

**Report
of
The 1st Governing Board Meeting
of the
South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children
(SAIEVAC)**

**10-11 November 2010
Kathmandu
Nepal**



**Hosted by the SAIEVAC Secretariat
with
Technical and Financial support
by
The South Asia Coordinating Group
on Action against Violence against Women and Children (SACG)**

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The 1st SAIEVAC Governing Board Meeting

November 10-11, 2010

1. Summary

Regional cooperation among the South Asian Governments in ending violence against children began in 2005 with the founding of the South Asia Forum for Ending Violence Against Children (SAF). These efforts increased after the publication of the UN Study of Violence Against Children (2006) as Government's in the region recognized the importance of ending all forms of violence against all children in all settings. SAF held several meetings and conferences to advance this agenda between 2006-2010 including 5 SAF Coordinators Meetings, 3 Ministerial Meetings and 3 Child Participation Consultations.

Recognizing the urgency of this agenda, work intensified in 2010 with the establishment of a new regional centre named "The South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children". A huge accomplishment is the development of a 5 Year strategic Workplan which is endorsed by all governments in the region. The Workplan supports the implementation of international and regional mandates and obligations and promotes the highest standards of child protection as goals of the region. This workplan is a framework for the development of effective and comprehensive child protection systems, and addresses key issues for South Asia including child labour, sexual abuse and exploitation, trafficking, corporal punishment, and early marriage.

The First Governing Board Meeting of the South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC), convened on November 10-11th, 2010, Kathmandu and was attended by the Governing Board Members from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, 2 Child Representatives and the Chair of the South Asia Coordinating Group on Action against Violence Against Women and Children (SACG).

2. Background

In 2001, based on the recommendations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, the United Nations General Assembly called for a global study on violence against children. A regional consultation for South Asia on violence against children held in Islamabad in May 2005 brought together ministers, senior government officials, SAARC representatives; civil society; INGOs; UN Agencies; the UN Study Secretariat; bilateral agencies; experts and resource persons; children and young people; the media, and opinion formers from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. A major outcome of this Consultation was the formation of a regional mechanism with the vision of ending all forms of violence against all children named the South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC) [formally known as South Asia Forum for Ending Violence Against Children (SAF)].

SAIEVAC is composed of high level representatives from the governments of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. SAIEVAC has held four consultations to date hosted in Pakistan (2006), India (2007), and Nepal (2008/2010) with support from the South Asian Coordinating Group on Action Against Violence Against Women and Children (SACG)¹, to consolidate work throughout the region and bring the agenda to the forefront of government debate.

The 4th SAIEVAC Consultation was held in Kathmandu on 22 January, 2010. After taking stock of progress and opportunities, participants, in collaboration with SAARC² and SACG, decided to create a new Institutional Framework for SAF. Participants recommended SAF's name be changed to SAIEVAC and agreed to develop a workplan with regional and national actions and indicators to measure progress in ending violence against children.

The SAIEVAC Secretariat with support from SACG, organised the 3rd Ministerial Meeting in Kathmandu on June 23, 2010 which was hosted by the Government of Nepal, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare. Ministers endorsed the new organisational structure for SAIEVAC including the establishment of a Governing Board, a permanent SAIEVAC Secretariat, as well as future plans to make SAIEVAC a SAARC Apex Body, a 5 Year Strategic Workplan and processes for continued children's participation.

3. Recommendations of the SAIEVAC Governing Board Meeting³

The First Governing Board Meeting of the South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC), convened on November 10-11th, 2010, Kathmandu and was attended by the Governing Board Members from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, 2 Child Representatives and Chair of the South Asia Coordinating Group on Action against Violence Against Women and Children (SACG). The Governing Board Members over two days of deliberations endorsed the following recommendations for the SAIEVAC Board, SAIEVAC Secretariat and SACG to reinforce the institutional focus and development of SAIEVAC.

- 1.) The Governing Board as an institutional structure of SAIEVAC is entrusted with both approving and monitoring responsibilities. In view of this, the first Governing Board Meeting endorsed the election of the Chairperson on an alphabetical rotational basis who will serve for a period of one year. Accordingly, H.E. Wasil Noor Muhmand, Governing Board Member of Afghanistan was unanimously elected as the first Chairperson.

¹ *The South Asia Coordinating Group on Action against Violence Against Women and Children (SACG) is an inter-agency group comprised of UN agencies and international NGOs working against violence against women and children in the region. This group also offers financial and technical support to SAIEVAC.*

² *The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was established when its Charter was adopted on December 8, 1985 by the Heads of States of the Governments of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Afghanistan joined SAARC in 2007. SAARC aims to accelerate the process of economic and social development in Member States.*

³ Annexure 1

- 2.) The Terms of Reference of the SAIEVAC Governing Board was reviewed and endorsed. The composition of the Board will include eight Member States, two Child Representatives on a rotational basis, two civil society representatives of civil society organizations on a rotational basis, and the SACG Chair. The modalities for selection of civil society and children's representatives on the Board were also clearly defined. It was also decided that to convene a SAIEVAC Board Meeting there must be a minimum of five Members States participating.
- 3.) The Board taking cognizance of the need for transparency and accountability reviewed and adopted the Terms of Reference for the Auditing Committee. The Board Members of Bangladesh and Bhutan were nominated as Members of the Auditing Committee for the period of 2010-2011.
- 4.) The Board meeting appreciated the valuable contributions of the SACG in nurturing the development of SAIEVAC since its inception. Taking cognizance of the critical partnership of SAIEVAC with SACG, the Board also endorsed the Terms of Reference for SACG at the Regional Level. The Board Members also reiterated the importance of setting up SACG National Mechanisms so that closer and more coordinated linkages can be developed at the national level.
- 5.) The Board noted that the ultimate success in ending violence against children will be SAIEVAC's ability to cultivate a larger involvement of civil society organizations in the SAIEVAC movement. To ensure this, the Board reviewed and endorsed the guidelines and criteria for selection of the civil society representatives to the Board.
- 6.) The Board reiterating the centrality of the children's participation in the SAIEVAC processes, endorsed the Terms of References for regional and national child participation as per the children's recommendations in the 3rd Ministerial Meeting. The Board also reinforced the need to hold annual National Children's Consultations in each Member State and a Regional Children's Consultation every two years.
- 7.) The Board, upholding the decisions taken in the 3rd Ministerial Meeting reinforced the urgent need to establish the independent SAIEVAC Secretariat. Reviewing the SAIEVAC Secretariat Terms of Reference and the organogram, the Board Members endorsed that the head of the Secretariat be designated as Director General instead of Executive Director and the two principle divisions be headed by Directors instead of Programme Managers. The Board also directed the SAIEVAC Secretariat and the SACG to reinforce resource mobilization efforts and that they can also involve the Board Members where necessary and relevant.
- 8.) The Board deliberated extensively on the status report of the SAARC Apex Body application process presented by the SAIEVAC Secretariat and the Government of Nepal. Given that the attainment of the Status of an Apex Body is central to SAIEVAC's strategic approach and its movement, the Board reaffirmed that every possible action be taken to achieve this goal. The Board also agreed that the Government of Nepal will complete the registration process of SAIEVAC and the submission of the application to the SAARC Secretariat by the second week of December, 2010.
- 9.) The Board recognizing that SAIEVAC is at a critical stage in terms of its institutional development, endorsed the need for individual and collective support to realize the vision and mission of SAIEVAC. To this effect the Board recommended that the Chairperson of the Board write to each individual Board Member to reinforce this in their respective Member States.

- 10.) The Board reviewed and endorsed SAEIVAC's 5 year strategic workplan. The Meeting also reiterated that the SAIEVAC Secretariat prepare annual workplans for the consideration of the Board which will guide the development of National level workplans and activities.
- 11.) The Governing Board, in recognition of the Beijing Declaration on South-South Cooperation for Child Rights in the Asia Pacific Region passed on November 6, 2010, recommended that the next SAIEVAC Technical Workshop be on the theme of "Child Friendly Services and Child Care Standards" to align SAIEVAC efforts with the spirit of the Beijing Declaration.
- 12.) The Board Members expressed their appreciation to Marta Santos Pais, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Violence Against Children for her participation and commitment of support in the 1st SAIEVAC Governing Board Meeting. The Board also directed the SAIEVAC Secretariat and the SACG to further reinforce SAIEVAC's institutional linkages with the global and regional bodies for the promotion and protection of child rights.
- 13.) The Board Meeting also endorsed the decision to hold its 2nd Meeting in the first week of October, 2011 in Nepal.

4. Proceedings of the SAIEVAC 1st Governing Board Meeting⁴

The SAIEVAC 1st Governing Board Meeting was hosted by SAIEVAC Secretariat under the aegis of the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Government of Nepal and technically and financially supported by the South Asia Coordinating Group against Violence Against Women and Children (SACG). Additionally, special guest Marta Santos Pais, UN Secretary General's Special Representative on Violence against Children was invited to deliver the keynote address.

Eight Governing Board Members and Coordinators from South Asia Countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) participated in the Governing Board Meeting⁵ along with 2 Child Representatives and Chair of the South Asia Coordinating Group on Action against Violence Against Women and Children (SACG). A representative from India could not participate in the Governing Board Meeting on 10th November, 2011, however, participated in the meeting on 11th November, 2011.

The purpose of the 1st Governing Board Meeting was to discuss the follow-up to the recommendations endorsed at the 3rd SAIEVAC Ministers Meeting in June, and review and approved the Terms of References and various modalities of SAIEVAC including its 5 year workplan.

