

**REPORT FROM THE EASTERN & SOUTHERN  
AFRICA NGOs/CSOs GMC PREPARATORY  
MEETING**

**APRIL 18, 2001**

**KENYA SCHOOL OF MONETARY STUDIES**

**NAIROBI, KENYA**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Held on the 18<sup>th</sup> of April 2001, the Eastern and Southern Africa NGOs/CSOs preparatory meeting brought together 36 (thirty six) participants from 15 (fifteen) countries.<sup>1</sup> The objectives of the meeting were: -

- To comment on the Outcome Document;
- To identify pertinent regional issues and the gaps in the Outcome Document; and
- To strategize for the NGO/CSO participation in the GMC process.

The meeting noted the inadequate participation of the NGOs/CSOs from the Eastern and Southern Africa Region (ESAR) during the First and Second PREPCOM meetings in New York. It was agreed that there is need to have common messages for the region during the upcoming meetings and the special session.

The participants were also given a calendar of events related to the Global Movement for Children – those that have taken place and those yet to happen. Through sub-regional groups, participants identified common issues in ESAR in relation to the Outcome Document – *A World Fit for Children* and identified gaps in the document for consensus adoption.

Based on the regional strategies and activities of the Global Movement for Children that were presented, the meeting identified strategies for both regional and global activities for the Global Movement for Children up to the United Nations Special Session (UNGASS) and beyond.

The ESAR NGOs/CSOs preparatory meeting was organized and facilitated by the preparatory committee, which consisted of PLAN International (Regional and Kenya Offices), Save the Children - Canada, World Vision Kenya, Kenya Alliance for Advancement of Children, Forum for African Women Educationalists and Action Aid.

The meeting came up with a two-page output, which articulates the key issues that have not been adequately addressed in the Outcome Document, general comments on the Outcome Document and strategies for developing the GMC within the context of Eastern and Southern Africa.

---

<sup>1</sup> Kenya, Zimbabwe, Burundi, South Sudan, Tanzania, Malawi, Mauritius, Lesotho, Zambia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Rwanda, Swaziland, Uganda and Madagascar.

## **INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVE SETTING**

The ESAR preparatory meeting started with a formal introduction and expectations. In summary the expectations the participants had were: -

- ❑ To have a clear understanding on both country and regional (ESAR) NGOs/CSOs strategies, goals and position for participation in the UNGASS and Global Movement for Children.
- ❑ To have a united voice for children and together protect them from injustices committed against them.
- ❑ Develop an advocacy statement/argument for children suffering from war and HIV/AIDS.
- ❑ To develop practical strategies for ESAR participation in the GMC.

Given the above expectations, Stella Manda, the Regional Learning Advisor for PLAN – RESA informed the participants about the objectives of the day. These were: -

- ❑ To comment on the Outcome Document.
- ❑ To identify pertinent regional issues and gaps in the Outcome Document.
- ❑ To strategize for the NGO/CSO participation, in the GMC process.

## **A BRIEF PROFILE OF THE NGO/CSO IN ESAR**

The presence of different country level NGOs/CSOs was noted as providing a good opportunity for effecting the GMC. The NGOs and CSOs that were present in the meeting are dealing with:

- ❑ Caring for vulnerable/marginalized children.
- ❑ Development of the young people, including providing education.
- ❑ Advocating and lobbying for Child Rights.
- ❑ Providing rehabilitation for child victims.
- ❑ Promoting child participation.
- ❑ Providing health services.
- ❑ Reproductive health and counseling services
- ❑ Researching on and with children.
- ❑ Promoting the welfare of children and young people.

