting that each Regional Director present a proposed regional strategy and workplan for the 1989-90 period, for "goals and child strategies for the 1990's", at the time of the November 1988 Regional Directors meeting in New York. In doing so, please consider if regional configurations other than the UNICEF regional structure, as in the case of SAARC, for example, may be necessary.

As a final enclosure, I am including a very preliminary schedule of some of the key elements and dates we will need to keep in mind as we proceed in our work on strategies and goals for the 1990's (Attachment V). We should reach agreement on a "final" schedule by no later than September.

In a telex sent on 24 May to Regional Directors, I requested that this general subject of goals and strategies for the 1990's be discussed at the recent and forthcoming Representatives meetings (or in other consultations which need to be held during the next month or so). General reactions or specific ideas and suggestions which emerge from these preliminary meetings should be sent to the Director of Planning Office at UNICEF Headquarters with copy to the Geographic Section.

Property of UNICEF

E/ICEF/1988/CRP.17
27 April 1988

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND
Executive Board
1988 session

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION SUBMITTED TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD
BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE DRAFTING SESSION ON
DOCUMENT E/ICEF/1988/WP.1/Rev.1

STRATEGY FOR CHILDREN

- Agenda item 3: General debate (Plenary meeting)
Agenda item 2: Major policy review papers (Programme Committee)

The UNICEF Executive Board.

Considering that the development of the child is closely linked to the overall social, cultural and economic development of its society and, in turn, that there is no real development of the society if the needs of a vital section of that society - its children - are not met,

Aware of the gravity of the problems large numbers of mothers, families and children face today and which are likely to grow in importance in the coming years, unless social and economic changes are taken on a much larger scale than at present envisaged,

Recalling the two roles of UNICEF - its advocacy role for a better understanding by all concerned of the needs of children and its role to support countries in their efforts and to enable them to satisfy these needs on their own.

1. Requests the Executive Director to prepare, within the resources in existing budgets of UNICEF for consideration by the Executive Board at its 1989 session, a report on the goals, targets and elements of a global strategy for the well-being of children as an essential part of overall development. This strategy would also provide guidelines for UNICEF input into the construction of development goals for the year 2000 and of an international development strategy for the 1990s, the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, provided it is adopted by the United Nations General Assembly;

2. Further requests UNICEF to work with countries and Governments directly and at regional or subregional level, to help initiate a process of exploration and discussion leading to the formulation of relevant goals for the survival, protection and development of children;

3. Considers that the strategy for children should seek to address the children's basic needs, the main problems and risks which the children as well as their mothers and families will have to face in the various societies and their causes, and finally to strengthen the capabilities of the countries to control these problems on their own. The strategy would give special attention to the children and households most at risk and to the special needs of the least developed and poorest countries and to the ways and means in which international assistance can best support the efforts to overcome their difficulties;

4. Recommends that the final stage of this process be the adoption in 1990 by the UNICEF Executive Board of both the global strategy for children and, in relation to this, a UNICEF operational strategy for the 1990s. The global strategy for children is intended to promote the development or improvement, by the countries concerned, of national and regional strategies for children;

5. Recommends that both the global and UNICEF strategies, if approved by the Board, be integrated in country programming and the medium-term plan, which remain the basic instruments of UNICEF, as underlined in decision 1987/17.

E/ICEF/1988/CRP.19
27 April 1988

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND
Executive Board
1988 session

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION SUBMITTED TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD BY THE
CHAIRPERSON OF THE DRAFTING SESSION ON DOCUMENT E/ICEF/1988/WP.5/Rev.1

Observance of the tenth anniversary of the
International Year of the Child

The Executive Board,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 31/169 of 21 December 1976
establishing the International Year of the Child and identifying its goals as
advocacy and action,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution A/34/4 of 18 October 1979
designating UNICEF as the lead agency of the United Nations system responsible
for co-ordinating the development aspects of the follow-up activities of the
Year,

Mindful that General Assembly resolution A/34/4 emphasized "the vital
link between programmes benefiting children and the observance of their rights
and the more comprehensive framework of overall economic and social
development in conditions of peace",

Noting with appreciation the assurance given by the Non-Governmental
Organizations Committee on UNICEF of its full support for commemorating 1989,
the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Child, as a year of
specific concern for children,

1. Invites Governments, in accordance with their own country
situations, to observe 1989 as the tenth anniversary of the International Year
of the Child by:

(a) Assessing achievements during the past decade in relation to the
goals established nationally during the International Year of the Child,
especially in the work towards the finalization of the draft Convention on the
Rights of the Child to be considered for adoption by the General Assembly at
its forty-fourth session;

(b) Ensuring that long-term strategies, within the framework of
national development plans, set clear objectives for the overall improvement
of the situation of children, including the achievement of the goal to halve
the global child mortality rates of 1980 by the year 2000, or to reduce them
to ¹⁵⁰ 70 per 1,000 live births, whichever is less;

2. Requests the Executive Director to co-operate with Governments in the attainment of the above objectives through existing country programmes of co-operation and through the secretariat's advocacy mechanisms;

3. Further requests the Executive Director to co-operate with National Committees for UNICEF and the non-governmental community, as appropriate, in the attainment of objectives for the improvement of the situation of children.

1990's PROJECTStrategies and Goals for Children for the Fourth Development Decade
(Preliminary) Calendar of Key Dates

<u>Field/Regional Level</u>	<u>Headquarters</u>	<u>UN-wide and Other External Consultations</u>
<u>1988</u>		
<u>June</u>		
EAPRO/ROSCA Representatives Meeting MENA Representatives Meeting TACRO Representatives Meeting	First Draft of Paper on Strategies and Goals for Next Decade (major input for 1989 Board paper); circulate for comment.	Committee on Development Policy (CDP) discussion
<u>July</u>		
(Regional and country-specific action continues, as appropriate in each case)	Meeting of 1990's Planning Working Group (Regional and Headquarters participation); (alternate dates in August and September being explored). Deputies Consultation (22-23)	Tidewater Meeting
<u>September</u>		
	Draft 1989 Board paper available for preliminary review. Deputies Consultation (12-13)	North-South Roundtable on Global Goals and Indicators (Amman)
<u>October</u>		
Further consultations at regional level in preparation for November Meeting in New York.		
<u>November</u>		
	Regional Directors' Meeting (13-18)	
<u>December</u>		
	<u>State of the World's Children</u> report launch (focus on 1990's goals).	

Field/Regional Level

Headquarters

UN-wide and Other
External Consultations

1989

National, regional or sub-regional meetings on goals and child strategies for 1990's, as agreed in each case.

1989 Board paper presented (overview and process).

To be determined

Preparation of 1990 Board paper approval (seeking Board approval of 1990's strategies and goals, with regional and other variations).

1990

To be determined

Any major revisions of UNICEF's Medium-Term Plan, as appropriate.

General Assembly considers Development Strategies and Goals for Fourth Development Decade.

1990 Board paper presented.

1991

To be determined

To be determined

UNDP and various UN Agencies to show programme strategies and MTP's in relation to one another (tentative).

(Schedule)