

INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT ON CHILDREN, POVERTY AND VIOLENCE

October 22 and 23, 2004

Holiday Inn Montreal Airport Hotel, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

FINAL PROGRAMME



**Sommet
International
Summit
(2004)**

**Sur l'enfant
On the Child**



ORGANIZATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS (O.P.C.R.)

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Montreal Airport Hotel

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MESSAGE DU PREMIER MINISTRE DU CANADA
MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA



PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE



Je suis heureux d'adresser mes cordiales salutations à tous les délégués au Sommet sur les enfants, la pauvreté et la violence, sous les auspices de l'Organisation pour la sauvegarde des droits des enfants.

La pauvreté et la violence représentent une menace sérieuse à l'épanouissement des enfants et à cet égard, cette rencontre constitue une initiative intéressante. Elle vous permettra d'échanger des idées, de partager des expériences et de proposer des solutions sur les moyens à prendre pour contrer les effets néfastes de la pauvreté et de la violence chez l'enfant. L'enjeu est d'une grande importance, et votre engagement envers de meilleures conditions de vie pour la jeunesse ne peut être qu'applaudi. Je suis persuadé que votre participation sera des plus enrichissantes, et qu'elle contribuera à faire avancer la cause des enfants.

Paul Martin
Premier ministre du Canada

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to all of the delegates attending the Summit on Children, Poverty and Violence, which is being held under the auspices of the Organization for the Protection of Children's Rights.

Poverty and violence pose a serious threat to children's development, which is why this gathering constitutes such a praiseworthy initiative. It will enable you to exchange ideas, share experiences and propose solutions and steps that can be taken to counter the harmful effects of poverty and violence on children. This is an extremely important issue, and I heartily applaud your commitment to bettering the living conditions of young people. I am certain that you will find this a most rewarding experience, and that your participation will help advance the cause of children's rights.

Paul Martin
Prime Minister of Canada

OTTAWA 2004

MESSAGE DU PREMIER MINISTRE DU QUÉBEC MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER OF QUEBEC



C'est avec plaisir que je souhaite la bienvenue aux personnalités venues de tous les continents participer au Sommet international sur les enfants, la pauvreté et la violence présenté par l'Organisation pour la Sauvegarde des Droits des Enfants.

Les questions liées à la santé, à l'éducation, à l'alimentation, à l'alphabétisation, à la protection légale et sociale des enfants, à la pauvreté et à la violence sont au cœur des préoccupations sociales de toute société. En ce sens, des événements comme celui-ci constituent des lieux d'échanges majeurs de connaissances et d'expériences qui ouvrent la voie à de nouvelles solutions et mesures à prendre en vue du mieux-être de nos enfants.

À vous tous qui avez comme principal objectif l'amélioration des conditions de vie des enfants, la protection et la défense de leurs droits, je lève mon chapeau pour votre contribution inestimable à l'épanouissement de notre jeunesse et à l'avenir de la collectivité.

Félicitations aux organisateurs et excellent Sommet à tous dans la métropole du Québec!

Jean Charest

Premier ministre du Québec

I am pleased to welcome those come from every continent to take part in the International Summit on Children, Poverty and Violence organized by the Organization for the Protection of Children's Rights.

Issues related to health, education, nutrition, literacy, legal and social protection of children, poverty and violence are at the heart of the social concerns of every society. This is why gatherings of this kind are major forums for exchanging knowledge and experience that pave the way for new solutions and measures for the betterment of our children.

I take my hat off to all those whose primary goal is to improve the living conditions of children and to protect and defend their rights. Thank you for your invaluable contribution to the full development of our young people and the future of society.

Congratulations to the organizers and to all, an excellent Summit in the Metropolis!

Jean Charest

Prime Minister of Quebec

Québec 

MESSAGE DU MAIRE DE MONTRÉAL
MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR OF MONTRÉAL



Je suis tout particulièrement heureux de souhaiter la bienvenue aux participantes et participants du Sommet international 2004 de l'Organisation pour la Sauvegarde des Droits des Enfants (O.S.D.E.). Compte tenu du thème choisi, Les enfants, la pauvreté et la violence, vous allez aborder des questions fondamentales pour toute société. Soyez assuré que nous serons nombreux à prêter une attention toute particulière à vos réflexions car aucune collectivité ne peut se désintéresser du sort des enfants, des siens comme des enfants de toute la terre, sans risquer d'y perdre un peu de son humanité.

