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Date/Fecha: 01/07/99

To/Destinataire/Para: Ms. Nicole Rabner
Office of the First Lady of the United States of America
Tel: (202) 456-6266
Fax: (202) 456-9412

From/De: Danielle Vinette
Hemisphere Summit Office
Tel: (613) 944-1692
Fax: (613) 944-1737

Number of pages including this page/Nombre de pages avec cette feuille/Número de páginas incluyendo esta: 1

COMMENTS/COMMENTAIRES/COMENTARIOS:

SUBJECT: Please note the following numbers to reach any member of your delegation during the Technical Meeting.

OBJET: Veuillez noter les numéros suivants que vous pouvez utiliser pour communiquer avec les membres de votre délégation pendant la Réunion technique.

ASUNTO: Por favor, tomar nota de los siguientes números de teléfono para comunicarse con los delegados de su país durante su estancia en Canadá para la Reunión Técnica.

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From/ De	Danielle Vinette Policy Advisor Hemisphere Summit Office Ottawa, Canada	Tel	(613) 944-1692
		Fax	(613) 944-1737

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COMMENTS/COMMENTAIRES:

Dear Ms. Rabner,

For your information, please find attached a draft of the Conference agenda.

Sincerely,



U.S. AGENCY FOR
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DEVELOPMENT

**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
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OFFICE OF REGIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

FAX MESSAGE

DATE: July 1, 1999
TO: Nicole Rabner
FAX#: 456 - 2878
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OF PGS. 9
(INCLUDING COVER SHEET)

FROM: Judy Gilmore
TEL#: 202-912-5353
FAX#: 202-216-3262 - (5.09 - 062U)
202-216-3403 - (5.09 - 091U)

REMARKS:

Nicole, here are the updates on all the
initiatives. Carol Dabbs will fax the health
updates tomorrow. Judy

PARTNERSHIP FOR EDUCATIONAL REVITALIZATION IN THE AMERICAS (A RETROSPECTIVE 1994 - 1999)

- The Summit of the Americas held in Miami in December 1994 brought together the heads of state of the hemisphere to commit their nations to on-going collaboration and open economic and democratic development. The Summit recognized the Central role of human resource development in aspect of national development -- economic, political and social. The U.S. Government took on a leadership role on the Summit Education Initiative and following the Miami Summit recommendations, provided initial funding for a consultative forum to address education reform issues in the hemisphere.
- At the Fifth Conference of Spouses of Heads of State and Government of the Americas, held in Asuncion, Paraguay in October 1995. Mrs. Hilary Rodham Clinton, First Lady of the United States announced U.S. funding (\$6.0 million) for the Partnership for Educational Revitalization in the Americas (PERA) activity.
- Following Mrs. Clinton's announcement of the PERA activity, representatives from sixteen countries from the hemisphere and multilateral and bilateral organizations active in the field of education gathered in Washington, D.C. under the sponsorship of the United States Agency for International Development in a three day conference (December 4-6, 1995). The conference was the first step toward advancing the initiative adopted by all the countries of the hemisphere, directed toward establishing a forum for the revitalization of education.
- In September of 1996, USAID approved a five-year cooperative agreement allocating six million dollars to help establish the Partnership for Educational Revitalization in the Americas. In Spanish, the partnership is: Programa para la Promoción de la Reforma Educativa en América Latina y el Caribe, PREAL).
- The Inter-American Dialogue (IAD) was selected and agreed to serve as secretariat of the Partnership. IAD is a non-governmental organization based in Washington, D.C. Over the years they have earned considerable respect for objective and scholarly exchanges on Western Hemispheric affairs.
- The Secretariat was established at IAD and the first executive committee meeting took place in Santiago, Chile, in September 1997.
- The PREAL Task Force on Education, Equity and Economic Competitiveness held the first meeting in Santiago, Chile on January 8-9, 1997. The Task Force is composed of corporate CEOs, prominent political leaders, and distinguished scholars from 12 countries. After a year-long effort (April 1998) the Task Force released a comprehensive report in three languages, entitled *The future at Stake* which made four key recommendations to improve the quality of education throughout the region. These recommendations have been widely distributed throughout the region to educators and policy makers.
- PREAL prepared a set of recommendations for consideration by the heads of state at the 1998 Summit of the Americas in Santiago. Education became the key theme for the 1998 Santiago Summit, with action items in nine areas.

