



# SOUTH ASIA INITIATIVE TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN



Background Document







## *Hello Children!*

*My name is Time and I am here to tell you about the journey made in South Asia to end all forms of violence against children. I am the best person to take you on this journey since I was present from the very time it started. I must tell you that it has been a long difficult journey with many challenges and difficulties and also many successes!! The journey has been made by governments, adults, organizations working with children and children themselves from all over the world, to reach a common goal "having a world that is free of violence for children". To fully understand where we have reached today you need to know where and how it all began. So let us begin.....*



## How it started in the World

*I am going to take you back in time to the year the journey began. It was the year 1945 when the United Nations was formed.*

### **United Nations**

After the Second World War, leaders from countries of the world decided that they needed an organization where all the countries of the world could discuss and solve problems and issues regarding children. The organization would also help keep peace and security throughout the world. And this is how United Nations (UN) which is represented by 193 countries of the world was established.

*I saw that the children all over the world were facing many problems and no one seemed to care, till in 1989 leaders from different countries decided to do something and take action. They came up with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.*

### **The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)**

The leaders from different countries also believed that children are special and therefore have a special place in this world and made the UNCRC (1989) a document which explains exactly what rights children have. It is also an agreement between countries to obey the same laws about children. All but two governments in the world have ratified the UNCRC and have agreed to make sure all children get all their rights.

The Convention is guided by four basic principles of survival, development, Protection and Participation. The Convention has 54 articles out of which 41 are on children's rights, 1 on awareness education and 12 on role of government in monitoring, implementing and fulfilling the rights.

*Do you know that 192 countries all over the world committed to fulfill the Rights of children? But time would tell that not much was done and children still kept suffering. So in 2002 the UN decided to hold a Special Session for Children during the UN General Assembly. The year was 2002*

## **United Nations Special Session on Children**

In May 2002 the UN General Assembly organized a Special Session on Children. The Special Session was the first to fully commit itself to children and even included them as official delegates. It took place to review progress on commitments made since the World Summit for Children which was held in 1990. It also provided an opportunity to change the way the world views and treats children. The Governments at the Session decided to improve the lives of children over the next ten years and their discussions resulted in a document "A World Fit for Children". It explains the promises governments have made and the actions they will take to fulfill them. The document says that the key issues facing children are: health, education, HIV/AIDS and the protection of children from violence, abuse and exploitation. The 'Plan of Action' in this document is supposed to guide what governments will do for children in the future.

*I was happy to see that children from all over the world got together for the first time to discuss and share experiences and make recommendations on solving children's problems. They also made a presentation to all the important people who attended the meeting. Listening to the children's problems UN General Assembly (Which is the decision making body of the UN) decided to conduct the UN Study on Violence against Children in 2003. The Study was completed in 2006.*

## UN Violence study

In 2003 the United Nations General Assembly asked the Secretary-General to conduct a detailed study on violence against children and to put forward solutions on how these can be stopped and how grown-ups, children, governments and non-governmental organizations can help children who face violence in their daily lives. The Study looked at different places where violence against children happens such as at homes, in schools, in places where children live without their parents, in places where they work and in their neighborhoods.

The Violence Study collected information from different governments all over the world about violence against children in their countries. Many regional and national workshops were held to collect information during 2004, 2005 and 2006 in which children were also invited to share their views on violence they had experienced. In October 2006, the UN Study on Violence against Children was completed. It found that the short and long-term impact of the violence faced by children is very harmful and can result in injuries, disabilities, life-long emotional and psychological effects, sometimes death, as well as significant economic and other costs to society.

### The South Asia Journey begins....

*I am happy to tell you that in 2005, 8 countries of South Asia (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) who had been making this journey alone decided to join hands and fight for ending Violence against children together? This part of the journey started in 2005 and continues till now....but many changes have taken place and I feel in time to come, the children of South Asia will live in a world that is free of violence, tears and unhappiness.*

## A quick look at the journey from 2005 TO 2012 - in Brief

The results of the National meetings on UN Violence study were brought together in the first Regional workshop held in Islamabad, Pakistan in 2005, which was a part of 9 Regional meetings held throughout the world.