The Governing Board Meeting was followed by a technical meeting on Legal Reform and outcomes are included in a separate report.

⁴ Agenda Annexure 2

⁵ List of Participants at Annexure 3

5. Inaugural Session

Mr. Mahendra Shrestha, Secretary, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Government of Nepal welcomed Governing Board Members and other dignitaries to the inaugural session of the SAIEVAC First Governing Board Meeting. In his welcome address he gave a brief history of SAIEVAC from the time of its formation in 2005 to the First Governing Board Meeting. He mentioned that in 2010, the SAIEVAC Secretariat organised two SAIEVAC Coordinators Meetings, one Ministerial Meeting and now the 1st Governing Board Meeting, which in itself is a great achievement. He stated that the 1st Governing Board Meeting will determine the way-forward for SAIEVAC.

Excerpts from the speech⁶:

“All of us present here have embraced the beautiful vision of SAIEVAC which is to end all forms of violence against children in South Asia. By refining the structure and roles of the various actors linked to SAIEVAC and discussing how legislation can be brought in line with international, regional and national commitments, this Governing Board Meeting will determine the best steps forward to realise SAIEVAC’s vision that all children throughout South Asia enjoy their right to an environment free from all forms of violence.”

Ms. Turid Heiberg, Chair, SACG in her opening remarks said that SAIEVAC, supported by Governments of South Asia along with civil society organisations, has decided to cooperate through a Five Year Strategic Workplan. The Workplan is ambitious and in-line with global standards and recommendations. It demonstrates the commitment of South Asia Governments and paves the way for greater safety and development of children. She also reviewed the commitments made in the recommendations from the 3rd Ministerial Meeting.

Excerpts from the speech⁷:

“We have begun this great cooperation. In fact, this cooperation is vital if we are to change the depressive situation of many in our societies – and in particular for children. Thus let’s give all our best energy to realise the Workplan and prove to the world that South Asia is one of the best places to live and grow up. So much is already in place - that together we must seize this opportunity and ensure the success of this initiative. “

Mr. Divakar Devkota, SAIEVAC Governing Board Member, Government of Nepal said his address that he is excited to be part of SAIEVAC as the new Governing Board Member and looks forward to the deliberations of the Meeting. He briefed the Members on the progress made on the ten recommendations endorsed at the SAIEVAC Ministers Meeting in June, 2010.

Excerpts from the address⁸:

“The 5 year Workplan that we have developed will be reviewed at this meeting is a vital framework for us to use to end violence against children. The Workplan also specifically states that by 2015, all States

⁶ Annexure 4

⁷ Annexure 5

⁸ Annexure 6

will have developed and enforced national legislative measures to prevent, prohibit and eliminate all forms of violence against children in all settings including in families, in schools, in communities, workplaces, institutions and emergency situations, and brought in national laws, bylaws, policies, regulations, plans and programmes in line with the UNCRC and other International and Regional legal instruments and agreements.”

Ms. Marta Santos Pais, UN Secretary General’s Special Representative on Violence against Children gave the key note address and highlighted the importance of SAIEVAC as a model for all other regions in the world⁹.

Excerpts from the Speech are as follows:

“This is an historic moment for the region, and a strong expression of South Asia’s commitment to prevent and address all forms of violence against children. It is also a most significant moment for the world at large, as the South Asia Initiative is the first regional institutionalized arrangement specifically geared towards the protection of children from violence. “

This region also played a decisive role in the development of the UN Study on Violence against Children and in pledging to its steady follow-up through the set up of the South Asia Forum on Violence against Children. The decision earlier this year, to institutionalize this process forward, with the establishment of the South Asia Initiative supported by a Permanent Secretariat and a Governing Body, in which national coordinators, civil society organizations and child representatives take part, is a decisive indication of your commitment to consolidate progress in children’s protection from all forms of violence.

I am honoured by SAIEVAC’s decision to establish close ties with my mandate, and see the countries of the South Asian region as strategic allies in my work as Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence against Children.

This week’s meeting of the Governing Board of the South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children, and the Technical Workshop on Legal Reform that will follow, are essential stages to move this process forward! Our task is critical and we must move ahead with a sense of urgency and impatience.”

In his address¹⁰, **Mr. Sarva Dev Prasad Ojha**, the Hon Minister welcomed the Governing Board Members and other dignitaries and stated that:

“Government of Nepal is committed to end the all forms of violence against children and protection and promotion of rights of child as well. Government of Nepal has shown its commitment at International and Regional level for the protection and promotion of child rights and has ratified various conventions, covenants, protocols. The 1st SAIEVAC Governing Board Meeting will be a milestone for the protection and promotion of child rights in South Asia region.”

Mr. Ram Bhattarai, SAIEVAC Coordinator, Nepal in his Vote of Thanks stated that ending violence against children is a challenge and in this direction SAIEVAC is a milestone for South Asia. He thanked all

⁹ Annexure 7

¹⁰ Annexure 8

Governing Board Members for supporting SAIEVAC Secretariat and for participating in the 1st Governing Board Meeting. He also thanked Marta Santos Pais for agreeing to address the SAIEVAC 1st Governing Board Meeting. Also, thanked Turid, Chair, SACG for providing technical and financial support to SAIEVAC Secretariat in organising the SAIEVAC 1st Governing Board Meeting.

6. Condolences

The Members of the Governing Board expressed their deepest condolence to the delegates of the Government of Bangladesh for the sudden demise of Ms. Razia Begum, Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, Government of Bangladesh. She was the Head of Delegation from Bangladesh during the SAIEVAC Ministerial Meeting in June, 2010.

7. Election of the Chair

Dr. Rinchen Chopel, Technical Adviser, SAIEVAC, explained the process for electing the Chairperson and his/her roles and responsibilities. It was also agreed that the tenure of the Chairperson would last the duration of one year until the next Governing Board Meeting in October 2011.

The Governing Board Members deliberated on the process of election of the Chair and a consensus was reached among the Members that the Chairpersonship will be rotational among the member States and in alphabetical order.

Accordingly, Mr. Wasil Noor Mohmand, Governing Board Member, Afghanistan was elected as the Chair to preside over the Meeting and also to represent the SAIEVAC Governing Board until the next Governing Board Meeting.

The Chair thanked the Members for electing him as a Chairperson of the Governing Board. He sought cooperation of SAIEVAC Secretariat, SACG and child participants for devolving his responsibilities as the Chair of the Governing Board.

This was followed by the review and adoption of the Agenda for the Ministerial Meeting.

8. Progress/Status Report of the review of the Recommendation of the 3rd Ministerial Meeting

Mr. Divakar Devakota, Governing Board Member from Nepal presented the progress and status report of the recommendation of the 3rd Ministerial Meeting.

- **Recommendation 1:** *The name of the South Asia Forum for Ending Violence Against Children (SAF) shall be changed to the South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC) and the Organogram and the Terms of References for SAIEVAC be adopted and a permanent Secretariat for SAIEVAC established*

Progress: A permanent Secretariat has been established in Nepal. With support from SACG, the SAIEVAC Secretariat has developed a proposal for seeking running costs for SAIEVAC Secretariat.

- **Recommendation 2:** *A Permanent Secretariat of the SAIEVAC shall be established in Nepal under the auspices of the Government of Nepal, who will ensure that adequate infrastructure and logistic support is provided to facilitate the functions of the Secretariat.*

Progress: An interim space has been identified. The process for locating a permanent space is underway.

- **Recommendation 3:** *The SAIEVAC, including the establishment of its Secretariat, be jointly supported by Member States and the SACG through the provision of technical assistance and support in resource mobilization.*

Progress: SACG continues to provide technical assistance and financial support. The SAIEVAC Secretariat will now initiate additional resource mobilisation. A proposal for the SAIEVAC Secretariat has been developed in line with this.

- **Recommendation 4:** *A Governing Board shall be established as the institutional mechanism to govern the SAIEVAC process as per the approved Terms of Reference (TOR). Such a Board shall consist of a Board Member appointed by each Member State, the SACG Chairperson, 2 Child Representatives (a boy and a girl by rotation from Member States) and Representatives of Civil Society Organizations (Optional to a maximum of two and on special invitation depending on the specific substantive matters to be discussed in the board meeting).*

Progress: All the Member States have nominated Governing Board Members to SAIEVAC. Two child representative (one boy and one girl) as Governing Board Members have been nominated. Chair, SACG has been nominated as the Governing Board Member.

- **Recommendation 5:** *The Governing Board be constituted and the first meeting be convened by later half of 2010.*

Progress: The SAIEVAC Governing Board has been constituted and 1st Meeting of the Governing Board has been convened on 10-11 November, 2010, Kathmandu, Nepal.

