

## *The Spirit of Haarzuilens*



*advancing cooperation between groups involved in organizing  
international meetings of Children and Youth*

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**Conference coordinated by**

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*-with the generous assistance of the Harmony Foundations, Hilversum, The Netherlands -*

Meeting of adults involved in organizing  
Summits of Children or Youth



## *Conference Report*

De Nieuwe Ham, Haarzuilens, The Netherlands  
6/7/8 November 1992

## INTRODUCTION



*The Spirit of Haarzuilens*

From 6th to 8th November, 35 persons from 14 nations representing 22 different groups involved in organizing international meetings or "Summits" of Children or Youth met in Haarzuilens, the Netherlands. The common thread between the groups was that they all, in different ways, seek to provide a platform from which young peoples concerns may be heard. Further, through providing such a platform, they attempt to equip young people with skills that will allow them to become more effective global citizens.

The Invitation to the Meeting defined four goals:

1. To exchange information;
2. To define the terms "Youth" and "Child"
3. To discuss and articulate the goal of this activity.
4. To look at what coordination between the groups might look like;

The contents of this report represents what we believe to be a satisfactory fulfilment of those goals. There were some surprises: though the meeting was billed as one that brought together organizers of children's summits, the word "summit" was hardly mentioned. There was no significant discussion of how such summits should be organized. When, on the final day, two groups sought active support for a World Summit of Children in 1995, the response was cool. This Meeting was more interested in the sharing and networking of information about our separate activities, and promoting the educational value of bringing together children for international meetings.

When asked on arrival about "desired outcomes", many expressed a wish that there be a spirit of cooperation between the groups. There was. To an outsider, some of the groups might have been seen as natural competitors: the real success of this meeting was that all the participants were completely open with each other, ready to share experience, support each other's projects and commit to keep in contact with each other.

That spirit of cooperation, found in the setting of a beautiful old Dutch farmhouse lying close by a fairy-tale castle, may turn out to be the enduring legacy of this meeting.

**David Woollcombe & Roland Schutzbach**, December 4th 1992



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*Participating organizations had sent information about their work and programs. What follows are summaries of the way they chose to introduce their program at the meeting, along with the answer they gave to the personal question asked on the first evening: "Who are you and why do you do this work?"*



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**Back Row:** Péter Koltai, Zsombor Gergely, Wolfgang Klippel, Roger Tweedale, Philippe Rixhon, Werner Greis, Micos Banhidi, Heather Saddler, Gerd Pfizenmaier, David Pines, Roland Schutzbach, John Zwerver;  
**Middle Row:** Kate Karcz, Kristin Michna, Filiz Odabas-Geldiay, Patricia Jalil, Marilyn Coppex, Kristin Eskeland, Pam van Driel  
**Front Row:** Kate Pakula, Gabriele Bähr, Rosey Simonds, Birgit Küllman, Mario Lavoie, Fiona Blyth-Kubota, Maria Kooijman;

**Center for Human Rights**, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland: Fiona told of the Center's need to find out how different countries are implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child. She urged all participants to send her information. She also talked about the upcoming World Conference on Human Rights (see Calendar) and the need for input into it from Children and Youth groups.  
 Fiona Blyth Kubota: "A former teacher with twins, I am interested to see how we can cooperate to make children more aware of their rights."

**Children's Declaration Project**, 25 Devonshire Place #1, London W1N 1PD, UK. Roger explained the near-miraculous circumstances in which he initiated a Youth Appel to Mikhail Gorbachev to end hunger in Ethiopia. His idea now is to create a children's declaration with positive Happy Thoughts from children of 200 countries to be modelled into a Children's Declaration and presented to World Leaders at the UN on Peace Day 1993.  
 Roger Tweedale: "There's a 'no listening' situation out there. I want to have adults hear what kids have to say, and this work allows me to be the best 'me' that I can be."

**Children's Parliament of Silesia**, 41-906 BYTOM, ul. Sniadeckich 2/13, POLAND: the purpose is to talk about local problems children face in the post-communist era: problems of hunger, homelessness, no holidays. The children's parliament tries to set up practical programs to provide these. Laws passed by the children are given to the Dept. of Education which implements them.  
 Katarzyna(s) Pakula & Karcz: "We know the situation of children in Poland. We must give them a voice."

