



II Brazilian Children's Conference of the Millennium – the Children's Letter for the Organization and Implementation of the infantile Agenda 21.

Introduction

Children are meeting at a moment of historic definition. They are summoned to the II Brazilian Children's of the Millennium to collectively produce their development project – the Infantile Agenda 21: a children's map of their views, questions and decisions on childhood about the path to sustainable development.

In the 2000 years of the history of Christian civilization, it is the first time that they have been publicly summoned by adults to draw up a document of this nature. This summons was an initiative of the Environmental Preservation Agency and the First Brazilian Children's Conference of the Millennium, along with Goiânia Marist College, Colegio Delta, The Goiás Environmental Agency, The Victoria Arts Space, The Salgado de Oliveira University, the Federal University of Goiás, The Dom Fernando Institute, The State of Goiás Education Secretariat, School Salary/ Goiás State Education Secretariat, The Secretariat for the Environment, Control and Urban Development of Niterói, Rio de Janeiro and CENAQUA/IBAMA.

The Second CCBM brought together 500 six to twelve year olds, from Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Mato Grosso and Brasília, with the majority from the state of Goiás, Brazil. Among them were groups of indian and handicapped children. Together, these 500 children drew up the 12 children's pacts for sustainable development which now make up this present document, entitled the Brazilian Infantile Agenda 21 Organization and Implementation and CCBM Letter, abbreviated to The Children's Letter.

The twelve pacts were drawn up by 12 groups of children during the conference and approved in plenary session by all 500 six to twelve year olds, participating in the event.

The Conference organizers' principal preoccupation was the promotion of the drawing up of a Children's development project by children which would integrate with the direction and preoccupation of adults in relation to the environment, leading children to collective and community organization and organized participation within the process of management and protection of ecosystems and building humanity's peaceful, prosperous and secure future.

This process was started by the Brazilian Infantile Agenda 21 Organization and Implementation Committee and the CCBM made up of members of the above mentioned organs and coordinated by representatives of the OPA, Heloíse Moreira Martins Câmara and Divino Roberto Veríssimo, having as its basis the Goiânia



Declaration, taken from the first CCBM, the Preliminary Project for the Children's Agenda 21 proposed by the OPA and the following directives:

Children's unity and community association must come from the premises of the UN General Assembly resolution 44/228 of the 22/12/1989, adopted when the world's nations called the UN Conference on Environmental Development, from the acceptance of the necessity to adopt a balanced and integrated approach to questions dealing with the environment and development and from the Convention on Children's Rights adopted by Resolution No. L 44 (XLIV) of the UN General Assembly on the 20/11/1989, ratified by Brazil on the 20/09/1990.

The Infantile Agenda 21 is concerned with today's pressing problems and its objective is to prepare children for the challenges of the next century. It requires and carries out the practical fulfilling of children's rights to association and participation in social construction and environmental development and cooperation.

If there is world consensus, and a political commitment at the highest level to what concerns the implementation of children's and human rights, organized civil society firmly hopes that governments, NGOs and social movements will support the organization and implementation of this Infantile agenda 21. In this context, all the international, regional and subregional organizations are invited to contribute to the organization and implementation of the Infantile Agenda 21. Wide public participation is requested and the active involvement of schools, learning centers and universities.

The carrying out of the Infantile Agenda 21 objectives on the decisions or commitments of children to its considerations and proposals will demand strong support from their families, and, from the country's companies, governments, non-governmental and governmental institutions. This support should be given in terms of offering physical conditions for the organization of children's clubs, founded on the Children's Agenda 21 as a basis for strengthening the unity of children in Brazil and in the world. Each of the children's clubs formed will require a club house, communication operating conditions and a proposal for children's action (a project) which will have to be examined and facilitated by families and organizations disposed to invest in children.

The Infantile Agenda 21 is a dynamic program of collective construction of a children's road to development. Out of a total of the Global Agenda 21's Forty Pacts which served as its model, it starts here with 12, while the remaining 28 await carrying out. It will be taken forward by the different child actors with the support of the different adult actors, according to the different situations, capacities and priorities identified by the children, in total observance of all the principles contained in laws, declarations and conventions on the environment and development, discussed or seen and ratified by them in their dynamic relations. With the passing of time and the changes of necessities and circumstances even



after completion, it is possible that the Children's Agenda 21 will evolve, because this process marks the beginning of a children's national and world association in favor of sustainable development in a world which is also evolving.