Je profite de l'occasion qui m'est offerte pour rendre hommage à toutes les femmes et tous les hommes, d'ici et d'ailleurs, qui militent en faveur des droits des enfants et travaillent à l'amélioration de leurs conditions de vie.

Je félicite les organisateurs de cette rencontre pour leur dévouement à une noble cause.

Gérald Tremblay
Maire de Montréal

I am very proud to welcome the participants in the 2004 International Summit of the Organization for the Protection of Children's Rights (O.P.C.R.). Given the theme chosen for this event, Children, Poverty and Violence, it is clear you will be addressing fundamental questions for all of society. Rest assured that many of us will be paying special attention to your work, because no community can be disinterested in the fate of its children, as well as all the world's children, without running the risk of losing some of its humanity.

I would also like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to all the women and men, here and around the world, who campaign for the rights of children, and who work to improve their living conditions.

Congratulations to the organizers of this meeting for their devotion to such a noble cause.

Gérald Tremblay
Mayor of Montreal

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Gerald Tremblay". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Montréal 

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT



More than 50 years since the formation of the UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) and 13 years since the ratification by 191 countries of the most comprehensive document on the rights of the child (the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child), the UN General Assembly Special Session on Children of May 2002 concluded that "much remains to be done to secure survival, health, education and protection from exploitation for the nearly two billion children of the world."

Children continue to suffer and die needlessly everywhere in the world. In the developing countries, a large number of children suffer from poverty, hunger and the destruction of the environment. Exploitation through child labour remains prevalent. In the developed countries, children are victims of family breakdown, psychological and physical violence, suicide, negligence and social disintegration. Sexual exploitation and war claim many more innocent children.

Statistical data from the UNICEF indicates that nearly 650 million children worldwide live in extreme poverty – victims of social abuse, child labour, the sex trade and health disorders. Every year about 11 million children die of preventable causes, often for want of simple and easily provided improvements in nutrition, sanitation and maternal health and education. Everyday, more than 30,000 children around the world die of preventable diseases. Globally, more than 104 million children between the ages of 6 and 11 are not in school, 59 million of them girls.

We live in a violent world. More money and resources have been spent on war activities during the last 50 years than in the entire millennium. We must recognize that, since 1990, almost 80% of the victims of war and conflict have been civilians, mostly women and children. Almost 2 million children were killed, 6 million children injured or disabled and 12 million became homeless in the last decade. The proliferation of small arms, in particular, has caused children to become killers as well as victims of these deadly weapons of destruction. Only a handful of countries have as yet adopted laws to give children the same protection that adults enjoy from physical assault.

Thus, poverty and violence are crucial issues for children worldwide. The human, economic, social and health costs of not addressing these issues are already enormous and pose a serious threat to our future as a society.

It is in this context that the Organization for the Protection of Children's Rights (O.P.C.R.) is organizing a Summit on Children, Poverty and Violence. The O.P.C.R., committed to creating a better future for children everywhere, believes that while the United Nations and other international institutions have already held such events and will probably hold more in the future it is the accumulated efforts of many that will succeed in furthering the cause of children.

FOR THE LOVE OF OUR CHILDREN!

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink.

Riccardo Di Done

Chairperson of the International Summit
Founding President of the O.P.C.R.



POVERTY AND VIOLENCE IN AFRICA

In spite of the fact that the countries of Africa have ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and even implemented a regional treaty, namely the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, many burning issues concerning children's rights and the welfare of children are as yet unresolved in the national laws of many African states.

Although not restricted to Africa, child soldiers, child refugees and displaced children are recurring problems on the African continent. Add to this the effect that drought, famine and disease have on children: The greatest threat that children face at birth is the risk of HIV infection from HIV-positive mothers. In South Africa, one of the countries with the highest number of children living with HIV/AIDS, at least one-quarter of all children in hospital in this country are HIV positive. In some hospitals 70 to 80 per cent of paediatric beds are occupied by HIV-positive infants. But the disease itself, the resultant illness and premature death do not paint the full picture of the devastation that so many children have to face. It is estimated that by 2010, two million children will be orphaned by this pandemic in South Africa alone.

Unfortunately, children also suffer at the hands of family, friends and strangers as abuse and especially sexual abuse is scourging. Sadly one of the most serious forms of sexual abuse namely rape, is also the most prevalent crime committed against children. In South Africa alone 58 children are victims of rape each day. The Human Rights Watch reported that on a daily basis in schools across the nation, South African girls of every race and economic class encounter sexual violence and harassment at school that impedes the realisation of the right to education.