**Coalition for Children of the World**, Thurwiesenstrasse 7, CH 8037 ZURICH, Switzerland.  
 John Zwerver, 112 Jordan Avenue, San Anselmo, CA. 94960, USA: Talked about its purpose being to give a platform for children's voices. Currently engaged in setting up regional centers throughout the world, a Leadership training in Vermont, USA, next year, and a Kidlink computer network. How do kids find out about the Coalition's activities? "In a variety of often very mysterious ways."  
 John Zwerver: "My passion is to find ways for kids to have their voices heard in the world..."  
 Marilyn Coppex: "I had a great childhood, but something was missing: I found it hard to express myself and when I did, no one listened."  
 Philippe Rixhon: "My focus on Children's Rights comes from my involvement in a divorce and custody battle and from the vision that children asking, not for rights but responsibilities, can contribute greatly."

**Peace Works Inc.**, 2274 W. Mesa, Fresno, CA 93726, USA: Presented the game "Give Peace a Chance" and explained how it had been played by UN Secretary General and senior diplomats in China and elsewhere.  
 Roberta Barash: "I want people overseas to take our products and use them to raise funds for their work..."  
 Michelle Alexander: "What we learn and what we do today, as kids, for the environment, is how we shall act tomorrow when we are adults."

**Earth Train**, Maisacher Strasse 100A, D-8080 Fuerstenfeldbrugg, Germany: Explained the Earth Train format. It started with 2 days of leadership training (ropes courses etc.) for the participants, teaching them skills that they then give to other kids whom they meet in 4 Youth Forums during the journey. Mentioned the United Earth "Green Nobels" which are to be given to Youth environmental activists. Was there any follow-up? - "No, but this was the first Earth Train: in future, there will be follow up." How much did it cost? "Don't know but the rumour was that it cost \$2.7 million." It got good press in the USA, and has a great potential for the future.  
 Wolfgang Klippel: "I believe young people have more time to think about our environment: a strong network working closely with politicians and business is very important."

**European Youth Parliament**, 110A Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 6JU, UK: - Mentioned that her parliaments also begin with outdoor exercises, hikes etc. They end with youth making presentations to senior EC leaders. EYP has grown rapidly to become very big (see breakdown at end) but 60% of Bettina's time is spent in raising funds. Recent Success: youth are now admitted as observers to EC committee meetings.  
 Bettina Carr-Allinson: "Many kids I meet don't know what's going on in the world. Through EYP, children feel that they have a role to play..."

**Hungarian National Students Union**, H-2013 Pomáz, Levai Str 2/E, Hungary. It's slogan is: No organization can violate the rights of children without being punished. "We need the convention on the Rights of the Child to be respected in Hungary, to protect children who cannot protect themselves. Also, we need to teach people democracy. It cannot work by itself: it has to be learned. We presented a list of proposals to our government, including one for an annual student conference, but we have not received a response. The kinds of problems kids encounter include being beaten by teachers, teachers who smoke heavily in the classroom, who do not allow kids to go to the gardens. Kids in schools want to form student councils. We see our role as helping and advising them."  
 Péter Koltai, Zsombor Gergely: "Young people have to be able to speak for themselves."

**Natur Kindergipfel**, Gustav Heinemann Ring 212, D-8000 Munich 83, Germany:  
 WWF-Germany, Hedderichstrasse 110, 6000 Frankfurt-am-Main 70, Germany:  
 + **Austrian Children's Summit**, Goethestrasse 9, A-8010 Graz, Austria: These are both run in similar ways, thus presented together. Gerd told the history of the first Kindergipfel (Children's Summit) in Frankfurt in 1991. An invitation through their "Natur" magazine yielded 5,000 responses from children. At the 2-day summit, here were 10 workshops where children discussed their concerns with experts. They made a list of things that adults could do and invited 50 top-ranking politicians to do one of them within the year. Now, one year on, the kids are checking up to see if they did. More extensive organization planned for next year's conference in September, with regional conferences prior to this. The theme of Kindergipfel '93 is the status of animals.  
 Gerd Pfizenmaier & Kristin Michna: "Listening to children changed us. It can change others."  
 Birgit Kulman: "What we leave behind is what kids start out with: we must tell kids about what they will inherit."  
 + **United Games** - Werner Greis, Goethestrasse 9, A-8010 Graz, Austria.  
 Micos Banhidi, Vörösmarty 20, H-8500 Papa, Hungary.  
 Jerzy Vaculik, Klatovska 51, CS-32013 Plzen, CSFR: Closely linked with the Kindergipfel, the games are another form of leadership training in tolerance and understanding. In playing games, children have to cooperate with each other. Games include finding a way to build a bridge over a 10 meter wide, fast-flowing mountain stream. In small villages, the games help people accept foreigners and refugees into their communities. Each year, the games expands to one new country. This year it is Slovenia.  
 Werner Greis: "I love games, especially non-competitive games with children. It makes everyone more tolerant."  
 Jerzy Vaculik: "I am a physical education teacher, married, with five children..."  
 Micos Banhidi: "Games build children's confidence in themselves"

