



**Save the Children**

Canada

In 2000 our World leaders made concrete pledges in the Millennium Declaration and Development Goals to tackle the extreme poverty, disease and hunger of hundreds of millions of children. They said: "*We have a collective responsibility to uphold principles of human dignity, equality and equity at the global level. As leaders we have a duty to all the world's people, especially the most vulnerable and, in particular, the children of the world, to whom the future belongs*". If world leaders deliver on their promises:

- 104 million more girls and boys will get to school;
- 100 million more children will survive to school age in the next ten years;
- 300 million children will be lifted out of the most extreme poverty.

The International Save the Children Alliance is calling this year on our leaders to provide the financing and policy changes necessary to transform the opportunities for the world's poorest children and guarantee their very survival. An unprecedented investment in this generation of children must now be made. This means rich countries delivering:

- A dramatic increase and improvement in development assistance to secure, in particular, the investment needed to get children healthcare and education;
- Cancellation of unpayable debt to facilitate children getting healthcare and education instead of inheriting a financial burden from the past that they cannot afford to pay;
- Trade and economic policies that allow children, their families and communities to stand on their own feet.

Developing countries too must act to develop concrete poverty reduction strategies that meet the needs of children.

2005 is the year for action, not words. Save the Children agencies will be campaigning as an International Alliance and in national platforms to press governments to deliver in 2005.

For more information please contact

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