

6 LOOKING AHEAD

Ten years have passed since UNEP and UNICEF published the first report on 'Children and the Environment'. At the dawn of the new millennium, while current understanding of the linkages between children and the environment has advanced considerably, we must recognize that so much more still needs to be achieved. For the most part, we know what to do: protect children from environmental health threats and protect the environment to safeguard children's health and their future. In order for this wishful thinking to become reality, consideration for the environment must increasingly be integrated into the strategies addressing childhood development at the international, regional, national, and local levels – and likewise, children's rights and their special vulnerabilities must be fully recognized within environmental management endeavours.

Between two intergovernmental events addressing related aspects of the sustainable development agenda – the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on Children in May 2002 and the World Summit on Sustainable Development in

August 2002 – unique opportunities exist to strengthen the interlinkages between children’s health and the sustainable management of the environment. This can be done while fighting poverty through efforts to achieve sustainable development.

The goals set for the world’s children and sustainable development are within reach, if today’s leaders can step up efforts to mobilize collective will, resources, and the wisdom to act early and decisively in the name of children and for future generations. We owe it to our children to ensure a brighter and safer future in this new millennium.

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ABBREVIATIONS

TERMINOLOGY

ARI: acute respiratory infections

CFC: chlorofluorocarbons

DDT: dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane – a chlorinated organic insecticide that persists for a longtime in the environment. It is disastrously toxic to birds, and is thought to cause cancer in humans.

DHF: dengue hemorrhagic fever

FRESH: Focusing Resources on Effective School Health

JE: Japanese encephalitis

ODS: ozone depleting substances

PAH: polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons

PCBs: Polychlorinated biphenyls. A group of organic compounds that persist in the environment for long periods of time, and are known as bioaccumulants.

PM10: Small particles of diameter less than 10 microns

POPs: persistent organic pollutants

PVC: polyvinyl chloride. A type of plastic.

SSHE: School Sanitation and Hygiene Education

ORGANIZATIONS / BODIES

CEHN: Children's Environmental Health Network

ECOSOC: United Nations Economic and Social Council

FAO: United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization

IPCC: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

IPF: Intergovernmental Panel on Forests

NRDC: Natural Resources Defense Council

UCIRI: Union of Indian Communities of the Isthmus Region

UNAIDS: The joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

UNCBD: United Nations Convention in Biological Diversity

UNCED: United Nations Conference on Environment and
Development (also known as "The Earth Summit")

UNCHS United Nations Centre for Human
Settlements (Habitat) [now called UN Human Settlements
Programme (UN-Habitat)]

UNEP: United Nations Environment Programme

UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural
Organization

UNFCCC: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate
Change

UNFF: United Nations Forum on Forests

UNICEF: United Nations Children's Fund

UN/CCD: United Nations Convention to Combat
Desertification

USEPA: United States Environmental Protection Agency

WHO: World Health Organization

WMO: World Meteorological Organization

WRI: World Resources Institute

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