**New Futures Network**, 11426-28 Rockville Pike, #100, ROCKVILLE, Md. 20852, USA: David introduced the 3 training publications he had worked on for the US Government. Also mentioned the city wide youth elections being held in Washington DC as part of an effort to combat the Drug/violence problem. Now working with Voice of the Children to have a model Children's Hearing at the Capitol.  
 David Pines: "I want children to grow up in nurturing communities, to be able to discover and actualise their ideas and commitments."

**Peace School**, Rebhüsli, Fauggersweg 39, 3232 INS, Switzerland: The idea grew out of the Green Hares group in which children raised \$30,000 through sponsored runs for a Rain-forest school in Columbia. The idea is to have a year-long international school course for teen-agers to teach them citizenship and leadership skills.  
 Roland Schutzbach: "I want to see meetings like this continue, and I want children themselves to be involved in them."

**Peace Child International**, Little Maltings, Much Hadham, Herts, SG10 6AW, UK: David showed a brief video of the Peace Day Concert at the UN General Assembly, and explained the concept of Peace Day - a day when children take over the media, edit the newspapers, present the TV news and tell their concerns to world leaders. In the play, *Peace Child*, this is how children make their voices heard and shape their future.  
 Rosey Simonds: "The stage is a powerful vehicle. People listen to what children say from a stage..."  
 David Woolcombe: "Children are the only people with the time, the energy and the freedom to save the planet. I see my work as creating enabling structures to allow this to happen..."

**THIMUN - the Hague Model United Nations**, 2E Van Blankenberg St. 119, NL-2517 HC Den Haag, The Netherlands:

THIMUN is celebrating its 25th Anniversary in 1993. It was started by teachers and has grown into an enormous organization. 2,700 kids coming to the Hague every January and set up 2 model General Assemblies, committees, Security Councils, ECOSOCs etc. Each delegation has to research the country they represent, but it is not just role-playing. Real results are negotiated: "Namibia would have been solved years ago if it had been left to the MUN." Do the UN take any notice of your results? "None." Kids become "THIMUN junkies" so this year an Alumnae MUN is being held. Similar MUNs have been set up in Caracas, Karachi, Dublin, Croydon: THIMUN is pleased to offer help and advice to anybody wanting to replicate it. Pamela van Driel: *"I'm a teacher first and foremost, last and always. This work is an extension of teaching."*

**Pathways to Peace**, PO Box 1057, Larkspur, Ca 94939, USA: Started her presentation with a moment of silence, then read: "Consensus is based on the recognition that each person has a part of the truth, no person has all of it." This organization promotes the International Day of Peace - a day to take stock of the state of the Planet - to ask: "How are we doing? What progress have we made toward the peace we all thirst for?" Lists a variety of activities that may be undertaken on Peace Day to promote peace & well-being.

Joanie Mirack: *"This work flows naturally from everything else that I do ..."*

**UNICEF**, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland: UNICEF sees its work for the next decade in the field of children's participation as giving children skills so that they can become responsible citizens, and learn to solve global problems. Gabriele Bähr mentioned the Youth NGO Round Table and her desire for closer links with other UN Agencies working with youth. She also mentioned the ECOSOC document, "Education for Development". (see extracts below).

Gabriela Bähr: *"UNICEF is very interested in the question of children's participation ..."*

**United Nations of Youth(UNOY)** UNOY, Watersnip 62, NL-1452 VE IJpendam, The Netherlands:

UNOY is in the process of creating an alliance of youth and youth groups in order to establish a permanent youth forum, as a partnership between youth and the UN. To this end, it proposes to organize:

- 1) A Global Alliance Youth Assembly(GAYA) in 1995 possibly under the auspices of the UN to commemorate its 50th Anniversary and to serve as a follow-up to the 1970 UN Youth Assembly.
- 2) To plan the founding of a permanent UN organization of Youth (UNOY) with an infrastructure of local and national chapters (UNOY nets) + contact persons to carry out a variety of community-based environmental, education & Human Rights projects as well as national meetings;
- 3) To create a Globally Youth Village as a home + information center for UNOY and other Youth NGOs.

