REPORT OF THE REGIONAL EXPERT GROUP MEETING (REGM) TO REVIEW THE DRAFT REGIONAL STRATEGY ON CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION INCLUDING ONLINE SAFETY (CSAE&OS)

23-24th August 2017
Colombo, Sri Lanka

Organized by the SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat
With support from the Fund to End Violence Against Children
Hosted by the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs
(SAIEVAC National Mechanism)
Government of Sri Lanka
REPORT

Regional Expert Group Meeting (REGM) to
Review the Draft Regional Strategy on Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation including Online Safety (CSAE&OS),

Regional Secretariat
South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children (SAIEVAC)
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PART A

1. Introduction

South Asia continues to grapple with the issues of child sexual abuse and exploitation (CSAE). By all accounts extensive but seldom reported because of the fear of stigma and a lack of child protection services, sexual abuse affects both boys and girls and often occurs within the family, in schools and the community, with perpetrators in most cases familiar to the child. Commercial sexual exploitation of girls and boys, sex tourism, pornography, and trafficking is also pervasive, and is now aided and abetted by digital technologies, especially mobile phones and the internet. While the affected children continue to experience manifold repercussions throughout their lives, responses have been hampered by limited understanding and recognition of CSAE as gross violation of children’s rights among various stakeholders.

The South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC), the Inter-governmental Apex Body of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and Member of the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, in the pursuit of its vision that all children, girls and boys, throughout South Asia enjoy their right to an environment free from all forms of violence, abuse, exploitation, neglect and discrimination, has embarked on the process of formulation of a regional strategy and action plan for the Elimination of Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation, including Online Safety.

In view of the common concerns and similar experiences with CSAE, strategic responses at the regional level are envisaged to strengthen national responses of the SAARC member countries. SAIEVAC is working towards a South Asian perspective through a consultative process involving South Asian governments, the National Action and Coordinating Groups (NACG) mechanism for ending VAC, and other stakeholders, including civil society organizations, to ground the available knowledge base within the socio-economic, political and institutional contexts in the region and provide impetus to collective actions to eliminate CSAE. It has entered into a partnership with ECPAT International to draw upon its extensive technical expertise globally on the issue to take the agenda forward and expects to leverage the WeProtect Global Alliance to end sexual exploitation of children online, an issue that is less understood but is gaining currency faster in the region.

In South Asia, CSAE continues to be the most pervasive and under-reported human rights violation that affects significant number of children. Mired in the cultures of silence and conservatism, the issues gained recognition in the region rather late. Nonetheless, evidence regarding sexual abuse and exploitation of girls as well as boys is growing with increased international and national spotlight and policy discussions on such issues. In particular, the run-up to the Second World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of
Children at Yokohama in 2001 flagged this issue on the policy agenda of the governments in the region, which were reiterated through the process for the United Nations Secretary General’s study on the Violence against Children in 2005.

The SAIEVAC Five Year Work Plan for 2011-16 had identified five priorities of child marriage, corporal punishment, child labour, trafficking and sexual abuse and exploitation of children and identified actions and indicators for measuring progress but not much headway could be made for a variety of reasons.

With reference to sexual abuse and exploitation and trafficking of children, the following results, expected by the year 2015, stated in the work plan are still critical and need to be revisited.

c) All States have taken necessary steps to end CSAE by adopting comprehensive legislation, ratifying all relevant international and regional instruments and enforcing a Code of Conduct for telecommunications services (i.e. internet providers, mobile phone companies, internet cafes) and travel and tour outlets to prevent CSAE.

c) All States have also implemented all provisions of the SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution and taken specific measures to protect children from being trafficked.

The Fourth SAIEVAC Ministerial Meeting (9-11 May 2016 in New Delhi) while deliberating upon the next Five Year Regional Action Plan considered CSAE, including online safety, as an area that needs urgent, stronger and calibrated responses at the regional and national levels. It endorsed:

- Development of a regional strategy for addressing all forms of sexual abuse, exploitation (including online) and trafficking, which builds on the existing situations in the different Member States, and guides SAIEVAC’s second five-year plan;
- Initiation of a process for setting regional standards and codes of conduct that safeguard children from commercial sexual abuse and exploitation in travel and tourism; and
- Exploration of opportunities by SAIEVAC regional and national mechanisms to mainstream and scale up efforts to address sexual exploitation and abuse of children including trafficking by tapping into potential opportunities for technical and financial support.

The SRS initiated the process of drafting the Regional Strategy on the sidelines of the South Asia Launch of the SDG 8.7 in Bhutan in July 2016, by constituting a Group of relevant persons/experts from the region from the Governments, Regional Partners, NACGs and UN/INGOs. The Group put together the initial skeletal outline which over the last one year went through series of reviews and structuring with support of ECPAT International and other key partners.

The REGM is now convened with financial support from the Global Fund and in technical support of the ECPAT International and partners from the NHRC, SACG, NACG and the Interfaith Platform.