- By 1998 PREAL had become the leading non-governmental voice on Latin American education policy, and a strong advocate for involving leaders from the private sector in the debate on education reform.
- PREAL has organized four sub-regional conferences on educational decentralization (Nicaragua-1996); standards and evaluation (Brazil-1996), finance (Colombia-1997), and business-education partnerships (El Salvador-1998).
- The seminar on standards included high level experts on standards from throughout the region, and served to improve dialogue among them on improving evaluation and testing in their countries. A summary of their discussions was published by the Partnership/PREAL and distribution throughout the region.
- The seminar on education finance engaged 160 leaders from 14 countries in a vigorous discussion of finance issues. Three areas of consensus emerged: successful decentralization of finance requires clear responsibilities and accountability as well as sufficient resources; the central government plays an important role in ensuring equity and quality in education; and increased community involvement helps hold funding administrators accountable for results.
- Efforts to produce an annual Report Card on education in Latin America and to monitor progress during the 1990s toward education reform were undertaken in 1998 and progress continues to be made in the development of country monitoring systems.
- A bilingual PREAL homepage was established, on the Internet. All PREAL working papers published to date are available for downloading at the site (www.preal.cl).
- By early 1999, PREAL had established a network of 20 expert centers working on education reform in 12 countries, and distributed 11 "state-of-the-art" working papers and 6 books on key issues in education reform.
- PREAL is currently strengthening its work in Central America (including Dominican Republic and Haiti) through expanded support for national advocacy groups, more systematic exchanges with work being done elsewhere, and for a region-wide Task Force on Education Reform.
- To date PREAL has organized 38 national conferences on education reform issues such as Education Law in Nicaragua; Equity and Higher Education in Chile; and Business Participation in Education Reform in El Salvador.
- To effectively advocate for the development and implementation of sound education policy reform PREAL has established a number of region-wide working groups to address critical educational issues. A list of the working groups is provided below.

1. Education Finance

Coordinated by Instituto Ser - Colombia

2. Teachers Unions

Coordinated by FLASCO - Argentina

3. Education Statistics
Coordinated by UNESCO - Chile

4. Politics of Education Reform
CIDI - Chile

5. Education Evaluation and Standards
Grade - Peru

* Note: Working groups are at various stages of development with the educational statistics being the first established.

- To date PREAL has awarded 24 grants to education organizations and education NGO's to conduct innovative and meaningful activities in the area of education policy reform.

Examples of the organizations that have received grant from PREAL are listed below.

1. Universidad Centroamericana - Nicaragua
2. Foro Educativo - Peru
3. FLASCO - Republic Dominicana
4. Fundacao Getulio Vargas - Brazil
5. Asies - Guatemala
CIEN
CNEM (*Mayan NGO)
Grupo Basica
6. FEPADE - El Salvador
7. Corporacion PARTICIPA - Chile
8. FLASCO - Haiti

* The dissemination of timely and pertinent information on education reform is a key element of PREAL activity. Policy briefs, State-of-the-Art assessments published by PREAL have contributed significantly to the regional dialogue on education.

FIRST LADIES CONFERENCE - LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Background -

The September, 1998 First Ladies Conference in Santiago included a small side ceremony to recognize two separate events regarding USAID assistance for local governments in the region:

- The signing of a \$1.9 million Cooperative Agreement with the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), the centerpiece of a new five year \$5 million LAC regional activity for decentralization and democratic decentralization.
- The publication of a Spanish language Handbook on Gender and Local Government, culminating a program of investigation, pilots and studies carried out over a five year period by IULA-CELCADEL and a network of regional NGO's with approximately \$1.2 million of WID financing.

Local Government Rationale -

Essentially throughout the region, mayors and city councils are now democratically elected. At the same time, poverty is increasingly becoming an urban problem and national government structures for delivering services are not able to cope with increased demands. In order to deepen commitment to democracy, the elected local government leaders of the region must find ways to respond to citizen expectations.

Citizen participation in local government decision-making is becoming an increasingly important tool for making local governments more responsive to citizen needs. The Gender Handbook, which is being widely distributed by IULA-CELCADEL, is guidance for local governments on how to address the special needs of women in their activities and programs. It will help assure that citizen participation efforts of local government will not exclude women.

Women are also finding that local government is offering new opportunities to enter politics. Although women are still under-represented in elected offices, some countries in the region have adopted legislation that requires political parties to include a certain minimum percentage of women in its nomination lists. In addition, special outreach efforts have been made to encourage women to become candidates at the local level. In Peru, for example, women's participation in local government decision-making processes as elected officials increased three-fold from 8% to 24% in USAID-assisted provinces, compared to the increase to 18% at the national level. USAID financed training for municipal officials and community leaders contributed directly to this result.

