

**Community Health Cell**

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**Sent:** Saturday, May 10, 2003 8:08 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: GMfC Newsletter - April 2003

Dear Dr. Thelma, Girish, Chiranjeeb - FYI. Pankaj

Forward Header

**Subject:** GMfC Newsletter - April 2003

**Author:** [info@gmfc.org](mailto:info@gmfc.org)

**Date:** 5/9/03 5:15 AM

GLOBAL MOVEMENT FOR CHILDREN  
NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2003 EDITION

**FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE UN SPECIAL SESSION ON CHILDREN**

As we celebrate the first anniversary of the General Assembly Special Session on Children 8-10 May, we would like to share with you the Report of the Follow up Actions of the UN Special Session on Children, May 2003 (see link below) prepared by the Child Rights Caucus and UNICEF. This report reviews the progress made one year after the Special Session. It is an effort to summarise what has happened in the last 12 months and the challenges ahead. More than 100 countries have started taking some measures to define their plans of action. But the real work starts now..

It is often said that the goals and plans made at United Nations conferences are rarely met. However, the achievements such as the reduction of infant mortality rates would have probably not been possible without the 1990 World Summit for Children. It is undisputable that many promises to children have been broken, and the fact that millions of children are still deprived of their fundamental rights fill us all with shame. But it is a fact that the "children movement" has been effective and vocal in advancing its agenda.

We would all agree that in May last year we saw one of the most powerful partnerships Among peoples, governments, civil society organizations, private sector, individual leaders, United Nations and children and adolescents working together to commit the world to a global agenda called the World Fit for Children.

We invite you to use this report in reviewing with your national partners the progress made in your countries and regions, and chart out how the World Fit for Children agenda could be further advanced in the coming year. In particular we strongly encourage the apparently 90 countries who have not taken actions to formulate their National Plan of Action or equivalent plan to begin to do so.

We have achieved a great deal in the last 12 months in setting the framework for action. But the real work begins. We sincerely hope that with your combined efforts in the coming months the next year's report will be demonstrating stronger results.

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We are confident that we would all rededicate ourselves in the coming year to the follow up of the Special Session on Children with the same passion we placed to make it a resounding success.

Visit the GMFC.org web site to access the report: [www.gmfc.org](http://www.gmfc.org)

Press release by UNICEF: "A year later, children still waiting for leaders to deliver; Goals Agreed to by All Nations in May 2002 Are Slow to Take Hold":  
<http://www.unicef.org/newsline/2003/03pr32ssoc.htm>

#### A LESSON THE WORLD WILL NEVER FORGET

The Global Action Week of the Global Campaign for Education (GCE) On Wednesday, 9 April, almost 1.5 million people around the world learned "Girls Education: The Biggest Lesson." This lesson informed people of all ages of the urgency to help girls, who account for more than half of all children not in school.

65 million girls are currently unfairly denied access to education. Yet, as Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations mentioned during the Global Action Week of the Global Campaign for Education on 9 April 2003: 'Study after study has taught us that there is no tool for development more effective than the education of girls. No other policy is as likely to raise economic productivity, lower infant and maternal mortality, improve nutrition and promote health -- including the prevention of HIV/AIDS. No other policy is as powerful in increasing the chances of education for the next generation'.

The GCE launched a report called "A Fair Chance" outlining a realistic approach to achieving the UN Millennium Development Goal for attaining gender equality in education by 2005, and drawing lessons from the success of some of the poorest countries in the world that have invested in girls' education. This study can be found at:

<http://www.campaignforeducation.org/html/actionweek/welcome/frameset.shtml>.

More resources and stories of the Global Action Week can be found at the web site of Netaid: <http://www.netaid.org/actionweek>.

#### THE WORKING CHILDREN AND YOUTH'S RIGHTS IMPROVE

The Sixth African Meeting of Working Children and Youth took place in Thies (Senegal) and was closed on April 19 after two weeks of work. The closing ceremony was attended by the Senegalese Ministry of Labour.

The meeting was organised by the African Movement of Working Children and Youth (AMWCY), and attended by delegations of Africa, Latin America and Germany. The African delegates were the representatives of more than 367 grassroots groups, in 53 African Towns. National and International authorities, the GMC Coordinator, the African Movement of Peasants Organizations, NGOs and media also participated.

During the meeting, participants did an assessment on the progress made in the field of working children's rights since the Bamako meeting two years ago (2001). Thanks to the activities undertaken within the associations in all countries, most of the rights had improved (estimate from the Movement, global

progress of 75%).

The rights that have improved the most have been the right to education and training (read, write, and vocational training) and the right to self-expression. Other rights, such as the right to stay in the village and the right to an equitable justice, still need a great effort from all actors. Altogether, belonging to the Movement represents help working children and youth feel empowered and promote their own rights.

Commissions and workshops on activities undertaken by the working children and youth associations in their countries were organised, among these: Income Generating Activities, actions against exploitation, hard labour and child trafficking, lobbying with authorities, and UNGASS follow up.

The AMWCY has been invited to attend the West African Heads of State Summit on children. The African Union invited them to attend their Social Commission meeting in Mauritius, and the African NGO coalition for children also invited them to attend its general meeting in June, and to participate in its executive committee.

In the final declaration of the meeting, working children made an appeal to children, youth, adults and authorities to ensure a peaceful world, needed by the children to work for the progress of their rights and to overcome poverty.

For further information visit: <http://www.enda.sn/eja>

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