Key objectives:
1. To review and refine the Draft Regional Strategy;
2. To review and update the Background document that takes into consideration the current situation of CSAE & OS in the Region and in the respective Member States; and
3. To set the next steps in the finalisation of the Regional Strategy and other related decisions of the Ministerial Meeting

The Expected Outputs:

1. An updated and refined draft Strategy with addition, deletion or supplementation under different headings/sub-headings;
2. To develop a better understanding of the Weprotect Model National Response and the Terminology Guidelines and the work related SECTT; and
3. Review of the Background Document to establish current situation of CSAE &OS in South Asia

Participants

Over 40 representatives from SAIEVAC Government Mechanisms, NACG Representatives, NHRC, SAARCLAW, Interfaith Platform and Experts from the CSO, UN and INGOs will participated in the consultation.

2. REGM Output:

2.1 Group Exercise

2.1.1 Group Background Note

a) 4th Ministerial Meeting Decisions:

- A regional strategy should be developed for addressing all forms of sexual abuse, exploitation (including online) and trafficking that also builds on the existing situations in the different Member States, that will guide SAIEVAC while developing the second five-year plan;

- SAIEVAC should initiate a process for setting regional standards and codes of conduct that safeguard children from commercial sexual abuse and exploitation in travel and tourism; and

- SAIEVAC regional and national mechanisms explore opportunities to mainstream and scale up efforts to address sexual exploitation and abuse of children including trafficking by tapping into potential opportunities for technical and financial support.

b) REGM Objectives:

- To review and refine the Draft Regional Strategy;
- To review and update the Background document that takes into consideration the current situation of CSAE & OS in the Region and in the respective Member
States; and
- To set the next steps in finalisation of the Regional Strategy and other related decisions of the Ministerial Meeting.

c) Expected Outputs of the Group Work:

- An updated and refined draft Strategy with addition, deletion or supplementation under different headings/sub-headings;
- Experience sharing/recording of innovative initiatives to address CSAE&OS;
- Mapping out existing initiatives or ongoing programs/projects by different partners and exploring linkages; and
- Linkages identified within the framework of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals

d) Group Work

Group – I

a) Legislative and Policy Framework

Expected Outcome:

- Adoption, integration and reinforcement of strong legislation and policy framework in line with international and regional child rights instruments to combat child sexual exploitation and abuse in all settings
Strategy 1:

- Encourage Government to adopt and enforce strong legislative and policy framework taking note of existing relevant regional and international legal framework while enabling Government to make informed decision in regard to various legislation, legal reforms and policies required to address child sexual exploitation and abuse in all settings

b) Protective Measures and Assistance to Victim

Expected Outcome:

- Establishment of effective social programs and multidisciplinary structures to provides necessary support and services to victim

Strategy 2:

- Enhance cross sector, multi-disciplinary collaboration to ensure availability and accessibility of support and services to victims in a child sensitive and child friendly environment with due consideration and respect to best interest and rights of the child

‘Group Members:

1. Mr. Mujibrahman Hotak, NACG Afghanistan
2. Ms, Wahida Banu, SAACH Bangladesh
3. Ms. Ugyen Tshomo, Sr. Legal Advisor, NCWC, Bhutan
4. Mr. Manabendra Mondal, Chair ATSEC, South Asia
5. Ms. Tara Devi Thapa, DSP, Women and Children Cell, Nepal Police HQ
6. Mr. Rabin Nepali, Chair NACG Nepal
7. Mr. Munzir Ismail, SAIEVAC National Coordinator, Maldives
8. Mr. Irfan Nawaz, MoHR, Pakistan
9. Ms. Lanka Amarasinghe, Director, Women and Children Desk, MoWCA, GoSl
10. Mr. Varun Kumar Anand, Actg Regional Director, IPPF
11. Mr. Ajit Hazra, Director - Faith and Development, South Asia and Pacific Regional Office, WVI
12. Ms. Marie Laure Lemineur, Head, OCSE, Ecpat Internaitonal

Group Chair

1. Mr. Kazi R Hoque, Hon’ble Chairperson, NHRC Bangladesh

Group Rapporteur: To be selected by the Group

Secretariat Coordination

1. Mr. Anshuman Sahni, Advocate/Legal Expert India
2. Ms. Valerie Khan, ED Group Development, Lead NACG CSO Project
Group II

c) Prevention

Expected Outcome:

- Increased societal awareness and understanding on CSEA in all settings…(Need to rework/reframe)

Strategy 3:

- Promote societal awareness and understanding of child sexual exploitation and abuse in all settings including taboo and harmful cultural norms and practices

d) Corporate Sector/Industry

Expected Outcome:

- Increased engagement and capacity of Private sector to provide protective and preventive measures against child sexual exploitation and abuse.