Maria Kooijman: *"To work for peace is the real purpose of my life on this earth. It is natural for me to do this work."*

**Voice of the Children**, Kristen Eskeland, Langsgate 4, N-0165, Oslo, Norway.

Patricia Jalil, Casilla de Correo 83, Correo Central, 5000 Cordoba, ARGENTINA.

Heather Saddler, 27 Beman Lane, Troy, NY 12180, USA.

"Voice of the Children is a tool, not an organization," said Kristin. "It's not expensive; it's decentralised. Any one can use it; for example, Children's Defense Fund in Washington DC are holding a hearing on Foster care. Ordinary children can bring their concerns and have them heard. Different national campaigns run their hearings in their own way. Each is urged to have practical projects which kids can participate in; Global

Hearings, like the one in Rio, are important as kids say all the things politicians would have said if they dared."

Kristen Eskeland: *"I found kids were fearful. They were always writing about the end of the world. I do this so that adults will really listen, really hear what children are feeling..."*

Heather Saddler: *"What excites me is the way this work empowers children..."*

Patricia Jalil: *"Kids have amazing things to say: if we could start listening to them, equally amazing changes could happen."*

**World Children's Day Foundation**, 4401-A Connecticut Avenue, #287, Washington DC 20008, USA: A day to promote children to be active on behalf of global issues. Golden Balloon awards are given to kids and groups that demonstrate concrete results - like kids selling re-packaged coffee in Luxembourg and sending the profits back to the primary producers; collecting cans in Miami to raise funds etc. It's purpose now is to petition governments to keep the promise of the World Summit for Children. Unique amongst the groups represented at this meeting, WCDF represents kids aged 8-12.

Filiz Odabas-Geldiay: *"I feel I am in the right kind of work: if we can unite children's forces, something good will happen."*

**Youth '92**, 55 Parkdale Avenue, 3rd Floor, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1Y 1E5: "It's not an organization. It's a project set up for the specific purpose of providing youth input to the Earth Summit process. Our process involved holding regional and national conferences, rising to an international conference in Costa Rica. We sought balanced representation and consensus at every step: every last paragraph was agreed by everyone, and we worked hard to ensure that everyone's needs were being addressed. The breakdown of participants at Costa Rica was 45% women, 10% indigenous peoples, 70% of participants from the South. Over 70% of the motions came from the South. The organizing motto by which they lived - and which Mario recommended to this group was: "For youth, By youth!"

Mario Lavoie: *"I believe in working hard, continuing the struggle for change from both inside and outside the system."*



## COORDINATION

- what would coordination look like ? -

This was the major question of the conference. Some groups, like Voice of the Children, United Games and the Austrian and German Kindergipfels, were already coordinating their efforts. Gerd & Werner had prepared a detailed proposal for a coordinating committee called "Children's Summits International". William Angel, of the UN Youth Office in Vienna and author of a book called "Youth Movements of the World" had sent a grid showing how local youth councils were linked through National and Regional Youth Councils to the UN. UNOY and Youth 92 also had plans or experience of local, national and international coordination.

Rather than discussing any or all these proposals in detail, the meeting broke down into four small groups on Saturday afternoon to look at the basic question: "What would coordination look like?" Each group reported to the plenary afterwards.

- what would coordination look like ? -

**Group I:** Roland Schutzbach made a simple, short report on behalf of this group. He said they had decided that coordination would involve three things:

- 1) Information sharing
- 2) A small coordination committee to meet regularly;
- 3) Adopting a Name: the group suggested: "Global Network for Children & Youth"

**Group II** decided that, before answering the coordination question, other questions need to be addressed, such as:

- 1) What are we? - Lobbyists? Child activists? Teachers trying to help children change their perceptions?
- 2) What political impact to we intend to have, if any?
- 3) Do we espouse the notion that children are somehow better human beings than adults? Do we want to create a youth run world?
- 4) Do we want to create a new bureaucracy with its own newsletter, staff etc.?
- 5) What do we want to achieve by cooperation & synergy?
- 6) What skills do we have to teach children/youth?
- 7) What funding and/or other resources do we have to share?
- 8) What international computer network could we use?
- 9) What is missing that would enable coordination to happen?
  - Training, empowerment management etc.
  - Understanding: of systems, structures, cultures etc.
  - Accountability - to whom or what?
  - Priorities - what are our priorities as a group?
  - Concrete results - proof that we can do useful work?
- 10) Who are we not yet including? - how can we expand the network to be more accessible to others; hold Regional meetings etc.