In spite of the fact that many African countries have a proper legal framework and have ratified several international documents aiming at the protection of children, children are still in need of protection. Many African countries tried to improve the protection of children by reforming the laws pertaining to child justice and childcare. But it is not through courts and legislative processes alone that children's rights become a reality. Governments will have to demonstrate the political will to revisit policies and adapt budgets to give context to children's rights. There is still a mammoth task awaiting before realising the African dream.

Catharina J. Davel, B.A., LL.B., LL.D.

Director, Centre for Child Law, University of Pretoria

Member, O.P.C.R. Scientific Committee

Member, International Summit Steering Committee

POVERTY AND VIOLENCE IN ASIA

Children are humanity's future; they are the most vulnerable and defenceless members of society. The protection of their rights is our duty and their violation a crime for which we are all responsible.

In developing countries of Asia, child protection laws such as the Juvenile Justice Act of 1986 (India), the Employment of Children Act of 1991 (Pakistan) and other efforts such as the Regional Working Group on Child Labour are firmly in place, and are even amended from time to time. Yet enforcement and government accountability are lax. Socio-economic conditions and people's attitudes towards child protection issues dictate the implementation of these laws. In India, where are found nearly 68% of the children in South Asia, Government expenditure on health and education is a meagre 2% each compared to 16% for defence. The same is the case with Pakistan which spends 18% of its Gross Domestic Product on defence and less than 1% each on health and education. Economic globalization and structural adjustment programs have played a major role in the development of such lop-sided economic models. Even international conventions to protect the rights of children fail to address the underlying issues which favour exploitation of children rather than their healthy and prosperous growth.

The issues involved are complex and interdisciplinary and the solutions need the collaboration of people from all walks of life: academia, social work, psychologists, NGOs and voluntary bodies, government organizations and multilateral institutions. The Summit is an attempt to bring people together, to share common concerns, to understand the underlying factors behind child exploitation and to frame child protection laws that can be implemented by governments everywhere. It is the only means of bringing hope to the millions of children globally whose rights are not respected by the legal system.

Roshni Udyavar, B.A.

Director, O.P.C.R. India

Member, International Summit Steering Committee

POVERTY AND VIOLENCE IN NORTH AMERICA

In the midst of extraordinary wealth and resources, children in rural settings and distressed urban neighbourhoods are poor by every measure: truncated educational opportunities; no access to health care; poor nutrition; unsafe at home; unsafe at school; unsafe in the community.

The poor in North America are disproportionately women, children, and racial and ethnic minorities. When you factor out the major cities, the demographics of the Mississippi Delta by standard social indicators are on par with many developing nations. While North American child poverty may look different than other parts of the world statistically, the experience of the socially excluded and disempowered poor may be very similar. As such, our solutions are more likely to be found in partnership with the rest of the regions than in isolation from them.

William Rowe, D.S.W.

Director, School of Social Work, University of South Florida

Co-Chair, O.P.C.R. Scientific Committee

Member, International Summit Steering Committee

POVERTY AND VIOLENCE IN LATIN AMERICA

The most outstanding violent situation for the Latin-American people is the socioeconomic inequality demonstrated by the gap that exists between the rich and the poor. The huge proportion of the population unemployed or with a precarious job and, therefore outside the social security system, has had a direct impact on children as far as it implies the weakening of their families' capacities for their upbringing, protection and development.

Even when violence against children is extended along every social class, the poor suffer additional problems. Ill treatment of children in the private and community spheres is deepened as a result of adult frustration, lack of adequate housing and public spaces together with the emergent new problems raised in urban societies, all these backed by very poor and unsustainable non-market public advisory and family support services. On the other hand, insufficient wages raised by the families have led to an increase in the number of working children, putting children at greater risk of not being able to develop their potential. Last but not least, policies followed by the dictatorships in office during the '70s and '80s and by the democratic neo-liberal governments of the '90s have lessened state social policies in the education and health sectors with severe consequences for children's learning, permanence at school, survival and adequate physical and mental growth.

Irene Konterlnik, M.A.

Sociologist

Policy Advisor on Children's Rights

Minister of Human Development, Buenos Aires Province, Argentina

YOUTH PARTICIPATION

One of the tendencies adults have is to discuss problems of children and youth without involving the very people who experience these problems every day.

