

SPECIAL SESSION ON CHILDREN
Parliamentary Forum

Information Note for External Use

1. What are the title, date, time, and location of the event?

Title: Parliamentary Forum

Date: 9 May 2002. **Time:** 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

Venue: Conference Room 4, United Nations building

2. What are the specific purpose/expected outcomes of the Forum?

Purpose

Parliamentarians, recognizing the imperative need for global action for children, will intensify their leadership efforts to make the best interests of the child the principle guiding their legislative actions. Parliamentarians will discuss ways to mobilize their constituencies, parliaments and governments in the realization of child rights.

Outcomes

The actions that participants may wish to undertake include:

1. Use a child rights perspective to assess – before its approval – the impact of any parliamentary/public-policy proposal.
2. Create national Child Rights Commissions and/or parliamentary Select Committees, and children's parliaments.
3. Request the Government and/or the parliament to establish independent offices to monitor, promote and protect children's rights
4. Organize an annual parliamentary plenary discussion on child rights and other issues affecting children.
5. Rally political consensus for meeting one or more of the child-related goals of the Millennium Declaration, the Say Yes Campaign or UNICEF's five Medium-term strategic priorities. Build broad-based coalitions for children and mobilize the resources needed to achieve these goals.

3. Would Parliamentarians have the possibility to attend other supportive events?

Yes. Here below are some possibilities:

The "Financing a world fit for children" session (15:00-16:30, 9 May 2002, Dag Hammarskjöld Auditorium, no interpretation). It is expected that President Vicente Fox of Mexico will give the keynote speech and that the Forum's Rapporteur will be invited to report on the Forum's outcome.

- a) The Children's Forum. Parliamentarians can attend the opening and closing ceremonies only (9:30-10:30 AM, Sunday 5 May 2002, Conference Room 4, and 4:30-5:30 PM, Tuesday 7 May 2002) The Manhattan Centre. Working sessions of the Children's Forum are limited to registered children only
- b) The Child-Friendly Cities Panel. 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM, Wednesday 8 May 2002, Dag Hammarskjöld Auditorium

4. What is the agenda

Two panellists will speak about challenges and future directions of parliamentary work for children. The Chair will then open the general debate. The Rapporteur will summarize the issues discussed during the debate.

Time	Who	
10.00-10.05	Carol Bellamy UNICEF Executive Director	Welcome/Opening remarks
10.05-10.15	Dr Najma Heptullah, President, Council of the IPU and Chair of the Forum	Welcome/Opening remarks.
10.15-10.20	Representatives of the Children's Forum	One or two children will share the outcome of the Children's Forum.
10.20-10.30	Ebrahim (Cas) Saloojee, MP Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Social Development, South Africa	Legislative measures required for the protection of children in keeping with international commitments
10.30-10.40	Glenys Kinnock, MEP Co-president of the ACP - EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly.	Resource mobilization to implement international commitments on children, and the role of parliament in assessing the impact of national budgets and legislation on children.
10.45-12.45	Dr Najma Heptullah Chair	General debate
12.45-12.50	Sadakazu Tanigaki Head of the parliamentary delegation of Japan	Summary of the debate.
12.50-12.55	André Roberfroid UNICEF, Deputy Executive Director	Final remarks
<i>12.55-13.00</i>	Dr. Najma Heptullah	Closing remarks

5. Can participants register to speak in advance?

There are no pre-registration lists for Parliamentarians wishing to intervene. The Chair will give the floor to MPs and will moderate the general debate.

6. What is expected from the Parliamentarians?

Parliamentarians invited to take the floor should focus their interventions on the Forum's purpose, outcomes and the two themes introduced by the two panelists. Speakers from the floor are invited to bring concrete examples on how to reach the expected outcomes of the Forum and particularly to tell the audience how they will take leadership on specific outcomes. They are also invited to limit their intervention to three minutes to leave ample time for other interventions and discussion.

7. Are there any materials to be handed out in advance or at the event? If so, which?

It is expected that some material will be circulated electronically in advance, e.g.,

We the Children Report

-Draft Outcome Document of the Special Session

-IPU-UNICEF background paper on Resource mobilization to implement the international commitments on children, and the role of parliament in assessing the impact of national budgets and legislation on children.

-Compilation of IPU resolutions and statements on children during the period 1985-2002

-Building a World Fit for Children (Summary WTC/WFFC) (IN PRODUCTION)

The following will be provided at the back of the Conference room:

-Say Yes Global Review brochure IN PRODUCTION

-IPU/ILO Handbook for Parliamentarians on *Eradicating the Worst Forms of Child Labour*

8. Who are the expected participants by category and number (include observers)?

Parliamentarians as part of their national delegations (about 150)

Parliamentarians who are not part of national delegations (about 30)

Reps from Children's parliaments (about 10)

NGOs may attend as observers

Representatives of Children's Forum (about 10)

UN Missions may attend as observers

Interested colleagues from the Secretariat/UN Agencies

9. Who is responsible for making arrangements for the Parliamentarians participation to the Forum?

Parliamentarians are expected to make their own travel and other logistical arrangements. It is expected that most parliamentarians attending the Forum will be part of their country delegation to the Special Session, and that missions to the UN will facilitate parliamentarians' accreditation to the Forum. IPU/UNICEF will assist in the accreditation of parliamentarians who are members of regional assemblies.

10. Will there be interpretation?

Yes, in the six UN languages

11. Will there be a press conference?

No. However, parliamentarians can be available for individual interviews

12. Is the Forum open to the media?

The Forum is open to accredited journalists.

Media focal point is Siddharth Dube, Division of Communication, UNICEF: 1.212.326.7709, sdube@unicef.org

13. Are there any security/access/accreditation requirements?

A limited number of Parliamentarians may not be part of national delegations. A duly completed registration form should be sent to the IPU Liaison office in NY, which will transmit to UNICEF for appropriate accreditation. The United Nations will issue accreditation on this basis.

14. Who is the convener of the meeting?

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and UNICEF are the convenors of the meeting.

15. Who are the contact persons at the IPU and UNICEF?

IPU:

Santiago Romero-Perez, Director, Director,
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New York, telephone (212) 557 5880

UNICEF:

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