Strategy 4:

- Enhance cooperation between Government and Public Private sector partners and further promote accountability and corporate social responsibility

Group Members:

1. Ms. Sebia Sahiba, NACG Afghanistan
2. Mr. Ghaziuddin Muhammad Munir, MoWCA, Bangladesh
3. Mr. Ugyen Wangchuk, SAIEVAC National Coordinator, Bhutan
4. Mr. Mohamed Basheer, SP Maldives Police/ Women and Child Protection
5. Mr. Tek B Mahat, CEO TAAN, Nepal
6. Mr. Rahat Ullah, Project Support Officer, MoHR, Pakistan
7. Mr. Lal Dias, CEO, Sri Lanka CERT
8. Ms. Sonali Gunasekara, National Coordinator, Secretariat to National Partnership to End Violence Against Children, MoWCA, GoSL
9. Mr. Chandila Colombege, NACG Co-Chair, Sri Lanka, WVI
10. Ms. Gabriela Kuhn, Programme Lead, SECTT, ECPAT International
11. Ms. Amihan Abueva, Regional Executive Director, CRC Asia, Phillipines
12. Mr. Thangaperumal Ponpandi, Country Manager, India, Terre des Hommes NL

Group Chair:

1. Mrs. Marina De Levera, Chairperson, NCPA, Sri Lanka

Secretariat Coordination:

1. Mr. Md. Muhuruf, Chair, ECPAT Sri Lanka
2. Mr. Manish Mitra, Sr. Technical Advisor, Youth and Gender, IPPF
Group III

e) Capacity and Skills Development

Expected Outcome:

- Enhanced Knowledge, Skills and Capacity of relevant Institutions and agencies and thereby, enabled to deliver/offer effective response to child sexual exploitation and abuse in all settings and at all stages taking into account best interest of child and respecting the rights, views, needs and concern of child

Strategy 5:

- Institutional strengthening and capacity building

f) Partnership

Expected Outcome:

- Strengthened coordination and collaboration among member states to combat CSEA effectively

Strategy 6:

- To strengthen coordination and collaboration in South Asia

Group Members:

1. Mr. Abdul Razi Salar, SAIEVAC National Coordinator, Afghanistan
2. Mr. AK Masud, Chair NACG Bangladesh, CSO GB Member
3. Ms. Roma Pradhan, NACG Coordinator, Bhutan
4. Dr. Chiranjeeb Kakoty, Chair NACG EVAC India
5. Mr. Muruthala Moosa, Chair NACG Maldives
6. Mr. Buddha Gurung, SAIEVAC National Coordinator, Nepal
7. Mr. Syed Istiaq Gilani, Chair NACG Pakistan
8. Ms. P. Chandima Sigera, Commissioner, Department of Probation & Child Care Services, Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, GoSL
9. Mr. Thomas Muller, DyEd, Network Dev and Partnerships, ECPAT International
10. Ms. Arpanah Rongong, Child Protection Advisor, Asia and Pacific WVI
11. Ms. Eri Mathers Suzuki, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF ROSA

Group Chair:

  c. Ms. Kunzang Lhamu, Chairperson, SAIEVAC Governing Board

Group Rapporteur: To be selected by the Group

Secretariat Coordination:
2. Mr. Rajib Haldar, Regional Coordinator, ECPAT South Asia

2.2 Final Draft of the REGM &OS

Working Title: Regional Action Plan for the Elimination of Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation including Online Exploitation

Other Titles under consideration: Regional framework for the elimination of Child sexual abuse and exploitation including online exploitation (Regional strategy/Regional action plan/SAIEVAC Regional Strategic Framework for the Elimination of Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Including Online Exploitation)

Legislative and Policy Framework

Expected Outcome: Adoption, integration and reinforcement of strong legislation and policy framework in line with international and regional child rights instruments to combat child sexual exploitation and abuse in all settings

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<tr>
<th>STRATEGY I</th>
<th>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE</th>
<th>ACTIONS</th>
<th>INDICATORS</th>
<th>KEY PARTNERS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Encourage Government to adopt and enforce strong legislative and policy framework taking note of existing relevant regional and international legal framework while enabling Government to make informed decision in regard to various legislation, legal reforms and policies required to address child sexual exploitation and abuse in all settings including online and offline.</td>
<td>1. To ratify when and where needed, enhance and, harmonize legal and policy framework and ensure implementation of strong legal framework and policies aimed at protecting children and victims of sexual exploitation and abuse in all settings</td>
<td>a. Update mapping/literature review of existing legislations and initiatives to identify gaps at SAARC and country level and ensure intersection with other initiatives in Asia</td>
<td>• # of SAARC member states undertaking (legal) review which identifies gaps on regional and national policies, legislation and practices</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
abuse in all settings

existing or new legal and policy frameworks to facilitate cooperation whenever applicable (with reference to and ensure Luxembourg Guidelines)

d. Bring about greater compatibility among the instruments of different countries of the region that deal with protecting children against sexual abuse and exploitation

e. Harmonization of national legislation with regional and international legislation.

