

Message from the World For World Organization (WFWO) on the Occasion of the International Day of the Rights of the Child, 20 November 2010

Rome, 20th November 2010 - The World For World Organization (WFWO) and UN NGO IRENE Western Europe call international communities to strengthen the rights of Child as integral part to the human being rights. The Children Rights continue to suffer and violations of their rights, in all regions of the world, deserve our utmost attention and action.

The WFWO/UN NGO IRENE Western Europe is observing the International Day of the Child today 20th November 2010, expressing solidarity of all. WFWO and global community commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The most widely ratified international human rights treaty in history, and its Optional Protocols, articulate the full complement of civil, political, cultural, social and economic rights for all children, based on four core principles: non-discrimination; actions taken in the best interests of the child; the right to life, survival and development; and respect for the views of the child in accordance with age and maturity. These actions is our common responsibility to ensure every child's rights to survival, development, protection and participation to contribute to MDGs objectives." As we celebrate these contributions, we call on Governments and civil society to fulfill their commitment to advancing the status of Child everywhere, in upholding the human rights as integral rights for development of the Child across the globe.



The International Day of the Child Rights is an opportunity to underline the importance of the rights of child, girls and boys around the world. We need a new challenges and action on sustainable developments way to contribute to Millennium Development Goals (MDGs 2,4,6) in order to achieve our common objectives. "The Rights of the Child is the most ratified human rights treaty in human history. It has transformed the way children are viewed and treated throughout the world and these rights are based on four core principles – non-discrimination; the best interest of the child as primary consideration in matters that affect them; rights to life, survival and development, and respect for the views of children It is unacceptable that children are still dying from preventable causes, like, hunger, health, drinking clean water, sanitary facilities, including HIV/AIDS, pneumonia, malaria, measles and malnutrition, many of the world's children will never see the inside of a school room, and millions lack protection against violence, abuse, exploitation, discrimination and neglect" said WFWO Executive President Sidi Cherif.

These are the world's most vulnerable children. Ten years ago, the United Nations Millennium Declaration reaffirmed our collective responsibility to improve their lives by challenging nations, rich and poor alike, to come together around a set of ambitious goals to build a more peaceful, prosperous and just world.

Today, it is clear that we have made significant strides towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), thanks in large part to the collective effort of families, governments, donors, international agencies, civil society and the heroes out in the field, who risk so much to protect so many children. But it is increasingly evident that our progress is uneven in many key areas. In fact, compelling data suggest that in the global push to achieve the MDGs, we are leaving behind millions of the world's most disadvantaged, vulnerable and marginalized children: the children who are facing the longest odds.

The past decade has witnessed considerable progress towards the goals of reducing poverty and hunger, combating disease and mortality, promoting gender equality, expanding education, ensuring safe drinking water and basic sanitation, and building a global partnership for development. But with the MDGs deadline only five years away, it is becoming ever clearer that reaching the poorest and most marginalized communities within countries is pivotal to the realization of the goals.

Many developing countries – including some of the poorest nations – are advancing steadily towards the MDGs. Yet sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and the least developed countries have fallen far behind other developing regions and industrialized countries on most indicators. Nearly half the population of the world's 49 least developed countries is under the age of 18.2 in that sense, these countries are the richest in children. But they are the poorest in terms of child survival and development. They have the highest rates of child mortality and out-of-school children and the lowest rates of access to basic health care, maternity services, safe drinking water and basic sanitation.

Half of the 8.8 million deaths of children under 5 years old in 2008 took place in sub-Saharan Africa alone. Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia together account for more than three quarters of the 100 million primary-school-aged children currently out of school. These two regions also have the highest rates of child marriage, the lowest rates of birth registration and the most limited access to basic health care for children and to maternity services, especially for the poor. South Asia faces unique challenges in enhancing the nutritional status of children and women, improving sanitation facilities and hygiene practices, and eliminating entrenched gender discrimination that undermines efforts towards the goals of universal education and gender equality

Addressing disparities in child survival, development and protection within countries begins with an examination of the available evidence. The recent Human report assesses three primary factors – poverty, gender and geographic location of residence – that greatly affect a child's chances of being registered at birth, surviving the first years of life, having access to primary health care and attending school. Poverty and gender exclusion often intersect with protection risks, further undermining children's rights the most marginalized children are often deprived of their rights in multiple ways. There is evidence within disparities – for example, gender disparities within the poorest communities and in rural areas. In all developing regions, child mortality is notably higher in the lowest-income households than in wealthier households. Children in the poorest quintiles of their societies are nearly three times as likely to be underweight, and doubly at risk of stunting, as children from the richest quintiles. They are also much more likely to be excluded from essential health care services, improved drinking water and sanitation facilities, and primary and secondary education.

The WFWO/UN NGO IRENE Western Europe is committed to advocating universal adherence and implementation of the Declaration and will continue to support and raise public awareness on human rights mechanisms dealing with the human rights from abetting as per United Nations Chart and stand up with the UN System and Governments and civil society and NGOs local communities to act united with determination to close this implementation gap. We need to bring the rights and dignity of those who are suffering most to the centre of our efforts. This requires changes in practices, but we also need improved laws and institutions, without which advances are not sustainable, with the partnership and uproot of all we, can implement our common commitments of the Millennium Developments Goals (MDGs) objectives.

(Source United Nations)

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