

# **International Cooperation for Preventing and Responding to Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents: the Role of International Actors and Donors**

**Consultation in Preparation for the World Congress III Against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, November 2008  
23 – 24 October 2008  
Florence, Italy**

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## **Summary Report – key outcomes and recommendations from the meeting**

***The consultation took place over a two-day period, and in those two days a number of key issues emerged. These are issues that make clear the following:***

Tremendous progress in international cooperation is evident in the protection of children from sexual exploitation, in particular since the previous two World Congresses;

There is a robust international legal framework in place to foster and frame international cooperation for children's protection;

New international standards, if ratified and implemented, will foster unprecedented international cooperation – and cooperation at other levels – that will improve the prevention and protection of children and adolescents from all forms of violence, including sexual exploitation;

Actions exist by States Parties, if enhanced will markedly better protect children the world over;

New actors need to be engaged in internationally cooperative efforts, and these range from private sector entities, to networks of ombudspersons for children, to regional bodies and mechanisms.

## **Background:**

### The World Congress III

The Government of Brazil will host the World Congress III Against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents from 25-28 November 2008 in Rio de Janeiro. The Congress will build on the commitments made at the first and second World Congresses Against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (Stockholm 1996 and Yokohama 2001) and the States Parties obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) and its Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child

Pornography (2000). This process also builds upon the process of follow-up to the UN GA Special Session on Children (2002) and the UN Study on Violence against Children.

The Congress envisages mobilizing all countries to guarantee the right of children and adolescents to be protected from sexual exploitation by taking action to:

- Promote the sharing and cross-fertilization of experiences by governments, international organizations, independent institutions, the Committee on the Rights of the Child, NGOs, and others;
- Examine what works in different regions and identify channels to facilitate better exchange of experiences;
- Open channels and secure greater international cooperation on key issues (including cross-border, but also inter- and intra-regional cooperation);
- Examine persisting and new challenges and dimensions of sexual exploitation, and set more targeted strategies and measures to address them building on work achieved;
- Catalyze a systemic and inter-sectoral approach to guarantee children's and adolescents' right to be protected from sexual exploitation;
- Recommend follow-up action for the Congress.

In order to meet the objectives of the World Congress III Against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents, the Congress partners and members of the Planning Committee (The Government of Brazil, UNICEF, ECPAT and the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child) are commissioning a background paper on each of the thematic areas of the Congress.

A number of regional, thematic and expert consultations addressing key issues and aspects of the protection of children from sexual exploitation have been conducted in preparation for the Congress, including on various forms of sexual exploitation, legal frameworks, integrated cross-sectoral policies, the role of the private sector and international cooperation. The Thematic Expert Consultation on "International Cooperation for Preventing and Responding to Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents: the Role of International Actors and Donors", organized on November 23 and 24, in Florence, by UNICEF IRC and the Government of Italy was the last consultation before the World Congress III.

### ***Progress since Yokohama***

There is little reliable information and statistical data on the magnitude and scale of the sexual exploitation of children, at national, regional and international level.. However the phenomenon has been given increasing visibility as a result of the growing awareness and attention given to this child rights violation by the international community and key stakeholders at the regional and national levels.

New technologies present new challenges to the protection of children from sexual exploitation, including travel and tourism and through child abusive images. At the same time, new technologies have a unique potential to be used as a tool for preventing sexual exploitation, through, awareness-raising on the rights of the child and on the risks children may face, and by providing reporting mechanisms, such as those currently found on the internet. It is equally noteworthy that there are new dimension of sexual exploitation due to globalization and new technologies, including grooming and peer to peer exchange of sexual abusive images.

Since Yokohama, there have been important developments in international human rights standards, including the adoption of new international instruments. One of two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted by the General Assembly in 2000 and in force since 2002, provides detailed definitions of sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. It requires ratifying States to take all measures to criminalize them as offences and provide support for child victims. The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the Palermo Protocol contains the first agreed, internationally-binding definition of trafficking in persons and of child trafficking. It was adopted in 2000 and came into force in December 2003.