Young people have their own experiences with, and their own views about, their world and their place in it. To involve them in matters that affect them, to hear their opinions and their wishes for themselves and their peers, acknowledges and respects their place as citizens.

The organizers of the Summit are pleased to welcome the involvement of youth from Montreal and from Cuba in our event. We invite them to meet and freely interact with all the participants in the Summit. We look forward to their participation and to the perspectives they will bring to our deliberations about how to deal with the barriers that impede solving the problems faced by youth throughout the world, chief among which are poverty and violence.

John Mould, M.S.W., R.S.W.

Children's Advocate, Alberta Children's Services

Co-Chair, O.P.C.R. Honour Committee

Member, International Summit Steering Committee

POVERTY AND VIOLENCE IN EUROPE

Europe as a home for children today has many different faces. The European Union is experiencing the illegal entry of a relatively large number of children from Africa and Asia who are entering the EU as refugees together with their parents or relatives. The event of entering Europe, in a dramatic way, will have a lasting impact on these children's lives, and results will be seen in the future. Of course, refugees and their children are bringing a host of health problems with them from their respective countries.

Other countries of Europe are facing different problems. In many East European countries children are confronted with famine (Ukraine, Georgia, Moldavia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Albania, etc), lack of medical care and lack of proper education.

Special attention should in particular be given to protecting children from sexual abuse. Today, in Europe as a whole but maybe more so in the EU, one of the most pressing issues is the rise in the number of children being sexually abused and victim of pedophilia. Too many cases have been experienced in Europe as well as in other countries, notably in the Far East, which are favoured tourist destinations of Europeans.

Environmental pollution is also creating a spate of new health problems for children in Europe. Contamination by synthetic chemical substances similar to female hormones, which can be found in plastics for example, is affecting the fertility of the present human population; PCBs and related substances are affecting the genetic structure of the Homo Sapiens and other creatures; many synthetic chemical substances are also affecting the anti allergic defence system of the human body leading to a marked increased in various allergic diseases; and, of course, the non-natural, stressful lifestyle of urban populations are also spawning many new health problems.

In the area of education, there is specific pressure on the curriculum to conform to the political/bureaucratic structure instead of teaching children to think and develop a critical mind. Brain drain, whereby substantial numbers of the most talented and highly educated young minds leave their country to work in more developed, richer countries such as the USA, is another phenomenon which cannot be ignored.

Finally, children in Europe and elsewhere in the world will face a new challenge, which is coming from the impact of the climate change system. Life conditions are changing from good ones at present to not so good ones in the future.

Dr. Timi Ecimovic

Director, SEM Institute for Climate Change

ORGANIZATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS (O.P.C.R.)

1983 –2004

*Over 20 years caring
for children and families in need*

The O.P.C.R. is a registered Canadian charity founded in 1983.

Our Mission

Our core mission is to protect and defend the rights of children and youth experiencing problems related to the breakdown of the family. The O.P.C.R. also strives to improve the situation of children everywhere in the world through prevention, education and early intervention.

Our Vision

Our vision is to develop a synergy between all components of our society – governments, policy makers, community agencies, the media, businesses, institutions and people – so as to create an environment in which all children and their families have equal access to the resources and opportunities they need to achieve their full potential.

Our Main Objectives are to:

- promote greater public awareness on the importance of addressing the problems of children worldwide;
- inform and educate the public, the media and policy makers;
- influence global, international and national policies;
- inspire and seek an ongoing commitment among governments of all countries to actually implement programs and policies that address and meet the basic emotional and material needs of all children;
- promote actions that ensure children live in an environment that supports their well-being and enables them to reach their full potential;
- protect the rights of children and youth worldwide.

The O.P.C.R. helps children and families by:

- promoting children's rights and advancing the cause of the family;
- conducting awareness campaigns;
- presenting briefs and recommendations for better family laws and policies;
- organizing international conferences on major themes and critical issues of timely significance for children's rights;
- collaborating with other national and international organizations;
- holding annual activities for the benefit of children in need;
- conducting targeted research projects and literature reviews;
- developing education and prevention programs.

For the love of our children!

MILESTONES

1983

- ✦ O.P.C.R. begins its operations

1985

- ✦ Presented a brief before the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs concerning Bill C-47 (An Act respecting Divorce and Corollary Relief)
- ✦ Presented a brief before the House of Commons subcommittee on Equality Rights

1986

- ✦ Opened Offices in Quebec City, Edmonton, Alberta and Kamloops, B.C.

