

Barcelona, 9th December 2010 – The Global Movement for Children's Convening Committee held its second annual meeting in Barcelona last week where it opened with a leave-taking letter from GMC's Chair Dean Hirsch, former President of World Vision International. Hirsch is leaving World Vision after a 35-year career with the last 15 as CEO. He expressed his gratitude for the decades-long work in World Vision International and pledged his ongoing commitment to children and their rights. The representative of World Vision International in the GMC and its chair will now be Corina Villacorta, Executive Advisor on Child Rights. Corina is from Peru and chaired the GMC Latin American And Caribbean Chapter in 2009. □

The meeting was also attended by Bill Bell (Save the Children UK), Fabrizio Terenzio (ENDA Tiers Monde), Jorge Freyre (REDLAMYC) and Miquel de Paladella (Global Movement for Children). The two-day meeting devoted the first half to discussing the challenges the Movement faces in the years to come. The issues raised were the weak accountability mechanisms allowing governments to marginalise pro-child policies and investments; the marginalisation of A World Fit for Children (WFFC) agenda, the outcome of the UN Special Session on Children; and the progress in meeting the MDGs that has not affected the poorest in most parts of the world, among others. The GMC CC discussed possible ways of re-invigorating the Movement and putting child rights in the centre of the political and public debates.

The discussion on child rights in the global context was followed by the presentations of regional progress reports and the plans for the 2011. The Committee noted the great progress in Latin America and the Caribbean in coordinating actions in fighting violence against children and promoting investment. It also congratulated the Child Mobility working Group in West and Central Africa for the work done in the región, that inspired the Children on the Move Conference.

The GMC Convening Committee agreed to focus the 2011 efforts on Children on the Move and in promoting the Commitment to Children Initiative. The former will be directed to jointly advocate for support and protection of children on the move as a follow up to the International Conference organised in Barcelona in October 2010. A coalition of four UN agencies (ILO, IOM, UNHCR and UNICEF) and some international NGOs such as Plan, Save the Children, Terre des Hommes and WVI among others will be leading this effort under the GMC umbrella. The GMC will continue to develop the Commitment to Children Index and a series of campaigning activities to strengthen the level of action for children globally.

Finally, the GMC-CC debated the governance model of the Movement in an effort to strengthen the vision of a united and more influential global movement,

able to mobilise and coordinate advocacy in the Global South and North. A decision was taken to analyse alternatives in the next GMC-CC meeting in April 2011 in New York to be presented by the GMC Secretariat with the support of a consultant.