Two new ground-breaking, detailed Conventions have been adopted by the Council of Europe, on trafficking in human beings and on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse: these new treaties are open for accession also to non-member states of the Council and to the European Community. The two Conventions build on and reinforce the protection of children's rights provided by previous international instruments.

A range of new United Nations and UN-related guidelines and policies have been adopted. These are designed to promote good practices, including in the implementation and enforcement of legislation and the protection of child victims and witnesses – e.g. U.N. Guidelines on Justice in matters involving child victims and witnesses of crime.

In 2006, the UN Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children - the first comprehensive global study on this topic provided detailed recommendations and a further impetus for State action to prevent and respond to all forms of violence against children, including sexual exploitation. (See Annex)

Several countries in the world have amended their legislation to bring it in line with relevant conventions and other international standards. Guidelines have been adapted to various regional and national contexts and new programs and services have been developed to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation in many countries in the world.

The role of international cooperation in the promotion of human rights and, more specifically, of children's rights, is framed by other important instruments and commitments. It is solidly anchored on the UN Charter, in particular art. 55 and 56, has

been reaffirmed by the Millennium Declaration, as well as by the Special Session on Children.

The Committee on the Rights of the Child has given a special emphasis to the role of international cooperation in the realization of children's rights, including through its General Comment No. 5.

Participants in the Florence Consultation represented governmental officials, national and regional organizations, academic institutions, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). There were discussions on good practices, lessons learned, and also opportunities to identify key challenges relating to international and regional cooperation designed to protect children from sexual exploitation. In addition, the discussants identified recommendations for the strengthening of regional and international cooperation to safeguard children's rights. It was recognized that many conventions and guidelines are now in place and stronger efforts and cooperation are needed, at the international, regional and national levels, to ensure their effective implementation.

Additional effort is required for the:

- development of structures and mechanisms for implementation, resource allocation, monitoring of progress and child impact assessment;
- promotion of stronger cooperation and better use of existing mechanisms, such as through the CRC reporting process and other human rights bodies and special procedures, and regional bodies such as the Council of Europe and other regional bodies to promote effective implementation;
- development of strategies to enhance synergies and build upon the distinct contribution of different actors;
- establishment of new platforms for exchange of information and cross-fertilization of experiences, and for monitoring progress achieved.

## **Some prevailing challenges**

### **Conceptual clarity<sup>1</sup>**

Conceptual clarity is important for ensuring that all stakeholders define and interpret various terms in the same way and the protection of children's rights remains a shared core concern. Different pieces of legislation within a State need to build upon common definitions where there is interplay among them. Similarly, cross border cooperation and

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<sup>1</sup> UNICEF IRC Report of the Expert Consultation Meeting in Preparation for the World Congress III Against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents, Florence, 21-23 April 2008.

collaboration between and among organizations require a similar approach; the same if bilateral and international cooperation is to be effective.

The importance of stressing the “exploitative aspects” of sexual exploitation was emphasized, while recognizing the need of preventing the stigmatization of child victims. In this spirit:

Child sex tourism should be replaced by **sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism;**

Child pornography should be replaced by **sexual exploitation of children through abusive images;**

Child prostitution should be replaced by **sexual exploitation of children through prostitution.**

### **Legislation and policy frameworks**

There are clear challenges in the implementation of the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography. International, bilateral, and regional cooperation are critical in this regard. Areas that require strengthening include the creation of systems that avoid re-victimizations and criminalization of child victims.

There is a tendency to address sexual exploitation simply as a law enforcement and criminal issue. It is equally important for legislation to address other dimensions such as legal and psychosocial considerations. In addition, the inclusion of other matters such as victim protection and assistance would provide for a more robust legal framework. For all countries there need to be clear legal provisions to protect victims from being subjected to prosecution for offenses related to their situation, for example in cases of child trafficking. Laws need to address, with equal vigour, the sexual exploitation of girls and boys.

Policy frameworks, such as National Plans of Action have been developed in many countries. The generation of greater synergy between various children related action plans, and amongst the actors who are responsible and involved with their implementation will result in even greater effectiveness. The diversity of mandates and approaches of engaged departments and ministries often makes coordination at national, regional and international level a challenge.