These are the 12 Pacts:

Pact I – Respect and Solidarity.

Considering:

That the indigenous child is the most important element in preserving the wisdom of the original and traditional peoples of our land; and that respect is very important and we ought to show respect always;

That respect means giving people conditions to earn their living;

That it is important to evaluate people's qualifications for a job without taking age or appearance into account;

That the health system isn't decent because people don't earn well and often go on strike;

That life is worth more than money and when a person who is hurt in an accident during a trip, nobody needs to know whether they are rich or poor to give them the necessary assistance;

That sometimes the government doesn't show solidarity and in the public service there is a lot of waste;

That to make a person happy it is enough to respect, to give love, care, to listen and to touch.

We propose:

An increase in the number of doctors in hospitals and an improvement in the service;

Open more hospitals where people, whether rich or poor, can be attended, both in the center and in the shanty towns;

The proper inclusion and participation of indian children in our relations as previewed in the Convention on Children's Rights.

Institute health assistance centers in schools for emergency services and to send people to hospital;

Respect for one's neighbors;

Friendship;

More attention to people's rights;

More understanding;

Do to others as we would wish them to do to us;

Give conditions to poorer people to find jobs;

Increase the supervision of hospitals and illegal clinics;



Our commitment is:

To do what we are saying here.

Pact II - Biodiversity and Human Environment

Considering:

That there is only one human race and we are willing to respect all differences;
That white people are prejudiced against black people and vice versa;
That there is prejudice against certain social classes and nations;
That there is violence against women;
That nicknames are often ways of showing prejudice against colleagues;
That there is physical prejudice shown in our games;
That all people should have the same opportunities;
That the government should recognize the rights of the indian peoples to their land.

We propose:

Making people aware that all are equal;
That everybody does his/her part
Unity among cultures;
That all be given school and a school lunch, irrespective of their condition;
That the government give assistance to all cultures;
That all have access to university.
Our commitment is:
To explain to everyone that we are all brothers;
Declare that all forms of discrimination are wrong;
Respect people irrespective of the color of their skin;
Invite our friends to participate in youth clubs;
Respect animals;
Not speak badly of others because we are all equal;
Organize conferences and seminars to help get to know, to come closer and learn to live with other cultures;
Stop criticizing our colleagues.

Pact III - Participation and Social Responsibility of Children in our common development.

Considering:

That all cultures have generally originated from indian and black peoples;
That the illegal felling of trees is a shameful way of making money;
That waste on the streets stops up gutters and provokes floods;
That we depend on nature to survive;
That preserving nature is good not only for one person but for all;
That children should be responsible for themselves;



That the destruction of the environment will put an end to all natural things and leave only artificial things.

We propose:

The reduction of the amount of plastic wrappings being made;
That the government encourage the use of recycled material;
That there be more campaigns for people to put waste in the dumps;
That we should come closer to adults, do things together, preserve nature and have a common responsibility;
Only take from nature what is necessary;
Carry out campaigns for the use of cotton sacks in place of plastic;
Show the value of the culture of the indian and black peoples;
Show appreciation for children's participation in sports events.
Our commitment is:
Put nature in first place;
Get closer to the indian and black peoples;
Support the government in the effort to produce cotton in place of plastic sacks and in the use of organic waste to produce fertilizer.

Pact IV - Non proliferation of violence and protection of girls and women.

Considering:

That violence is not education;
That the lack of limits generates violence;
That stupidity generates violence;
That it is necessary that children diminish and eliminate violence among themselves.

We propose:

To avoid swearing;
To avoid misunderstandings, fights and confusion;
to keep our promises;
To show solidarity;
To be honest;
To pay attention to what we say to our friends;
To put ourselves in other peoples' shoes before we fight with them;
Not to betray our friends;
Not to mistrust our parents;
Not to harm anybody;
To have a friendly word in our hearts;
To take care of our friends.

Our commitment is:

To work out a Friendship Pledge;

To pay attention to what we say and do;
To respect people as they are in the search for sincere friendships;
To talk to our friends in order to alert them about bad things.

Pact V - Peace and social Security.

