



THE DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL

31 March 2008

Dear Ms. Veneman,

I write to invite UNICEF to join the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group. As you may be aware, the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group, which I chair and is comprised of DPA, DPKO, OHCHR, OLA, UNDP, UNHCR, UNIFEM and UNODC, was established to serve as the UN system's focal point on coordinating system-wide attention for the rule of law, to ensure policy coherence and coordination. The Rule of Law Unit supports the Group in carrying out and implementing this work. The functions of the Group and the Unit are laid out in the Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly and Security Council on the rule of law of 2006 (A/61/636-S/2006/980).

At its recent meeting held on 12 March 2008, the Group was briefed by Mr. Saad Houry on the inter-agency process led by UNICEF to develop a concept paper on a UN Common Approach on Justice for Children. The Group was appreciative of the initiative and the approach was well received. As a result, it was agreed that the Rule of Law Unit work jointly with UNICEF in collaboration with other members of the Group, to develop a guidance note on the UN Common Approach on Justice for Children based on the concept paper.

In view of UNICEF's leadership on rule of law issues pertaining to children, I extend an invitation to your Agency's participation in the Group as a member. This involves participation in meetings at the Principal level on a quarterly basis and regular engagement of your staff at the expert level in monthly meetings, an annual retreat, and in providing substantive input into policy documents and other outputs of the Group. I believe that UNICEF would make an important contribution to the work of the Group and welcome your participation.

Yours sincerely,

  
Asha-Rose Migiro

Ms. Ann M. Veneman  
Executive Director  
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