1988

- ✦ 1st International Conference on the Child Divorce and Children: How to intervene?
- ✦ 1st Summer Camp for underprivileged children (this event is held four times per year)

1990

- ✦ 1st Christmas Show for underprivileged children (this event is held twice annually)

1992

- ✦ 2nd International Conference on the Child The Child and the Changing Family: Vulnerability and adaptation

1995

- ✦ Presented a brief on Bill 60 (An Act to Facilitate the Payment of Support) before the Provincial Committee for Social Affairs

1997

- ✦ 3rd International Conference on the Child New Reproductive Technologies and Adoption

1998

- ✦ Presented a brief on the benefits of family mediation before the Special Joint Committee on Child Custody and Access

1999

- ✦ 4th International Conference on the Child Children and Violence: Our Individual, Family and Collective Responsibilities

2002

- ✦ 5th International Conference on the Child Children and Poverty: The Impact of Economic, Social and Political Choices
- ✦ Established official O.P.C.R. representatives in South Africa and Ghana
- ✦ Invited to make a presentation on Material, Emotional, Social and Spiritual Child Poverty in the G7 Countries at the World Summit on Sustainable Development's Global NGO Forum Strategies for Sustainable Development Event held in Johannesburg.

2003

- ✦ Submitted a brief on Bill C-22 (An Act to amend the Divorce Act) to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights.
- ✦ Established official O.P.C.R. representatives in the U.S.A, India and Italy.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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09:00 A.M.

Opening Session

- ◆ Word of welcome by Mr. Riccardo Di Done, Chairperson of the International Summit
- ◆ Address by Mr. Massimo Pacetti, M.P. for St-Leonard/St-Michel, Government of Canada
- ◆ Address by Mr. Antonio Pubillones, Diplomat, Cuban Embassy in Ottawa
- ◆ Presentation of all participants by Mr. Riccardo Di Done, Chairperson of the International Summit

10:15 A.M.

Coffee Break

10:30 A.M.

State of the World's Children

- ◆ *The Global Child: A condensed briefing on the condition of children with respect to Health, Education & Literacy, Legal & Social Protection / Violence and Food & Nutrition* by Mr. Riccardo Di Done
- ◆ *The International Summit in a global perspective* by Dr. William Rowe
- ◆ *The International Summit and You: Participants' perspectives on the Summit*
 - Prof. Catharina J. Davel – Africa
 - Dr. Makmur Sunusi and Ms. Roshni Udyavar – Asia
 - Dr. Colin Rose – North America
 - Antony Pubillones, Student – Latin America
 - Mrs. Irene Konterllnik – Latin America
 - Dr. Timi Ecimovic – Europe
- ◆ *The International Summit: Objectives, Working Sessions and Expected Outcomes* by Mr. Riccardo Di Done

12:00 P.M.

Lunch

01:00 P.M.

Working Sessions (one subgroup per topic)

- (i) Health
- (ii) Education and Literacy
- (iii) Legal and Social Protection of Children / Violence
- (iv) Food and Nutrition

Each subgroup will focus on answering the following questions:

- (i) Why are things getting worse?
- (ii) What are the issues and barriers to improving the situation of children?
- (iii) What are the competing interests that are blocking the process?
- (iv) Why are many of the strategies currently employed failing?
- (v) What do we need to change in our way of doing things to achieve quicker, concrete and better results?
- (vi) How can we overcome the barriers and factors that have been identified to ensure that solutions and recommendations are supported and implemented?
- (vii) What assessment/evaluation measures are required to monitor progress in the years following the Summit?

03:00 P.M.

Coffee Break

03:15 P.M.

Working Sessions (continued)

05:00 P.M.

Close for the day

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23RD, 2004

09:00 A.M.

Workings Sessions (continued)

10:15 A.M.

Coffee Break

10:30 A.M.

Working Sessions (continued)

12:00 P.M.

Lunch

01:00 P.M.

Reporting Session

- ◆ Report of the Health Subgroup
 - Question Period
- ◆ Report of the Education and Literacy Subgroup
 - Question Period
- ◆ Report of the Legal and Social Protection of Children / Violence Subgroup
 - Question Period
- ◆ Report of the Food and Nutrition Subgroup
 - Question Period

03:00 P.M.