Eight Countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) came together for the first time to discuss issues related to children which needed urgent attention. These were Early Marriage and Corporal Punishment and Trafficking as a cross cutting one. The South Asia Forum (SAF) was formed after this meeting which later became South Asia Initiative to end Violence against children (SAIEVAC). This was a result of many consultations and meetings that brought together representatives from 8 member countries, UN, INGO's, experts on children's issues and children themselves. Today SAIEVAC has a 5 year work plan to end violence against children and has put children's participation at the centre of all its work. In 2011, SAIEVAC became a SAARC Apex Body. The SAARC Apex body consists of Heads of Government of member countries that make the final decisions and meet once a year. Now SAIEVAC can provide input into all decisions made by SAARC on issues related to children, especially on Protection.

### The year 2005

*Did you know that the year 2005 was a turning point for children in South Asia? It was the start of many good things to come. Let me begin with the first meeting that took place....*

## South Asian Regional Consultation in Islamabad 19-21- May 2005

### Outcome and Achievement

Identification of Early Marriage and Corporal Punishment as the priority issue and Trafficking as a cross cutting one and the decision to establish the South Asia Forum (SAF)

As a part of the UN Violence study several national consultations took place in 8 South Asian Countries. The result from these consultations was fed into the South Asian Regional Consultation in Islamabad, Pakistan in May 2005. All countries got together to join hands for the first time to provide input into the UN Violence study and end violence against children by finding solutions to fight and prevent it. The consultation brought together ministers, senior government officials, SAARC Secretariat members and representatives from civil society, INGOs, UN agencies, experts and resource persons, children and young people and the media.

### Children and young people's participation 17-18 May 2005

#### Outcome and achievement

Meaningful and active participation of children and young people from different countries, the commitment shown by the different governments to stop all forms of violence against children, establishment of a regional forum on violence against children and the start of a regional network on violence against children that would steadily grow in importance in the coming years.

Children and young people from the region participated in a workshop one day before the regional consultation. They prepared and presented a Statement on Violence against Children in South Asia, which showed where and how children face violence, the causes of violence and actions taken by children. It also included a set of recommendations to governments and adults. The recommendations were about

- making effective laws in line with the CRC
- creating task forces to end violence
- raising parents' awareness of the CRC and involving them, together with NGOs, teachers and children, in programmes against violence
- encouraging Parents to listen to children and see things from their point of view.

### South Asia Forum (SAF) is born

*Children, you will be glad to learn that as a result of the 2005 meeting an organization was established which brought governments from the 8 member countries together to fight violence against children and what was even better was that children played an important role in making this happen!!*

The South Asia Forum (SAF) for Ending Violence against Children consists of representatives from the eight governments in the region (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka). It was established to lead the work on violence against children in South Asia alongside the South Asia Coordinating Group on Action against Violence against Women and Children (SACG), which is a network of regional INGOs and UN agencies to give technical and financial support to SAF activities.

During the period 2006 to 2010 SAF organized Regional consultations, Ministerial meetings and Coordinators Meetings which brought together important government representatives, key stakeholders and children to review progress, identify gaps and take the right action.



## The Year 2006

*The year 2006 was a very busy year for everyone working to stop violence against children. There were many meetings, discussions and decisions on how to move forward. I was happy to note that you were involved in all of the meetings and had an important role to play.*

In 2006 SAF organized its first SAF Technical Consultation, Children's Consultation and Ministerial meeting in Rawalpindi, Pakistan bringing together Ministers and delegates from 8 member countries of the region as well as representatives from civil society, UN agencies, INGOs and children and youth. The consultation and meetings built on the result of the 2005 consultation and paved the way for the future.

### The 1<sup>st</sup> SAF Technical consultation

#### **Result and achievement**

Clarity on the role of SAF, actions to be taken to end violence against children, role of children on priority issues.

The purpose of the consultation was to go over the progress made by Member Countries on the two selected priority issues of Corporal Punishment and Early Marriage, with Trafficking as a cross-cutting issue. The aim was also to identify a number of key actions for follow-up at the regional level; to agree and finalise the functioning of SAF; and to promote children's formalized participation on the priority issues.

## Children and young people's Consultation July 22-23, 2006

### Result and achievement

Sharing of regional experiences and preparing recommendations to be presented at the Ministerial meeting.