## **BRIEF ON PREPCOM I and II**

Joyce Umbima the Executive Director for Kenya Alliance for the Advancement of Children's Rights (KAACR) and Stella Manda gave a brief analysis of the participation of NGOs/CSOs from ESAR in the First and Second PREPCOM meetings:

- ❑ The ESAR participation was poor. Other regions were more organized and had clearer strategies of how to present their issues. Participants were urged to solidify a common purpose and strategy through the Nairobi meeting by identifying key issues for lobbying other regions and caucuses during the upcoming meetings and arriving at a regional consensus to be mainstreamed in the GMC process.
- ❑ ESAR NGOs/CSOs were reminded of the need to identify, in their countries, exhibits relevant to the GMC, which will be shared in the PREPCOM III.

### **PRESENTATION ON 2001 UNGASS CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Margaret Kyenkya – Isabirye, the NGO Liaison Officer at UNICEF New York, gave a calendar of both the past and future events leading to the UNGASS. She indicated that these events are being organized at global and regional levels. Among these events at the global level are:

- ❑ The Special Session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS (New York) in June 2001,
- ❑ The Special Session of the General Assembly on Small Arms (New York) in July 2001.
- ❑ World Youth Forum organized by the UN Youth Unit (Dakar, Senegal) in August 2001.

On Africa and the Middle East regional events, she indicated the following activities are in place: -

- ❑ High-level conference on children in the League of Arab States (Cairo, Egypt) in April 2001.
- ❑ Summit on HIV/AIDS of the organization of African Unity (Abuja, Nigeria).
- ❑ ESAR UNICEF/NGO/CSO meeting on the Global Movement for Children (Nairobi, Kenya) in April 2001.
- ❑ OAU/UNICEF Pan African Forum on the Future of Children (Cairo, Egypt) in May 2001.
- ❑ Summit of the Organization of African Unity in (Lusaka, Zambia) in July 2001.

Given this, she said the outcome of the Nairobi meeting would be very crucial, as it will provide a critical input to the Cairo meeting (Pan African Forum).

**AN OVERVIEW OF THE GLOBAL MOVEMENT FOR CHILDREN: BY MARGARET KYENKYA – ISABIRYE, UNICEF NGO LIASON OFFICER.**

Ms. Margaret Kyenkya – Isabirye made a presentation on the Global Movement for Children. The following was noted:

- ❑ As any movement, the GMC is an evolving process.
- ❑ It is identified by a logo developed by an advertising agency.
- ❑ The GMC campaign is pegged to ten Rallying Call principles.
- ❑ UNICEF, Save the Children, World Vision, PLAN international and BRAC have come together to push the GMC forward. The group has organized the launch of the Rallying Call on April 26<sup>th</sup> in London, to develop a strategy to sign up to the Rallying Call and engage with the Say Yes campaign.
- ❑ The GMC has three aspects i.e. the Leadership Initiative, which is spearheaded by Nelson Mandela and Graca Machel, with HIV/AIDS, children and armed conflicts and education as main priorities; the Rallying Call and the Say Yes to Children campaign.
- ❑ Save the Children has developed an Action Matrix on the Internet. It is a participatory means of writing ideas and demands for action from children and young people, NGOs, private sector, Governments and the media.
- ❑ For the Say yes to Children campaign, pledge forms have been developed and posted on the Internet site. The forms are for inputting data both via the Internet or non-internet means - as all the data will be analyzed.
- ❑ The pledges are in seven popular languages and the ten points correspond to the Rallying Call. Information for those pledging include selecting the three most urgent needs, indicating sex, age group country and willingness to get more involved.
- ❑ The need for regional and country articulation of the critical issues affecting children and specific strategies for making the GMC alive, with the wider masses as the key actors.
- ❑ There is need for the militaries in the region to translate protection of children into security issues.
- ❑ Some countries in the region have built the GMC on the processes and activities on the ground. Zimbabwe for example, has made use of the existing child welfare forums at village, district, provincial and national levels to pass on messages on the GMC, and have translated the 10 rallying call principles into two local languages.