- Recommendation 6:** *Each Member State shall have a National SAIEVAC Coordinator who will be responsible for coordinating national level activities in addition to being the focal point for SAIEVAC Regional Level activities. The functions of the Coordinators will be as defined in the approved TOR.*

Progress: All the eight South Asia countries have nominated a National SAIVAC Coordinator.
- Recommendation 7:** *The SAIEVAC Secretariat with guidance of the SAARC Secretariat shall make every effort to attain the status of SAARC APEX Body by the first half of 2011.*

Progress: The SAIEVAC Secretariat with support of the SACG has developed and submitted the Application for Apex Body to the Government of Nepal for submission to the SAARC Secretariat. However, the SAIEVAC Secretariat and the Ministry and Women, Children and Social Welfare, Government of Nepal as the host of the Secretariat is in the process of fulfilling some of the criteria for an apex body status, such as Registration of SAIEVAC.
- Recommendation 8:** *The SAIEVAC Secretariat shall initiate institutional linkages with relevant global and regional instruments/bodies such as the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence against Children to reinforce the mandate and functions of SAIEVAC.*

Progress: As part of initiating institutional linkages with relevant global and regional instruments and bodies, to reinforce the mandate and functions of SAIEVAC we are already in the process of formalizing our collaboration with the SAARC Secretariat and Marta Santos Pais, UN Secretary General's Special Representative on Violence against Children is in Kathmandu to participate in this week's events.
- Recommendation 9:** *The Workplan as submitted by the SAIEVAC Coordinators be operationalized with the objective to develop an effective and comprehensive child protection system, and address key issues for the region including child labour, sexual abuse and exploitation, trafficking, corporal punishment, and early marriage.*

Progress: The Five-Year SAIEVAC Work Plan is being tabled to the Governing Board Meeting for review and approval.
- Recommendation 10:** *The SAIEVAC Secretariat, SAIEVAC Coordinators, and SACG take due consideration of the recommendations presented by the children in terms of setting up institutional mechanisms for child participation at the national and regional level, key areas of concern in the five thematic areas and children's representation at the governing board as and when it is constituted.*

Progress: Two child representatives, nominated to the Governing Board, are taking part in the SAIEVAC 1st Governing Board Meeting. With support of SACG, a proposal for child participation has been developed which includes formation of national and a regional child participation network. The proposal is being tabled to the Governing Board Members for review and approval.

After the presentation by the Chair of the Governing Board, the floor was opened for discussions on the progress report.

The Governing Board Members expressed the wish to have a detailed discussion on the Apex Body Application process and agreed to revisit this topic when Hassan Shifau, SAARC Social Director was present in the afternoon.

9. Terms of References (TORs) Reviewed and Endorsed

The TORs for the following were reviewed and endorsed:

- 1.) SAIEVAC Governing Board¹¹
- 2.) SAIEVAC Secretariat¹²
- 3.) Terms of Reference of SAIEVAC Internal Auditing Committee¹³
- 4.) Terms of Reference of SACG at Regional and National level¹⁴
- 5.) Terms of Reference of Civil Society representation in the Governing Board¹⁵
- 6.) Terms of Reference for the Regional and National Child Participation Network¹⁶

9.1 Terms of Reference of SAIEVAC Governing Board

Dr. Rinchen Chopel went through the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the SAIEVAC Governing Board including its scope, mandate and roles and responsibilities of the SAIEVAC Governing Board. Dr. Rinchen Chopel explained that the child participants have equal status and voting rights as other GB Members.

Reporting Mechanism: Dr. Rinchen Chopel informed the Members that irrespective of whether SAIEVAC becomes an apex body in time or not, SAIEVAC through its Secretariat has to ensure that regular reports are presented to the Governing Board. Once SAIEVAC becomes an Apex Body, then it would have to present Annual Reports to SAARC Technical Committee for Women, Youth and Children.

Governing Board Meeting: Governing Board Members agrees that the SAIEVAC Secretariat will convene one Governing Board Meeting annually, however, if it considers necessary, SAIEVAC Secretariat in consultation with SACG can convene additional meetings.

Quorum: Dr. Rinchen Chopel informed that in practise in SAARC and other bodies, 2/3rd corums have to be fulfilled. Presently in the Governing Board, there are already 13 voting Members (8 Member States, 1 SACG, 2 Civil Society Representatives and 2 child participants). The Governing Board Members would like to consider whether a corum of 2/3rd is acceptable or would like to make alternate suggestions.

After deliberations, the Governing Board agreed and endorsed that at least 5 Member States should be present for SAIEVAC Governing Board Meeting to take place.

The Governing Board Members endorsed the Terms of Reference of the Governing Board.

¹¹ Annexure 9

¹² Annexure 10

¹³ Annexure 11

¹⁴ Annexure 12

¹⁵ Annexure 13

¹⁶ Annexure 14

9.2 Terms of Reference of SAIEVAC Secretariat

Dr. Rinchen Chopel informed the Members that the Terms of Reference was approved in the Ministerial Meeting, and now the Governing Board Members have to review and endorse it.

Dr. Rinchen explained that the Terms of Reference elaborates on the roles and responsibilities of SAIEVAC Secretariat and its close linkages with Terms of Reference of the Governing Board. Once the SAIEVAC Governing Board reviews and approves the Workplan and Budget, SAIEVAC Secretariat has the responsibility for implementing the recommendations of the Governing Board.

Organogram of the SAIEVAC Secretariat: The Governing Board Members had detailed discussions on the Organogram and with consensus made following amendments to the Organogram:

1. SAIEVAC Secretariat will be headed by Director General. The title of “Executive Director” was replaced by “Director General”.
2. Under the Director General, there will be two Directors, one for “Programmes” and the other for “Finance and Administration”. The tile “Programme Manager” was replaced by Directors.

SAIEVAC Secretariat structure: Governing Board Members agreed that the SAIEVAC Secretariat will be independent, will have professionally qualified, experienced and competent people to undertake and implement SAIEVAC activities.

Dr. Rinchen Chopel informed that the Executive Director (now Director General) post was advertised and short listing of candidates will be undertaken soon. A review committee also has been set-up. The Director General will be appointed to the SAIEVAC Secretariat by mid December, 2010.

Location of SAIEVAC Secretariat: The permanent SAIEVAC Secretariat is located in Kathmandu, Nepal and hosted by the Government of Nepal. It will be an independent Secretariat accountable to eight Member-States. The staff will be appointed depending upon the availability of funds.

The Governing Board Members endorsed the Terms of Reference of the SAIEVAC Secretariat.

9.3 Terms of Reference of SAIEVAC Internal Auditing Committee

Turid Heiberg, Chair, SACG shared the SAIEVAC Anti-Corruption and Fraud Policy and the SAIEVAC Child Safety Policy. She stated that these policies will ensure sound financial system and ethical guideline. This will apply to all persons, directly or indirectly, working with SAIEVAC. She further informed that there will be two Governing Board Members on the SAIEVAC Internal Auditing Committee. She also explained the roles and responsibilities of the Members. The Governing Board decided that the tenure of the Committee will be for 1 year. In event, the Member of the Internal Auditing Committee leaves, then the new Governing Board Member from that country will become the member of the Internal Auditing Committee.

By consensus the Governing Board nominated Governing Board Members from Bangladesh and Bhutan as the Members of SAIEVAC Internal Auditing Committee for 2010-2011.

9.4 Terms of Reference of SACG at Regional and National level

Turid Heiberg, Chair, SACG briefed the Governing Board Members on the Terms of Reference of SACG at Regional and National level. She also explained the roles and responsibilities of SACG.

She gave a brief history of SACG and noted that many more international organizations and agencies have joined SACG because of SAIEVAC. In 2009, SACG had a meeting on Child Protection Systems in which it was decided that SACG should encourage inter-agency cooperation at the National level. Turid informed that in the Annual SACG Meeting on 15 November, 2010, the SACG Members will discuss on how to align SACG's mandate with the Workplan of SAIEVAC and support Member States in implementing the Workplan. A new Chair and Co-Chair will also be selected in the meeting and a "working group" to support SAIEVAC will be set up. She also informed that the meeting would discuss further modalities on the formation of SACG at that national level.

Governing Board Members appreciated the Terms of Reference of SACG at the Regional and National Level.

9.5 Terms of Reference of Civil Society representation in the Governing Board

Members reviewed the Terms of Reference for Civil Society representation in the Governing Board, their voting rights, roles and responsibilities, criteria for selection of the Civil Society Organisations. Governing Board Members agreed the tenure for Civil Society Representatives will be one year.

The Members discussed the TOR in detail. The Chair of the Governing Board stated that every country in the South Asia region has a number of Civil Society Organisations and it would be difficult to identify one. He said that clear criteria should be defined at the Member State level.

Governing Board Member's requested that genuine and reliable Civil Society Organisations should be selected and expressed an interest for Member State involvement in the selection of the Civil Society Organisations.

Hassan Shiffau, Director, SAARC Secretariat, reinforced that Governing Board Members should look at civil society participation on the operational level. He said he sees a national network of Civil Society Organisations developing in each Member State. Thus, each Member country would a national network from which to select one Civil Society Organisation to the Governing Board. Also, having representation on rotational basis will ensure Civil Society Organisations from each Member-State represent their country in the Governing Board.

The Governing Board Members supported the creation of national networks of Civil Society Organisations working with/for children at national level.

Three Civil Society Organizations will be selected in each Member State by SACG, and one will be selected to represent Regional Network of Civil Society Organisations by SACG and the SAIEVAC Secretariat.

Two Civil Society Organisation will be selected to represent in the Governing Board for the tenure of one year. After which it will be rotational until all 8 countries have completed their tenure. Civil Society Organisations are bound by the Internal Auditing and Ethical Guidelines.

9.6 Terms of Reference for the Regional and National Child Participation Network

Dr Rinchen Chopel, went through the Terms of Reference for the Regional Child Participation Network. He informed that this Network will form the base for selecting two child representatives (1 girl and 1 boy) to the Governing Board. Dr. Rinchen Chopel went through the operational structure of the national forums.

It was also decided that though the Governing Board Meeting will be held annually, Regional Children's Consultations should be held once in every 2 years and national children's consultations should take place annually.

Some Governing Board Member's thought it was a good idea but making a separate forum for children is very ambitious at this point of time and requires lot of effort. Governing Board Members expressed a need to understand the expenses for organising such a consultation and requested the SAIEVAC Secretariat to give a clear picture on number of children in each national network.