12 Children and youth from the region participated in their own 2 day forum before the Ministerial meeting. They discussed the situation of children related to violence and prepared recommendations for the Ministerial meeting. The recommendations highlighted the importance of having laws to end corporal punishment, introduction of Child Rights in School curriculum, parents respecting children and listening to them, having positive disciplining methods such as giving advice and teaching by example.

## 1<sup>st</sup> SAF Ministerial Meeting, Pakistan (24-26 July, 2006)

### Result and achievement

- developed the regional agenda on violence against children
- setting up the systems for its fulfilment

Ministers and delegates from 8 member countries participated in the first SAF Ministerial meeting. The meeting resulted in Terms of Reference (ToR) being approved for SAF, its Secretariat and Coordinators and their work such as organizing regional and thematic meetings; coordinating with other regional players and distributing information among SAF Member Countries.

The meeting resulted in detailed recommendations for the future.



## The Year 2007

*The most important thing that happened this year was that SAF Coordinators discussed and made a note which was approved on how best to always involve children in programs, activities and actions taken to end violence in the region. I think all this happened because you made such a wonderful contribution to all the meetings you had attended in the past.*

### The 2<sup>nd</sup> SAF Regional Coordinators Meeting, Delhi, India (October 9, 2007)

#### Result and achievements

A concept note on children and young people's participation was approved at the meeting. Making official the participation of children and young people in the region, and ensuring structures and systems for their participation on SACG/SAF priority issues were among the outcomes. Discussions started with the SAARC Secretariat on having SAF within SAARC structure. Follow-up on the possibility of the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare of the Government of Nepal fulfilling the role of hosting the SAF

The second SAF Regional Coordinators Meeting, held in New Delhi on 9 October 2007, brought together SAF Coordinators, UN agencies and INGOs. The discussions were around work progress, transfer of SAF Regional Secretariat and the possibility of Making SAF part of SAARC Secretariat, progress on regional review on Corporal Punishment, Child Marriage and Trafficking as well as making participation of children and young people officially recognized in the region.



## The year 2008

*Talking about things is not the same as getting things done. A lot of time and effort has to be put to come to common agreement and act jointly. By now you would have understood how many the countries in the region wanted to make a better world for you and how much support they needed from you.*

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> SAF Regional Coordinators' Meeting, the Rio Preparatory Consultation and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ministerial Meeting were held in Kathmandu, Nepal on 27-29 August 2008**

### **Result and Achievement**

Among the main achievements was the strengthening of the SAF process and partnership between SAF and SAARC, agreement among key players in the region on a uniform rights based approach as well as a commitment to strengthen child rights protection systems.

### **Children and young people's Forum August 2008**

18 children and young people from the region attended a forum especially organized for them. They also participated alongside adults at the Preparatory Consultation and put forward recommendations for governments to improve child participation, provide treatment and opportunity to go back to their homes and communities to victims and survivors of sexual exploitation and work closely with NGO's, strengthen legal action, education and research work and develop laws on pornography, child sex tourism and child marriage. Children and young people also brought up the issue of educating media on proper coverage of the issues.

### **The 2<sup>nd</sup> SAF Ministerial Meeting:**

The meeting was attended by government Ministers, UN agencies, local and international NGOs, child rights experts, children and youth. The purpose was to carry out a detailed review and form a common understanding of the region's priority issues: Early Marriage, Corporal Punishment and Trafficking, and their relation to the issue of Sexual Abuse, report on regional progress and challenges, increase the key stakeholders' capacity in addressing the priority issues and make goals and targets for the World Congress in Rio.

### **The 3<sup>rd</sup> SAF Regional Coordinators' Meeting**

The aim of the SAF Coordinators' Meeting, held on 29 August, was to review and strengthen the SAF process. The meeting was attended by all eight SAARC Member Countries. The meeting ended with an agreement that the transfer of the SAF Secretariat (Office) needs to be finalised at the earliest alongside identification of ways to institutionalize it. It was also decided to send the document for partnership between SAF and SAARC to the Head of SAARC called the Secretary General. Importance was also given to bringing together SAARC's and SAF's thematic areas for collective action. It was also recommended to distribute the latest updates on the thematic areas to the Member Countries.

