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Child Rights Information Network
East Studio, 2 Pontypool Place
London, SE1 8QF
United Kingdom

The Secretary-General
The United Nations
1 United Nations Plaza
New York, New York 10017-3515
USA

11/10/2009

London, 20 November 2009

Dear Secretary-General,

RE: UNICEF Executive Director appointment process

We, the undersigned, are writing to you because we understand the position of Executive Director of UNICEF is soon due for consideration. We recognise that expert leadership is crucial for the realisation of children's rights. We therefore call on the UN Secretary General and UNICEF's Executive Board to establish an appointment process for the post of Executive Director that is public, transparent and focuses on ability to promote and safeguard children's rights, in line with UNICEF's Mission.

We recommend that:

1. a description of the qualifications required be developed and made public
2. the process include consultation with all stakeholders, including civil society, and
3. there be a set timetable for nominations, shortlists and final selection.

While we understand the criteria for appointment will include a number of desired ingredients, such as knowledge of UN processes and due management experience, we believe that the following are essential:

1. experience in the field of human rights
2. the ability and willingness to engage with children
3. a commitment to engaging with civil society
4. a willingness to champion sensitive or unpopular issues of significance to children and their rights, and
5. proven experience in advancing the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

We hope that you will understand our concern and interest in this issue. We would be grateful if you would send us information on the selection process and the timescale for making the appointment.

Sincerely yours,

Peter Newell, Chair

Veronica Yates, Director

Cc: Members of the UNICEF Executive Board

ANNEX: Signatories

International Organisations and Institutions

Child Helpline International
Child Rights Information Network (CRIN)
Consortium for Street Children
Defence for Children International - International Secretariat
Defensa de Niñas y Niños Internacional - Región Américas
European Network of Masters in Children's Rights (ENMCR)
European Network of Ombudspersons for Children (ENOC)
European Network of Women (ENOW)
ECPAT International
Eurochild
Feinstein International Center, Tufts University
Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children
International Federation of Social Workers
International Save the Children Alliance
NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child
Red latino americana y caribeña por la defensa de los derechos de los niños, niñas y adolescentes (REDLAMYC)
SOS-Kinderdorf International
Penal Reform International (PRI)
War Child
World Fair Trade Organization
Y Care International

National Organisations and Institutions

Algeria

Association de Sauvegarde et Promotion de l'Enfance
Fondation Algérienne de la Sauvegarde des Droits de l'Enfant

Argentina

Chicos.net
Fundacion Convivir
El Comité Argentino de Seguimiento y Aplicación de la Convención Internacional sobre los Derechos del Niño (CASACIDN)
Mediasapiens.org
Network Ratt
Proyect ARG, Asociacion Civil

Aruba

Stichting Maatschappij & Criminaliteit - SMC Research Foundation
Aruba Telefon pa Hubentud - Child Helpline

Australia

Ethnic Child Care Family and Community Services Co-operative Ltd.
Universal Rights Network
Defence for Children International - DCI Australia

Austria

Ombudsoffice for Children and Youth - Province of Styria

Bahrain

Bahrain Youth Society For Human Rights

ANNEX: Signatories

Bangladesh

SOS Children's Village International - Bangladesh

Belgium

Délégué Général de la Communauté française aux droits de l'enfant

Kinderrechtencommissariaat

SOS Children's Villages - Belgium

Bolivia

Vision Mundial Bolivia

Brazil

Defence for Children International - DCI Brasil

Instituto Paulista de Sexualidade

Instituto Ócio Criativo

Plan International - Brasil

Burundi

Programme d'Appui au Système de Santé (PASS)

Human Health Aid

Cameroon

Cameroon Association for the Protection and Education of the Child (CAPEC)

Plan International - Cameroon

Save the Future Foundation

Serve the Orphans Foundation

Canada

Canadian Child Care Federation

Le Relais Communautaire de Laval

Focus on Fairness

Padang Lutheran Christian Relief

Chile

Fundacion Integra

Corporacion ACHNU

Gesta - Fundación Marista por la Solidaridad

China

Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)