Chair, SACG informed that a proposal for child participation has been developed and source for funding is being looked at. Also, that SACG has expertise to assist SAIEVAC in the process. It was also reiterated that national children's forums can be built on existing networks or forums.

Dr Rinchen Chopel said that it is necessary to see child participation as an inclusive process and the rest will depend on the funding availability and national mechanisms.

Rakesh Shaw, Child Representative to the Governing Board Member informed that he is in agreement with the Terms of Reference. Ugen Dorji, Child Representative to the Governing Board Member, stated that we know that it is huge task but not impossible.

The Governing Board Members endorsed the Terms of Reference for National Children's Forum and Regional Children's Forum.

10. Apex Body Application

Hassan Shiffau, Director, SAARC Secretariat was invited to participate in this session to give insight into the SAARC processes and guidelines for becoming a SAARC Apex Body. He informed the Members that the Standing Committee session is now scheduled to be held in February and this gives some additional time for the Apex Body Application to be submitted to the SAARC Secretariat. He reiterated that the process should be expedited at the earliest.

The Government of Nepal briefed that the SAIEVAC Secretariat had a meeting with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Nepal, SACG and SAARC Secretariat. In the meeting The Apex Body Application was discussed in length. The representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Nepal stated that a registration of SAIEVAC is required to put forward the Application to SAARC.

Hassan Shiffau informed that even though the guidelines do not specifically state that registration is mandatory, all current Apex Bodies are registered. If application is sent without registration then SAARC's internal process will look at it. However, it would be better to have registration number to avoid delays.

The Nepal Government outlined the steps they had taken to register SAIEVAC. They had approached the District Administration Office, Nepal. However, the District Administration Office can only register NGO's. The Governing Board Members decided that SAIEVAC cannot be registered as a NGO since it is inter-government initiative.

Another suggestion received was to prepare a statutory for SAIEVAC as was done for ICIMOD. SAIEVAC Secretariat has now collected information on organisations such as Himmawanti, a SAARC Apex Body and ICIMOD. The Government of Nepal also emphasized that all paths had not yet been exhausted and is committed to finding a solution.

Since Nepal has no current provision to register SAIEVAC in its present status, Governing Board Members decided to look into alternative steps for registering SAIEVAC if the Government of Nepal was unable to.

Governing Board Member's suggested that if necessary the Governing Board should pass a resolution and take it to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to formally express the desire of the Member State. Then each Member State can brief their respective Ministry of Foreign Affairs and request them to take up the matter at the SAARC Foreign Ministers Conference.

Chair, SACG stated that donor agencies are feeling frustrated that there is a delay in SAIEVAC becoming an Apex Body. These agencies have financially supported SAIEVAC Secretariat in organising Meetings including Ministerial Meeting and 1st Governing Board Meeting. She said that to avoid further delays, may be Governing Board Members would like to look at the possibility of registering SAIEVAC in another Member-State and have an understanding that SAIEVAC Secretariat will be based in Nepal.

The Governing Board Members agreed that as part of the Minutes, a letter from the Chair will also be put forward to the SAIEVAC Secretariat to be forwarded to MoFA, Nepal. A copy of the letter was shared with all Governing Board Members.

It was also agreed that the Government of Nepal will look at all options for registering SAIEVAC, undertake SAIEVAC registration and submit the Apex Body application to SAARC Secretariat by 2nd week of December.

10.1 Letter on Application for SAARC Apex Body

It was decided in the meeting that a letter¹⁷ from the Chairperson of SAIEVAC Governing Board, H.E. Wasil Noor would be sent to each SAIEVAC Governing Board Member of the respective States to facilitate internal advocacy for SAIEVAC in preparation for the SAARC Apex Body Proposal Technical Committee review. The letter was endorsed by the Governing Board Members and signed by H.E. Wasil Noor, Chairperson of the SAIEVAC Governing Board and distributed to all SAIEVAC Governing Board Members.

Governing Board Members committed to using this letter to advocate within their respective governments.

11. SAIEVAC Five Year Strategic Workplan¹⁸

Turid Heiberg, Chair, SACG took the Members through the SAIEVAC Five Year Strategic Workplan. The Governing Board Members discussed the Work Plan in detail.

Under Objective 11, Governing Board, Nepal suggested whether an indicator “Courts will give first priority to children cases” be included. The Pakistan delegate informed that in absence of dedicated courts to deal with cases related to children, then first priority should be given to children’s cases. However, when further discussed it was felt by the Governing Board Members that it would be very difficult to measure it and Members decided not to include it.

The GB Members approved the SAIEVAC Five Year Workplan (2010-15).

12. Recommendations of the SAIEVAC Governing Board¹⁹

The Governing Board Members developed the recommendations for the 1st Governing Board Meeting. Turid reviewed the Declaration from the Beijing Conference on South-South Cooperation on Child

¹⁷ Annexure 15

¹⁸ Annexure 16

¹⁹ Annexure 1

Rights, 2010 to demonstrate how this focus complements the recommendations being put forward by the Governing Board. The Governing Board Members decided to add mention of the declaration to the recommendations to ensure SAIEVAC is aligned with the spirit of the Beijing Conference.

The Governing Board approved the recommendations.

13. Next Governing Board Meeting

Turid Heiberg, Chair, SACG mentioned that based on the outcome and areas identified in the Beijing Conference, the Governing Board Members may like to consider “Child Friendly Services and Care Standards”, as the topic for next technical workshop. Governing Board Members agreed to this proposal.

The Governing Board Members discussed the date and location of the next meeting. Dr. Rinchen Chopel reminded that the host country is responsible for providing basic support to Member States including facilitation with VISAS, transport from airport and support outside of the meeting.

Governing Board Members agreed to hold the 2nd Governing board Meeting in the First week of October, 2011 in Kathmandu followed by a technical meeting on “Child Friendly Services and Care Standards”.

14. Statements from Child Representatives

A Children’s Consultation was also held throughout the period of the technical workshop and included the two Governing Board Members and four children from Nepal. Children’s contributions to the Governing Board Meeting and the Technical Meeting enriched the discussions and were considered by all participants to be very important.

Ugyen Dema Dorji, Child Representative from Bhutan stated:

“It is very nice to have participated in the meetings, especially the First Governing Board Meeting. This meeting made me feels very important and I also realized that I have the equal responsibilities as any governing board member. In fact, even more, because we are not only representing our country but all the children in South Asia. And I assure that I will shoulder my responsibilities without fail with the support of all the children and all of you out here to combat violence against children. In this occasion, I would like to share a good new that we have created a group in the Facebook. It is called “**South Asia Regional Children Forum to End Violence**” and this forum is open to all and for your information, I am the moderator and we are also trying to link this group with NGOs and INGOS which are concerned with children”

Rakesh Shaw, Child Participant from India stated:

“Good Afternoon, I am Rakesh Shaw from India. I am grateful to all of you that you have given a chance to me to be here. I will try my best to play my roles and responsibilities in my country. It is a good new that we have formed a group in Facebook called “**South Asia Regional Children Forum to End Violence**”. I would like to invite you to join us. Thank you again to give me an opportunity to be here. Thank you.”

Annexure 1

Signed Recommendations

Recommendations
of
the 1st SAIEVAC Governing Board Meeting
November 10th -11th, 2010
Kathmandu, Nepal

The First Governing Board Meeting of the South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC), convened on November 10-11th, 2010, Kathmandu and was attended by the Governing Board Members from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, 2 Child Representatives and Chair of the South Asia Coordinating Group on Action against Violence Against Women and Children (SACG). The Governing Board Members over two days of deliberations endorsed the following recommendations for the SAIEVAC Board, SAIEVAC Secretariat and SACG to reinforce the institutional focus and development of SAIEVAC.

- 1.) The Governing Board as an institutional structure of SAIEVAC is entrusted with both approving and monitoring responsibilities. In view of this, the first Governing Board Meeting endorsed the election of the Chairperson on an alphabetical rotational basis who will serve for a period of one year. Accordingly, H.E. Wasil Noor Muhmand, Governing Board Member of Afghanistan was unanimously elected as the first Chairperson.
- 2.) The Terms of Reference of the SAIEVAC Governing Board was reviewed and endorsed. The composition of the Board will include eight Member States, two Child Representatives on a rotational basis, two civil society representatives of civil society organizations on a rotational basis, and the SACG Chair. The modalities for selection of civil society and children's representatives on the Board were also clearly defined. It was also decided that to convene a SAIEVAC Board Meeting there must be a minimum of five Members States participating.
- 3.) The Board taking cognizance of the need for transparency and accountability reviewed and adopted the Terms of Reference for the Auditing Committee. The Board Members of Bangladesh and Bhutan were nominated as Members of the Auditing Committee for the period of 2010-2011.
- 4.) The Board meeting appreciated the valuable contributions of the SACG in nurturing the development of SAIEVAC since its inception. Taking cognizance of the critical partnership of SAIEVAC with SACG, the Board also endorsed the Terms of Reference for SACG at the Regional Level. The Board Members also reiterated the importance of setting up SACG National Mechanisms so that closer and more coordinated linkages can be developed at the national level.
- 5.) The Board noted that the ultimate success in ending violence against children will be SAIEVAC's ability to cultivate a larger involvement of civil society organizations in the SAIEVAC movement. To ensure this, the Board reviewed and endorsed the guidelines and criteria for selection of the civil society representatives to the Board.
- 6.) The Board reiterating the centrality of the children's participation in the SAIEVAC processes, endorsed the Terms of References for regional and national child participation as per the children's recommendations in the 3rd Ministerial Meeting. The Board also reinforced the need to hold annual National Children's Consultations in each Member State and a Regional Children's Consultation every two years.
- 7.) The Board, upholding the decisions taken in the 3rd Ministerial Meeting reinforced the urgent need to establish the independent SAIEVAC Secretariat. Reviewing the SAIEVAC Secretariat Terms of Reference and the organogram, the Board Members endorsed that the head of the Secretariat be designated as Director General instead of Executive Director and the two principle divisions be headed by Directors instead of Programme Managers. The Board also directed the SAIEVAC Secretariat and the SACG to reinforce resource mobilization efforts and that they can also involve the Board Members where necessary and relevant.
- 8.) The Board deliberated extensively on the status report of the SAARC Apex Body application process presented by the SAIEVAC Secretariat and the Government of Nepal. Given that the attainment of the Status of an Apex Body is central to SAIEVAC's strategic approach and its movement, the Board reaffirmed that every possible action be taken to

achieve this goal. The Board also agreed that the Government of Nepal will complete the registration process of SAIEVAC and the submission of the application to the SAARC Secretariat by the second week of December, 2010.