f. Access the level of knowledge/skill of law enforcement officers

g. Monitor and evaluate the implementation of existing laws and policies and enforcement of substantial and procedural laws

h. Develop / Establish, adapt and improve policies and investigative procedures which are child and

• # of SAARC member states that have criminalized all forms of sexual abuse, exploitation including online and offline exploitation

• # of law enforcement agencies and judiciary/prosecutors who have received training and are applying new and innovative model while working on CSEA

• # of SAARC state members having endorsed the We Protect statement

• # of SAARC States that have ratified International or regional instruments

• # of SAARC States that have made reporting mandatory.
gender-friendly and effective (based on assessment and identified good practices if any ref)
i. Encourage concerned agencies to create sex offenders registry
j. Enable concerned agencies within the region to share information on traveling sex offender and also liaison with national and international agencies
k. Advocate with governments from SAARC countries so that all of the endorse the statement of action from We PROTECT
l. SAARC member states enact appropriate legislation for mandatory reporting of CSAM & SECTT.

Protective Measures and Assistance to Victim

Expected Outcome: Establishment of effective social programs and multi-disciplinary structures to provides necessary support and services to victim

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<th>STRATEGY 2:</th>
<th>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE</th>
<th>ACTIVITIES</th>
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### 1. Enhance cross-sector, multi-disciplinary collaboration to ensure availability and accessibility of support services to victims/survivors in an inclusive child and gender sensitive environment with due consideration and respect to best interest and rights of the child

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<tr>
<td>1. Enhance cross-sector, multi-disciplinary collaboration to ensure availability and accessibility of support services to victims/survivors in an inclusive child and gender sensitive environment with due consideration and respect to best interest and rights of the child.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. An increased number of child victims/survivors of sexual abuse and exploitation (irrespective of cast, sex, creed, race, gender, age, religion and ethnicity) have access to rights based comprehensive support services including legal aid and services, compensation, shelter, (specialized) medical care including psychosocial and psychological support; rehabilitation, repatriation and resocialization services.</td>
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<td>a. Strengthen toll free child help lines and other reporting mechanisms to handle incoming reports and refer victims/survivors to relevant service providers (e.g. shelter, legal);</td>
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<td>b. Increase accessibility of improved health care centres with specialized personnel to attend to children and victim/survivors of CSAE;</td>
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<td>c. Provide psychological (non-clinical and clinical) support services for every child without discrimination based on cast, gender, age, and type of offense committed against them and which are inclusive of the parents, caregivers and/or community at large;</td>
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<td>d. Develop mechanisms to ensure access to</td>
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<td><strong>Justice for children to avail protection, rehabilitation (including financial aid and other compensation(s)), reunification and reintegration.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>e. Develop / Establish, adapt and improve protective and assistance measures to victims/survivors which are child and gender-friendly and effective (based on assessment and identified good practices if any using rights based approach)</strong></td>
<td><strong>f. Provide training on child-friendly practices to law enforcement agencies, policy makers and lawyer</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>g. Promote and support strengthening of right based child and gender sensitive standards and code of</strong></td>
<td><strong>• # of stakeholders in the Child Protection Workforce trained on providing child-friendly services</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>• # of SAIEVAC Member States with regular in-service training on child sexual exploitation and abuse for all government/child protection employees working for and with children.</strong></td>
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</table>
c. Promote societal awareness and understanding of child sexual exploitation and abuse in all settings including taboo and harmful cultural norms and practices

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<th>STRATEGY 3:</th>
<th>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE</th>
<th>ACTIVITIES</th>
<th>INDICATORS</th>
<th>KEY PARTNERS</th>
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<tr>
<td>c. Promote societal awareness and understanding of child sexual exploitation and abuse in all settings including taboo and harmful cultural norms and practices</td>
<td>(Need to work) Expand and strengthen evidence informed education and awareness program that will help individuals/communities/organizations gain knowledge, skills and motivation to promote condition and environment that foster healthy development of children</td>
<td>a. Take necessary measures to prevent or prohibit the dissemination of materials advertising the offences established in accordance with this Strategy; b. Advertising the offence to advertising illegal contents c. Use research and case trends of within and across the region to</td>
<td>• # of schools that have integrated child sexual education programs – including online safety- in the curriculum at primary and secondary schools; • # of national and/or regional awareness-raising campaign in each country addressing the issue of child sexual</td>
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<td>understand the range of motivation for perpetrators as well as links between types of exploitation and abuse</td>
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<td>d.</td>
<td>Develop and include education programmes for children during primary and secondary education as part of the obligatory curriculum on comprehensive sexuality, healthy lifestyle, online safety to increase their understanding about the issues as well as enhance their skills to protect themselves and respond effectively;</td>
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<td>e.</td>
<td>Develop and implement public awareness and advertising campaign programmes for the general public to enhance understanding of manifestation s, criminality of such actions and abuse and exploitation;</td>
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<td>• # of national level communication products or materials developed for specific target groups (teachers, children, parents etc);</td>
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<td>• # and groups of stakeholders participating in awareness raising, capacity building and/or training events/ activities across the region;</td>
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<td>• # of Member States of SAIEVAC and NACG which have established a CSEA Hotline which is accessible to the general public and industry and which is comprehensive in its approach (including referral to support services/ law enforcement authorities etc)</td>
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promote positive social norms and behavior;

f. Develop, produce and disseminate tools/handbooks/guidelines to school teachers, parents, caregivers to recognize signals, and respond in an manner (e.g. reporting) to keep children safe from CSEA;

g. Collaborate with national hotline to collect and update data and information on CSEA and also to report on child sexual exploitation, abuse and child sexual abuse material