In order to make the SAF process more effective it was decided that a Regional Action Plan to highlight the usefulness of the SAF process beyond the annual consultations, would be developed in partnership with SAARC and SACG.



## The Year 2009

*You must understand that to make sure that good work is done, the organization needs to be made strong at both regional and country level and new partnerships need to be built. 2009 was the year when this was done.*

The year 2009 was about preparing new grounds and strengthening ongoing work on child protection in the region. The partnership between SAF, SAARC, Nepal Government and SACG was strengthened for making child protection work more effective. An assistant was also appointed to the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare in Nepal to support SAF agenda and plan of action.

### **Round Table Meeting**

A round table meeting was organized to discuss the rights based approach and child protection systems in Asia and prepare for the 4<sup>th</sup> SAF meeting. The result of the meeting was a set of recommendations and action points

- To strengthen cooperation between SAF, SACG and SAARC, other actors and children and young people.
- To have the same regional system at the national level to have better partnership with all actors working on issues related to child protection
- Move SAF secretariat from Pakistan to Nepal



## The year 2010

*I must tell you that this is the most exciting part of the journey. Seeing the good work done by SAF for children in the region its name was changed and it was given a permanent office in the region based in Nepal. Read on and see what changes were made...*

**The fourth SAF Coordinators Meeting, held in Kathmandu on 21-22 January 2010**

### **Results and Achievements**

#### **SAIEVAC is formed and Kathmandu Commitment to Action made**

Members of the Forum with the SAARC Secretariat approved South Asia Forum (SAF) to become a permanent Regional Office and be renamed as 'South Asia Initiative for Ending Violence against Children' (SAIEVAC). The activities will be decided by a Board and will be coordinated by a Permanent Secretariat (Office) hosted by the Government of Nepal. SAIEVAC will strengthen its linkages with SAARC to end violence against children in South Asia".

The participants also made a document called the 'Kathmandu Commitment for Action'. It made recommendations to end violence against children and address the urgent issues of early marriage, child protection, child trafficking and child sexual exploitation by making sure that there is enough support for the wellbeing of children, women and young people; systems to strengthen partnership with SAARC and activities related to the UN Study on Violence against Children; and building regional cooperation between governments and all relevant international, regional and national actors. The Kathmandu Commitment also included a commitment to strengthen and support child-led organisations and make certain that children and young people participate in decision-making in all matters that affect their lives.

The meeting was attended by SAF Coordinators from Member Countries and jointly organised by the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Government of Nepal and SACG. The Director of the SAARC Secretariat greatly contributed to the success of the meeting. The main purpose of the meeting was to bring together SAF and the SAF Secretariat, decide the role of SACG, develop a "Commitment to Action", address the regional priority issues and approve ways of linking SAF with SAARC's work on ending violence against children.

### **The 5<sup>th</sup> Coordinators Meeting, June 22, 2010**

#### **Result and Achievement**

Participants drafted the recommendations to be submitted for approval at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ministerial Meeting.

At the 5<sup>th</sup> Coordinators' Meeting the coordinators discussed the SAIEVAC official Framework, Work plan and the process for attaining SAARC Apex Body status. Apex body of SAARC is the final decision making body which consists of Heads of member countries that meet once a year.

### **Children and Young People's consultation June 2010**

#### **Result and Achievement**

The children and young people introduced their own definition of violence and identified Corporal Punishment, Early Marriage, Child Labour, Sexual and Commercial Exploitation, and Trafficking as key areas of concern.

20 children and young people from South Asia participated in the children's consultation. They had discussed their experiences of violence beforehand at the national level and shared the outcomes at the regional level. They also prepared recommendations for the Ministerial meeting.

## The 3<sup>rd</sup> Ministerial Meeting 23 June 2010

### **Result and Achievement**

The decision to have a formal organization in South Asia with a focus on promoting and protecting the rights of the children and ending violence against children. This would provide a good support to SAARC on children's issues, programs and activities.

The Meeting was attended by the Ministers, Heads of Delegation, SAF Coordinators and children and young people from the member countries and was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of Nepal. The importance of having a formal organization in the region with a focus on promoting and protecting the rights of the children and ending violence was emphasized.

