

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 has been ratified by over 100 countries. The UNCRC sets out a series of rights for children, including the right to life, the right to health, the right to education, and the right to participate in decisions that affect them.

The UNCRC is a comprehensive document, covering a wide range of issues. It is a landmark document in the history of children's rights, and it is hoped that it will lead to a new era of respect for the rights of children.

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