The significance of this trend is underscored by the fact that local government is rapidly becoming the training grounds and launching pad for higher office. In four countries a former mayor is president and in virtually every Presidential election coming up this year or next, a mayor is or is

expected to be a candidate for one of the major parties.

Status of USAID Programs in Local Government -

Local government has been the most rapidly growing component of the USAID democracy program. Now, 11 Missions have local government programs in their portfolio compared to only three some six years ago. The new LAC regional activity initiated at the September event last year, will support these bi-lateral programs by: (1) improving the coordination of donor assistance for local government; and (2) strengthening the networking and communications capacity of the regional federations of national associations of municipalities.

A significant advance was made in donor coordination by the creation of the International Forum for Cooperation on Local Government in Latin America and the Caribbean. With the support and cooperation of USAID, the IDB convened a meeting of interested donors in conjunction with its March, 1999 Board of Governors meeting. The World Bank, OAS, UN, EC, and other bilateral donors agreed to join USAID and the IDB in the Forum to share information towards the goal of improving programming of local government development programs. They further agreed to accept USAID's offer to finance the services of ICMA as the technical secretariat to the Forum. The first meeting of the technical representatives to the Forum was held in Washington in mid-June, 1999, to develop procedures and agree on the priorities.

The first Cooperative Agreement to a regional federation of municipal associations was signed in March 29, 1999, with FEMICA, the Federation of Municipalities of the Central American Isthmus. The initial workshop for its members under this program is being held June 28 and 29 in Guatemala. The workshop will explain how on the commitments for local government strengthening made by the Heads of State at the April 1998 Summit in Chile may be used by the national municipal associations in their policy dialog on decentralization.. A Cooperative Agreement with IULA-CELCADEL to assist national associations in South America and Mexico is currently under negotiation and will be signed before September 30, 1999. Both organizations are regional chapters of the International Union for Local Authorities (IULA). Although there is currently no similar organization in the Caribbean, efforts are being made with the assistance of ICMA to develop such a support mechanism .

Summit Deliverables – Partnership for Technical Cooperation

Background

On April 16, 1998, Secretary of State Albright and Chilean Minister of Foreign Relations Insulza signed an MOU on International Development Cooperation. The MOU establishes a new bilateral partnership to promote closer relations between our respective national, regional and local entities involved in international development. Under the MOU, the United States and Chile are to share information on ongoing activities and seek opportunities to undertake joint development programs that support the objectives agreed to during the Summit of the Americas in Santiago, Chile.

Deliverable

The MOU specifically provides for the creation of a "United States-Chile Development Scholarship Program" to support the development of human resources in Latin American and the Caribbean. This Scholarship Program is the first joint initiative that has been fully implemented under the MOU. The Program provides scholarships for individuals to attend training courses in Chile that advance U.S. bilateral programs/objectives in third countries throughout the region. The scholarships are granted for post-graduate and specialized studies that augment professional and technical capacity in the following areas: 1) education; 2) social development and poverty alleviation; 3) economic integration; 4) democracy strengthening; and 5) natural resources management.

The Scholarship Program is open to government officials, members of non-governmental organizations and other organizations in civil society such as researchers or fellows from recognized Universities.

USAID and the Agency for International Cooperation of Chile (AGCI) recently completed the first selection of scholarship candidates who will begin their studies during the 1999 academic year. During this first year, the program has 20 students from 10 countries: El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, the Dominican Republic, Bolivia, Ecuador, Paraguay, and Peru. USAID and AGCI will announce the second year of the program for the 2000 academic year in July 1999.

Expanding International Development Cooperation

The MOU provides a basis for broadening our bilateral cooperation by enabling other nations in the hemisphere to participate in development programs designed to carry out the Summit's objectives. The USG and GOC hope that the MOU will thus serve as a catalyst in getting the more developed nations to work as partners and extend the reach of our development assistance. Eight countries with international cooperation programs (Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, the United States, and Venezuela) have informally met to discuss collaborating on programs and projects in support of the Summit. Chile has offered to host a meeting of these countries later this year to discuss more fully the possibilities for collaboration.