### **Information, research and data collection**

Across regions, efforts made to set up mechanisms for harmonized and systematic data collection, analysis and dissemination on sexual exploitation of children and on child trafficking at international, regional and national levels need strengthening. There is

currently no evidence whether numbers of children being trafficked have increased or decreased. It is important to cite figures and statistics which are based on evidence.

Research is best when informed by local knowledge, and action proposed on the basis of solid research. There is a need to learn more about factors which make children vulnerable. We should also learn more about new manifestations of sexual exploitation.

Many innovative program practices are in place to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation. More impact assessments will be a great benefit. Moreover, the development of 'scaling up' strategies will also be an asset in terms of taking good initiatives 'to scale'.<sup>2</sup>

## **Sharing of positive initiatives**

### **Bilateral, regional and international cooperation**

Examples of cooperation initiatives at international, regional and sub regional levels were presented. The initiatives illustrated work on:

- development of bilateral agreements;
- harmonization of legislation within regions;
- development and implementation of joint advocacy strategies;
- joint research and capacity building initiatives;
- development of joint prevention programs, surveillance mechanism and services for the care and protection of child victims within the regions.

National independent institutions are critical actors in this process. Some initiatives had been promoted through a joint funding source to develop integrated programs for preventing and responding to sexual exploitation of children. Examples of donor agencies having a policy of co-funding cooperation initiatives were given.

Cooperation amongst ombudspersons for children is promoted through regional and international mechanisms. Independent ombudspersons are cooperating for following up on government commitments to children's rights at a national level (such as in the context of the CRC reporting process and of the Yokohama Commitments).

Their cooperation promotes cross-fertilization of experiences and the development of joint strategies. There is a global network of ombudspersons for children, supported by the Innocenti Research Centre, as well as regional networks in Latin American and in Europe.

NGOs have a strong role to play in promoting a rights-based approach to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation of children. The NGO Group for the CRC is a significant

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<sup>2</sup> For more information see: UNICEF IRC Report of the Expert Consultation Meeting in Preparation for the World Congress III Against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents, Florence, 21-23 April 2008.

example of NGOs joining forces to strengthening the implementation of the CRC, and of alternate reporting on the monitoring of government commitments. The NGO group is also providing capacity building, conducting awareness raising and advocacy, and actively involved in the preparation for the World Congress III.

The Virtual Global Taskforce is another example of international cooperation for crime reduction. This initiative is an international alliance of law enforcement agencies working together to prevent and deter on-line child abuse. It involves joint operations, information sharing and joint education/awareness raising initiatives on the protection of children from sexual exploitation, between UK, Australia, Italy, Canada, the UN and the Interpol. Finally, the Taskforce provides a range of advice, information and support to both adults and children to protect themselves against child sex abusers.

Regional intergovernmental organizations and their strategic and cooperative role was illustrated through the commitment of the Council of Europe. Through the adoption of new standards, the development of European policy guidelines for integrated strategies on violence against children and the launching of a campaign against sexual violence that regional body has strengthened its cooperative approaches to the issues that will be addressed in the Rio Congress.

From all of the examples cited it is clear that there is a strong potential to build upon programmes of agencies operating in the same area. Exchange of experiences and joint allocation of resources to work towards the same objectives will only improve the situation for children. Another lesson learned from these initiatives is that cooperation achieves better results when organizations programs are based on evidence, complementary expertise is promoted, technical support is made available and where mechanisms are developed to assess impact (e.g. evaluation and child impact assessments).

### **Programmes**

Examples of significant initiatives were presented on international and regional cooperation programmes designed to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism and to child trafficking.

### **Child trafficking:**

Examples discussed in the consultation highlighted the importance of investing in the enhancement of national capacity, the strengthening of professional skills, the protection of victims and the development of research tools and methodologies to prevent and address the sexual exploitation of children. Interventions included:

- the promotion of national consultations and cross sectoral interventions;

- awareness raising and information campaigns (including through web-pages, TV spots), and programs relating to poverty reductions and the promotion of livelihoods;
- child led advocacy and partnership with civil society;
- development of multidisciplinary training manuals and tools;
- capacity building of relevant professional groups, including border police;
- sharing of information and research;
- development of hot-lines and data bases;
- development and use of child protection indicators.