Right To Play

Costa Rica

Union de Instituciones Privadas de Atención a las Niñez (UNIPRIN)

Fundacion Paniamor

Croatia

Ombudsperson for Children

Czech Republic

Online Safety Institute

University of Masaryk

Denmark

Save the Children Denmark

ANNEX: Signatories

Dominican Republic

Acción Callejera-Fundación Educativa, Inc.
Consejo Nacional para la Niñez y la Adolescencia, CONANI

Ecuador

Centre for HIV/AIDS Counselling and Support, Vinges

Egypt

Egyptian Association for Community Participation Enhancement (EACPE)
Egyptian Foundation for Advancement of the Childhood Conditions (EFACC)
Sot El Oma - Newspaper
Women Society Association

El Salvador

Fundación Nueva Vida Pro-Niño de la Calle
Plan International - El Salvador

Fiji

Save the Children Fiji

Finland

Save the Children Finland

France

La Défenseure des enfants

Gambia

Aid The Children Network

Georgia

The Child Rights Centre, Office of the Public Defender

Germany

Interessenverband Unterhalt und Familienrecht ISUV/VDU e.V.

Ghana

Loyalty in Advocacy and Development Relief Foundation (LADREF)

Greece

The Greek Ombudsman - Department of Children's Rights

Guatemala

Plan International - Guatemala

Honduras

Comisionado Nacional de los Derechos Humanos, Programa de Derechos del Niño.
Asociación Nacional de Muchachas Guías de Honduras

Iceland

Save the Children Iceland

India

Child Rights Advocacy Foundation (CRAF)
Buds of Christ

ANNEX: Signatories

Centre of Concern for Child Labour
Child Rights and You
Child Rights Trust
Committee for Legal Aid to Poor (CLAP)
Forum for Child Rights
Adoption Coordinating Agency for the State of Orissa, SANYOG
SOS Children's Villages of India
Tulir - Centre for the Prevention and Healing of Child Sexual Abuse
Guru Rural Empowerment and Action Trust

Indonesia

Children's International Summer Village, CISV

Iraq

Cultural Association for the Youth
Cooperative for Society Consumerism
Development Without Borders Institution, DWBI
Youth Forum For Peace

Ireland

Ombudsman for Children Office
Congolese Anti-Poverty Network (CAPN)
West Ireland Health Service Executive

Israel

Child Institute Palestine
Defence for Children International - DCI Israel

Italy

Terre des Hommes Italia

Jordan

Save the Children Jordan
SOS Children's Village Association - Jordan

Kenya

International Centre for Reproductive Health
Kisumu Youth Foundation
Ezsak's Multi-Purpose Investment Agencies
Pefa Dabaso Child Development
The CRADLE - The Children Foundation
Terre des Hommes Kenya

Korea, Republic of

Save the Children Korea

Kuwait

Association of Gulf Women and Family (WFA)

Lebanon

Blue Mission Organization
KAFA (enough) Violence & Exploitation

Liberia

West African Youth Agenda Against Corrupt Practices

ANNEX: Signatories

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

Alamal Charitable Association For Orphans Care

Lithuania

Save the Children Lithuania

Luxembourg

Children's Commissioner in Luxembourg

Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of

Foundation Open Society Institute

Mexico

DIF Guerrero

Farned, S.C.

La Jugarreta Espacios de Participación, A.C.

Red por los Derechos de la Infancia en México

Salud, Arte Y Educacion, A.C.

Organización para el Desarrollo Social y la Educación para Todos, A.C.