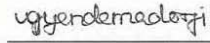
- 9.) The Board recognizing that SAIEVAC is at a critical stage in terms of its institutional development, endorsed the need for individual and collective support to realize the vision and mission of SAIEVAC. To this effect the Board recommended that the Chairperson of the Board write to each individual Board Member to reinforce this in their respective Member States.
- 10.) The Board reviewed and endorsed SAIEVAC's 5 year strategic workplan. The Meeting also reiterated that the SAIEVAC Secretariat prepare annual workplans for the consideration of the Board which will guide the development of National level workplans and activities.
- 11.) The Governing Board, in recognition of the Beijing Declaration on South-South Cooperation for Child Rights in the Asia Pacific Region passed on November 6, 2010, recommended that the next SAIEVAC Technical Workshop be on the theme of "Child Friendly Services and Child Care Standards" to align SAIEVAC efforts with the spirit of the Beijing Declaration.
- 12.) The Board Members expressed their appreciation to Marta Santos Pais, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Violence Against Children for her participation and commitment of support in the 1st SAIEVAC Governing Board Meeting. The Board also directed the SAIEVAC Secretariat and the SACG to further reinforce SAIEVAC's institutional linkages with the global and regional bodies for the promotion and protection of child rights.
- 13.) The Board Meeting also endorsed the decision to hold its 2nd Meeting in the first week of October, 2011 in Nepal.



H.E. Wasil Noor Mohmand
Governing Board Member
Government of Afghanistan



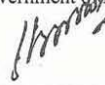
Ms. Mariya Ahi
Governing Board Member
Government of Maldives



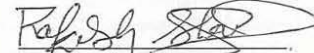
Ms. Ugyen Dema Dorji,
Governing Board Member
Child Representative



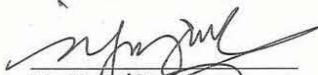
Dr. Md. Aminul Islam
Governing Board Member
Government of Bangladesh



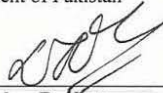
Mr. Kalay Bux Rind
Governing Board Member
Government of Pakistan



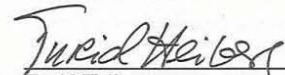
Mr. Rakesh Shaw
Governing Board Member
Child Representative



Mr. Norbu Gyatshen
Governing Board Member
Government of Bhutan



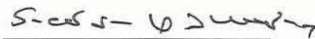
Mr. Divakar Devkota
Governing Board Member
Government of Nepal



Turid Heiberg
Governing Board Member
SACG Chair



Mr. R. Chatterjee
Governing Board Member
Government of India



Mr. Sarath Abegunawardana
Governing Board Member
Government of Sri Lanka

Annexure 2

Agenda

<i>November 10th, 2010</i>	
Time	Session
0830 – 0900	Registration
0900 – 1000	<p>Inaugural Session Lighting of Lamp by Chief Guest – Honorable Sarva Dev Prasad Ojha, Minister, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Government of Nepal Welcome Remarks – Mr. Mahendra Prasad Shrestha, Secretary, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Government of Nepal Opening Remarks – Ms. Turid Heiberg, Chairperson SACG Address by SAIEVAC Governing Board Member, Mr. Divakar Devkota, Government of Nepal Keynote Address by Special Guest - Marta Santos Pais, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Violence against Children Address by the Chief Guest – Honorable Sarva Dev Prasad Ojha, Minister, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Government of Nepal Vote of Thanks – Mr. Ram Prasad Bhattarai, SAIEVAC Coordinator, SAIEVAC Secretariat</p>
1000 – 1030	TEA BREAK (Press Conference)
1030– 1300	<p>Modality and election of the Chairperson and the adoption of the agenda of the First Governing Board Progress/Status Report and the review of the Recommendations of the 3rd Ministerial Meeting Organizational and operational issues for the SAIEVAC Secretariat Review and adoption of the TOR of the Governing Board</p>
1300 – 1400	LUNCH
1400 – 1530	<p>Review and adopt TOR for the Auditing Committee Present TOR for SACG at regional and national level Present of TOR for children’s networks at regional and national level Discuss and endorse the process for civil society participation on the Governing Board</p>
1530 – 1545	TEA BREAK
1600 – 1700	<p>Review and finalise the scope and operational strategies for the SAIEVAC Work plan Review and strategize the draft proposal for the ‘Application for Apex Body</p>
<i>November 11th, 2010</i>	
Time	Session
0900 – 1000	Review and strategize the draft proposal for children’s participation in the region and Representation in the Board and institutionalization of SAIEVAC
1000 – 1100	Finalize and adopt the Recommendations of the 1 st Governing Board Meeting.
1000 – 1030	TEA BREAK
1030– 1230	Finalize and adopt the Recommendations of the 1 st Governing Board Meeting.
1230 – 1330	LUNCH

Annexure 3

Participant List

SAIEVAC GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS SAIEVAC GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS AND COORDINATORS	
AFGHANISTAN	
1. H.E. Wasil Noor Mohmand Deputy Minister SAIEVAC Governing Board Member and SAIEVAC Coordinator Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled, Government of Afghanistan Add: Opposite of 1st Makroryan Market, Kabul, Afghanistan Tel: +93 (0) 700 290 532, 93 (0) 798 454 506 (0) 700 290 588, 93(0)752014152 Mobile: +93(0)70290588,(0)799043034 Email: wasil_noor@hotmail.com	
BANGLADESH	
2. Dr. Md. Aminul Islam SAIEVAC Coordinator Deputy Secretary Ministry of Women and Children Affairs Government of Bangladesh Add: Building No 6 Secretariat, Dhaka-1000 Bangladesh Tel: +88-02-7161575 (O), 8359402 (R) E-mail: dramindir@gmail.com	3. Mr. Rafiqul Islam SAIEVAC Governing Board Member Representative Senior Assistant Secretary Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Government of Bangladesh Add: Building No 6 Secretariat, Dhaka-1000 Bangladesh Tel: +88-02-7160996 Mobile: +88-01-550500842
BHUTAN	INDIA
4. Mr. Norbu Gyaltshen Acting Executive Director SAIEVAC Governing Board Member and SAIEVAC Coordinator National Commission for Women and Children (NCWC) Kawang Jangsa Add: PO BOX 556 Thimpu, Bhutan Tel: +975 2 334552 Mobile: +975-17115044 Fax: +975-2 334709 Email: ngyaltshen@hotmail.com	5. Mr. Robin Chatterjee SAIEVAC Governing Board Member Representative Under Secretary Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India Add: Shastri Bhawan New Delhi – 110001, India Tel: + 91-11 23382743 Fax: +91-11-23382071 Email: robin.chatterjee@nic.in

MALDIVES	NEPAL
<p>6. Ms. Mariya Ali Deputy Minister SAIEVAC Governing Board Member and SAIEVAC Coordinator Ministry of Health and Family Government of Maldives Add: 1st Floor, Health Building Block No : 20379, Ameenee Magu Male', Maldives Tel: +960-3324909 Mobile: +960-971888 Fax: +960-3336646 Email: mariyaali@health.gov.mv , mariyaa@hotmail.com</p>	<p>7. Mr. Mahendra Prasad Shrestha Secretary Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Government of Nepal Add: Singh Durbar, Kathmandu Nepal Tel: 977-1-4200408 Mobile: 977-9841241707 Fax: 977-1-4241516 Email: shrestha_mp@yahoo.com</p>
NEPAL	NEPAL
<p>8. Mr. Ram Bhattarai SAIEVAC Coordinator Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Government of Nepal Add: Singh Durbar, Kathmandu Nepal</p>	<p>9. Mr. Divakar Devkota Director General Department of Women and Children Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare Tel: 977-1-5547015 Fax: 977-1-5521214 Email: divakardevkota21@hotmail.com</p>
PAKISTAN	SRI LANKA
<p>10. Mr. Kalay Bux Rind Secretary SAIEVAC Governing Board Member Ministry of Social Welfare and Special Education Government of Pakistan Add: G-8, Opposite N-O-R-I Hospital, Islamabad, Pakistan Tel: 92-51-9107555 Fax: 92 519263325 E-mail: secretary.swsr@hotmail.com</p>	<p>11. Mr. Sarath Abayagunawardana National Commissioner SAIEVAC Governing Board Member and SAIEVAC Coordinator Department of Probation and Child Care Services Add: No 150 A Nawala Road, Nugegoda, Sri Lanka Tel : +94-2853549 Mobile: +94-0723272177 Fax : +94-2852393 E-mail: pcc@slt.net.lk , dmsarathmail@yahoo.com</p>
SAARC	
<p>12. Mr. Hassan Shifau Director SAARC Secretariat Add: PO Box 4222, Tridevi Marg, Kathmandu, Nepal Tel: +977 1 4221794 Fax: +977 1 4227033, 4223991 E-mail: dirmal@saarc-sec.org</p>	