### **SAIEVAC is formed and Governing Body meeting**

#### **Achievement made in South Asia**

SAIEVAC is the first regional arrangement in the world specially made to protect children from violence. Recognition and appreciation by Marta Santos Pais, the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General of the Violence Against Children.

SAIEVAC met for the first time on November 10-14, 2010 in a Technical Consultation followed by the 1<sup>st</sup> SAIEVAC Governing Board Meeting in Kathmandu, Nepal.

## **Children and young people's participation November 2010**

Alongside the Technical Consultation, six children from the region had their own consultations to choose 2 child representatives to participate in the Governing Board meeting and come up with recommendations which were:

- Support regional programs on child participation
- Establish processes and mechanisms to identify and report cases of violence and
- Prohibit corporal punishment in all settings.

## **Technical Consultation on Legal Reform and Corporal Punishment 11-14 November 2010**

### **Result and achievement**

Governments confirmed their commitment to implement their respective Action Plans, make legal reforms and take steps to prohibit all forms of violence against children in all settings, including Corporal Punishment. A clear understanding that the commitment should result in clear and strict prohibitions in domestic law otherwise all other efforts would fail.

The Technical Consultation, held on 11-14 November, brought together 106 participants, including representatives from governments, UN agencies, INGOs and CSOs and children and young people.

The main objective of the consultation was to follow up on the UN Study on Violence against Children, legal review and legal reform of Early Marriage, Sexual Abuse and Exploitation, Child Trafficking, Child Labour and Corporal Punishment, develop and implement child protection systems, address corporal punishment of children as a rights issue and clarify the roles and responsibilities of the SAIEVAC Secretariat, government representatives, SACG, children and other actors.



## The 1<sup>st</sup> Governing Board Meeting 10-11 November 2010

### Outcome of the meeting

As a landmark progress, in December 2010, to consolidate and strengthen the work of the SAIEVAC Secretariat the Director General, SAIEVAC was appointed.

A Governing board consists of a group of people who are responsible for the functioning of the organization. They supervise and oversee all the work and take decisions. The Governing Board of SAIEVAC is made up of Government Representatives, 2 Child Representatives, the SACG Chair, and 2 civil society representatives from the SAIEVAC member countries

The Governing Board Meeting held on 10-11 November 2010, was attended by the Governing Board Members from the 8 member countries, child representatives and the Chair of SACG. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the follow-up to the recommendations agreed at the third SAF Ministerial Meeting and to review and approve the Terms of Reference of SAIEVAC and its five-year Work plan. A Term of Reference is asset of guidelines that talk about duties and purpose of an organization or person.



## The Year 2011

*Children, you will realize by now that hard work always brings good results and that is what happened in the year 2011. SAIEVAC got global recognition for being the first such regional organization globally. It was granted the status of SAARC Apex Body which means that SAIEVAC will be part of any decisions made by SAARC on issues related to children especially on protection. Isn't it wonderful that in such a short time SAIEVAC got such an important position?*

SAIEVAC and the Government of Nepal, with support from SACG organized the Regional child participation meeting, a consultation with NGOs and CSOs (NACG meeting), and the second SAIEVAC Technical Consultation and Governing Board Meeting in Kathmandu on 25-30 September 2011