Ideally, this network should be:

'A GLOBAL PROGRAM WITH DECENTRALISED RESPONSIBILITIES'

**GROUP III** answered the question by identifying four areas that need coordination:

**ONE:** Common Projects (see below)

**TWO:** Long-term Partnerships: There has to be trust, and safety for each group. North/South needs must be addressed.

**THREE:** Communications: more effective networking needed at all level to communicate:

- Technical, leadership and "How to - " skills;
- Common methods of promotion;
- Common access to data on human rights, environment etc.;
- Need permanently open lines of communication to people in power;
- Common means of communication: common language, computer network,
- Funds need to be more widely shared, esp. for South groups;

**FOUR:** Consciousness:

- ability to listen to others
- respect for children's ability to assume responsibility;
- credibility in all that we do, fulfilling commitments;
- willingness to learn, openness to think;
- openness of perception
- global citizenship



Gerd, Werner, Jerzy, Kristin & Miclos: United Games

- what would coordination look like ? -

**GROUP IV:** This group noted that structures for Coordination can be both project-based or permanent. Both are valuable but the question envisions a permanent structure. "It is easy to create temporary alliances. The hard part is sustaining such alliances."

Things like the Committees on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, exist permanently. Thus the UN is seeking permanent NGO structures to facilitate on-going information sharing.

A variety of suggestions, needs and opinions were expressed:

- Where-ever possible, coordination should be done by youth, for youth.
- Watch out for the emergence of Peace Professionals in ties; Peace Monsters. Do not over-empower teen-agers or else they will become a problem for their peers;
- Fund-raising: We should share contacts on this. Many funders are interested to know of alternative routes. The network must devise methods of doing this responsibly.
- Twinning of NGOs North and South;
- East Europe's desperate need for books. Post Communist society is urgently in need of any western literature. Please contact Miclos Banhidi.

**UNICEF:** Over the week-end, participants wondered if UNICEF become a focal point and funding body for this work? Gabriele Bähr answered: "No - this is not part of UNICEF's mandate. UNICEF is interested children's summits only in-so far as they teach children practical skills."

She referred us to an ECOSOC document, *Education for Development*. In it, UNICEF outlines its new education for development philosophy which involves active participation by children. Gabriele pointed to the appendix which describes the Conceptual Framework of this philosophy, very relevant to our meeting:

"Education for Development promotes in young people the values of global solidarity, peace, tolerance, social justice and environmental awareness. It equips them with the knowledge and the skills to live by these values, and impart them to others." There are five concepts that need to be communicated. Each has a knowledge or factual component; each requires a skill and a particular attitude. The concepts are:

1. **Interdependence** - requiring knowledge of global systems, skills of cooperation, and an attitude of respect for the needs of all members or society;
2. **Image and Perception** - requiring knowledge of one's own cultural "World View" and how that differs from others'; skills in detecting biases & stereotypes; and a positive attitude towards cultural diversity and other points of view;
3. **Social Justice:** Knowledge of Human Rights, where they are being violated etc; skills in advocating these rights and freedoms; an attitude of empathy with those whose rights are violated, and willingness to defend the rights of others;
4. **Conflict:** knowledge of the common causes of conflict; skills in conflict resolution both in personal life and wider situations; attitude which speaks a commitment to peace at all levels;
5. **Change:** knowledge of history of development issues, long-term and short-term; skills - being able to envisage a wide variety of outcomes of change; attitude: self-confidence, hopefulness and a readiness to take practical action close to home.

"For Hungarian students, international coordination would support local and regional student councils. A problem, like a child being beaten at school by a teacher, should be solved at the local level. If no solution is found at this level, try the regional level; if that fails, try the national level. If that fails, then we need an international level as a last resort. It might involve resurrecting the idea of an international children's court, once proposed by the Netherlands."

Peter Koltai

"I would not set up a new structure. I would strengthen existing structures. The landscape is littered with the skeletal remains of past efforts to coordinate Youth internationally. I don't see what can prevent this effort from joining them...."

Mario Lavoie

"Will power: it's time for us to stop living in the past. Just because other groups like this have not worked does not mean to say that's our's won't."

Pam van Driel.

"If we can demonstrate unity, we shall have real power."

Roland Schutzbach



Patricia Jalil & Heather Saddler  
Voice of the Children



# CONCLUSIONS

## 1. We must stay in regular communication

Philippe & Marilyn's offer of their office in Zurich as a network centre was welcome, but we must all use it. We must also set up a coordinating committee. *(See commitments below)*

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Everybody recognised the need to set up efficient, quick forms of communication, using modern technology: computer networks, fax, etc. Also it was necessary to have a clear **vision & mandate** of the network to communicate to other groups.