CHILDREN REPRESENTATIVES	
BHUTAN	
13. Ms. Ugyen Dorji	14. Ms. Deko Kelzand (chaperone)
INDIA	
15. Mr. Rakesh Shaw	16. Ms. Swagata Sen (chaperone)
SACG CHAIR and CO-CHAIR	
17. Ms. Turid Heiberg Chair SACG Regional Director, Save the Children Sweden Regional Office for South/Central Asia Add: JDA Complex, GPO 5850, Bag Durbar, Sundhara, Kathmandu Mobile: +977-9851061262 E-mail: turidh@sca.savethechildren.se	18. Ms. Naveeda Khawaja Co-Chair SACG Regional Adviser HIV and SRH UNFPA-Sub-Regional Office, Jamsikhel Sunepa Add: P.O.Box 5940,Lalitpur, Kathmandu Tel: +977-5523880 Mobile : +977-9851076220 E-mail: khawaja@unfpa.org
FACILITATOR	
19. Dr.Rinchen Chopel Technical Advisor Tel: +9779803526313 E-mail: rinchophel@gmail.com	
SPECIAL INVITEE	
20. Ms. Marta Santos Pais Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Violence against Children Add: UN HQ, New York, USA E-mail: msantospais@unicef.org	

Annexure 4

**Welcome Remarks by Mr. Mahendra Shrestha,
Secretary, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare,
10th, November, 2010**

Namaskar, Good Morning.

1. Chief Guest Honorable Minister for Women, Children and Social Welfare Sarv Dew Prasad Ojha
2. SAIEVAC Board Members and Coordinators from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India??, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka
3. Special Guest, Ms. Marta Santos Pais, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Violence Against Children
4. SACG Chair Ms. Turid Heiberg and SACG members
5. Distinguished Guests and SAARC Representative
6. Representative from development partners and INGOs
7. Child Representatives
8. Media persons
9. Ladies and Gentlemen!

On behalf of the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Government of Nepal, it is indeed a great pleasure to welcome all of you to the 1st Governing Board Meeting of the South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children, SAIEVAC.

SAIEVAC has come a long way since its inception in 2005. SAIEVAC which was previously known as the "South Asia Forum for Ending Violence Against Children (SAF)" is a regional mechanism and was an outcome of Regional Consultation on Violence Against Children that took place in Islamabad, Pakistan in May 2005.

SAIEVAC has thus far held four Consultations hosted by Pakistan in 2006, India in 2007, Nepal in 2008 and Nepal in January 2010. It gives me great joy to know that we have all gathered here today to follow up on the third SAIEVAC Ministerial Meeting which was held on 22-23 June, 2010 in Kathmandu, Nepal. Along with this Governing Board Meeting, we have had three meetings in one year. I believe that this is a remarkable achievement and a testament to the commitments and enthusiasm shown by all member states, the South Asia Coordinating Group on Action against Violence Against Women and Children, SAARC, child representatives and other stake holders involved in this process from the beginning and along the road.

All of us present here have embraced the beautiful vision of SAIEVAC which is to end all forms of violence against children in South Asia. By refining the structure and roles of the various actors linked to SAIEVAC and discussing how legislation can be brought in line with international, regional and national commitments, this Governing Board Meeting will determine the best steps forward to realize SAIEVAC's vision that all children throughout South Asia enjoy their right to an environment free from all forms of violence.

I am confident that with the valuable experience, expertise and insights of all distinguished delegates from member states and guests gathered here, we will have yet another engaging and productive Governing Board Meeting. In addition, I hope that the Technical Workshop on Legal Reforms and Corporal Punishment will provide excellent opportunities for all participants to share views, knowledge, challenges and best practices and that it will create a space for mutual learning and capacity building to deal with regional challenges.

I would now like to conclude by once again welcoming all of the distinguished government representatives and guests to Kathmandu, Nepal to attend this very important meeting. We have been especially very encouraged by the presence of Ms. Marta Santos Pais, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Violence Against Children and am positive that we will benefit a lot by her presence in this meeting.

I wish for the success of this meeting and a wonderful time to all our distinguished delegates and guests here in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Thank you.

Annexure 5

Opening Remarks by Turid Heiberg,

**Chair of South Asia coordinating Group against Violence against Women and Children (SACG), 10th,
November, 2010**

Honourable Minister, honourable Special Representative to the UN Secretary General on Violence against Children, honourable SAIEVAC Governing Board members, child representatives and representatives from SACG, civil society and the Media. It is a great day for us today – as today starts the real work to end violence against children in South Asia – supported by all the governments in South Asia in the new institution of SAIEVAC.

Together we – the governments, civil society, children and regional UN agencies and INGO's – have decided to cooperate and support each other through a 5 year Workplan, which will be part of the wider work executed in each country to end violence against children.

The Workplan is ambitious and in line with global standards and recommendations and a proud manifestation of the wish of South Asian governments to be part of changing the world for the better for children. Thus - this paves the way for greater safety and development for children and security and peace for all in our societies.

Today, the SAIEVAC Governing Board will start its work to consolidate business and on the 11th we will start to elaborate on the Workplan establishing a baseline and discussing in particular the important aspects of legal reform to ensure all children are legally protected from all forms of violence in all settings.

The present success of SAIEVAC is the work of many. The Government ownership is one important factor – but the involvement of children is another very important element. Children continue to ask us to involve them and make their concerns for a child-friendly society - a reality. Their involvement in this meeting demonstrates that SAIEVAC has heard their demands and intends to take children's opinions seriously. Other actors who are important for the success of SAIEVAC in creating better societies for children are of course civil society organisations, UN agencies, INGO's, private sector, communities and religious leaders and groups.

We have begun this great cooperation. In fact, this cooperation is vital if we are to change the depressive situation of many in our societies – and in particular for children. Thus let's give all our best energy to realise the Workplan and prove to the world that South Asia is one of the best places to live and grow up. So much is already in place - that together we must seize this opportunity and ensure the success of this initiative.

In the Ministerial Meeting of SAIEVAC the governments and others agreed to:

- Set up a SAIEVAC secretariat in Nepal and the Government of Nepal is to ensure that adequate infrastructure and logistic support is provided to facilitate the functions of the secretariat

- SAIEVAC is to be jointly supported by Member states and SACG through the provision of technical assistance and support in resource mobilisation
- The details of the Governing Board structure were decided upon
- Each member state will have a SAIEVAC coordinator who will be responsible for coordinating national level activities
- The SAIEVAC secretariat was further to make every effort to attain the status of the SAARC Apex body during first half of 2011
- SAIVAC secretariat was to initiate institutional linkages with relevant global and regional instruments and bodies
- The Workplan was to be operationalised with the objective to develop an effective and comprehensive child protection system, and address the key issues of child labour, sexual abuse and exploitation, trafficking, corporal punishment and early marriage
- And lastly, children’s participation was to continue at all levels, and children’s recommendations considered when developing and implementing the workplan.

Progress has been made on most of the recommendations. However, we have had some delays in the application of SAIEVAC to become a SAARC Apex body. This is an urgent issue – if we are to raise the regional concerns to a larger audience.

Since 2006, when the government representatives came together under SAF in Islamabad for the first time in a coordinated way to seek remedies to end violence against children, there was the expectation that this process would be institutionalized as a SAARC Body to ensure the greatest impact. Therefore this process should be taken forward at the earliest to encourage us all to continue to support SAIEVAC with required resources and efforts.

The last concern is that the Workplan must be operationalised as soon as possible. Since the Minister meeting, little advancement on the Workplan have been made but we hope that this meeting of the Governing Board and the technical meeting on legal reform will provide an opportunity for us to accelerate in order to develop an appropriate baseline and standards from which we can move forward.

On behalf of SACG, representing the regional UN-agencies and INGO’s, we have great hopes for the days in front of us. And I would in particular like to thank UNODC, ILO, ECPAT International, Save the Children and UNICEF for their financial contributions to these meetings.

But most of all I would like to honour the input and efforts by children – they are also active participants into SAIEVAC. As one of them said in the Minister meeting in June: “There are many problems in South Asian countries but together as a family we can win”. Another child expressed it like this: “The get together is important. We can show what are the different issues faced by children and what is the process to solve the issues. We also need to make South Asia a violence free region”.

I think these children are expressing our opportunities and challenges very clearly. Let’s cooperate and start the work.

Annexure 6

Address by Mr. Divakar Devakota, SAIEVAC Governing Board Member Government of Nepal

Chief Guest Honorable Minister for Women, Children and Social Welfare Sarv Dev Ojha, Honourable Deputy Minister of Afghanistan and Maldives, Respected Secretary at the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare of Pakistan, Respected Secretary at the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare Mahendra Prasad Shrestha, Distinguished Delegates from SAARC Member States, Special Guest, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Violence Against Children Marta Santos Pais, Chair of SACG Ms. Turid Heiberg and Members, SAARC Representatives, Representative of Development Partners, INGOs and Civil Society in the South Asia Region, Representatives from UN Agencies, Children Participants, Media Person, and all other participants!

