



SOUTH ASIA INITIATIVE TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

SAF Ministerial Meetings

1. 1st Ministerial Meeting, Pakistan, July 2006

At the First SAF Ministerial Meeting, participants developed regional statements which addressed Physical and Psychological Punishment and Early Marriage. It concentrated on the areas of legislation/law reforms; information/communication; capacity building; monitoring and evaluation, and budgets and time frame, within each of the five settings which they divided into three, namely, school and institutions, work place, homes and communities.

Additionally, The Terms of Reference for the Rotating SAF Secretariat, Country Coordinators, and SAF were agreed and endorsed by the Ministers.

2. 2nd Ministerial Meeting, Kathmandu, August 2008

The South Asia Forum (SAF) regional preparatory consultation for the World Congress III against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents was convened – at ministries level - by the South Asia Forum Secretariat in co-operation with the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare of the Government of Nepal. UN organizations, members of the South Asia Coordinating Group (SACG), NGOs and 15 young people were invited to take part in this regional preparatory consultation.

The conference focused on the development of a common understanding on the concepts as well as on the challenges and progress in addressing SAF/SACG priority issues for the region and their linkages to sexual exploitation of children and adolescents so that a collective formulation of the goals and targets can be identified and forwarded to the World Congress III against sexual exploitation.

Objectives

The specific objectives of the regional SAF consultation were to:

- To provide a common understanding and comprehensive overview on SAF/SACG priority issues for the region and their linkages to sexual exploitation of children and adolescents;
- To report on regional progress and challenges;
- To increase key stakeholders' capacity in addressing these issues;
- To formulate time-bound goals and targets which will be related to the countries' commitments and actions in the region and forwarded to the World Congress III

The conference will address these objectives from the perspectives of national and regional actions taken in response.

Outcomes

The SAF regional preparatory consultation for the World Congress III

- Identified recommended approaches and commitments for strengthening national and regional capabilities in addressing sexual exploitation of children and adolescents;
- Built agreement among stakeholders in the region on required actions and strategies to confront sexual exploitation that are rights based and holistic, within systems to guarantee child rights

3. 3rd Ministerial Meeting, Kathmandu, June 2010

The South Asia Forum for Ending Violence against Children (SAF) organized the 3rd Ministerial Meeting in Kathmandu on June 23, 2010. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the new institutional mechanisms for 'The South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC)', future plans for collaboration with SAARC, and a workplan to end violence against children.

The Consultation was organized by SAF and hosted by the Government of Nepal, Ministry for Women, Children and Social Welfare with support of the South Asia Coordinating Group Against Violence Against Women and Children (SACG). SACG is comprised of representatives from regionally based UN agencies and international Non-Governmental organizations working on the issues of violence against women and children in the region.

3.1. Inaugural Ceremony

The *Rt Hon Prime Minister Mr. Madhav Kumar Nepal* inaugurated the Ministerial Meeting on 23 June, 2010. Child participants addresses the audience and this was followed by screening of a short video which documented the process of the Children's Consultation which had taken place over the previous two day and a half days and gave views of child participants on violence against children.

3.2. Presentation of Children's Recommendations

Child participants presented their consolidated Recommendations to the Ministerial Meeting.

The consolidated Recommendations addressed how children could participate in the regional and national levels in taking the SAIEVAC processes forward. The Ministerial Meeting endorsed that the recommendations were extremely useful and thought provoking and must receive due attention of all the governments in South Asia. It was also decided that the children's recommendations will form a substantive part of the Ministerial Meeting report so that full consideration can be given when the recommendations of the Ministerial Meeting are being implemented.

3.4 SAF Coordinators Recommendations

The draft recommendations of the Coordinators were then presented for the due consideration of the Ministers and head of delegation. The 10 recommendations supported the development of a new Institutional Framework entitled SAIEVAC, adopting the SAIEVAC workplan, establishing SAIEVAC as a SAARC Apex Body, and considering children's recommendations in the SAIEVAC Process.

The Ministers expressed their satisfaction with the submission made by the Coordinators and endorsed the recommendations as the set of policy directives to guide and define the development of SAIEVAC.