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<tr>
<th>Corporate Sector/Industry</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expected Outcome: Increased engagement and capacity of Private sector to provide protective and preventive measures against child sexual exploitation and abuse.</td>
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<th>STRATEGY 4:</th>
<th>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE</th>
<th>ACTIVITIES</th>
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<tr>
<td>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE</td>
<td>ACTIVITIES</td>
<td>INDICATORS</td>
<td>KEY PARTNERS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Enhance cooperation between Government and Public Private</td>
<td>1. To recognize role and responsibility of private sector in combating CSEC</td>
<td>a. Identify roles and responsibilities of private sector;</td>
<td>• Mapping of Roles and Responsibilities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
sector partners and further promote accountability and corporate social responsibility and thereby held them accountable;

2. To enhance corporate social responsibility towards addressing CSEA and demand actions

b. Meetings, dialogue and lobby with private sector to create awareness on the issue of CSEC in all settings;

c. Develop Code of Conducts, MoUs; for stakeholders in the travel and tourism business and well as internet service providers

d. Encourage private sector, in particular, information and communication technology sector, tourism and travel industry and banking and finance sectors to implement internal norms through self-regulation or co-regulation;

e. Identify existing child protection tools, software and services to be implemented as part of business models or to be used by other stakeholders of Private Sector;

• # of orientati on, awarene ss and sensitiza tion program s held for private sector;

• Enhance understa nding on the issue and specific roles and responsi bilities to combat CSEC;

• # of private compani es expressi ng commit ments to take action;

• Standards and code of conducts for all care-givers, service provider s and business inclusive of travel, tourism
such as law enforcement in partnership with corporate sector;

f. Develop and ensure private sector sign up regional Statement of Action [to be developed, similar to WeProtect Model] in which private sector parties commit to taking preventive and protective measures against child sexual abuse and exploitation;

g. Encourage private sector to implement child-protective measures in their services and company policies, including codes of conduct and mandatory industry reporting for CSEA Offences;

h. Lobby for mandatory reporting about child sex offending and child sexual abuse material;

and IT sectors have been developed, adopted and applied.

- # number of companies have signed up to Statement of Action
- Mandatory industry reporting is included in legislation of all SAIEVE C Member States
- # of companies/businesses in the region have become member to the Code and are implementing the code of conduct
i. Promote membership to The Code for increased awareness and implementation of good practices in the tourism sector;

j. Promote good examples of corporate social responsibility in media reporting as an incentive for other businesses;

k. Develop mechanisms for government and state actors to cooperate with researchers/private sector parties etc (e.g. provide immunity/access to information to develop tools)

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**Capacity and Skills Development**

**Expected Outcome:** Enhanced Knowledge, Skills and Capacity of relevant Institutions and agencies and thereby, enabled to deliver/offer effective response to child sexual exploitation and abuse in all settings and at all stages taking into account best interest of child and respecting the rights, views, needs and concern of child

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<tr>
<th>STRATEGY 5:</th>
<th>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE</th>
<th>ACTIONS</th>
<th>INDICATORS</th>
<th>KEY PARTNERS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building</td>
<td>1. To develop and strengthen institutional capacity to enable</td>
<td>a. Identify different institutions and agencies that have key</td>
<td>• Identification of relevant agencies and institutions;</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>effective and efficient response</td>
<td>role in prevention, protection and prosecution of CSEA;</td>
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<td>b.</td>
<td>Undertake institutional capacity and need assessment;</td>
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<tr>
<td>c.</td>
<td>Develop Training Manuals on the different manifestation of child sexual exploitation and abuse and online safety</td>
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<td>d.</td>
<td>Deliver training programs to relevant agencies;</td>
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<td>e.</td>
<td>Provide training on child-sensitive handling in cooperation with national, regional and/or international law enforcement agencies that can provide good practices (e.g. INTERPOL);</td>
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<td>f.</td>
<td>Equip law enforcement teams with knowledge and tools for investigative purposes (e.g. software,</td>
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- • Report on Institutional capacity and need assessment;
- • Development of Comprehensive Training Manual on CSEA in all settings;
- • # of trainings delivered
**Partnerships**