Welcome again to the first SAIEVAC Governing Board Meeting !

As the new Governing Board Member from Nepal, I am very excited to be a part of SAIEVAC. I am happy that we have reached this momentous occasion of the first Governing Board Meeting. I look forward to working together over the next few days to plan further actions to end violence against children in South Asia.

In our meeting in June, 2010, 10 recommendations were endorsed by the Minister's and Government representatives. I would like to take this opportunity to relay the progress we have had and how the SAIEVAC Secretariat in cooperation with the Government of Nepal and SACG has managed to take forward this agenda.

The permanent secretariat of the SAIEVAC has now been established in Nepal. The Government of Nepal has identified an interim office space for the Secretariat. Together with SACG, we have drafted a SAIEVAC Secretariat Proposal, which outlines the funding necessary for running the SAIEVAC Secretariat. We are now working to ensure that a SAIEVAC Executive Director is recruited on time. The post was advertised and widely circulated including to the Coordinators. We are in the process of selecting and recruiting a competent person.

We have developed two important proposals in the last couple of months. The first proposal is for the SAIEVAC Secretariat to cover its institutional structure and basic running costs of SAIEVAC. We have also developed a proposal for child participation, which has provision for supporting existing or developing new national child protection networks in each member country. We have been using these proposals to approach donors, and will discuss these further during the Governing Board Meeting.

itself has also progressed because of your commitment. We are very happy to have a Governing Board and National SAIEVAC Coordinator nominated in all 8 SAARC Countries. The countries of South Asia represented here shows how committed they are to the SAEIVAC cause. Because of this, we have fulfilled our commitment to host the first Governing Board Meeting by the later half of 2010.

The SAIEVAC Secretariat has developed an Apex Body Proposal. However, this has been slightly held up due to the issues of registration. We hope that the issues will be resolved shortly; and that we will still be able to submit the proposal for review at the next SAARC Standing Committee meeting to be held in February 2011. We will continue to do everything in our power to ensure that this objective is met.

The SAIEVAC Secretariat is committed to initiating institutional linkages with relevant global and regional instruments and bodies. This has materialized with a very special guest joining us today. We are very happy to

welcome Marta Santos Pais, UN Special Representative on Violence against Children to join us and speak to us about how we can link our regional agenda with global initiatives.

The 5 year workplan that we have developed will be reviewed at this meeting is a vital framework for us to use to end violence against children. The work plan also specifically states that by 2015, all States will have developed and enforced national legislative measures to prevent, prohibit and eliminate all forms of violence against children in all settings including in families, in schools, in communities, workplaces, institutions and emergency situations, and brought in national laws, bylaws, policies, regulations, plans and programmes in line with the UNCRC and other International and Regional legal instruments and agreements.

We hope, the technical workshop that follows immediately after this meeting will give us the opportunity to prepare an action plan that states how each of our countries will continue to work towards attaining this goal over the next 5 years.

The SAIEVAC Secretariat is also very happy that we continue to have child participants at our Governing Board Meeting. I urge all representatives to listen and learn from the children so that together we can have a better impact for children.

I hope the discussions that will be held in the next few days are fruitful.

Finally, I wish to thank all of you once again for joining us for the first SAIEVAC Governing Board Meeting.

Thank you for your attention!

Annexure 7

Key Note Address by Marta Santos Pais, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Violence against Children

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Dear friends,

I am very honoured to join you on the occasion of the first meeting of the Governing Board of the South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children. This is an historic moment for the region, and a strong expression of South Asia's commitment to prevent and address all forms of violence against children. It is also a most significant moment for the world at large, as the South Asia Initiative is the first regional institutionalized arrangement specifically geared towards the protection of children from violence.

The rights of the child and the protection of children from violence, abuse and exploitation have been high in the policy agenda of countries in this region. This is very clearly illustrated by the SAARC Conventions on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution and on Regional Arrangements for the Promotion of Child Welfare in South Asia, as well as by the South Asia Strategy against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Child Sexual Abuse.

This region also played a decisive role in the development of the UN Study on Violence against Children and in pledging to its steady follow-up through the set up of the South Asia Forum on Violence against Children. The decision earlier this year, to institutionalize this process forward, with the establishment of the South Asia Initiative supported by a Permanent Secretariat and a Governing Body, in which national coordinators, civil society organizations and child representatives take part, is a decisive indication of your commitment to consolidate progress in children's protection from all forms of violence.

I am honoured by SAIEVAC's decision to establish close ties with my mandate, and see the countries of the South Asian region as strategic allies in my work as Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence against Children.

Dear friends,

As many of you know, the SAIEVAC meeting is taking place only a few days after the High level Meeting on South-South Cooperation for Child Rights in the Asia Pacific Region, held in Beijing.

The Beijing meeting was an excellent opportunity to share experiences and learn from the significant initiatives promoted by countries in the wide Asia Pacific region to advance the realization of children's rights. The South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children was highlighted as one important development and generated a strong interest for its unique potential to promote South-South cooperation, to consolidate children's protection and to help overcome the many challenges that continue to confront children's lives. These challenges include violence and abuse, child trafficking, child corporal punishment, child pornography, neglect, early marriage, child labour, imprisonment and discrimination. They compromise children's development and capacities, but in addition they are associated with long term costs which undermine human capacities and the social and economic development of society as whole.

To prevent and address these child rights violations, Asia Pacific countries committed to building and strengthening well resourced national child protection systems and mechanisms to prevent and respond to violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation; and to mitigating their impact on the lives of children and their families.

To achieve these important aims, they pledged to promote a comprehensive child protection system based on laws and policies that safeguard children from any potential harm and ban all forms of violence against children. As you can see from these brief highlights of the Beijing Declaration, the South Asia Initiative provides a sound platform to move these commitments forward and to accelerate steady progress in the protection of children from violence. This is promising news for the millions of children in this region, and this process can gain a wider relevance and contagious influence in countries beyond South Asia. In this regard, we need to welcome the announcement already made by the Government of India to host, in 2013, the next High level Meeting on South-South Cooperation for Child Rights in the Asia Pacific Region. This will no doubt be a timely occasion to review progress in the implementation of the workplan you have adopted.

Dear friends,

The past two decades have been marked by a significant process of change in the promotion of the rights of the child and in the protection of children from violence, abuse and exploitation. Guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other important international child rights standards, laws, policies and institutions have been developed to address children's concerns; important advocacy initiatives have been promoted to safeguard children's rights; and wider awareness has been raised of the many risks that hinder children's development and safety.

Violence is one such hampering factor and remains a harsh reality for millions of children around the world. As you know, the United Nations has placed this concern very high in its agenda. With this in mind, it promoted the development of the UN Study on Violence against Children, in which you have actively participated; and, a year ago, it established a new high level position to promote steady follow-up to the Study recommendations. I am honoured to have been appointed by the Secretary General as his Special Representative on Violence against Children and am deeply committed to collaborating closely with you moving this process forward.

This week's meeting of the Governing Board of the South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children, and the Technical Workshop on Legal Reform that will follow, are essential stages to move this process forward!

Our task is critical and we must move ahead with a sense of urgency and impatience

Critical studies conducted in Asia confirm a very high incidence of violence on children. Violence takes place in all contexts, including where children are expected to enjoy a secure environment and special protection - in care institutions, in the school and also within the home. Children experience neglect and trauma when they witness domestic violence and when they endure intimidation, humiliation, physical aggression, abuse and exploitation.

Younger children and children with disabilities are at special risk, having less ability to speak up and seek support, and also greater chances of suffering irreversible emotional and health damage. In some communities, traditional harmful practices, including forced and early marriage, are rooted in society and hard to abandon without the genuine mobilization and active involvement of those concerned. Children trapped in child labour, including child domestic work, are very vulnerable to different forms of violence, including sexual exploitation and abuse. Violence hurts when it happens and also leaves dramatic scars and lifelong consequences, impairing children's development, learning abilities and school performance. Violence inhibits positive relationships, provokes low self-esteem, emotional distress and depression and, at times, leads to risk taking and aggressive behaviour.

Beyond its impact on individual victims, violence carries with it very serious economic and social costs. It reduces human capacity and undermines social development; and, as available research confirms, responding to violence is much more costly than investing in its prevention!

In spite of its dramatic consequences, violence remains hidden and socially condoned. Widely perceived as a social taboo or accepted as a form of discipline, it is seldom reported; official statistics remain limited in their ability to capture the true scale and extent of this phenomenon; and children feel pressed to conceal incidents of violence and abuse, particularly when perpetrated by people they know and trust. A culture of silence, secrecy and social indifference surrounds this phenomenon, paving the way to pervasive impunity.

This is a pattern we urgently need to reverse. Joining hands together, we can transform the protection of children from all forms of violence from a concern of a few into a priority for all.

Excellencies, dear friends,

This week's important meeting can help us move in that direction. As you will promote the effective operationalization of the SAIEVAC workplan, there are three strategic areas where progress can be accelerated.

- The development in each country of a national strategy to prevent and respond to all forms of violence
- The introduction of legislation to prohibit all violence against children, and
- The consolidation of data and research to inform progress in this field.

These are areas in which you already have been investing. They are critical for the prevention of violence and for the consolidation of cohesive national child protection systems, and they feature prominently among the strategic objectives of your Workplan for 2010 – 15.

a. Firstly, it is urgent to develop in every country a cohesive, well coordinated and well resourced national strategy to address violence against children

A national strategy is more than a simple document; it sets a vision and a navigation chart. It is the basis for mobilizing action, resources and civil society support to prevent and respond to all forms of violence against children.