Inter-American Institute of Human Rights

At the Seventh Annual First Ladies Conference in Panama in 1997, a new USAID grant was signed with the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (IHR). With this grant, IHR has continued its work in the promotion and education of human rights in the region through conferences and training, work with NGOs, publications, and assistance to governments. Recent highlights include:

EDUCATION

- The 17th Interdisciplinary Course of Human Rights was held June 14-25, 1999, drawing more than 120 participants from throughout governments, police and military forces, NGOs and universities in the region. The course is a flagship activity of IHR, with more than 1900 graduates, who are trained in human rights theory and practice to become "multipliers" for human rights promotion, protection and education in Latin America. This year's theme: "Participation and Social Inclusion for an Effective Democracy."
- A specialized regional course on human rights was held in Barbados for the English-speaking Caribbean in May 1999.
- In a first-ever effort to measure the impact of the Course, IHR launched a comprehensive evaluation by interviewing former students from six countries in Central America. The evaluation will help determine the effects of the training on graduates, measure the impact on human rights and improve networking among graduates.

GENDER

- IIDH convened a workshop at the UN in March 1999 for Latin American delegates to promote the adoption of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). In response, Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Panama, Peru and Venezuela have signed an Interpretive Declaration affirming their commitment to improve the status of women and eliminating all forms of discrimination.
- IIDH has also continued its work toward the integration of a gender perspective into all its programs by approving an institutional framework and establishing guidelines for staff training workshops. IHR presented a workshop on the incorporation of a gender perspective into the promotion of human rights at the "Vital Voices" conference held in Uruguay in October 1998.

ELECTIONS

- CAPEL, the Center for Electoral Promotion and Assistance, assisted electoral bodies or conducted technical observation missions in 11 countries (1998-March 1999), including Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, and Venezuela. CAPEL also has conducted workshops in Chile, Costa Rica, and Mexico for young political leaders throughout the region to promote principles of democratic governance.
- CAPEL, as executive secretariat of the Association of Electoral Bodies of Central America and the Caribbean, helped sponsor the 12th Conference of the Protocol of Tikal (July 1998). As executive secretariat of UNIORE (the Inter-American Union of Electoral Bodies), it brought together electoral officials from 28 nations of the hemisphere (July 1998). Both events are designed to help strengthen connections among officials and foster the sharing of new processes and best practices.

Inter-American Institute of Human Rights, page 2

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

- IIHR, which serves as executive secretariat of the Ibero-America Federation of Human Rights Ombudsmen, helped strengthen the ombudsmen in the region with its regional course on Strengthening the Institution of the Ombudsmen in Ibero-America held in March. The annual Congress of the Federation was held in Peru in September. As secretariat, IIHR has also sponsored two meetings of the Network of national offices of Women's Affairs to help them coordinate strategies and promote idea and information sharing.
- In other justice programs, IIHR sponsored a regional Conference on the International Criminal Court to solicit the input of government and civil society representatives prior to the creation of the new Court in Rome in June 1998.
- In 1998, IIHR worked on specialized technical assistance and training programs in the justice sector in Argentina, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay and Venezuela.

CIVIL SOCIETY

- IIHR sponsored its first regional Course on Civil Society and Human Rights in October 1998 to provide professional and technical training in human rights issues and foster links among the organizations in the hemisphere represented by the 84 participants. Additional workshops and conferences on civil society and human rights were held in Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Mexico, Panama, and Peru, including topics including torture prevention, migrant populations and persons affected by violence, and public security.

A Final Note

- The Board of Directors announced the search for a new executive director to replace Dr. Juan Mendez, who will leave IIHR in September to become the director of the Human Rights Program at the University of Notre Dame (South Bend, IN).

BACKGROUND

IIHR is an independent, international education and research institution created in 1980 through an agreement with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (based in Costa Rica) and the Government of Costa Rica. IIHR promotes the extension of and respect for human rights in Latin America and the Caribbean through programs in civil society, public institutions, education and electoral assistance. IIHR provides training, technical assistance and publications to international organizations and governments and NGOs throughout the hemisphere in order to contribute to the consolidation of democracy and promotion of human rights.

The USG, through USAID has been a major contributor of IIHR since its inception. Presently, USAID provides about 20% of its operating expenses. The current grant of \$4.7 million (signed in 1997) will be completed in December 2000.

FAX TRANSMITTAL MEMO

TO: _____ Nicole Rabner _____

OFFICE: _____ Mrs. Clinton's _____

FAX # _____ 9-456-2878 _____

TEL # _____ 9-456-7263 _____

OF PAGES, INCLUDING THIS COVER PAGE _5_

FROM: CAROL J. DABBS, CHIEF, PHN TEAM
OFFICE OF REGIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
BUREAU FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
US AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

FAX # 202-216-3262, TEL # 202-712-0473

SUBJECT: Updates on Measles and Maternal Mortality Initiatives

COMMENTS: As mentioned Judy Gilmore's fax yesterday.