**PRESENTATION ON THE REGIONAL GMC PROCESS: DR. BALAJI, REGIONAL PLANNING OFFICER, UNICEF ESAR:**

The following was noted:

- ❑ The participation of Africa in the past PREPCOMs was not assertive.
- ❑ The three regions of Africa – ESAR, Western and Central and Northern are working together to organize a Pan Africa forum in May 2001 in Cairo. The major themes of the latter will include: overcoming the odds, basic education, children in armed conflict and how the children and young people will be more involved in the world agenda.
- ❑ The forum is expected to come up with an African common position paper on the GMC process.
- ❑ There is need to set regional and national goals, since global goals are at times misleading.
- ❑ The Outcome Document could be expanded to include region specific issues.
- ❑ The current GMC process is more inclusive than during the formulation of the WSC goals in 1990.

**REVIEW OF THE OUTCOME DOCUMENT BY SUB-REGIONAL GROUPS**

Participants were divided into three groups. The groups identified common issues pertinent to children's and young people's rights. They further reviewed the Outcome Document on the basis of the identified ESAR issues and proposed additions and suggestions to strengthen the document. The following was noted:

- ❑ Common issues in ESAR include poor governance; inadequate participation by children with special needs; poverty – leading to working children, child sex workers; negative traditional practices such as children pledging for ritual purposes. Others are: HIV/AIDS – orphanhood of children affected and infected by HIV/AIDS; gender discrimination and inequality; rhetoric “free and universal” education; child sex abuse and exploitation; non registration of children at birth; children in conflict with the law; brain drain as it impacts on health delivery systems and the general unfriendly environment for implementing CRC.

- ❑ The Outcome Document rallies behind the 10 principles of the GMC, sets out the focus, strategies and opportunities for creating a world fit for children; reflects the 1990 World Summit goals for children and ensures the commitments by states to realize the goals
- ❑ However, to be effective the Outcome Document should be an advocacy tool; easy to read and accessible to everyone; adaptable; promote accountability with greater participation of the society.
- ❑ The document is adult-led, is more **for** rather than **with** children and there is confusion of goals and strategies e.g. point 3(ii), 51. Goals tend to be unrealistic point 13, 37
- ❑ To effect the GMC, there is need for forming pressure groups and popular movements; intensifying awareness campaigns; enhancing networking and coordination; allocating complimentary resources and ensuring personal commitments towards the course.
- ❑ As in the earlier versions, there is need to include - in the Outcome Document - a vision to be located after article 4, before the principles.
- ❑ Issues that were not addressed or inadequately addressed included: child protection (girls/boys), effects of alcoholism, street children/teenage mothers, child soldiers, protection and security of women and children, school re-integration of dropouts and working children.
- ❑ The Outcome Document needs strengthening by way of putting the child as the key actor; including in the declaration, a common but different approach to address children's issues and accommodate the marginalized children.
- ❑ The role of NGOs/CSOs has to be more pronounced in the document
- ❑ Regarding the detailed comments: points 2, 3 need to be made more strong by use of the words "must stop"; point 4 should be strengthened for the universally accepted standards for quality education. Principle # 6 is passive, it needs to be more active and include all aspects of conflicts in homes and communities.
- ❑ On the plan of action: the document lacks a clear recognition and desegregation of the different categories of different levels of development; children have to be categorized by age. Furthermore, paragraphs 7 to 25 need to be revisited; discrimination on disability is missing completely and article number 12 does not indicate a clear strategy. Poverty is used as an escapist of poor governance and that the establishment of an Ombudsperson has to be pegged to the establishment of truly democratic state structures.

- ❑ Referring to point number 48, states tend to “pass the buck”. There is also need to highlight commitments from the developed world on the resource mobilization
- ❑ There is need to incorporate enforcement and monitoring mechanisms to make governments more accountable.

