Ten years have passed since UNEP and UNICEF published the first report on ‘Children and the Environment’. At the dawn of the new millennium, while current understanding of the linkages between children and the environment has advanced considerably, we must recognize that so much more still needs to be achieved. For the most part, we know what to do: protect children from environmental health threats and protect the environment to safeguard children’s health and their future. In order for this wishful thinking to become reality, consideration for the environment must increasingly be integrated into the strategies addressing childhood development at the international, regional, national, and local levels - and likewise, children’s rights and their special vulnerabilities must be fully recognized within environmental management endeavours.

Between two intergovernmental events addressing related aspects of the sustainable development agenda - the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on Children in May 2002 and the World Summit on Sustainable Development in

Looking Ahead
August 2002 – unique opportunities exist to strengthen the inter-linkages between children’s health and the sustainable management of the environment. This can be done while fighting poverty through efforts to achieve sustainable development.

The goals set for the world’s children and sustainable development are within reach, if today’s leaders can step up efforts to mobilize collective will, resources, and the wisdom to act early and decisively in the name of children and for future generations. We owe it to our children to ensure a brighter and safer future in this new millennium.
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6 Ibid. page 5.

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6 Ibid.


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76 World Health Organization, Health and Environment in Sustainable Development: Five Years after the Earth Summit, op. cit.


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82 World Health Organization, Health and Environment in Sustainable Development: Five Years after the Earth Summit, op. cit.


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Environmental Impacts on Health

ABBREVIATIONS

Terminology
ARI: acute respiratory infections
CFC: chlorofluorocarbons
DDT: dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane - a chlorinated organic insecticide that persists for a longtime in the environment. It is disastrously toxic to birds, and is thought to cause cancer in humans.
DHF: dengue hemorrhagic fever
FRESH: Focusing Resources on Effective School Health
JE: Japanese encephalitis
ODS: ozone depleting substances
PAH: polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons
PCBs: Polychlorinated biphenyls. A group of organic compounds that persist in the environment for long periods of time, and are known as bioaccumulants.
PM10: Small particles of diameter less than 10 microns
POPs: persistent organic pollutants
PVC: polyvinyl chloride. A type of plastic.
SSH E: School Sanitation and Hygiene Education
Organizations / bodies

CEHN: Children's Environmental Health Network
ECOSOC: United Nations Economic and Social Council
FAO: United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
IPCC: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPF: Intergovernmental Panel on Forests
NRDC: Natural Resources Defense Council
UCIRI: Union of Indian Communities of the Isthmus Region
UNAIDS: The joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCBD: United Nations Convention in Biological Diversity
UNCED: United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (also known as “The Earth Summit”)
UNCHS: United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) [now called UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)]
UNEP: United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFF: United Nations Forum on Forests
UNICEF: United Nations Children's Fund
UNCCD: United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
USEPA: United States Environmental Protection Agency
WHO: World Health Organization
WMO: World Meteorological Organization
WRI: World Resources Institute
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