## 2. Regional Structure with diversified outreach to grassroots:

A regional structure is essential to reach groups in all parts of the world. The structure needs to be very open, very loose at the grassroots, but at higher levels, it needs to become more professional, more focussed, with strong, effective leadership, perhaps on a revolving basis between the groups in the network. The group recognised the difficulty of the task it faces trying to get adults in positions of power to listen to children's concerns.

## 3. Youth & Child Definitions:

The dilemma of the 4-year overlap between the old UN definition of Youth as 15-25, and the new one in the Convention on the Rights of the Child which makes a child " - any human being under age 18 was resolved in this way: legally a child clearly becomes an adult on their 18th Birthday; but emotionally, intellectually, politically and in many other ways, children grow up at different speeds. Thus participants felt comfortable with the overlap between child and youth as it allowed the child to move from childhood to youth-hood at their own pace, not one imposed by adults.

An important organizational point was also concluded: Youth feel well able to organize for themselves, by themselves. Children want and require adult support.



David Pines, New Futures

# MANDATE

*On the Sunday morning, the group discussed the possible goals of setting up a Network with an office, coordinating committee etc. They decided to they needed a mandate. Though a name had been proposed: "The Global Network for Youth and Children", the meeting did not feel ready to identify itself by such a grandiose-sounding title. The following 8 points were agreed as an appropriate mandate:*

- 1. To demonstrate credibility by doing useful work*
- 2. To disseminate Information*
- 3. To articulate a Common Vision and purpose*
- 4. To stimulate and inspire those in our field and outside it*
- 5. To give our activities a sense of common focus*
- 6. To attract others and enrol them in our network*
- 7. To identify common projects on which we may work together*
- 8. To raise funds to sustain the networking activity*

# A COMMON VISION

After discussing the Mandate, participants were invited to write down their "Vision" of the purpose and function of the Network. These are some of the statements that were collected:

## Information Sharing:

- "To make an effective, creative network of groups working for and with children";
- "To keep us in dialog..."
- "To disseminate information in a coordinated fashion and make it easier to cooperate on projects of mutual interest."

## Education:

- "To extend and to reinforce the variety of ways in which we work to facilitate the personal, intellectual and emotional development of young people."
- "To learn more about how to create conditions where young people can meet in an atmosphere of tolerance; to not only talk about peace and understanding, but experience it..."

## To create a culture of "listening":

- "To create a listening in the world that will enable children and adults to live and work in partnership for a better future for all."
- "To make sure that children are given a voice in a democratic and continuous way, and that adults at all levels of society learn to listen to children and take them seriously."
- "Create a platform that can connect organizations with these common goals..."
- "In creating this coalition of children's groups, our purpose must be to raise the consciousness in adults that children need to be respected and heard. If we create a Peace Day, adults will look forward to the one day each year when children express their opinions to them by meeting with elected leaders, editing the newspapers, presenting the TV news etc."

## Consultancy:

- "To share expertise. To give and receive consultancy."
- "We must also answer the question of HOW we may be able to make the voices of children heard: to me that means we must have a strong, coordinated and very professional public relations and media concept..."

## To give children Power:

- "To empower children and youth to take their place in the world today, and to have their ideas for the future of the planet heard."
- "To maintain and expand diversity of ways in which children may become connected to global concerns and activities at the grassroots level; to coordinate and focus, democratically, the means by which their opinions are expressed at the highest levels; *ie* in meeting with UN bodies, political leaders, and the media, to ensure their concerns are heard."

# COMMITMENTS

**1. Communication and Networking:** the participants committed themselves to continue communication and, where appropriate, cooperation.

- **Office:** Philippe Rixhon & Marilyn Coppex committed to run a networking office in Zurich, Switzerland for a period of at least one year. They will receive information and send it out to the network. This commitment was gratefully applauded.
- **Newsletter:** the office will put out a regular newsletter with a calendar of activities edited by David Woolcombe and Philippe Rixhon;
- **Coordinating Committee:** There will be a Coordinating Committee whose purpose is to ensure the mandate and other commitments are carried out. Its members will be David Woolcombe, Philippe Rixhon, Patricia Jalil, Wolfgang Klippel, Marilyn Coppex and David Pines who will be in contact regularly.