Ririki Intervencion Social

Morocco

Association pour la Protection de l'Enfance et la Sensibilisation de la Famille (APISF)

Centre des Droits des Gens

Coalition Against the Sexual Abuse on Children

Forum de l'Enfance

Mozambique

Rede da Criança

Myanmar

Burma Human Rights Education Institute

Nepal

Centre for Policy Research and Consultancy (CPRcC)

Climate Himalayas

Nepal Children Helping Organisation

Netherlands

Institute of Social Studies, Human Rights and Child and Youth Studies Specializations

Maastricht University, Children's Rights and Human Development

Nigeria

Alpha Vision Alliance

Child to Child Network

Kids Education Awareness Initiative

Network for Justice and Democracy

The Anti Child Abuse Society of Africa (ACASA)

Norway

Save the Children Norway

Ombudsman for Children

Pakistan

Children First

ANNEX: Signatories

National Organization for Social Development (NOSD)
Omar Sial & Associates
Pakistan Rural Workers Social Welfare Organization (PRWSWO)
Pattan Development Organization
Social Help & Research Organization (SHRO)
Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC)

Palestinian Territories, Occupied

Child and Family Training and Counseling Centre
Palestinian Ministry of Information

Panama

Plan International - Panama

Paraguay

Version Beta.org

Peru

SOS Children's Village - Aldeas Infantiles SOS Perú
Centro de Investigación y Asesoría Legal en Derecho Internacional, IALDI
Save the Children Sweden - Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
Organización Para El Desarrollo Ambiental Y La Educación Regional, Odaer
World Forum Early Childhood

Philippines

Vlaams International Center

Portugal

Associação Aldeias de Crianças SOS
Comissão Nacional de Protecção de Crianças e Jovens em Risco (CNPJCR)

Puerto Rico

Cosiani
Defensores PROCDN

Romania

Save the Children Romania

Russian Federation

Children's Ombudsman in Russia

Rwanda

Centre for Champions - The African Evangelistic Enterprise Rwanda

Saudi Arabia

Association for Defending Women's Rights
Human Rights First Society (HRFS)

Senegal

Club Atlantique

Sierra Leone

Defence for Children International – Sierra Leone

ANNEX: Signatories

Slovenia

Ekvilib Institute

South Africa

Resources Aimed at the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, RAPCAN
Advanced Certificate in Education-School Leadership, University of Cape Town
Activists Networking against the Exploitation of Child Domestic Workers (ANEX)
Children's Rights Centre
LINALI - Protecting Children's Rights
Ntataise Lowveld Trust
South African Council of Churches Parliamentary Office
Southern Africa Child Development Initiative (SA - Child)
Umtata Child Abuse Resource Centre

Spain

CrozzCom
Micromadrid

Sudan

CAFA Sudanese Community Development Organization
Darfur Bar Association
Sudanese Women General Union

Sweden

Connecting People, Creating Change - AED
Save the Children Sweden
The Office of the Children's Ombudsman

Switzerland

Save the Children Switzerland

Tanzania, United Republic of

Caucus for Children's Rights

Turkey

International Children's Center

Uganda

Allied Youth Initiative
Joy for Children

United Kingdom

Amos Trust
Children's Rights Officers and Advocates, CROA
Plan International UK
Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People
Newport Children and Young People Partnership
Child Rights Education for Professionals
Children's Rights Alliance for England, CRAE
Practical Participation

United States

Children's Welfare International
Flying Kites
Operacion Sonrisa Regional Latinoamericana y El Caribe

ANNEX: Signatories

Vovibum Arts LLC
Perhaps...Kids Meeting Kids Can Make A Difference
Child Rights and Protection Consultancy
Parenting for Peace
Philantropia
Stop It Now! United States

Uruguay

El Abrojo
Infantiles SOS
Instituto de Estudios Legales y Sociales del Uruguay – IELSUR
Comite Derechos del Niño

Venezuela

Red por los Derechos Humanos de los Niños, Niñas y Adolescentes - REDHNNA
Asociacion Muchachos de la Calle
Cecodap
Fundacion Cojedes Con Los Ninos

Western Sahara

Saharawi Journalists and Writers Union (UPES)

Yemen

Democracy School
Social Democratic Forum
Yemeni Youth Development Centre
SEYAJ Organization for Childhood Protecting

Zambia

Inkisu Family Care Project
Child Care and Adoption Society of Zambia - Lusaka Branch
Children in Need Network
University of Zambia
Rozaria Memorial Trust
National Council for the Welfare of Children