UPDATE: MEASLES ELIMINATION INITIATIVE

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), with support from USAID's Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, USAID country missions, and other donors, assists countries to implement a vaccination program to eliminate the measles virus from the Western Hemisphere by the year 2000, to improve sustainability of vaccination programs, and to enhance the policy environment. Key to achieving this will be the implementation of PAHO recommended measles vaccination strategy *in full*. The vaccination strategies recommended by PAHO in the Americas are under consideration by several countries in Africa and Asia, where measles continues to be a considerable health burden.

- Measles transmission has been interrupted in major portions of the Americas. In 1998, twenty-six countries (out of 45) in the Americas had zero confirmed cases of measles.
- Progress continues towards achieving the goal of measles elimination in the Americas. In the eight countries where USAID provides support to the vaccination program, with the exception of Bolivia, only three countries had confirmed cases; only 14 countries in the region had any cases.
- However, during 1998 there were two major factors that undermined elimination strategies. First, authorities in Bolivia had been slow to respond to a build-up of susceptibles--an outbreak began in May 1998, and spread to nearby areas of Argentina. It continued because there were inadequate resources for logistics and vaccine procurement. While Bolivia and Argentina suffered only 132 cases of measles in 1997, 8,383 cases were confirmed in 1998.

Such an epidemic outbreak of measles during 1998 in the Americas illustrates the importance of coordinated national and international strategies to achieve elimination of measles from the region.

- The second major devastating effect on the Measles Initiative was Hurricane Mitch in Honduras and Nicaragua. Eighty percent of the health regions in Honduras suffered damage to their cold chain equipment and in Nicaragua, a hospital, thirty health centers, and seventy-one health posts were damaged. All told, damages have been estimated to be in the amount of US\$ 9 million.
- In 1998, Central American countries held their first meeting to develop a proposal for an epidemiological surveillance system for bacterial meningitis and pneumonia among children under five years of age. Such a regional surveillance system will allow the quantification of disease burden and assist countries in phasing in new vaccines, such as Hib, in their routine immunization programs. Other coordinated efforts in 1998 include the establishment of a National Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (NCIP) in Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Peru and Bolivia also formed an NCIP in May, 1999.

Update: Measles Elimination Initiative

Clearance: CDabbs, LAC/RSD-PHN__ (final)__ date 7/1/99

drafter: PWyville-Staples, 202/712-1363, LAC/RSD-PHN, 6/30/99, last revised July 2, 1999

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UPDATE: MATERNAL MORTALITY INITIATIVE

- A woman born in Latin America or the Caribbean (LAC) is 27 times more likely to die during pregnancy than a woman born in the USA. These unacceptable inequities exist within countries as well. The richer the woman, the more likely she is to have a trained health provider attend her delivery while poorer women deliver alone or with an unskilled attendant.
- Eighty percent of maternal deaths are directly related to pregnancy and the major causes of maternal mortality, which include hemorrhage, pregnancy-induced hypertension, sepsis, and abortion related complications. These conditions can largely be prevented or controlled by increasing use of prenatal care, clean delivery, and postpartum services, and improving care for obstetric emergencies and thereby contribute towards reducing the approximately 23,000 annual pregnancy-related deaths in LAC.
- The purpose of USAID LAC Regional Initiative is more effective delivery of Essential Obstetric Care (EOC) at first level facilities. This is being accomplished by generating community demand for services and improving the quality of services within a supportive policy environment. This Initiative includes eleven countries (Bolivia, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay, and Peru). PAHO, the University Research Corporation, and John Snow, Inc., the implementing agencies, have established pilot sites in Ecuador, Bolivia, and Honduras.
- The quality design methodology in these pilot sites have been received as an exciting new approach for the design of a system of care that involves both the community and the providers as equal partners. Both groups have successfully learned about the perspective of the other and respect each other's needs. As a result, the seventeen quality design teams have not only identified together the single most important problem in their areas but they have also sought and found the most appropriate solutions to each of these.
- During the first half of 1999, six quality design teams in pilot areas finalized their new design with the official presentation of the implementation step of the new design conducted before national and regional authorities. Since then, Integrated Mother Care Standards have been officially finalized and EOC standards have been completed. Ecuador has had similar success as all their designs have been finalized, several design team activities have been carried out, and IEC design coordination has been carried out through meetings with PLAN, the local NGO working with community component of the project.
- Many milestones have been achieved in 1998 in the policy arena, including conducting legislative and regulatory reviews in all the participating countries as well as the establishment in Haiti, Peru, Ecuador, and the Dominican Republic of country interagency coordinating committees focused on maternal mortality. Maternal mortality was highlighted globally with the theme of World Health Day, 7 April 1998, as Safe Motherhood.

