



Globetree is a NGO in SPECIAL consultative status with
the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

The Children's Voice at WSSD 2002

INVITATION

Inauguration

SOWETO

CHILDREN'S MEETING PLACE

**Our Uniting Water and Soil Ceremony
Openheimer Park, 27th August 12.00 – 13.00**

The Soweto Children's Committee (for WSSD 2002) and Globetree invite you to the Inauguration Ceremony of the Soweto Children's Meeting Place.

1000 children from 5 centres of Soweto are preparing for the Children's Meeting Place. 150 of them will take part of the inauguration ceremony together with their chaperons. The Children's Meeting Place will be a Tree called Wild Olive at Openheimer Park.

CHILDREN PARTICIPANTS

1000 children from the centres of Takalani, Phumla, Phumelela, Othandweni and Ratanang will prepare for the inauguration of the Children's Meeting Place.

150 children and their chaperons from all centres will participate in the ceremony.
(see attached info)

THE TREE

The Children's Meeting Place will be a tree. The chosen tree was previously called Olea Africana but it is now called Wild Olive. It normally grows near water and up to 18m in height. The Park has guaranteed the area that it would forever remain a Children's Meeting Place.

INAUGURATION DAY OF THE CHILDREN'S MEETING PLACE

Venue Openheimer Park in Soweto

Time 27 AUGUST 12:00 –13:00

Programme

- Our Uniting Water and Soil Ceremony
- Children of the five centres of Soweto will read their paragraphs which will be handed over to the Johannesburg Summit
- Dance and music
- Informal discussions between the children and invited guests.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

All WSSD 2002 participants are welcome to join the Inauguration of the Children's Meeting Place.

BACKGROUND

Last year UNEP authorized Globetree to run a Children's Meeting Place at the United Nations in Nairobi, Kenya. In September Sec. Gen. Klaus Toepfer welcomed the children to their Tree and he promised that the Tree will be their own place at the United Nations.

The children received congratulations from around the world and among them a letter from Sec. Gen. Kofi Annan in which he said:

"In African village life, a tree can also have a great spiritual meaning, and serve as a place where people gather to discuss issues of common concern. This tree on the grounds of the United Nations is now a place where you and your contemporaries can voice your dreams, concerns and suggestions for the future."

The Minister for Environment, Sweden Kjell Larsson wrote:

"Africa is a continent with old traditions but a low average age of its citizenry. Africa is indeed an excellent part of the planet in which to establish a place for children to meet and share thoughts and vision for a good life."

The Prime Minister of Sweden Göran Persson:

"It is essential that political leaders at that meeting demonstrate their determination to take concrete action for children and adolescents all over the world."

The Children's Declaration was one important outcome of the Children's Meeting Place at the UN in Nairobi. The Declaration ends with a wish that a children all over the world will get a Children's Meeting Place.

GLOBETREE

Globetree was founded 1982 and is a Swedish NGO with ECOSOC status and was awarded UNEP Global 500 Roll of Honour year 2000. At the heart of Globetree are children and their visions, dreams and ideas for a better world. The foundation of Globetree programs and projects are the UN-documents: The Rights of the Child and Agenda 21.

Globetree knows that children are excellent and innovative partners when the world seeks solutions to problems. The Children's Meeting Place is a Tree where children and decision-makers at all levels of society meet and dialogue in mutual respect.

Welcome!

Ms. Kajsa B. Dahlström
President Globetree
Initiator Children's Meeting Place