

the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are under 15 years of age is expected to increase by 1.5 billion (United Nations 1994).

There is a growing awareness of the need to address the needs of children in the 1990s. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has been instrumental in this regard, and has produced a series of reports on the state of the world's children (UNICEF 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994). These reports have highlighted the need for a new approach to children's rights, one that is based on the principle of the best interests of the child.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is a landmark document in this regard. It was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1989, and is the first time in history that a treaty has been signed by all 193 member states of the United Nations. The UNCRC sets out the rights of children, and provides a framework for the development of national laws and policies to protect and promote these rights.

The UNCRC is a comprehensive document, covering a wide range of issues, from the right to life and survival, to the right to education and participation. It is a document that is both aspirational and practical, and it provides a clear framework for the development of national laws and policies to protect and promote the rights of children.

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