## 2. Regional Meetings:

- David Pines, Heather Saddler, Patricia Jalil & the American delegates committed to arrange a regional meeting of like-minded groups from **the Americas** in Costa Rica, Spring 1993;
- Rosey Simonds & Kristin Eskeland committed to make contacts with like-minded groups in **Asia & Africa** to explore the possibility of holding similar meetings there during 1993;

**3. Computer Network:** John Zwerver, David Pines, Joanie Misrack & Philippe Rixhon agreed to explore options for a Computer Network to service the needs of the group. They will produce a report on this by the end of January 1993. This report will include explore possible donated networks through corporations, computer companies etc. or else include detailed breakdowns on the cost of joining the network.

**4. New Enrolments:** At Heather Saddler's suggestion, everyone agreed to enrol at least one other like-minded group to this network. The office in Zurich is to be informed of the new addition by February 14th 1993.

**5. Enrolment Form:** Wolfgang Klippel will produce an enrolment form to be used by new members within three days. Form to be included in conference report. *(Form enclosed at end)*

**6. Send Information:** Everyone committed to send information for the calendar to the coordinating office, along with newsletters and brochures for distribution. Participant groups are expected to communicate with the office at least twice a year.

**7. "How to run a network..."** Mario Lavoie, with his experience of Youth '92, agreed to send ideas of how to run an inclusive, international network, outlining the "do's" & "don'ts", the pitfalls, challenges etc. To be done by 11th December 1992;



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we  
are  
one  
world

## COMMON PROJECTS

*- Projects in which several group members showed interest -  
(in addition to those on which participants were already cooperating)*

- 1. City of Children in Köpenick, Berlin. (F.E.Z.)** This Complex is part of the infra-structure of the former Communist society: it has halls, rooms, places to sleep, eat, work etc. - theatres, concert spaces and a huge and beautiful garden. The government has expressed interest in using it as a "Children's City" or "Children's UN". *[UNOY has been working on designs for a Global Youth Village in the Netherlands and similar ideas are being mooted for the Praesidio, San Francisco and at Heart's Bend, Vermont, USA. Collaboration is possible.]*
- 2. Peace Day:** this idea to have one day each year when children have access to the mass media and express their concerns and ideas to public and government was warmly supported: it could form a useful annual focus for many activities undertaken by participants, but a day needs to be agreed, and enthusiasm generated gradually in different countries and groups.
- 3. World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, June 1993;** Ms Blyth-Kubota told us the "doors are wide open for youth involvement in this conference..." Her director has expressed a willingness to host 40-50 young people at the conference. All interested should apply. Coordination with Austrian Children's Summit possible: meeting in January '93 to discuss.
- 4. EUROPEAIR Rock Concert & Youth Summit** August 20-22 '93 on meeting point of Hungarian, Czech and Austrian frontiers; Youth Summit to precede it and outcome of summit to be promoted at Concert. 500,000 people + major rock stars expected.
- 5. World Children's Day & "We're all in this together" Week;** Global Celebration for the ending of the Cold War; United Nations and other parts of the world, April 22-29, 1993. Ideas and Participation invited.
- 6. 1995: Summit to mark 50th Anniversary of UN:** several organizations are already planning things. UN Youth office has proposed a Youth Assembly; UNOY is planning GAYA - Global Alliance Youth Assembly, and the Coalition for the Children of the Earth is planning a "World Summit of Children" in San Francisco.
- 7. United Games/Kindergipfels/Peace Child - Sept. '93:** TV linkage between these events, culminating in a large scale musical satellite performance at the Kindergipfel in Stuttgart.
- 8. Green Youth Nobels/Earth Train:** nominations of young people who have excelled in environmental activity are eagerly sought for this. Their example of good work will be promoted and publicised through the awards which will be presented on Earth Train.