### **Sexual exploitation in travel and tourism:**

In this area, strong emphasis was given to:

- prevention, including through information and awareness raising (including TV spots), development of training materials;
- training of police, migration, social welfare and justice department;
- networking and sharing of experience;
- protection, recovery and reintegration of victims
- assistance to victims, including life skills training;
- sensitization and introduction of the Code of Conduct to the tourism industry and promotion of corporate social responsibility;

### **Sexual exploitation through the internet:**

The “Virtual Parent” is an important initiative. The software helps parents to monitor the use of the internet by their children. It is an easy tool for parents to monitor on-line grooming, sexual harassment and cyber-bullying. An important comment was made regarding the gap in IT capacity between parents and children. This software attempts to address this gap, providing parents with the skills to monitor in a manner that respects the capacities of their children. Another example is the Child Exploitation Tracking System (CETS) - a programme developed by Microsoft, in corporation with the Global Virtual Task Force. The program has a data base and a secure system to facilitate efficient sharing of online identity data, including within joint investigations.

### **The media and the private sector**

The media and the private sector are important actors in regional and international cooperation initiatives, both for their role in prevention and the promotion of children’s rights, and for the risks they may be associated with.

The Media promotes awareness raising and information on children’s rights and the sharing of good practices. At the same time, it can also further victimize a child (through insensitive reporting).

A sensitization and consolidated engagement of the media, and more broadly of communication in child protection efforts is needed.

Several examples of the role of the private sector were given, such as Microsoft through the promotion of safe internet use, and the role of the Tourism Industry through the adoption and implementation of the Code of Conduct to stop exploitation abuse in travel and tourism.

### **Other issues**

The importance of the involvement of children in decision-making processes was discussed. Participants referred to the benefit programmes derive from consulting with children and adolescents, including in reintegration and rehabilitation initiatives.

On the matter of reintegration of children who have been sexually exploited participants felt that further cooperative efforts are needed to strengthen exiting approaches. The active mobilization of families and communities is required to prevent and overcome social stigma and to support the child victims. Preventive programs should also address the demand side, including through approaches involving boys and men. Initiatives should address the root causes of sexual exploitation, including poverty, lack of livelihoods, social norms and gender discrimination, which need to be considered through community based and empowering approaches.

Other areas needing further discussion: sexual exploitation in emergency situations; exploitation and abuse of children with disabilities, and sexual abuse in institutions; research on child vulnerability and resilience and the integration of community-based actions within formal child protection systems.

## **International Cooperation for Preventing and Responding to Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents: the Role of International Actors and Donors**

In Preparation for World Congress III against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents

Florence, 23-24 October 2008

### **Recommendations for Theme 5: Strategies for International Cooperation**

#### *Overarching recommendations*

#### **Ensure a child rights-based and holistic approach to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation of children.**

The Convention on the Rights of the Child's four general principles, namely the right to non-discrimination (article.2); the best interest of the child (article 3); the right to life, survival and development (article 6), and the right of the child to express and have his or her views heard and taken into account (article 12) need to be considered in all actions to address and prevent sexual exploitation of children and to assist child victims..

Promoting a child rights-based approach includes law enforcement, protection, empowerment and participation of affected and at-risk children, their families and communities. In the process of law reform States Parties are called to ensure compatibility with the CRC of existing and new legislation and promoted informed judicial practice. Such an approach also recognizes the linkages between and among: violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect.

Integral to a child rights approach is the recognition that interventions need to be at once holistic and systemic. The general measures of implementation of the CRC – including law reform, monitoring, multi stakeholder coordination, awareness raising and training, independent human rights institutions, allocation of resources, and the participation of civil society and children – provide a useful framework for prevention and addressing sexual exploitation. The promotion of national and community based structures and mechanism to address the root causes and the “demand side” of sexual exploitation are also essential in this approach.