**Expected Outcome:** Strengthened coordination and collaboration among member states to combat CSEA effectively

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<th>STRATEGY 6:</th>
<th>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE</th>
<th>ACTIONS</th>
<th>INDICATORS</th>
<th>KEY PARTNERS</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. To Strengthen Coordination and Collaboration in South Asia</td>
<td>1. To ensure exchange of relevant data and information for strengthening prevention and protective measures and also to promote application of best practices and learning for improved responses</td>
<td>a. Collaborate with policy makers media, I/NGO’s and public/private sector to develop National strategies and action plan to prevent child sexual exploitation and abuse</td>
<td>1) # of partnerships established within South Asia to work on issues relating to CSEA;</td>
<td>3) Mechanisms and infrastructural for data-sharing between law enforcement agencies have been established at the national and regional level</td>
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<td>b. Convene regional meetings to promote cross-country sharing of learning and best practices;</td>
<td>2) # of regional meetings held;</td>
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<td>c. Strengthen networking and collaboration among the SAIEVAC National</td>
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Mechanism and facilitate building bridges among networks and alliances in relation to UN Conventions, SAARC Conventions and SDG goals both at national and regional levels;

d. Create links with police and judiciary to establish mechanisms and infrastructure for data sharing and reporting inclusive of investigation of cross-border crimes in-country and regionally to adopt and enforce.

2.3 Charting the Way Forward/Milestones

South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC)
SAARC Apex Body

“In Solidarity with the Children of SAARC”

Regional Expert Group Meeting to Review and Refine the Draft Regional Strategy on Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Including Online Safety

WAY FORWARD
(Aspirational)
South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC) SAARC Apex Body
“In Solidarity with the Children of SARRC”

**Timeline:**
- **August 17:** RR Draft
- **Sept – Nov 17:** REVIEW/REFINEMENT
- **Dec 17 – Jan 18:** B/LR SAIEVAC Mechanisms
- **Jan – Feb 18:** FINAL DRAFT
- **March 18:** Validation Meeting
PART B

3. REGM Proceedings

a. Key Statements

i. Speech of the Hon’ble Chandrani Bandara, Minister, Ministry of Women and Child Affairs

Dear Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Affairs,
Secretary, State Ministry of Child Affairs,
Dr. Rinchen, Director General, SAIEVAC,
Additional Secretaries, and Representative of other countries,
Country Representatives of all INGOs, ILO and NGOs and distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning to all of you.

I am greatly honored and flattered to have been asked to speak for this very important event of Regional Expert Group Meeting to Review the Draft Regional Strategy on Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation including online Safety.

First of all I would like to express my gratitude for giving an opportunity to host this meeting here in Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka became a signatory to the Global Plan of Action for Children in 1991 and ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in July 1991, signifying the commitment to upholding the welfare and protection of children within a legal and political framework. In 1992, a Children’s Charter was developed for Sri Lanka based on the CRC. Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography came into force on 18th January 2002 and Sri Lanka became a signatory to the Optional Protocol on 22nd September 2006. Consequently, Sri Lanka universally bound to be addressing the issues in this relevance. As the responsible state party, Sri Lankan government has taken appropriate initiatives to implement these instruments and make better environment for children.

But I would say, with the continues social development and changes taking place, creates unexpected situations. Certain negative consequences bring children into vulnerable situations. 9361 Incidents reported to National Child Protection Authority in 2016 among these around 700 relates to sexual child abuse and 300 rape cases, some cases review that child sexual exploitation is also crucial.

Due to various reasons such as poverty, school drop-outs, unawareness, lack of parenting care etc children unfortunately become a victim of child sexual abuse or explore to the abuse or traffickers.

Dear distinguish guest, I presume that sexual exploitation and online safety can’t address separately, the cause of online means the consumption of internet and telecommunication. Hence, apart from the reasons I mentioned above for sexual exploitation, usage of internet in unsafe mode causes to sexual exploitation too. Particularly, children are often using the social media such as face book, twitter, google plus where they can share their feeling, thoughts. It says, technology has brought us into a golden era, individually we all are interconnected, not physically but virtually. Internet is acknowledge hub where can search whatever we need. This is good opportunity for children as well.

But on the other hand, while some children being in the internet with the aspect of upgrading knowledge and positive way, some of them are un-knowingly explore to abuse. Hence, challenge is to protect and make them corrected to the path, at the rapidity of developing technology, transferring knowledge on addressing social impact if the result gives negative consequences, is the question. Hence, what we understand from our end is that there is no sufficient technical knowledge among
officers who works in child protection, administration and system development relatively.

I guess, my dear colleague, you and me who live in highly turbulent environment are facing the big challenge on how we could get-rid of these situations. Actually, I believe, the issue is, all new findings, new technologies transfer very quickly and we are always welcome those, without considering cultural barriers and the other obstacles and negative impact. As I mentioned, specially compare with western countries, we do not have sufficient technical knowledge, tracking systems to overcome the negative scenarios’ if creates. Therefore, I take this opportunity to request your great assistant in this relevance and particularly I believe this SAIEVAC initiative will be a very important step even to go for a National Strategic Plan on the subject.

