REPORT OF THE 3rd GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
OF
THE SOUTH ASIA INITIATIVE TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN
(SAIEVAC)

31st May, 2012
Taj Samudra, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Organized and Showcased by SAIEVAC Secretariat
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1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Welcome remarks by Dr. Rinchen Chophel, Director General, SAIEVAC

The Director General, SAIEVAC warmly welcomed all the Governing Board Members from the government, CSO Board Members, Child Board Members, the Child Observers and the SACG Chair to the 3rd SAIEVAC Governing Board Meeting. He also acknowledged the presence of Ms. Marta Santos Pais in the opening of the Board Meeting. In his welcome address, he gave a brief overview of the events pertaining to the Regional Children’s Consultation, 26-27th May, 2012 and the Follow up Technical Consultation, 29-30th May, 2012. He also reported that due to time constraints he will be able to present only the brief and raw recommendations from these consultations. He also informed the Board that the term of the current Chairperson will come to a close by the 4th Governing Board meeting tentatively scheduled towards the end of this year. Thereafter, Bangladesh being the next Member State alphabetically will take over as the new Chair. Given that, he proposed that the duration of the 4th Board Meeting needs to be at least 2 days to provide the Board Members adequate time to address all the issues comprehensively.

He concluded his welcome address by expressing his gratitude to all the Hon’ble Board Members for their participation and the SACG and SDF for their support.

2. OPENING REMARKS

H. E. Wasil Noor Muhmand, Chairperson, SAIEVAC Governing Board

The Chairperson of the SAIEVAC Governing Board welcomed all the Board Members to the 3rd Meeting of the Governing Board. He also expressed his appreciation to Ms. Marta Santos, UN SRSG for gracing the opening session of the Board Meeting. He also extended a special welcome to the Child Observers, CSO members and the SACG Chair. He thanked the Government of Sri Lanka for co-hosting the Meeting.

The Chairperson highlighted the proceedings and the key outcomes of the Regional Children’s Consultation and the Technical Consultation and said that he was highly encouraged and impressed by the overwhelming commitment and support of the 8 Member States to end violence against children. He mentioned that SAIEVAC, with a mandate of protecting children from all kinds of violence, has been progressing significantly and requested the continued support and guidance of the Governing Board Members and utmost consideration to the proposed recommendations of these consultations.

The Chair underlined the fact that the agenda for the 3rd Governing Board Meeting is quite substantive and urged the Board Meeting for their active participation and productive outcome of the Board Meeting.

3. REVIEW AND THE ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The meeting reviewed the agenda tabled by the SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat with the addition of two additional agenda items under any other issues viz:

   a. A brief report of the SACG Retreat Meeting;
   b. TOR of the Governing Board.

The Agenda is placed at ANNEX I.
4. REPORT OF THE FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS ON THE 2ND GB RECOMMENDATIONS-
DIRECTOR GENERAL

The Director General presented the Follow up Actions taken on the 2nd Governing Board Recommendations. He highlighted the progress of achievement of the different recommendations and also apprised the Board of the different issues and challenges pertaining to the different recommendations. He also reported that while the SAIEVAC Secretariat was able to follow up/ address all the recommendations quite conclusively, the formalization of the NACGs, the process for institutionalizing the selection of the CSO Board Members and the finalization of the SAIEVAC logo are yet to be completed. In his report, he acknowledged the very active support of the Board Members in achieving the status of SAARC Apex Body for SAIEVAC. In this regard, he acknowledged the leadership and critical support of the Government of Maldives in achieving this historical milestone. He also reported that the successful negotiation of the SDF Project has not only provided a critical lifeline for SAIEVAC to ground its institutional mechanisms both at the regional and national level but, also provided SAIEVAC recognition and acceptance with the larger political institutions of the Member States, for e.g. Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The SDF Project according to the Director General has been critical in reinforcing the credibility and the institutional sustainability of SAIEVAC to other partner agencies both within and outside SACG.

The Follow Up Report is presented at ANNEX II.

The Board undertook elaborate discussions on the different aspects of the Follow Up Report and the key decisions are incorporated in the set of recommendations which are detailed below.

5. STATUS REPORT ON THE SAIEVAC-SDF PROJECT AND THE NATIONAL OPERATIONAL PLANS

The Director General briefed the Board on the process, scope and the status of the project. He highlighted that the SAIEVAC and SDF also successfully conducted the Strategic Planning Workshop in Bhutan in March 2012 to formulate the Regional Implementation Framework and the national implementation frameworks for difference Member States. He reported that while India is not a participating Member State for the project due to India’s policy considerations related to SDF, however, he hoped to continue the discussions with the Hon’ble Board Member from India on setting up SAIEVAC institutional mechanisms in India.