Coffee Break

03:15 P.M.

Closing Session: Conclusions and Recommendations

- ◆ Review of the main barriers and recommendations resulting from all working sessions
- ◆ Closing comments by Dr. William Rowe, Member of the Summit Steering Committee
- ◆ Closing address by Mr. Riccardo Di Done, Chairperson of the International Summit

HEALTH SUBGROUP

Participants:	Claudette Bardin, M.D.	Canada	Danya Bowman	Student – Canada
	Garfield Brown, M.A.	South Africa	Timi Ecimovic, Dr. h. c.	Slovenia
	Stephen Gichuki, B.A.	Kenya	Jeffrey L. Goldhagen, M.D., MPH	USA
	Peter A. Gorski, A.B., M.D., M.P.A.	USA	Natasha Law	Student – Canada
	Jocelin Lecomte, LL.B., M.A.	Canada	Michael N. Mugo, M.B., MPH	Kenya
	Lisandra Pubillones	Student – Cuba		
Moderator:	Tony Manglaviti, B.A., LL.L.			
Rapporteur:	André-H. Dandavino, M.D.			

Main barriers to improving the condition of children

- Insufficient awareness and understanding of the relevance of social determinants (poverty in particular), equity, social justice and children’s rights
- Lack of respect of the Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Insufficient training of child serving professionals
- Poorly remunerated and motivated health care staff
- Lack of medical personnel
- Cumbersome procurement procedures
- Insufficient quality, number and access to healthcare services, especially in rural areas
- Lack of an International Strategic Framework
- Lack of awareness of global priorities by philanthropists
- Lack of policy statements on health equity and the impact of the configuration and delivery of health services
- Lack of overall control on synthetic chemical products being produced (unknown agents and interactions)
- Insufficient prioritization of the importance of early brain development
- Lack of political will
- Lack of continuity in the decision making process
- Insufficient accountability of politicians
- Inadequate and/or misdirected distribution of resources and financial aid
- Political instability and lack of objectivity
- Institutional resistance to change
- Poor parenting skills and/or absence of parents
- Family disruptions
- Low level of maternal literacy
- Poor status of women in many countries
- Lack of networking and cooperation between all relevant NGOs
- Lack of cooperation amongst medical disciplines
- Lack of long-term support from NGOs
- Malnutrition and obesity
- Lack of safe water / enough water for proper hygiene and sanitation
- Lack of actions on the health and nutritional status of HIV/AIDS orphans
- High poverty rate
- Lack of research, availability and high cost of drugs for tropical diseases
- Social isolation / exclusion
- Pervasive effect of television

EDUCATION AND LITERACY SUBGROUP

Participants:	Abid Ali, M.A., B.Ed.	Pakistan	Alice Boom	Student – Canada
	Leslie Casely-Hayford	Ghana	Tanya-Michelle Content	Student – Canada
	Sabrina D'Ambra	Student – Canada	Jean-Paul Edmond, B.A., M.A.	Haiti
	Viviana Hernandez	Student – Cuba	Jennifer Hostetter	Student – Canada
	Emmanuel Kiven, B.A.	Cameroon	Charles Mbugua, B.A.	Kenya
	Richard Razak	Student – Canada	Manuel Ribeiro, Ph.D.	Mexico
	James Ryan	Canada	Saleem Samad	Bangladesh
	Lara Steinhouse	Student – Canada	Nasuna Stuart-Ulin	Student – Canada
	Andrea Tkalec	Student – Canada		

Moderator: Riccardo Di Done

Rapporteur: Aldo Morrone, B.A.

Main barriers to improving the condition of children

- Economic and social difficulties as a result of external debts, trade imbalances and shifting commitments
- High poverty rate and malnutrition
- Gender-based, tribal-based or religion-based cultural values
- Lack of education and public awareness about society, civic rights and state laws
- Behaviours and attitudes of society towards child rights
- Lack of funding and resources
- Political instability and lack of objectivity
- Lack of commitment, accountability and transparency of governments/agencies
- Inconsistent implementation and conflicting development policies
- Poor coordination between various disciplinary teams and weak protocol across various disciplines
- Fragmented responses to emerging social problems
- Limited or unequal access to schools, education programmes and facilities
- Increasing privatization of schools that raises costs
- Institutional trends constraining the empowerment and participation of children, especially in the processes of child rights programming
- Lack of child-friendly educational policies
- Lack of partnerships and insufficient involvement of all stakeholders (parents, communities, teachers and organizations) in the design of policies
- Poor quality of education system, services and planning
- High student to teacher ratios
- Lack of educational coverage for every educational level
- Weak academic and professional qualifications of teachers
- Lack of educational technologies
- Lack of streamlined curriculum, evaluation and pedagogical standards (i.e. self esteem, conflict resolution)
- Lack of infrastructure and mechanisms to monitor educational issues
- Radical reduction of skilled, trained and educated workforce due to the HIV/AIDS epidemic
- Lack of wide scale needs assessment studies
- High levels of academic failure and repetition rates
- Children working to supplement insufficient family income (child labour)