Furthermore, though the situation in Sri Lanka is as such, certain initiatives have been taken to minimize these issues, for instant, Sufficient legal protections for the subjected matters are in place. Administrative mechanism has also been expanded, National Child Protection Authority by its mandate works to minimize the effect of these issues. Other institute such as Department of Probation and Child Care Services, Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Education and SL CERT are specially pay their adequate attention and try to find the solid solutions.

Specially I am happy to say, Sri Lanka has been nominated as the Pathfinder country to end violence against children, with the assistant of UNICEF, my Ministry was able to establish a separate secretariat. Under the path finder program, all national partners including government agencies, INGOs those operate here, NGOs, civil societies and privet sector organizations are getting together to end violence against children, appreciate their intervention, I hope these positive initiatives will bring fruitful results indeed.

Finally, this is my humble request to SAIEVAC mechanism to give us the technical support not only to this issue but also for strengthening the entire child protection mechanism in Sri Lanka.

I wish SAIEVAC mechanism to bring positive results to the South Asian Region to violence against children.

Wish you all the best!
Thank you!

ii. Statement of Ms. Kunzang Lhamo, Chairperson SAIEVAC Governing Board
iii. **Message from Susan Bissel, Director, Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children,**

Excellencies,
Distinguished colleagues and members of the South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Greetings from the End Violence secretariat in New York.

As you gather in Colombo today to review and endorse the Regional Strategy for the Elimination of Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation including Online Exploitation, I would like to thank all of you for your continued commitment.

This is a leap forward, and a catalyster of accelerated action across the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation member states.

Your partners in other regions around the world look forward to learning from your experiences and your ideas to advance goal 16.2 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Your region is home to nearly a quarter of the world’s children, and your Regional Strategy for the Elimination of Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation including Online Exploitation is a cornerstone of our global cooperation towards achieving our collective vision of a world in which every child grows free from violence.

I commend your focus on prevention and advocacy to establish effective social services to the young victims of violence, including online violence.

Behind every heinous crime committed online, there is a child in need of support. Much work is needed to promote societal awareness and understanding of child sexual exploitation and abuse.

Much work is needed to advocate Governments to establish child-centred policies – and we do have evidence-based international guidance; the seven INSPIRE strategies.

I would like to thank the South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children for the leadership role it continues to play. I reiterate our commitment to working with you to make our societies safer for children.

Thank you again. I wish you a productive meeting.

**b. Supporting Documents**

i. **List of Participants:**
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### Agenda

**Inaugural Agenda**

**Chief Guest** : Hon’ble Chandrani Bandara, Minister, Ministry of Women and Child Affairs.

**DAY – 1 (23 August 2017)**

**0900 – 0930** : Registration

**0930 – 1030** : Arrival of the Chief Guest

: Lamp Lighting Ceremony

: Welcome Remarks by Ms. Chandrani Senaratna, Hon’ble Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Affairs/SAIEVAC Governing Board Member, Sri Lanka

: Address by Ms. Kunzang Lhamo, Chairperson, SAIEVAC Governing Board on the Regional Expert Group Meeting to Review the Draft Regional Strategy on Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation including Online Safety (CSAE&OS)
Message from Susan Bissel, Director, the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children and on behalf of the WePROTECT Board

- Mr. Thomas Muller, Deputy Executive Director, ECPAT International

Inaugural Address by the Hon’ble Chief Guest

Vote of Thanks and Announcements:
- Dr. Rinchen Chophel, Director General, SAIEVAC

Technical Agenda

Day –I (23 Aug 2017)

- Reviewing the decisions of the 4th SAIEVAC Ministerial Meeting in relation to the Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation including Online Safety: DG SRS

- Setting the Agenda:

- Global Agenda/WePROTECT/Model National Response: Mr. Thomas Muller, Deputy Executive Director, ECPAT International

- South Asian Overview of Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation including Online Safety: DG SRS

- Introducing the Regional Action Plan and the Implementation Strategy: DG SRS

- Briefing on Group Review (for addressing review and refinement of different Outcomes of the Draft Regional Strategy): DG SRS

- Group Work

Day – 2 (24 August 2017)

- Recap of Day – 1

- Group Work Presentations - GROUP – I

- Group Work Presentations - GROUP – II

- Group Work Presentations - GROUP – III

- Charting out the Way Forward

- CSAE & OS Expert Group Meeting
iii. Supporting/WeProtect Documents

a) Terminology Guidelines

What are the Terminology Guidelines?

The Terminology Guidelines, also known as the Luxembourg Guidelines, are the result of an initiative by 18 international partners to harmonise terms and definitions related to child protection. The Terminology Guidelines provide advice and recommendations to foster a child-centred and appropriate language to describe different forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

Why the Terminology Guidelines?