The Board discussing on the submission made by the Director General expressed its appreciation to the SDF Board and the Secretariat for their most critical and valuable support to SAIEVAC and the Children of SAARC. The Board also stressed the need to activate the projects as early as possible so that the SAIEVAC country chapters can be established and SAIEVAC activities can be initiated. The Board also endorsed that clear Terms of Reference (TOR) must be defined for SAIEVAC national mechanisms and the SAIEVAC country chapters to avoid confusion in executing the different activities, be it at the national level or the regional level.

The Board also endorsed the proposed SAIEVAC –SDF M&E workshop to be held in Male towards the end of June 2012 and directed the Secretariat to share the final project with the Board Members thereafter.
6. NEWER INITIATIVES:

a. BRIEF ON THE SAIEVAC-IL0 MOU

Under this agenda item, the Board considered the submission of the Secretariat to bring the issues and challenges of child labor into focus in the coming days. Under this, the Secretariat submitted the proposal for negotiating a MoU with ILO besides the proposal to formulate a project on Child Labor to be submitted to the Hon’ble Board Member from India for possible consideration for Government of India funding. The same project proposal will also be circulated to other Board Members for their consideration. The Board considering the submission directed that the Secretariat pursue the finalization of these proposals after taking due consideration of the specific situation of the Member States particularly in relation to the ILO instruments. The Board also welcomed the proposal to frame a project on child Labor and directed the secretariat to undertake the necessary steps to achieve this. The initial draft MoU is at Annex III.

b. PARLIAMENTARAIN CONFERENCE ON CHILD RIGHTS

Introducing the proposed collaboration with the parliamentary conference on Child Rights in Pakistan, the Director General submitted that the SAIEVAC National Mechanism, Pakistan and the SAIEVAC Secretariat had discussed the opportunities presented by this initiative and therefore decided to bring it to the attention of the Governing Board for its consideration. The Director General also stated that as of now, the proposal is to secure/ensure the participation of SAIEVAC in this conference and thereafter to explore possibilities of collaborating with the Parliamentarians in future to jointly undertake legislative review on Child Rights in general and violence against children in particular. The Governing Board Member and the Coordinator of Pakistan also supplemented the submission made by the Director General by reinforcing the critical opportunities presented by such a partnership / collaboration. Her Excellency, Ms. Rubina Sadat Qaim Khani, Parliamentary Secretary on Human Rights, National Assembly of Pakistan, who was also invited for the decisions on the agenda item expressed her keen interest to work for children and to collaborate with SAIEVAC to generate a greater momentum of parliamentarians in supporting the SAIEVAC Movement. The Board after deliberating at length endorsed the proposal and expressed its appreciation to the Hon’ble Parliamentarian for her commitment and support.

7. BRIEF ON THE PROPOSED SAIEVAC-MCA PROJECT

The Director General presented the draft proposal of the SAIEVAC-MCA Project. He highlighted that through the proposed project, SAIEVAC will cultivate closer collaboration with the SAARCLAW another Apex Body of SAARC to explore opportunities to undertake legal review and reform. The Project also expects to strengthen the capacity of the media to undertake more sensitive and ethical reporting on Children, particularly issues pertaining to violence against children.

The Board after taking into consideration the proposed draft supplemented by the Director General, directed the Secretariat to finalize the project and circulate to the Board Members for endorsement. The draft is at Annex IV.

8. OUTCOME REPORT OF THE FOLLOW UP REGIONAL CONSULTATION AND DISCUSSIONS

a) REGIONAL CHILDREN’S CONSULTATION
The Director General reported that the Regional Children’s Consultation held on 26-27th of May, 2012 was concluded successfully and that the outcome of the children’s consultation was presented to the plenary of the Technical Consultation on 29th May 2012. Since the Coordinators and some of the Board Members participated in the children’s consultation and since the report was presented and endorsed in the plenary, the Board formally endorsed the recommendations of the Children’s Consultation. This report will also be a separate report on Children’s Consultation which will be circulated to the Board Members in due course of time.