## **REGIONAL STRATEGIES FOR GMC TO AND BEYOND THE SPECIAL SESSION**

In the same three groups above, participants proposed the following key strategies to effect the GMC process:

- ❑ Empowerment of all children to say what GMC means to them and institutionalize their participation in all processes by among others, producing audio-visual materials on GMC for all children e.g. sign language for the blind and domesticating the GMC by translating materials into local languages.
- ❑ Using all channels of communication. There is need to involve the media to disseminate information on GMC.
- ❑ Sensitization of parents and caregivers.
- ❑ Establishment of lobby and advocacy groups to network beyond UNGASS and setting up transparent and all – inclusive mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation of the GMC.
- ❑ Building greater partnerships by engaging and networking with children, youth, religious bodies, military, the private sector, media and other stakeholders.
- ❑ Recognizing and building on the way children do their activities
- ❑ Bringing on board regional bodies, linking up with other regional efforts in Africa and ensure stronger participation of the NGOs/CSOs, in the country, regional and global GMC processes.
- ❑ Identifying and documenting best practices on children matters
- ❑ Undertaking inter country support for the GMC processes including launching at country level.

## Appendix I

EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA NGOs/CSOs  
PREPARATORY MEETING; NAIROBI, KENYA.

18<sup>th</sup> April 2001

**The agenda for the working group.**

**Morning: Chairperson: Mathenge Munene Save Canada, Kenya.**

- 8.00 am – 8.30 am:** Registration: *Queen Katembu – World Vision.*
- 8.30 am – 9.00 am:** Introductions/Objectives/review of agenda. *Deepali Khanna/Stella Manda – PLAN/Chair.*
- 9.00 am – 10.00 am** Briefing on the GMC: *Margaret Kyenkya – UNICEF NY; Joyce Umbima – KAACR; Stella Manda – PLAN.*
- 10.00 am – 10.30 am** **Tea Break**
- 10.30 am – 12.00 midday** Country Updates and review the Out come Document. *Christine Sidibe – FAWE; Deepali – PLAN; Joyce Umbima – KAACR.*
- 12.00 pm – 1.30 pm** Plenary on sub regional presentations.

**1.30 – 2.30 - Lunch Break**

**Afternoon: Chairperson: Ms. Myriam Narasanny, OMEP, Mauritius.**

- 2.30 pm – 3.00 pm** Overview of the regional GMC process: events/activities. *Dr. L. N. Balaji, UNICEF Regional Programme Planning Officer.*
- 3.30 pm – 4.00 pm** Group work on the sub regional strategies for the NGO/CSO participation in the GMC process.
- 4.00 to 4.30** **Tea Break**
- 4.30 pm – 5.30 pm** Group Presentation and consensus building on the common issues. *Daniel Stoner – PLAN and Mathenge Munene SAVE Canada.*
- 5.30 – 6.00** Working on the meeting output. **Tim- KAACR; Dan Stoner – PLAN; Mathenge Munene – SAVE Canada; Stella Manda – PLAN.**