A child rights-based approach requires a strong national legal framework, and implementation in the context of international cooperation. Both of these – the domestic as well as international dimension - ensure the safeguard of children's rights, while they at the same time punish those who exploit children. Some additional factors are critical: police and other law-enforcement actors and institutions need to be free from corruption; there needs to be at least one designated office responsible for crimes related to the

sexual exploitation of children; a strong monitoring system needs to be in place to identify those children who are at risk of sexual exploitation, and to track those who have been assisted in order to ensure sustained protection.

**Promote multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral cooperation to sustain success in the protection of children.**

Approaches respectful of children's rights call for multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral cooperation. That latter promotes cooperation with a clear mandate between and among all relevant departments and professionals working with and for children, (health, education, welfare and justice) and regulate their ways of working through referral mechanisms and protocols for cooperation.

These approaches also require the establishment of a high level national-level multi-sector body with representation from relevant departments, under the leadership of a focal institution to coordinate and facilitate planning and implementation of a National Child Protection Policy or strategy with a clear focus on actions to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation of children. Memoranda of understanding and protocols to facilitate and reinforce collaboration between and within ministries and central and local authorities, as well as with UN agencies, NGOs children and other civil society actors - are also crucial.

Media and the private sector are important actors to be included in multi-stakeholder approaches. A responsible media can raise awareness on the issues and report in an ethical way. Capacity building on child rights for the media and the promotion of guidelines and codes for reporting is therefore crucial. In addition, media strongly sways public opinion and much can be done to harness the power of media to protect children's rights. Media initiatives need to be embedded in a broader communication approach to child protection.

Meanwhile the private sector can help prevent sexual exploitation through corporate social responsibility, and through the promotion of child protection policies and guidelines for staff members and suppliers. Furthermore they can sign and implement Code of Conducts, such as the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children in Travel and Tourism, and take an active role in preventing sexual abusive images on the internet and through other technologies.

**Harness positive social norms, address demand and other root causes of sexual exploitation.**

Deep-rooted practices of gender discrimination and patriarchal social structures which can lead to a cultural climate where exploitative relationships are perceived as socially acceptable needs to be challenged from empowering community based approaches. There

is strong evidence, in some sectors, that this is taking place. This evidence base needs to be strengthened, to be better understood, and notable initiatives taken to scale. It is clear that commitment and pressure from inside the community can challenge harmful social norms but it requires long term commitment from donors and other agencies involved. It is essential to strengthen and promote social norms with positive impact on the protection of children. Community mobilization is not only critical to prevention, but also reintegration and other forms of support to children who have been sexually exploited

Efforts to address poverty and the demand side of sexual exploitation also need to be strengthened, and given greater emphasis. The demand side of sexual exploitation can be addressed through programs working with boys and men on issues relating to gender discrimination, sexuality and child rights; as well as through rehabilitation programs for perpetrators and for persons who fear they may commit sexual crimes against children. Traveling sexual offenders needs to be prevented for re-offending through travel restrictions. Working with children should be forbidden to those who have been convicted for sexual exploitation of children.

### **Promote meaningful child participation**

Children should be recognized as social agents with the right to express their opinions freely and have them taken into account; to receive, seek and impart information. Meaningful child participation raises children's self esteem and increases their confidence to challenge abuses they may face in the future. It is also their right under the CRC and closely linked to children's right to information, freedom of expression and their freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

Children should be given the opportunity to have their voices heard and given due consideration in policy making, in the development of preventive and rehabilitative programs, services and in legal and administrative procedures. Organizations need to learn from the experiences of children – and adults needs to be trained on how to consult with and work with children. In addition resources need to be allocated to provide child friendly information and to support children's own actions to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation.

### ***Specific recommendations***

#### **National level**

##### **Ensure effective coordination mechanisms**

Effective coordination mechanisms should be established at the national level between central and local governments, and cooperation promoted with donor agencies, local NGOs and other actors working on child protection issues, to ensure sharing of

information, mutually supportive roles and coordinated responses, aiming at the protection of children from sexual exploitation.