The Board also endorsed the proposal of the Director General to constitute an Experts’ Committee to finalize the Child Participation Principles and Standards, the draft of which was supposed to be discussed in the Technical Consultation which could not be done so due to constraining of time.

b) FOLLOW UP TECHNICAL CONSULTATION OUTCOME

On the Follow up Technical Consultation outcome, the Director General reported that the outcome of the 4 breakout sessions was presented and endorsed in the plenary of the Technical Consultation on the 30th where all the Board Members were present. However, due to time constraint, the Secretariat was not able to put the outcome reports in an appropriate structure for submission to the Board. The Director General sought the permission of the Board to circulate the outcome report of the breakout sessions after putting it into a standard professional format. The Board endorsed the submission made by the Director General. The documents as presented by the different groups are at ANNEX V.

c) SOUTH ASIA CALL FOR ACTION ON VAC

The Director General tabled the South Asia Call for Action draft as presented and endorsed in the plenary during the Closing Day of the Technical Consultation for the consideration of the Board. The Board after taking into consideration the views and sentiments expressed during the discussion on this endorsed the draft as adopted in the plenary session on the 30th May, 2012. The Call for Action so adopted is at ANNEX VI.

d) NATIONAL ACTION PLANS FOR CORPORAL PUNISHMENT CAMPAIGN/INITIATIVES

The Director General reported that a parallel exercise to the Governing Board Meeting was undertaken to develop a national plan for each Member State to operationalize the Corporal Punishment Campaign. He reported that this exercise was undertaken by the coordinators and the civil society partners and the expectation was to table the outcome to the Board. However, time did not permit this. The Board considering that the campaign was formally launched and the exercise was just to generate an operational plan for the campaign, the Director General was directed to circulate the operational plans to the Board Members for their kind attention and endorsement.

9. PROPOSAL FOR INSTITUTING SAIEVAC GOODWILL ADVISORS AND CRITERIA

Under this agenda item, the Director General submitted the criteria for appointment of SAIEVAC Goodwill Advisor/s and the formalization of Ms. Jahanara Wattoo, Ambassador for Orphan Children, Pakistan as the first SAIEVAC Goodwill Advisor.

The Board reviewed the proposed criteria in great detail and adopted the criteria with the necessary amendments.

The amended criteria are placed at ANNEX VII.
The Board also welcomed and approved the candidature of Ms. Jahanara Watto as the First SAIEVAC Goodwill Advisor to be governed by the conditions so laid down in the selection criteria. Ms. Jahanara Wattoo who was invited to be part of the discussions on the agenda item expressed her joy and appreciation in being appointed as the First SAIEVAC Goodwill advisor and expressed her full commitment to serve the cause of Children and SAIEVAC in the near future.

10. ANY OTHER ISSUES:

a. A BRIEF REPORT OF THE SACG RETREAT MEETING;

Mr. Ron Pouwels, Chairperson SACG, briefed the Board on the SACG Retreat Meeting that was undertaken on 27-28th March 2012. He said that the rationale / objective of the Retreat Meeting was to review and redirect the SACG’s institutional functions in relation to SAIEVAC as it evolves so that the SACG and SAIEVAC can have a productive and meaningful partnership. He also said that the SACG is very keen to support SAIEVAC in its endeavor to operationalize its Five Year Work Plan and to chase the vision and objectives of ending violence against children in South Asia. He also stated that SACG and SAIEVAC need to develop a clear Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to maximize the opportunities of this mutually reinforcing partnership. The Board expressed its appreciation to the SACG for its support and urged the SACG to continue to extend its invaluable support to SAIEVAC in taking forward our common agenda.

b. TOR OF THE GOVERNING BOARD.

The Director General in continuation to what was reported under the Follow up Actions, submitted that the scenario from the 1st Governing Board to the current one has changed significantly and that there is a definite need to review the Terms of Reference of the Governing Board to make it more realistic, robust and meaningful. The Board after considering the submission directed the Secretariat to propose necessary amendments and circulate the draft to the Board Members so that it can be endorsed during the 4th Governing Board Meeting.

c. INSTITUTING AN AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

The Hon’ble Board Member from Pakistan proposed that SAIEVAC should institute an annual Award of Excellence to individuals for service to children particularly in ending violence against children. The Board after substantive deliberations on the proposal recommended that a proposal be prepared on this and the agenda item be re-tabled for consideration in the 4th Governing Board Meeting.

d. THEME FOR THE NEXT (4th) TECHNICAL WORKSHOP ON ‘HARMFUL TRADITIONAL PRACTICES’; TIME AND VENUE

The Director General apprised the Board that the decision to this effect was taken during the 2nd Governing Board Meeting and in order to follow up on this, a breakout session on the theme was also undertaken during the Follow up Technical Consultation on 30th May. The Board further reinforced the decision to hold the next technical consultation on this theme. However, the Board recommended that the theme be reformulated as “Traditional Practices that are Harmful for Children”.