## 1993 Calendar of Events

- Dec. 27-Jan 3: UNOY Intl. Executive Council, Apeldoorn, The Netherlands.  
(Coordination: Maria Kooijman)
- January 8-10: Coordinating Meeting, Austrian Children's Summit./Human Rts. Conf.;  
(Coordination: Werner Greis)
- January: 25th Anniversary THIMUN, Hague Model United Nations  
(Coordination: Pam van Driel)
- March: European Youth Parliament, Budapest, Hungary;  
(Coordination: Bettina Carr-Allinson)
- Late Spring: Regional Network Meeting of the Americas in Costa Rica  
(Coordination: David Pines)
- April 22-29: We're all in this together Week; global celebration of the end of the Cold War, and big concert for World Children's Day;  
(Coordination: Filiz Odabas Geldiay)
- June: Winnipeg Intersectoral Dialogue; follow up to Earth Summit;  
(Coordination: Mario Lavoie)
- June 10-13: Austrian Children's Summit  
(Coordination: Werner Greis)
- June 14-25: World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna  
(Coordination: UNCHR, Fiona Blyth Kubota & Philippe Rixhon)
- August: Heart's Bend World Children's Center - Leadership training;  
(Coordination: Dr Nina Lynn)
- August 18-20: Youth Summit & Rock Concert with 700-800 participants followed by Rock Concert on Austro-Hungarian-Czech Border;  
(Coordination: Werner Greis)
- August: Earth Train Japan & USA + Green Youth Nobels (Earth Train Europe: 1994)  
(Coordination: Wolfgang Klippel)
- September: Festival of European History, Budapest, Hungary  
(Coordination: Maria Kooijman)
- Sept. 11-15: United Games, Austria, Germany, Hungary, Slovenia, CSFR;  
(Coordination: Werner, Miclos, Jerzy)
- Sept. 23-26: Kindergipfel, Stuttgart, Germany  
(Coordination: Gerd Pfitzenmaier & Kristin Michna)
- Sept/Oct: International Children's Peace Week, Lillehammer, Norway;  
(Coordination: Kristin Eskeland)

## Summing up



### Why Coordinate ?

- To exchange information and experience;
- To give children and youth greater impact in shaping their future;
- To share skills in how, and how not, to organize meetings of this kind;
- To share schedules to avoid calendar clashes;
- To discuss the goals:- what are reasonable expectations of such meetings?
- To assemble lists of organizations involved in similar work in different regions;
- To establish, eventually, a common funding source to enable more children from different backgrounds to be involved in international meetings of this kind;
- and because no one else is. The representative of UNICEF made it very clear that her organization could not be a focal point for this activity. There is no other body within the United Nations, or any other international institution, that can do this work. So if we believe that creating opportunities for the Voice of the Children to be heard in the world is good, both for children and for society in general, we must join together to generate those opportunities as effectively as possible, for as many children as possible, and as consistently as possible.



*"Listening to the voices of children changed us. It can change others..."*  
Gerd & Kristin

# **PARTICIPANT GROUP BREAKDOWN**

	Date started	Age Group	No. of Youth	No. of Nations	Governance
Center for Human Rights	(Child Rights Committee started '91)	0-18	-	126	2 staff
Children's Declaration(ex-Youth Ending Hunger)	1992('84)	- any -	5,000	80	"Spiritual"
Children's Parliament of Silesia	1991	13-20	148 members	1	Youth Praesidium
Coalition of Children for the Earth	1990	(7) 12-18 (21)	- ? -	110 affiliates	Committee
Earth Train	1989	13-21	170	32	Board
European Youth Parliament	1988	16-18	10,000 (total)	27	Natl. Committees
Hungarian National Students Union	1989	14-18	9,000	1	(50 affiliate orgs. with members)
Natur Kindergipfel	1991	8-14	5,000(600 at Summit)	1(5)	Staff + experts
+ Austrian Children's Summit	- as above -				
+ United Games	1989	1-90	- ? -	5	Staff
New Futures Network	1987	- not applicable -			
"We the Peoples..." Initiative	1990 - "realising Peace by the Year 2,000"				
Peace Child International	1981	7-17	100,000 (total)	32	Trustees
Peace School	1992	15-20	20	?	-
The Hague Model United Nations(THIMUN)	1978	15-20	2,700 pa.	70	5 x Trustees
UNICEF	1946	0-18	millions	179	Board & Natl. Councils
United Nations of Youth Alliance (UNOY)	1989	16-25/30	About 2,000 members	30	Board + Intl. Exec. Council
Voice of the Children	1990	(7)11-15(18)	600,000	42	
World Children's Day Foundation	1984	8-12	5,300 pa.	140	Board
Youth '92	1990	15-25	million(s)	150	Joint Council



## PROFILE OF ORGANIZATION INVOLVED IN CHILDREN & YOUTH SUMMIT

Name & Address of Organization:	<u>Age Group</u> No. of Youth	<u>Partner Organizations</u> Missions / Goals	FUNDING (sources)	MEDIA Coverage	POLITICIANS (activer support)	CELEBRITIES (activer support)
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	<u>Confirmed:</u>	<u>Confirmed:</u>	<u>Confirmed:</u>	<u>Confirmed:</u>
	<u>Refused:</u>	<u>Refused:</u>	<u>Refused:</u>	<u>Refused:</u>