## Appendix II

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

NAME	NGO NAME	ADDRESS	FAX#	TEL#	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Daniel Stoner	Plan Int'l	Box 25196 Nairobi, Kenya	577149	577134	dstoner@africaonline.co.ke
Penina Mlama	FAWE	Box 53168 Nairobi, Kenya	210709	226590	fawe@fawe.org.
Christine Sidibe	FAWE	Box 53168, Nairobi Kenya	210709	226590	fawea@fawe.org
Mathenge Munene	Save Canada	Box 27679 Nairobi, Kenya	606087	606086	<a href="mailto:scc-kco@nbnet.co.ke">scc-kco@nbnet.co.ke</a>
Stella Manda	Plan Int'l	Box 25196 Nairobi, Kenya	577149	577132/4	stella.manda@plan-international.org
Gerard Snowball	Plan Int'l	Put Bag 7232 HG,Highlands, Harare, Zimbabwe	796283	708383-5	<a href="mailto:snowbalg@plan-international.org">snowbalg@plan-international.org</a>
Balla Shachin	CEDEM	La Caverne#2 Vacoas, Mauritius	6961176	6965013	<a href="mailto:coll@internet.mu">coll@internet.mu</a>
Martin Nkuna	Center For Human Rights & Rehab.	Box 2340 Lilongwe, Malawi	758435	758432	<a href="mailto:chrr@sdp.org.mw">chrr@sdp.org.mw</a>
Alice Chapuma	Plan Int'l	Box 2053 Lilongwe, Malawi	774479	770699	<a href="mailto:c-malawi@plan.geis.com">c-malawi@plan.geis.com</a>
Alphonce Mutaboyerwa	Kuleana Center For Children Rights	Box 27 Mwanza, Tanzania		250091/2 2500489	<a href="mailto:admin@kuleana.org">admin@kuleana.org</a>
Frances Hagan	Plan Int'l	Box 3517, Dar-es- salaam Tanzania	2152924/5	21522926	<a href="mailto:frances@africaonline.co.tz">frances@africaonline.co.tz</a>
Siyomvo Cyprien	UNICEF	Box 2010, Bujumbura, Burundi	217586	217587 241173	<a href="mailto:scfuk@cbint.com">scfuk@cbint.com</a>
Vincent Ayuel	SUPRAID	Box 77901 Nairobi, Kenya		604565	
Timothy Ekesa	KAACR	Box 73637 Nairobi, Kenya	632134	632162	<a href="mailto:kaacr@iconnect.co.ke">kaacr@iconnect.co.ke</a>
Queen Katembu	World Vision	Box 50816 Nairobi, Kenya	883669	883652	Queen <a href="mailto:katembu@wvi.org">katembu@wvi.org</a>
Joyce Umbima	KAACR	Box 73637 Nairobi, Kenya	632134	632162	<a href="mailto:kaacr@iconnect.co.ke">kaacr@iconnect.co.ke</a>
Dorcas Irangi	Kenya Family Dev.Org	Box 21639 Nairobi, Kenya	572228	572228	elsaexpo@hotmail.com
Selloane Mokuku	Save UK	Maseru, Lesotho		312279 885055	<a href="mailto:children@lesoff.co.za">children@lesoff.co.za</a> <a href="mailto:smokuku@hotmail.com">smokuku@hotmail.com</a>
Brankitse Marguerite	Maison Shalom	D.S 119 Bujumbura, Burundi	276115	276113	
Josephine Hambarume	NGO Coalition	184 Fife Ave Harare, Zimbabwe		721541	<a href="mailto:post@reddBarna.org">post@reddBarna.org</a>
Emma Gweshe	SAHRIT	Box CY 2448 Couseway Harare, Zimbabwe	339818	333882	<a href="mailto:hrrdtsa@africaonline.co.zw">hrrdtsa@africaonline.co.zw</a>
Grace Banya	UNICEF	Box 7047, Kampala,	235660	259913/4;	<a href="mailto:gbanya@unicef.org">gbanya@unicef.org</a>