Words matter. The decision to use one word over another can completely alter our reaction to a situation. The meaning of a term as opposed to another can dramatically change our view of an issue, often leading to a different understanding of the same problem, as well as of its solution.

For example, the words “child pornography” and “child prostitution” are considered to be inappropriate terms. Because pornography and prostitution are legal in some countries, using these terms in relation to children may give the impression that these are legitimate acts, or that the child has consented to them. These terms do not explicitly raise the issue of exploitation and abuse. On the other hand, the term “child sexual abuse material” describes the phenomenon more accurately and at the same time emphasizes the violation of a child’s right.

Stakeholders often make hasty decisions to use one term over another or, worse even, continue to use a term that is outdated or damaging to the dignity of the child victim.

Working across languages raises further challenges. Direct translations often do not convey the same meaning, especially when addressing some of the complex issues at stake in the protection of children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

Process

An Interagency Working Group (IWG) composed of leading international institutions, including non-governmental organisations, UN agencies, intergovernmental organisations, law enforcement agencies and academic institutions was established and coordinated by ECPAT International. The IWG jointly discussed and developed guidelines on the terminology to be used to describe sexual exploitation of children in three languages: English, French and Spanish.

After a two-year process, on 14 June 2016, the Terminology Guidelines for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse were published. They are available online in English, French and Spanish.
Where can I find the *Terminology Guidelines*? - [http://luxembourrguidelines.org/](http://luxembourrguidelines.org/)
### Model National Response

#### Enablers

- **Cross sector, multi-disciplinary collaboration**
- **Willingness to prosecute, functioning justice system and rule of law**
- **Supportive reporting environment**
- **Aware and supportive public and professionals, working with and for children**
- **Sufficient financial and human resources**
- **National legal and policy frameworks in accordance with the UNCRC and other international and regional standards**
- **Data and evidence on CSEA**

#### Capabilities

- **Policy and Governance**
  - Leadership: An accountable National Governance and Oversight Committee
  - Research, Analysis and Monitoring: National evidential analysis of CSEA-tap and response; measurement/indicators
  - Legislation: Comprehensive and effective legal framework to investigate offenders and ensure protection for victims
  - Dedicated Law Enforcement: National wave; trained officers; proactive and reactive investigations; victim-focused; international cooperation
  - Judiciary and Prosecution: Trained; victim-focused
  - Offender Management Process: Present re-offending of those in the criminal justice system nationally and internationally
  - Access to Image Database: National database; link to image database (ICSE)
  - End-to-end support: Integrated services provided during investigation, prosecution and after-care
  - Child Protection Workforce: Trained, coordinated and available to provide victim support
  - Compensation, remediation and complaint arrangements: Accessible procedures
  - Child HelpLine: Victim reporting and support; referrals to services for ongoing assistance
  - CSEA Hotline: Public and Industry reporting for CSEA offences - online sex offering; link to law enforcement and child protection systems
  - Education Programmes: For: children/young people; parents/carers; teachers; practitioners; faith representatives
  - Child Participation: Children and young people have a voice in the development of policy and practice
  - Offender Support Systems: Medical, psychological, well-being, awareness
  - Notice and Takedown Procedures: Local removal and blocking of online CSEA content
  - CSEA Reporting: Statutory protections that allow industry to fully and effectively report CSEA, including the transmission of content, to law enforcement or another designated agency
  - Innovative Solution Development: Industry engagement to help address local CSEA issues
  - Corporate Social Responsibility: Effective child-focused programmes
- **CSEA Investigation and Prevention**
  - Ethical and informed media reporting: Enable awareness and accurate understanding of problem
  - Universal terminology: Guidance and application

#### Outcomes

- **Highest level national commitment to CSEA prevention and response**
  - Comprehensive understanding of CSEA within the highest levels of government and law enforcement. Willingness to work with, and coordinate the efforts of, multiple stakeholders to ensure the enhanced protection of victims and an enhanced response to CSEA offending.
  - Effective and successful CSEA investigations, convictions and offender management
  - Law enforcement and judiciary have the knowledge, skills, systems and tools required to enable them to perform victim-focused investigations and secure positive judicial outcomes. CSEA offenders are managed and refraining prevented.
  - Appropriate support services for children and young people
  - Children and young people have access to services that support them through the investigation and prosecution of crimes against them. They have access to shelter; specialised medical and psychological services; and rehabilitation, repatriation and reintegration services.
- **CSEA prevention**
  - Children and young people are informed and empowered to protect themselves from CSEA. Parents, carers, teachers and childcare professionals are better prepared to keep children safe from CSEA, including addressing taboos surrounding sexual violence.
- **Industry engaged in developing solutions to prevent and tackle CSEA**
  - The public can proactively report CSEA offences. Industry has the power and willingness to block and remove online CSEA content and proactively address local CSEA issues.
  - Awareness raised among the public, professionals and policy makers
  - Potential future offenders are deterred. CSEA offending and refraining is reduced.