

Thematic Expert Consultation meeting
on International Cooperation,
Florence, 23 – 24 October 2008

***The Role of Ombuds for Children
in the Protection of Children's Rights
from Sexual Exploitation***

Trond Waage

unite for
children

unicef 

MOMENTUM

- ✓ An Ombuds for Children is an independent institution whose role is to promote, protect and monitor children's rights at national or sub-national level.
- ✓ Establishment of independent institutions has been recommended by the CRC Committee and other international instruments (SSC, Paris Principles)
- ✓ Multiplication of Ombuds for Children in all regions

Ombuds for Children in Italy

- ✓ **Veneto Region:** Ufficio di protezione e pubblica tutela dei minori
 - ✓ **Friuli Venezia Giulia Region:** Ufficio del Pubblico Tutore dei minori
 - ✓ **Marche Region:** Garante regionale dell'infanzia e dell'adolescenza
 - ✓ **Lazio Region:** Garante dell'infanzia e dell'adolescenza
 - ✓ **Molise Region:** Ufficio Tutore Pubblico per l'infanzia e l'adolescenza
 - ✓ **Campania:** (person selected, no office established)
- 6 out of 20 regions in Italy

The Global Board

- ✓ Composed of representatives of regional networks and individual institutions representing a region
- ✓ First global meeting at UN Special Session on Children (2002)
- ✓ Second global meeting at SSC+5 (2007)
- ✓ Decision to further contribute to events of global nature
- ✓ Follow-up to UN Study on Violence against Children

Ombuds Role in follow-up to the World Congress in Rio

- ✓ General need for a follow-up mechanism to international events, as momentum in the preparatory process tends to slow down after the event;
- ✓ Role of independent Ombuds in the follow-up to the UN Study on Violence Against Children, as recommended in the Study;
- ✓ Follow-up to the commitments to be made at the Rio Congress at national level;

Ombuds Role in follow-up to the World Congress in Rio

- ✓ Data collection and analysis based on parameters/indicators to be defined enabling international comparisons and promotion of States' accountability.
- ✓ Need for the establishment of a working group composed of various partners including international organizations, NGOs, academia and independent Ombuds to establish common indicators for the monitoring of progress made;

Ombuds Role in follow-up to the World Congress in Rio

- ✓ Setting-up of a monitoring system benefiting from institutions' access to quantitative and qualitative information, both on violence against children and on the systems in place in the country to prevent and address violence.

The Congress Positive impact on the Ombuds role

- ✓ Further strengthening of independent institutions through international recognition of their role and status;
- ✓ Independent Institutions benefiting from an international mandate to pursue their task at national level in particular with respect to violence against children;
- ✓ Support provided by international organizations, NGOs and other relevant actors to independent institutions in the fulfillment of their role.

Role of Ombuds in International Cooperation

- ✓ Based on the understanding of challenges faced on national and sub-national level, must be addressed with regional and international cooperation;
- ✓ Role of Ombuds in supporting democratic governance, children's rights as development imperative;
- ✓ Cross-fertilization of experiences
- ✓ Common platform: CRC