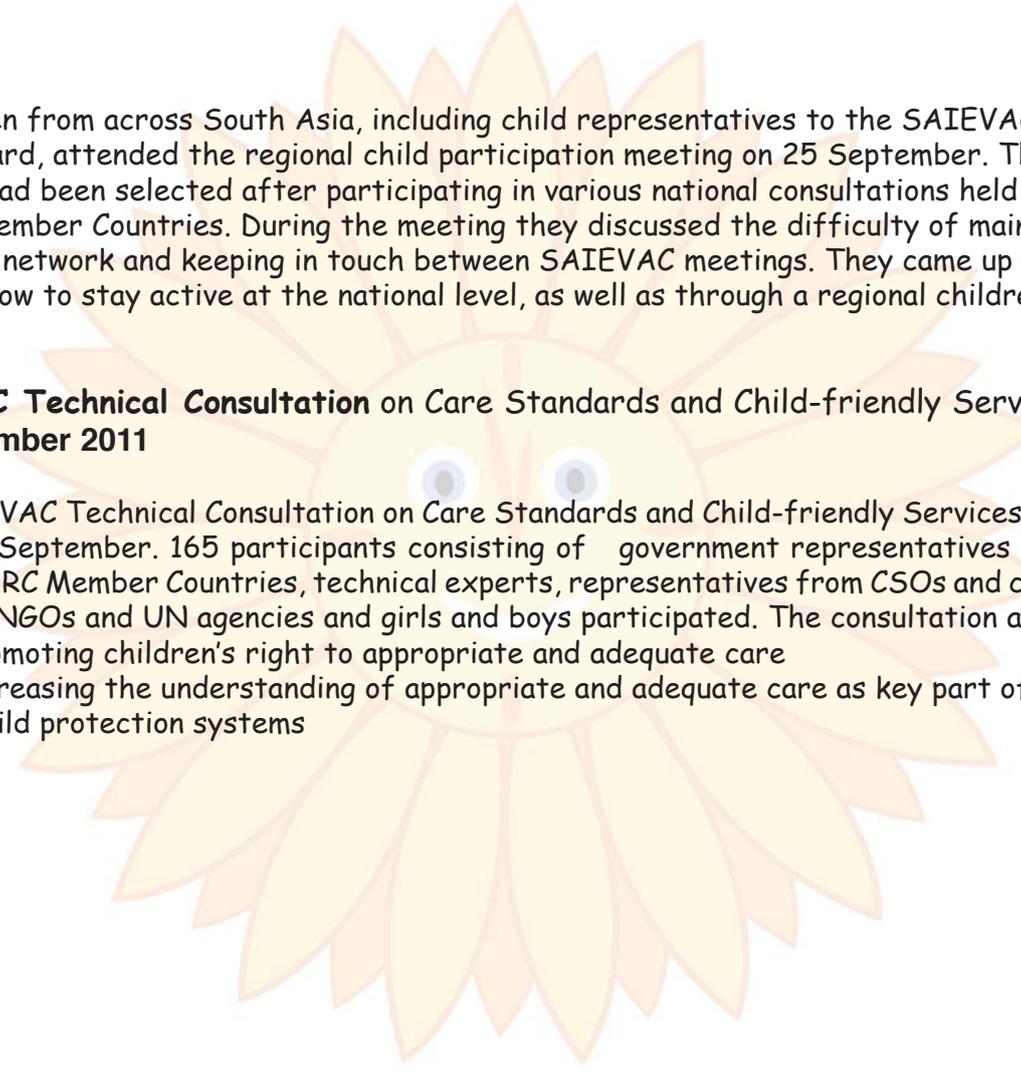
### Children and young people's participation:

#### Results and achievements

The children defined Child-friendly Services as services in line with the CRC, accessible to all and in the best interest of the child. Child friendly services were those that promote children to participate in decision-making and ensure their safety, security and confidentiality in order for them to feel loved, protected, respected and recognised.

Marta Santos Pais sent a video message to the children saying that she believed in a strong partnership with children and young people:

*"Nobody knows the reality of young people better than young people themselves and your involvement is fundamental to change the world and put a stop to all forms of violence against children."*



20 children from across South Asia, including child representatives to the SAIEVAC Governing Board, attended the regional child participation meeting on 25 September. The children had been selected after participating in various national consultations held in SAARC Member Countries. During the meeting they discussed the difficulty of maintaining a regional network and keeping in touch between SAIEVAC meetings. They came up with ideas on how to stay active at the national level, as well as through a regional children's forum.

### **SAIEVAC Technical Consultation on Care Standards and Child-friendly Services, 27-29 September 2011**

The SAIEVAC Technical Consultation on Care Standards and Child-friendly Services was held on 27-29 September. 165 participants consisting of government representatives from the eight SAARC Member Countries, technical experts, representatives from CSOs and coalitions, regional INGOs and UN agencies and girls and boys participated. The consultation aimed at:

- promoting children's right to appropriate and adequate care
- increasing the understanding of appropriate and adequate care as key part of national child protection systems

## **NACG meeting 29 September 2011**

Representatives from various CSOs and NGOs involved in the SAIEVAC consultation held a meeting on 29 September to discuss the establishment of a National Action and Coordinating Groups against Violence against Children (NACGs) in SAARC Member Countries. The objective of the NACG meeting was to:

- discuss national level action on violence against children
- linkages between various child protection initiatives and platforms at the national level
- SAIEVAC framework and
- Role and importance of the NACGs and civil society involvement.