Considering:

That violence isolates people, and that people relate less to each other with each passing day (fear, mistrust, insecurity);
That video games are addictive and should be cut down on;
That violent cartoons make some children want to kill and beat others;
That family example influences children's behavior;
That magazines, newspapers, pictures, photos and advertising influence children's behavior;
That guns do not always mean security and can be used to kill;

We propose:

That violent advertising be vetoed, and that peace, caring and good relationships be promoted;
that families watch programs along with their children;
that the sale of toys which encourage violence be prohibited;
that toys which encourage violence be recycled or exchanged for books;
that parents not give presents of war toys;
that guns not be left within children's reach or where they are accessible;
that there be family dialogue;
that the informative material accessible to children be better selected;;
that governments have projects to encourage reading and motivate the larger community.

Our commitment is:

To campaign for the exchange of war inducing toys for less aggressive ones;
To repudiate aggressive games at school;
To write a letter asking manufacturers not to produce such toys anymore;
To conscientize parents about the importance of selecting TV programs;
To stop buying toys which encourage evil;
To read more and develop a liking for reading.

Pact VI - Community Health

Considering:

that there is a lack of advice and participation on behalf of some parents in the lives of their children;
that parents make a lot of mistakes in educating their children and this must be corrected.



We propose:

that companies that pollute be denounced and fined;
the closure of factories which insist on polluting;
obliging companies to clean up what they have dirtied;
denouncing people who sell drugs;
that entrepreneurs set up companies which do not pollute the environment.

Our commitment is:

Not to consume goods produced by companies which pollute;
to give preference to natural foods;
to eat less fried food and food that can do us harm.

Pact VII – Sustainable Social Agriculture

Considering:

that chemical fertilizers pollute the water and kill fish;
that deforestation could be criminal;

We propose:

that nature be preserved;
that garbage not be thrown into the water;
that forbidden areas not be deforested;
that toxic products not be used in the production of food;
that the setting up of industries be avoided in areas of special interest to environmental well being.

Our commitment is:

Not to put chemical fertilizer on food products;
not to destroy riverheads;
not to cause a build up of sand in rivers and streams;
not to cut down trees in preservation areas and legal reserves;
not to cause burnings;
not to throw water in rivers;
not to hunt, sell or keep wild animals and birds in cages.

Pact VIII – Responsibility and Social Management of Fresh Water

Considering:

in spite of Brazil being rich in hydro resources, our people do not appreciate this wealth;
the social inequality in which we live is a factor which does not disturb our economy or water conservation;
fresh water is running out and that it is necessary to find other sources of fresh water;



97% of the world's water is salt water and 3% is fresh, of which only 1% is drinking water;
that factories dirty and pollute our water a lot;
with the waste of water, man is killing himself.

We propose:

consciousness-raising so as to conserve hydro resources;
using seawater as a source of fresh water by filtering it to remove the salt;
treating sewage before throwing it in the rivers;
stopping deforestation and reforesting river banks and waterheads;
that water discarded by factories be treated and reused by these same factories;
increasing government inspection of the conservation of water purity.

Our commitment is:

to conserve, economize and be responsible in our use of water;
demand government measures for the conservation of hydro resources;
not to throw garbage in waterheads;
not to throw pollutants in rivers;
not to waste water.

Pact IX – Forestry and Biodiversity.

Considering:

that forest animals are dying because of deforestation;
that God created nature to give us fruit and for the animals which form the food chain;
animals have a right to shelter and food;
trees clean the air.

We propose:

that hunting and caging of animals be prohibited;
that industries must be situated far from towns, seas and rivers;
that factories put filters in their chimneys;
not to throw garbage on the ground, in seas or rivers;
increasing forest reserves;
the preservation of animals that are in danger of extinction.

Our commitment is:

to plant trees;
to respect aquatic animals;
not to torture animals.



Pact X – Depolluting – polluting

Considering:

that littering leads to human self-destruction;
that pollution is connected to consumption;
that petrol burning and smoke contaminate the air.

We propose:

Avoiding an increase in the use of billboards by only placing necessary advertising which should not be repeated;
making the separation of garbage a law;
not traveling unnecessarily by car or motorbike;
not throwing cell phones batteries in any place;
keeping batteries in an appropriate container and never throwing them out;
the creation of products to eliminate battery radioactivity;
that products come in reusable wrappings;
the setting up of a commission in schools, responsible for orientation on garbage collection.