Consolidated partnerships should be developed between governments, NGOs, international organizations, the media, researchers, ombudspersons, community leaders, children's organisations and the private sectors and sufficient resources allocated to ensure capacity building of these actors on child rights and child protection issues. Funding for pilot projects should be made available to document and evaluation these initiatives to provide examples of good practices.

### **Promote National Plans of Action on Children**

National Plans of Action for Children need to include actions to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation of children, and these plans should be included in countries overall development plans to ensure consistency and funding. Information on funding opportunities within these plans should be made available to donors.

International cooperation mechanisms should support governments efforts designed to provide support to children are properly and routinely monitored and evaluated, and that the findings result in adjustments to programme design and implementation. Mechanisms for systematic data collection, analyses and dissemination should be developed and integrated into national monitoring systems.

In this framework, independent human rights institutions for children, such as child ombudspersons, play a decisive role and should be established and/or strengthened in each country, and provided with sufficient human and financial resources to promote the realization of children's rights and effectively monitor the implementation of States' commitments to children.

### **End impunity and provide support to child victims**

Governments should ensure, through legislation and programs, that sufficient support is given to child victims and witnesses of crime and that child friendly justice is promoted, including in the context of extraterritorial legislation and mutual assistance agreements.

### **Promote child friendly reporting mechanisms**

Child friendly information about child rights and child protection issues, and available services, should be provided for children, taking their diversity into consideration. (age, gender, language, disability/ability, etc), and child friendly reporting mechanisms should be developed in each country.

Information should address, for instance, issues concerning safety in relation to the migration, use of the internet and other technology.

### **Ensure capacity building and cooperation of professionals**

Capacity building should be provided on child rights, child protection issues and on how to consult with children for professionals working with children, including law enforcement officials, migration officers, and the judiciary..

Strategies and structures should be developed to ensure cross border and inter-disciplinary cooperation between professionals working with and for children.

### **Support community-based approaches**

Community based approaches should be promoted and supported by donors to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and to build sustainable interventions to ensure long-term effects after projects end. Capacity building should be promoted in order to strengthen the capacity of community based organisations and NGOs to evaluate and scale up those programs. Multi-sectoral and cross-border cooperation should be promoted in the process of scaling up and linkages established with the formal child protection structure.

Alternatives should be created to ensure that boys and girls who have been exploited are not repatriated to their home countries and communities, when it is not in the best interest of the child. It should be ensured that responses are tailored to the individual child;

The demand side of sexual exploitation should be addressed through community based approaches such as the promotion of programmes working with boys and men on issues relating to gender discrimination, and child rights.

## **Regional level**

### **The EU to promote harmonization of policies**

The European Union is particularly well placed to promote and strengthen the commitment to children's rights through its external action, and its development cooperation initiatives. Moreover, it plays a strong role in the promotion of the harmonization of policies designed to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation of children;

### **Promote regional cooperation and coordination**

Regional organizations are well placed to promote and support cross-country law reform and policy development initiatives. Regional cooperation should be enhanced, including to

promote information and experience and knowledge sharing, as well as strengthened law enforcement and judicial cooperation and monitoring of governments.

Regional policies and strategies should be developed to address issues relating to the protection of children from sexual exploitation and child mobility in the best interest of the child. Lead agencies should act as regional hubs for activities in these areas and more broadly for the safeguard of children's rights and the protection of children from sexual exploitation.

Regional organizations will be particularly well-placed to act as hubs for the follow-up to the commitments made at World Congress III.

## **International level**

### **Promote international cooperation**

The coordinated efforts of international organizations, ie. UN agencies, inter-governmental bodies, international NGOs and others, are recognized as invaluable to the provision of the best response to the protection of the rights of children. Common definitions of child protection issues, based on international standards, should be used by all actors. More impact assessments and research are needed and should be promoted. Effective cooperation in the field is essential to protecting children, to enhance prevention and the effective protection of children from sexual exploitation.

