



UNICEF ANNOUNCES COMPETITION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO PARTICIPATE IN WORLD SUMMIT

DEADLINE EXTENDED UNTIL APRIL 17TH, 2009

Selected participants to attend Junior 8 Summit in Italy in the run-up to the G8 Summit

New York City, March 3, 2009 – The U.S. Fund for UNICEF today called for submissions from teams of young people aged 14 to 17 to participate in the Junior 8 Summit, a youth event convened this year in Italy and linked to the annual Group of 8 (G8) Summit.

The G8 Summit will be held in Sardinia, Italy, from July 8th - 10th 2009, with the heads of state from Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

In its fifth year, the UNICEF-organized Junior 8 (J8) Summit will bring the winning teams from G8 countries together with participants from eight non-G8 countries – including Brazil, China, India, and South Africa – sending a clear message to leaders that children from all over the world are equally affected by G8 decisions.

Participants will discuss topics on the G8 agenda ahead of the summit and will take their recommendations to the leaders. The primary focus of this year's J8 will be on climate change, HIV/AIDS, and poverty and development in the face of the global financial crisis.

Schools and youth groups across the nation are encouraged to recruit teams of four, aged 14 to 17 who will be selected based on their answers to a central question: ***“If you had the opportunity to tell world leaders what they should do to solve global problems, what would you say?”***

Last year four high school students from Pleasanton, California were chosen to represent the U.S. at the J8 Summit in Chitose City, Hokkaido, Japan. Nine participants of the Junior 8 Summit—eight representing G8 countries and one from the developing world were given the opportunity to represent their peers and meet face-to-face with G8 leaders to voice their concerns.

Their suggestions, taking the form of the **Chitose Declaration**, centered around three topics: climate change, poverty and development, and global health.

“I think I can speak for the rest of my team when I say that the J8 experience gave us all a better understanding of global issues and how our generation can make a difference,” said Manogna Manne, a member of the U.S. delegation that travelled to Japan. “World leaders need to listen to the voices of young people, but it’s not enough to just listen, action must be taken. UNICEF understands this, that’s why they organize it each year.”

For more information on criteria and rules of the competition and to download a U.S. entry form please visit: www.unicefusa.org/j8. Complete U.S. entries are due before 5:00 pm EST, April 17th, 2009 and must be emailed to volunteer@unicefusa.org.

About UNICEF:

For more than 60 years, UNICEF has been the world's leading international children's organization, working in over 150 countries to address the ongoing issues that affect why kids are dying. UNICEF provides lifesaving nutrition, clean water, education, protection and emergency response saving more young lives than any other humanitarian organization in the world. While millions of children die every year of preventable causes like dehydration, upper respiratory infections and measles, UNICEF, with the support of partnering organizations and donors alike, has the global experience, resources and reach to give children the best hope of survival. For more information about UNICEF, please visit www.unicefusa.org.

For additional information, please contact:

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