Our commitment is:

to use as little water and energy as possible;
work with parents in order to educate them on pollution;
not to deforest or pollute rivers;
always do the best independently of whether others are doing the opposite;
demand that public authorities put garbage bins in the streets.

Pact XI – Support for positive social causes and for social rights and responsibilities

Considering:

that more peace, love and happiness are needed;
that man is responsible for his actions;
that the protection of women is a social cause;
that women create life;
that children observe their parents' actions.

We propose:

the equalizing of salary and work opportunity among whites, blacks and women;
the concretizing of abortion prohibition;
talking civilly about questions that need solving, avoiding strikes if possible.

Our commitment is:

To support the idea of The Infantile Agenda 21.

Pact XII – Education by children

Considering:

that there are school strikes;
that there is a shortage of school lunches;
that students get low grades;
that there are smokers in schools;
that there are violent games;
that there are attacks inside and outside of schools;
that there are constant changes of teachers;
that schools do not have books;
that there is graffiti on school walls;
that getting to know other cultures, such as that of the indians, is important and good;
that it is necessary to learn another language in order to get a better position in the world and to transmit Brazilian culture to other peoples.

We propose:

an increase in teachers' salaries;
that parents help out with study,
attention and more help from the teachers;
that teachers help but without giving the answers;
theatre for socialization purposes;
that teachers and school directors not smoke;
teacher friendship;
the installation of computers with Internet;
the setting up of chemistry, physics and biology laboratories;
excursions to get to know the woods and savanna better and to meet up with children from farms.

Our commitment:

to hold meetings in colleagues' houses to research, study and set up tasks;
not to join violent games;
to study for tests;
do pair work;
talk to our parents;
not to react to aggressiveness with aggression;
to be the teacher's friend;
to do a campaign to collect, preserve and donate books.

The terms of the definition of development of the Children's Agenda 21

The terms of the present document, divided into introduction and the above pacts, constitutes the first draft of the Children's Agenda 21 under construction and are



open for distribution, study and ratification by all the country's children and institutes, organized in regional, state or national conferences. The task of distribution and search for ratification belong to the direction of the Children's Agenda 21 Organization and Implementation Committee and to the CCBM, under the coordination of Divino Roberto Veríssimo and Heloisa Moreira Martins Câmara.

Every conference which ratifies the Children's Agenda 21 or adheres to it after studying these pacts or proposing others, must enforce the Children's Agenda 21 and communicate it to its members, promoting it as an instrument for the organization of children's clubs.

Any conference can propose an amendment and register it with the General Secretariat of the Children's Agenda 21 Organization and Implementation Committee. The secretariat will communicate the proposed amendment to the children enrolled for the next CCBM national conference with the request that the proposers of the alteration participate in this conference in order to submit it for voting. Any amendment can be adopted or rejected by the majority of children present at the national CCBM conferences. An amendment adopted in conformity with the children's decision at the CCBM national conference will take effect immediately after that conference.

The CCBM secretariat will receive and communicate to all those enrolled in the next CCBM national conference the text of the reserves, alterations or propositions made by the children's local, regional and state conferences which can be organized and carried out by Brazilian institutes and government and non-governmental organizations.

No reserve, alteration or proposal incompatible with the objective and aim of the implementation of the Convention on Children's Rights and of Chapter 25 of the Global Agenda 21 or other relevant conventions will be permitted.

Such reserves, alterations or proposals can be withdrawn at any time before the holding of the national CCBM by means of a notification of this type sent to the General Coordination of the Children's Agenda 21 Organization and Implementation Committee and the CCBM. The coordinators of the Children's Agenda 21 Organization and Implementation Committee and the CCBM are designated as the trustees of this present letter of the Organization and Implementation of the Children's Agenda 21 (the Children's letter).

The original text of this present document, whose texts follow in English, Spanish and Portuguese are equally authentic and will be registered in a notary public's office and deposited with these coordinators. The children, duly authorized by their respective parents and all the organizations participating in the Second Brazilian Children's Conference in the Millennium signed the present document. The



institutional signatures follow below while the children's and parents' signatures are registered in the appropriate book which will also be registered in a notary public's office.