UPDATE: MATERNAL MORTALITY INITIATIVE

Clearance: Carol Dabbs, LAC/RSD-PHN __final__ date:

Drafter: PWyville-Staples, LAC/RSD-PHN, 202/712-1363, drafted 6/30/99, last revised July 2, 1999

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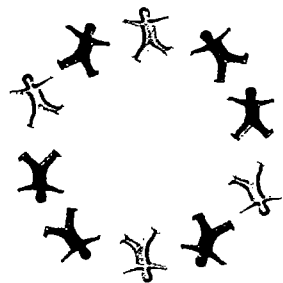
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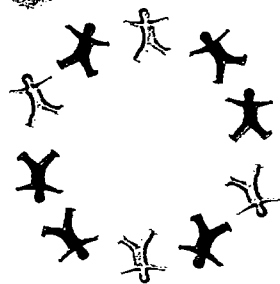
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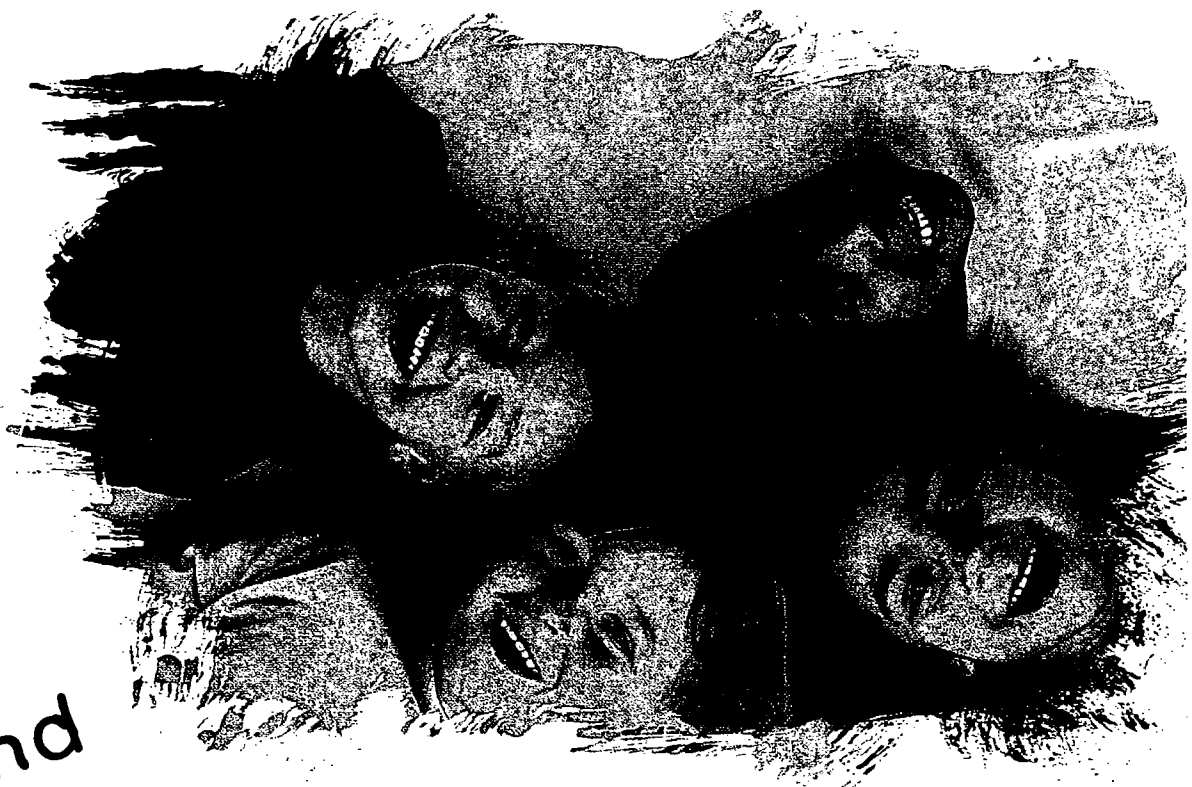
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a national children's agenda



measuring
child well-being and
monitoring progress



supplementary discussion
paper