

Organization of the World Summit for Children — May 1989 to October 1990

Event/Process	Synopsis of the Event
Context	- the World Summit for Children in September 1990 raised the profile of children's issues and promoted the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. - Canada's Prime Minister was asked by UNICEF to co-chair Summit with leader of developing country. - This case study examines DFAIT's role in the drafting process of the Declaration and World Action Plan as well as in the organization of the World Summit in conjunction with UNICEF.
DFAIT Objectives	To enhance Canada's role as a leader in the promotion of children's issues internationally.
DFAIT value-added	providing leadership: - IMH and Canadian Missions successfully lobbied Heads of State to attend, ensuring stature of event; - IMH prepared the initial draft of the World Declaration and Action Plan; - IMH provided expert resources to UNICEF in protocol, summit organization, delegate accreditation; - IMH/BCF provided expert resources to the PMO and UNICEF on communication strategies. building consensus: - IMD chaired four interdepartmental committee meetings to review UN Declaration and Canada's national document; - IMH funded consultations with NGOs and youth to provide input into Canada's national document. providing legal expertise: - JLO provided legal opinions on draft texts of the Declaration and Action Plan; - JLO managed responses to NGOs concerned with Canada's endorsement of the Convention. providing international fora expertise: - IMH prepared briefing package for Canadian delegation; - JLO and IMH coordinated Canada's co-sponsoring of resolutions at UN to get the Convention adopted; - Canadian missions provided logistical expertise on Summit organization. providing communication expertise: - IMH included a communications expert from BCF to develop communication strategies for Summit. promoting Canada's image: - the event was lauded by Prime Minister and UN Ambassador as very successful in enhancing Canada's profile internationally.
Management of the Event	priority setting: with PM as co-chair, Summit organization was a top priority for DFAIT. planning: Summit was largest gathering of world leaders ever so rules/process had to be invented as they went along; DFAIT provided expertise from organization of G-7 summits but planning was responsive to a new context. resource allocation: Director and Director General of IMH responsible for Summit and actively involved as was CDN Ambassador to UN; difficult for IMH to field adequate resources for Summit organization and keep them; approximately 2.5 full-time officers at FS-1 and FS-2 levels allocated to IMH for Summit but personnel changed over time; 2 additional FS-1s fielded to IMH in last two months; Canadian missions provided logistics and lobbying support throughout world; use of 5 outside consultants in NY in last two months. decision-making: IMH perceived by stakeholders as providing excellent leadership with regard to building consensus around Canada's national document, Declaration and Action Plan and coordinating with other government stakeholders on the Summit organization.
Performance	- DFAIT objectives achieved. - key stakeholders satisfied with the quality of the services DFAIT provided and Summit outcomes. - the event was very beneficial to Canada's image given the limited resources involved although costly to DFAIT in terms of the stretch it put on an already taxed resource base.