## **The 2<sup>nd</sup> SAIEVAC Governing Board Meeting 29-30 September 2011**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> SAIEVAC Governing Board Meeting was hosted by the SAIEVAC Secretariat (Office) under the leadership of the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Government of Nepal with technical and financial support from SACG. It was attended by the Governing Board Members from the Member countries, 2 Child Representatives, 2 Child Observers and Chair of SACG.

The purpose of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Governing Board Meeting was

- to follow up on the progress of SAIEVAC according to the recommendations from the 1<sup>st</sup> SAIEVAC Governing Board Meeting,
- to review and approve the report of the Technical Workshop on Legal Reform and Corporal Punishment as well as recommendations made by the Technical Consultation on Care Standards and Child Friendly Services.



## SAIEVAC granted a SAARC Apex Body Status

SAIEVAC was registered in the Maldives in 2011 and was granted the status of SAARC Apex body during the 17th SAARC Summit in Maldives in November 2011. Apex body of SAARC is the final decision making body which consists of Heads of member countries that meet once a year. This made SAIEVAC the first ever regional organization for children to achieve this status. Presently, National SAIEVAC sections are being established in all South Asian countries.

### What is SAARC

SAARC is the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). It was founded in 1985. It was set up by Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka. In April 2007, at SAARC's 14th summit, Afghanistan became its eighth member. The SAARC Secretariat (Office) was established in Kathmandu on 16 January 1987. It is headed by a Secretary General appointed by the Council of Ministers from Member Countries in alphabetical order for a three-year term.

## As a SAARC Apex Body, SAIEVAC

- Becomes a recognized organization to represent the cause of children of South Asia at the highest level of SAARC
- Has the opportunity to make use of the larger framework of SAARC, not only for financial support but also for influencing plans and programmes of the SAARC Member Countries in the area of child rights in general and ending violence against children in particular.

### SAIEVACS values and beliefs

- SAIEVAC strongly believes that children's input and involvement are valuable to making any campaign against violence against children successful
- SAIEVAC actively encourages children's participation in every area, and at every level.
- SAIEVAC believes that children should have national children's networks and make recommendations regularly to governments in their home countries. These networks in each country have chosen a boy and a girl to represent them regionally as Child Representatives in the SAIEVAC Governing Board.



## The Year 2012

*You must be wondering why I am telling you about this journey. It is because now the time has come to again look at the commitments made to end violence against children as a follow up of the UN Study. This will be done in a meeting on May 26-30 in Sri Lanka. This time round discussion will take place not only what needs to be achieved but also what has been achieved so far. As always I am sure you will actively give your support to make it a success.*

The 3<sup>rd</sup> SAIEVAC Children's and Technical Consultations on the Follow-Up of the UN Study on Violence against Children will be taking place in Colombo, Sri Lanka, 26—30 May 2012, followed up by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Governing Board Meeting on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

Government representatives, children, civil society groups, experts and UN and other international agencies will meet to review progress towards implementing the recommendations of the UN Study on Violence against Children in South Asia. The aim of the Regional Consultation is to:

- Ensure the effective implementation of the recommendations made by strengthening existing measures and processes.
- Develop a Regional Roadmap to strengthen key players' commitment and responsibility to end violence against children,
- A Commitment to the Action Declaration
- Launch a campaign against Corporal Punishment in South to advocate for making laws to stop Corporal Punishment and other forms of punishment of children in all settings; recognition of Corporal Punishment as a harmful practice; and the promotion of positive parenting, caring and teaching methods.

*It is time to say good bye but I will be there again to tell you about what changes happen for children in South Asia and what contributions you have made to make it happen. The journey has not ended but the goal seems to be near...*



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## SOUTH ASIA INITIATIVE TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN (SAIEVAC)

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