### **Strengthen monitoring of governments commitments**

Existing international child rights-related monitoring systems should be strengthened and their cooperation enhanced. Mutually supportive initiatives should be promoted by mechanisms such as the CRC Committee, Human Rights Special Procedures, and regional Expert Bodies. The Special Representative on Violence Against Children, once appointed, will play a critical catalytic role, in the promotion of synergistic collaboration between stakeholders, including UN Agencies and regional organizations and the global network of ombuds for children.

The outcome of the World Congress III should be mainstreamed into international and regional monitoring tools, including through the process of follow-up to the UN Study on Violence Against Children.

International organizations should mobilize additional resources for children's rights and ensure that the outcome of the Brazil World Congress is mainstreamed in donor agencies guidelines and funding priorities.

International and inter-governmental organizations should develop common data bases with information, data analysis and research, including on legislative frameworks and enforcement, integrated strategies to protect children from sexual exploitation, child

impact assessments, and good practices to enhance the safeguard of children from all forms of violence, including all forms of sexual exploitation.

Capacity building for international actors on child rights and child protection issues should be promoted, including capacity building for international research institutions on child rights. Additional resources should be allocated for capacity building of key actors and for child-focused research and surveys with children.

### **Donor agencies**

#### **Promote strategies for cooperation between donor agencies**

Donor agencies should develop joint, multi-disciplinary strategies to promote the protection of children from sexual exploitation.

Donor agencies should provide support to research and programs which capitalize on key lessons learned, stimulate new thinking, and promote the formation of new alliances.

Donor agencies are encouraged to provide further financial support and technical assistance in support of research, data collection and analysis for the promotion of sustainable programmes to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation. Further provision should also be made for the establishment of baselines and the development of indicators to better monitor and evaluate programs through research and analysis.

Donor agencies should further support capacity building of professionals working with and for children to prevent and combat sexual exploitation of children.

## **Annex 1 (to be amended)**

### **The Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, Lanzarote conv (victim protection)**

- Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols
  - Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography
  - Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict
- Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Protocol)
- ILO Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour (No. 182)
  
- **Regional Instruments**  
(EU, Council of Europe, OSCE, SAARC, ASEAN, UNIAP, etc.)
- UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking (2002, UNOHCHR Principles and Guidelines);
- UNHCR Guidelines on Policies and Procedures in Dealing with Unaccompanied Children Seeking Asylum of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (1997, UNHCR Guidelines)
- UNICEF Guidelines for the Protection of the Rights of Children Victims of Trafficking (2006, UNICEF Guidelines)
- International Organization for Migration Handbook on Direct Assistance for Victims of Trafficking (2007, IOM).
- OCOSOC Guidelines on Justice in Matters Involving Child Victims and Witnesses
- UNHCHR Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking (2002)

## **Annex 2**

### **The recommendations from *Italian Cooperation***

#### *Recommendation n.1*

The aims of the strategies to fight CSEC should not be confused with the aims against the sexual abuse of minors. Sexual abuse of minors is an activity that is planned and organized by criminals and must be persecuted as such, with specific means different from those exploited against sexual abuse that is a national phenomenon related to cultural and educational factors, lack of respect for the rights of minors, family break down, machismo and domestic violence.

#### *Recommendation n.2*

In the framework of the international traffic of human beings one must distinguish the segment that concerns minors and the specific aim of sexual exploitation, in order to devise specific actions of prevention, contrast and rehabilitation. The phenomenon of the sexual exploitation of minors carried out through international or transnational traffic is the work of international criminal organization and in order to fight it effectively, it is necessary to rely on international experts who can inter-act with national experts.

Italy welcomes the participation of its major experts coming from the different institutions involved in the fight to the traffic with a view to get the whole system involved in this fundamental task to contrast this enormous phenomenon.

#### *Recommendation n.3*

The actions against the phenomenon in order to be effective, must be specific and well directed, focused on the specific realities depending on the peculiarities of the different operational scenes.

#### *Recommendation n.4*

The Italian Cooperation attributes great importance to the appropriate and effective use of the media in order to enhance the awareness of pertinent institutions and public opinion at various level, either in the Countries affected by CSEC or in the countries of origin of the exploiters. To this aim the Italian Cooperation has inserted in every financed program a budget line for the realization of documentaries, photographic materials publications and national or international events.