On the issue of date and venue for the consultation, the Board directed the Secretariat to consult the respective Member States and announce it by circulation.
e. **DATE AND VENUE FOR THE 4TH GOVERNING BOARD MEETING**

The Board discussed the need to consider the Board Meetings separate to the Technical Consultations given the experiences so far. The Board also felt that while holding Board Meetings separate to the Technical Consultations does have financial implications, the ability for the Secretariat to prepare for the Board Meeting and to hold effective Board Meetings will greatly be enhanced. The Board therefore, directed the Secretariat to explore such possibilities for the future Board Meetings. The Board also endorsed that the date and venue can also be announced after consulting the respective Member States who may come forward to host the meeting.

**11. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 3RD SAIEVAC GOVERNING BOARD MEETING**

The Third Governing Board meeting of SAIEVAC was held on 31st May, 2012 in Hotel Taj Samudra, Colombo, Sri Lanka. The meeting was attended by all the Governing Board Members.

The meeting adopted the agenda tabled by the SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat (hereafter referred to as the Secretariat) with the addition of two agenda items under Any Other Issues viz a) A Brief Report of the SACG Retreat Meeting; and b) ToR of the Governing Board.

The meeting after elaborate deliberations on the different agenda items recommended the following:

1. The meeting considering the report on the follow up actions of the 2nd Governing Board recommendations directed that;

   a. The duration of the Governing Board Meeting needs to be at least 2 days taking into consideration the large number of issues that the Board needs to consider and also to provide the Secretariat adequate time to prepare for the Meeting;

   b. The proposed draft annotated agenda be circulated along with the announcement of the meeting dates at least 6 weeks ahead. The Board also endorsed that the comments received on the agenda be re-circulated after incorporating the comments that may come from the Governing Board Members at least 2 weeks before the meeting with relevant background documents.

   c. The Board also endorsed that as proposed by the Secretariat, the regular functions of the Secretariat while being executed by the Director General based on the framework approved/endorsed by the Board, the Secretariat will keep the Board Members apprised regularly and seek necessary guidance and approval from the Chairperson where necessary. The Board also directed the Director General to take necessary steps to strengthen the capacity of the Secretariat in light of the increasing demands placed on it.
d. The Board also deliberated on the Terms of References of the Governing Board and other mechanisms and recommended that the SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat review and reformulate the TORs of the Governing Board, the CSO Participation, the Children’s Participation, the Regional Secretariat and the SAIEVAC National Mechanisms/Country Chapters and circulate for the consideration of the Board Members at an appropriate time but no later than two weeks before the next Governing Board meeting. The Board also recommended that the Terms of References be on the next agenda of the Governing Board for its consideration and adoption.

e. The Board also recommended that the Secretariat complete the processes for selection of the CSO Board Members keeping in focus the recommendations of the 1st SAIEVAC Governing Board Meeting. In the event the process is further delayed, the nominations maybe proposed from the Member States where the NACGs are already formed. The Board however also stressed that the nominations are eligible only for CSOs with a national character and mandate.

f. The Board also took cognizance of the need for a dedicated Logo for SAIEVAC and directed the Secretariat to circulate a proposed logo among the Board Members which can then be formalized/endorsed though circulation and with approval of the Chairperson.

2. The Board considering the status report on the SAIEVAC-SDF project and the national operational plans submitted by the Director General expressed its appreciation to the SDF Board and the Secretariat for their invaluable support and consideration. The Board directed the Regional SAIEVAC Secretariat to accelerate the operationalization of the SDF Projects in the participating Member States and also endorsed the proposed SAIEVAC - SDF M&E Workshop to be held in Male towards the end of June 2012. Following this Workshop, the Secretariat will share the SAIEVAC-SDF project with the Board members.