		Uganda		071-404085	
Rubaramira Ruranga	NGENT/NGE N+	Box 10028 Kampala, Uganda	343301	343301	<a href="mailto:ngen@infocom.co.ug">ngen@infocom.co.ug</a>
Tzeghereda Woldesillosia	NUEYS	Box 1171 Asmara, Eritrea	125703	161521	
Mustafa Ahmed	NUEYS	Box 1042 Asmara, Eritrea	120447	120468	<a href="mailto:aqubam@yahoo.com">aqubam@yahoo.com</a>
Irakiza Isaac	ADAP	Box 2547 Kigali, Rwanda		8503677	
Ngoboka Cyriaque	UNICEF	Box 381 Kigali, Rwanda	73024	73033	<a href="mailto:cngoboka@unicef.org">cngoboka@unicef.org</a>
Getrude Chanda	World Vision	Box 31083 Lusaka	260723	97806212	<a href="mailto:Gertrude_chanda@wvi.org">Gertrude_chanda@wvi.org</a>
Maarten V. D Kraan	Plan Int'l	Box 5184 Lusaka, Zambia	260093	260074/5	<a href="mailto:Maarten.kraan@plan-international.org">Maarten.kraan@plan-international.org</a>
Myriam Naraisamy	Meldrum, Flat – APT 102 Beau Bassis, Mauritius	4657901	46457901	4645616	
Gashaw Dagnev	Plan Int'l	Box 12677 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	654279	652067	<a href="mailto:gashaw.dagnev@plan-international.org">gashaw.dagnev@plan-international.org</a>
Ayalew Wolde Samait	ANPPCAN	Box 34359, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.		505202/ 153548	<a href="mailto:anppcan-eth@telecom.net.et">anppcan-eth@telecom.net.et</a>
Nakanjako Mungereza	Save-Norway	Box 12018, Kampala, Uganda	341714 341963	341714 341963	<a href="mailto:scnuga.program@infocom.co.ug">scnuga.program@infocom.co.ug</a>
Deepali Khanna	Plan Int'l	Box 25196, Nairobi, Kenya.	574987/56259 3	570351	<a href="mailto:khannad@plan.geis.com">khannad@plan.geis.com</a>
Mandla Lumphonduo	Swaziland Action Group Against Abuse	Box 560 Matsapha, Swaziland	5052899	5052899	<a href="mailto:swagaa@realnet.co.sz">swagaa@realnet.co.sz</a>

### Appendix III

## **NGO/CSO group – output from the preparation day: 18<sup>th</sup> April 2001**

### **1. Key issues identified by the region of Eastern and Southern Africa that were not addressed or were not addressed fully enough in the document were:**

- Child prostitution
- Good governance is not adequately addressed in the document
- The document does not commit the developed world to change the situation of children
- More emphasis needs to be placed on participation of children in the document and especially children in special needs
- Alcoholism
- Children soldiers
- Protection and security of children and women
- Street children
- Basic education
- School reintegration
- The relationship between poverty and governance (poor governance)
- Brain drain
- HIV AIDS
- Participation of NGO/CSOs in global meetings

### **2. Comments on the outcome document**

The Outcome Document should be

- An advocacy tool
- Easy to read
- Readily accessible to everyone
- Help achieve accountability
- Adaptability

In general, the document was found to be much weaker than the CRC. There were reservations expressed about the usefulness of the document.

There were many general comments on the document. They were

Issues that were not addressed adequately in the document are:

- Good governance

Appendix III Continued.....

- Commitment of the developed world to change the situation of children
- participation of children in the document and especially children in special needs
- gender discrimination and inequality

**Other general comments on the document were:**

- The document is adult led with children treated as recipients, not as active participants. Children should be portrayed as actors
- There is a confusion between goals and strategies and activities and methodology in the document
- The plan of action is not a plan of action
- Many of the goals in the document are unrealistic
- There is lots of room for governments to pass the buck
- There is concern about the title of the document as it does not include the children as active participants
- The document is too rhetorical. It needs mechanisms for enforcement.
- The role of NGOs needs to be flushed out in the document
- The document lacks a common approach to “do it differently”
- The principles need to be made less passive (example paragraph #6)
- Stronger language is needed in the document and in the principles section
- Can boys and girls be used instead of children throughout?
- There is no discussion and desegregation of children’s needs based on different levels of development and ages

**Specific comments about sections of the document were:**

- Basic education is not adequately addressed in the document
- Children in war and children affected by insecurity need to be further addressed.
- More emphasis is needed on combating negative traditional practices
- The documents needs more focus on birth registration

**3. Strategies for developing the GMC so that it is truly reflects the Regional Context.**

There are numerous strategies that were discussed order to move forward with the GMC process. They fall into six categories of actions, which are outlined below:

- Lobbying
- Information, communication, and networking
- Awareness raising and mobilization
- Institutional capacity building
- Development of enforcement mechanisms
- Promote true child participation

