



OMEP

*Organisation Mondiale Pour L'Éducation Préscolaire
Organización Mundial Para La Educación Preescolar
World Organization For Early Childhood Education*

DECLARATION OF THE 66TH OMEP WORLD ASSEMBLY AND CONFERENCE

July 2014
Cork, Ireland

In Recognition of the 25th Anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

With members in nearly 70 countries throughout the world, OMEP is the oldest and largest organization devoted to the general wellbeing, optimal development, and education of children between birth and age 8. OMEP has had consultative status with the United Nations and UNESCO since its founding in 1948. OMEP takes pride in our contributions to the creation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

In recognition of the 25th anniversary of the CRC, the 66th OMEP World Assembly calls upon the world community, and especially its leaders, to make early childhood an unambiguous priority in both policy and practice and to vigorously protect and promote the rights of all young children, their parents, their teachers and caregivers, and the institutions that serve them at the local, state, and global levels.

Research from many fields clearly shows that the first years of life are the strongest predictors of later attitudes, values, competencies, habits, and a variety of other important qualities and skills. Further, robust scientific evidence in economics demonstrates that investing in early childhood is among the wisest financial decisions a society can make because the returns on such investments are consistently high and long-lasting.

OMEP calls upon the world's leaders at all levels to

Ensure equal rights to education and care for *all* children, prioritizing the poorest and most vulnerable, including those living in conflict areas and refugee situations,

Enact policies and practices for comprehensive, high quality early childhood education and care,

Ensure all children's rights to a childhood that includes play and leisure,

Encourage children's active participation in matters that concern them and their future,

To accomplish these goals, OMEP encourages all efforts to promote Education for Sustainable Development in homes, childcare programs, preschools, schools, universities, and communities.

OMEP enthusiastically recommits our organization to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. OMEP offers to the world community, and especially its leaders, the unwavering commitment, energy, and expertise of its members throughout the world in pursuit of these goals.

*The Convention on the Rights of the Child
is the world's promise to its children.
Let us all fulfill our commitment to our children.*