3. The Board considering the agenda item on some of the newer initiatives proposed by the SAIEVAC Secretariat considered the following:

a. The Board after deliberating on the SAIEVAC-ILO MoU, endorsed that the Secretariat will prepare a comprehensive MoU taking into consideration the specific situation of Member States related to some of the ILO instruments and circulate for comments within a specified time frame among the Board members following which the Secretariat will seek clearance of the Chairperson to formalize the partnership;

b. The Secretariat will also formulate a comprehensive regional Child Labour Project and submit it to the Hon’ble Board Member from India to explore possible funding. The project will also be circulated to other Board Members for their possible contribution and participation.
c. On the proposed collaboration with the Parliamentarian’s Conference on Child Rights in Pakistan, the Board after substantive deliberations endorsed that the Regional Secretariat will coordinate with SAIEVAC Pakistan to coordinate the invitation and participation from the SAIEVAC national mechanisms in the Conference. The Board also directed the Secretariat to prepare a framework of collaboration with the parliamentarians on child rights and circulate to the Board Members for its consideration. The Board also expressed its appreciation to H.E. Ms. Rubina Sadat Qaim Khani, the Hon’ble Parliamentary Secretary on Human Rights from Pakistan for her keen interest to collaborate with SAIEVAC and work towards creating a better environment for Children of SAARC.

4. The Board also considered the following reports of the South Asia Follow Up Regional Consultation:
   1. Regional Children’s Consultation
   2. Follow Up Technical Consultation Outcome
      a. Recommendations of the Breakout Sessions
      b. South Asia Call for Action on VAC

The Board after considering the submission of the Secretariat, endorsed that the Secretariat will review the reports and structure the recommendations appropriately and submit it to the Governing Board Members for its consideration and finalization through circulation. The Board also endorsed the proposal of the Director General to constitute an Experts’ Committee to finalize the Child Participation Principles and Standards, the draft of which was supposed to be discussed in the Technical Consultation which could not be done so due to constrain of time.

The Board also deliberated further on the paragraph pertaining to mandate of the SRSG on Violence against Children, and approved the South Asia Call for Action as per the decision of taken during the Technical Consultation.

5. On the proposal for instituting SAIEVAC Goodwill Advisors and the criteria, the Board endorsed the criteria with necessary amendments and also endorsed the candidature of Ms. Jahanara Wattoo, Ambassador for Orphan Children, Pakistan as the first SAIEVAC Goodwill Advisor.

6. On the proposed SAIEVAC Missing Child Alert (MCA) Project, the Board considering the submission made by the Secretariat directed the Secretariat to proceed with the finalization of the project and circulate to the Board Members for endorsement.

7. Under any other issues, the Board considered the following items:
a. Report on the Outcome of the SACG Retreat Meeting: The SACG Chairperson provided a short brief on the SACG Retreat Meeting and among others reported on the need to establish formal partnership between the SACG and the SAIEVAC to ensure continued collaboration towards ending violence against children in South Asia;

b. ToR of the Governing Board: The Board after considering the agenda item directed the Secretariat to propose necessary amendments and circulate the draft to the Board Members so that it can be endorsed during the 4th Governing Board Meeting.

c. Instituting an ‘Award of Excellence’:

On the agenda item proposed by the Hon’ble Board Member from Pakistan, the Board after much deliberation recommended that a proposal be prepared on this and the agenda item be re-tabled for consideration in the 4th Governing Board Meeting.

d. Theme for the next Technical Consultation on Harmful Traditional Practices – Date and Venue

On this agenda item, the Board recommended that the theme be reformulated as “Traditional Practices that are Harmful for Children.” The Board also directed the Secretariat to consult the Member States in terms of the time and venue and announce by circulation.

e. Date and Venue for the 4th Governing Board Meeting

The Board after discussing various options recommended that the Secretariat after consulting all the Member States finalize the date and venue for the Board Meeting through circulation.

12. CLOSING CEREMONY

Director General, SAIEVAC expressed his appreciation to the Government of Sri Lanka for their unstinted support and help rendered in organizing all these meetings. He commended the Chairperson for the efficient manner in which he guided the deliberations of the Meeting to a successful conclusion. He also appreciated the valuable contributions of the Governing Board Members during the Meeting and their meaningful participation.

The Chairperson in his Closing Remarks extended his appreciation to all the Hon’ble Board Members for their very active participation in addressing the important issues concerning SAIEVAC and children. He also thanked all for extending their support to him and the Director General in conducting the Board
Meeting. He also thanked the SACG for their support and the Government of Srilanka for hosting the SAIEVAC Follow Up Consultation very successfully. He hoped that SAIEVAC will be able to in the days to come fulfill our dream of making South Asia free from violence against children.

The Hon’ble Governing Board Member from India offered the Vote of Thanks.