LEGAL AND SOCIAL PROTECTION OF CHILDREN / VIOLENCE SUBGROUP

Participants:	John R.C. Battista	Student – Canada	Catharina J. Davel, B.A., LL.B.	South Africa
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	Makmur Sunusi, Ph.D.	Indonesia	Lea Trudel	Student – Canada
	Roshni Udyavar, B.A.	India		
Moderator:	Dominic D'Abate, Ph.D.			
Rapporteur:	Peter Allik-Petersenn, B.A., LL.B.			

Main barriers to improving the condition of children

- Total or partial ban on child labour through the imposition of international labour standards aggravating the causes at the origin of child labour by negatively impacting household welfare and national economic growth
- Excessive emphasis on the prohibitive/criminalizing approach as opposed to regulating the working conditions of children (hours and wages)
- State bureaucracies and NGOs organized and trained under old laws and social and institutional practices
- Ineffective judicial system for juveniles in conflict with the law and lack of law enforcement with respect to child abuse and safeguarding children victim of abuse
- Lack of or insufficient pressure from NGO's and people
- Lack of prioritization and child friendly procedures
- Lack of confidence in the juvenile justice system
- Lack of money/resources
- Lack of political will/commitment
- Prevalence of corporate interests that hinder changes and create confusion in interpreting the Convention
- Lack of integration between government departments
- Paternalistic social programmes/approaches which create dependency towards the State instead of empowerment
- Focus on short-term, emergency actions
- Absence of effective mechanisms and bodies to monitor the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and appropriate legal framework by governments at all levels
- Laws not realistically adapted to the socio-economic reality of each country
- Lack of economic and social incentives/programmes to supplement legal standards
- Lack of respect for children's rights and opinions – children considered/treated as property
- Lack of a culture of human rights (education)
- Ignorance regarding international documents, legal provisions and the Convention
- Illiteracy
- Irresponsible parenting
- Overall socio-economic conditions (Poverty)
- Urbanisation
- Social exclusion due to perceptions, cultural values, ideologies, etc.

FOOD AND NUTRITION SUBGROUP

Participants:	William D. Clay	Italy	Shubhangini Joshi	India
	Nehal Pahel	Student – Canada	Antony Pubillones	Student – Cuba
	Ana Martinez Rielo	Cuba	Sandra Cohen Rose	Canada
	Colin Penfield Rose	Canada	Lisa Rubano	Student – Canada
	Pamela Salera	Student – Canada	Katryna Van Vliet	Student – Canada
Moderator:	Antonio Discepola, B.A., LL.B.			
Rapporteur:	Luigi Discepola, B.A., B.Ed., LL.L.			

Main barriers to improving the condition of children

- Poor food and lifestyle choices
- More obese children than starving children
- Lack of self-esteem and personal fulfillment opportunities
- Lack of good example set by parents and educational institutions
- Low age of marriage
- Lack of political will
- Lack of adequate statistics on a wide array of determinants
- Lack of multi-pronged approach
- Lack of stringent laws to prevent misuse of public funds and ensure that funds reach intended beneficiaries
- Lack of family planning and repeating pregnancies leading to high rate of low birth weight children
- Insufficient or inadequate medical facilities, support services, staff
- Non-existence or dismal failure of community feeding programmes
- Non-hygienic environment and lack of sanitation facilities
- Lack of food and clean drinking water
- Socio-cultural values, beliefs, customs and practices
- Deliberate apathy and neglect particularly towards the sick and unwanted children such as girls
- Lack of involvement of the educated urban population in the community
- Lack of community institutions to meet the needs of orphaned, displaced and abandoned children
- Lack of subsidized wholesome food formulations for the needy
- Competing interests of powerful lobbies

