"I always believed you cannot approach social change as an engineering problem - you need to address the underlying cultural, social, and political and economic parameters to make a difference. That is how we approached child labour. So, well beyond its clearly visible imprint on a wide range of areas, IPEC’s most important contribution, in my view, was its early identification of the decisive role and, subsequently, its creation of a world-wide movement against child labour through a multi-pronged approach that included documenting the problem and making it visible, engaging in vigorous advocacy, and building partnerships at all levels around the world. That way it put child labour on the international agenda and was able to have an enduring impact on international law and on national policies and programmes. I do not know of any other programme in the world with such modest means that had so much impact on international opinion and the lives of so many millions of children around the world within a short twenty years or so."

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