To be effective, the strategy needs to be a core component of the national policy and development agenda, coordinated by a high level focal point with leading responsibilities on children's issues and authority to articulate activities across departments and it needs to be periodically evaluated to assess progress and impact.

Violence prevention and children's protection can be best addressed through the systematic and effective engagement of all relevant ministries and levels of public administration - from health, education and sports, to social affairs, justice and home affairs, planning, economy and finance. When coordination is effective and solutions benefit from the experience and expertise of individual sectors and disciplines, convergence of actions and judicious use of resources can be achieved, while fragmented and reactive solutions can be avoided. In many countries in South Asia significant efforts are being deployed to move in this direction. But much remains to be done to ensure that all forms of violence against children are pursued in an integrated manner, gain visibility in the public debate, and become a priority in the policy agenda and in relevant budgetary decisions. The SAIEVAC can play a critical role in supporting the achievements of these important goals.

b. Secondly, it is critical to introduce national legislation to prohibit all forms of violence against children

Legislation is a key component of a comprehensive national strategy. It is an expression of a country's commitment to work towards the prevention of violence and the protection of children's dignity and physical integrity at all times. It encourages positive discipline and the upbringing of children through non-violent means; it provides protection to witnesses and victims, enables reporting and redress, and legitimizes assistance, recovery and reintegration.

Law reform for children's protection from violence is gaining momentum. In this region, important initiatives have been promoted to combat trafficking, sexual abuse and exploitation and to promote a ban on corporal punishment. The workshop on law reform will no doubt help to move this process forward. Around the world, 29 countries have enacted legislation to prohibit all forms of violence against children: within communities, institutions, in the school and in the home. Governments and parliaments in all regions are working towards this aim. Several states have also strengthened their legislation and developed bilateral and regional agreements to combat specific forms of violence – the significant measures undertaken in this region to protect children from abuse and exploitation illustrate this process well.

In spite of these positive developments, many challenges remain and violence against children is still often accepted as a lawful practice in the education system, as a form of sentencing by judicial bodies, as a disciplinary measure in care institutions and as child rearing practice. The gap between law and practice also remains wide and challenging. This is an area where more efforts are needed to ensure that protective legislation is known and enforced, permeate the work of institutions and shape the training and ethical standards of professionals.

Good laws also need to promote easily accessible, child sensitive, confidential and independent counseling and complaint mechanisms for child victims. In still too many countries, these mechanisms remain unavailable or ill-resourced, and professionals working with children tend to feel reluctant to address, report or refer these cases to relevant bodies and institutions. Children feel frightened to speak up and ignored and harassed when they dare to report incidents of violence. This is an area where much can be done. Professionals working with and for children need to be sensitized to violence against children. And children need to be informed of where to go and what to do when violence takes place, and need to feel reassured that they are listened to in a safe and confidential manner, that their testimonies will not be disclosed or misused, and that their protection will not be put at further risk.

c. A third critical area where progress is strongly needed concerns research and data on violence against children

Globally, information on violence against children is scarce and fails to represent the magnitude of this phenomenon across nations and social groups. But, as we know too well, data and research are crucial to break the invisibility and social acceptance of violence against children, to understand social attitudes and risk factors, and to enhance the protection of those at risk.

No policy decision is neutral to children and when accurate data and sound analysis are available, there are stronger chances of adopting strategic and well informed decisions. Good data and research allow for investing in prevention, rather than simply reacting to incidents of violence that have already taken place. They are indispensable to support government planning and budgeting for universal and effective child protection services; and provide a sound basis to inform the development of legislation, policies and actions for violence prevention and response.

This is an area where urgent action is required. Monitoring tools and indicators need to be expanded to include all children – boys and girls of all ages, and in all situations. And these efforts need to incorporate children's views and perspectives and be informed by their experience. This will help to gain a better understanding of the hidden

face of violence and its root causes; and overall, to become more effective in our ability to prevent violence from happening in the first place.

In this region, important studies are being conducted on violence against children from which we all can learn. Child participation was an essential component of the Study and constitutes a core dimension of its process of follow-up. I am happy to note that children and civil society are an integral part of the Governing Board. I have seen the strong recommendations that children have made at past meetings and support their continued involvement in shaping action to protect children from violence.

Dear friends,

Violence affects the life of millions of children around the world and is associated with profound social costs. But as more significant initiatives are promoted across regions, we realize that violence is not inevitable; it can be prevented and effectively addressed.

With your strong leadership and political commitment, the clear agenda agreed upon by the South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children provides a strategic opportunity to strengthen cohesive child protection systems, prevent violence and protect children there from.

I want to congratulate you for placing the protection of children from violence at the centre of the policy agenda of the South Asian region and look forward to collaborating closely with you in translating these important commitments into tangible action so that all children can grow up in an environment where violence has truly no place.

Annexure 8

Address by Mr. Sarva Dev Ojha,

Hon'ble Minister of Women, Children and Social Welfare, 10 November, 2010

Honorable State Minister from Afghanistan , Honorable Deputy Minister from Maldives , Distinguished Delegates from SAARC Member States, Secretary at the Education and Social Welfare of Pakistan, Director of SAARC, Secretary at the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare of Nepal, Chair of SACG Turid Heiburg and Members, UN Special Representative on Violence Against Children and Special Guest of this programme Ms. Marta Santos Pais, Children Representatives, Representatives of Development Partners, INGOs and Civil Society, Representatives from UN Agency and all other participants

First of all, I would like to welcome you all in Kathmandu, the capital city of Nepal at the first Governing Board Meeting.

Child Marriage, trafficking, child sexual abuse, corporal punishment are one of the major issues and challenge regarding children in Nepal. Government of Nepal is committed to end the all forms of violence against children and protection and promotion of rights of child as well. Government of Nepal has promulgated various Laws, policies and plans to address these issues. I would like to discuss them in brief here:

Interim Constitution of Nepal, 2007 has ensured in Article 22 the rights of children in line with the principle of the rights of the child. Other legal provisions and policies are:

- Children's Act, 1992 and its Rules 1995
- Child Labour (Prohibition and Regularization) Act, 1999
- Human Trafficking (Control) Act, 2007 and its Rules, 2008
- Domestic Violence (Crime and Punishment) Act, 2009
- National Code, 1963
- Juvenile Justice (Procedures) Rules, 2006
- Terms and Condition for the Inter-country Adoption of Nepali Children, 2008
- Minimum Standard of Operation and Management of Child Care Homes, 2003
- Child Welfare Homes Operation Guideline, 1999
- Child Correction Home Operation Guideline, 2000
- Bonded Labour (Prohibition) Act, 2000
- Ten Years National Plan of Action for Children (2004/5-2014/15)
- Master Plan for Elimination of Child Labour
- 3 years and 5 years Short-term Plan of Action

Similarly, Following drafts prepared on behalf of Government of Nepal are in the process of formal approval:

- Child Rights (Protection and Promotion) Act
- National Child Protection Policy
- Comprehensive Minimum Standard for Operation and Management of Child Care Homes

Government of Nepal has shown its commitment at International and Regional level for the protection and promotion of child rights and has ratified various conventions, covenants, protocols. Some of them are:

- Convention on the rights of Child (CRC), 1989 on 14 September, 1990 and its two optional protocols
 - a) Optional Protocol against Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Pornography, 2000
 - b) Optional Protocol against use of children in armed conflict, 2000

- SAARC Convention on the Regional Arrangements for the Promotion of Child Welfare in South Asia, 2002.
- SAARC Conventions on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution, 2002.
- UN Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), 1979
- Beijing Platform for Action,
- Hague Convention on Private Law on Inter-country Adoption (Signed by Government of Nepal)

Under Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Government of Nepal has formed Central Child Welfare Board and Department of Women and Children at Central Level for the coordination, policy advice, formulation of Plans and programs and mobilization of resources. At district level, District Child Welfare Board and Women and Children Office are functional. Furthermore, District Child Rights Promotion and Protection Sub-Committee and Village Child Promotion and Protection Sub-Committee have been formed and functional at the community level. Beside, Women and Children Service Directorate has been formed at Police Headquarter for the immediate rescue, investigation and rehabilitation to family and community of women and children at risk. Likewise, Women and Children Service Centre has been established at all 75 District Police Offices.

National Centre for Children at Risk (NCCR) has been established to provide immediate support to the missing children and children at risk. NCCR operates search and rescue system for the missing children and Child Help Line is operational for immediate help to the needy children.

Some of other functional district level structures for child protection are: District Gender Mainstreaming and Child Rights Coordination Committee, Paralegal Committee, District Resource Group, District AIDS Coordination Committee, District Child Club Network etc.

Other structures at community level are Child Clubs/forum, Local resource group, Village AIDS Coordination Committee, Child Care Homes and Child Correction Home, Para-legal Committee, village development committee and municipality.

Children Desk has been established at National Human Rights Commission. National Women Commission and National Dalit (Oppressed Caste) Commission are functional for promoting the rights of the children. Likewise, Juvenile Bench at 28 District Court is functional for the hearing of issues regarding children in conflict with law.

Government of Nepal is running various other programs through other line ministries including Ministry of Health and Population, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Local Development, Ministry of Labour and Transport Management. In this regard, the Ministry has made efforts to coordinate different activities aimed at children from the centre to the local level.

Finally, after brief introduction in regards to the efforts made by the Government of Nepal towards the protection and promotion of rights of the child, this 1st SAIEVAC Governing Board Meeting will be a milestone for the protection and promotion of child rights in South Asia region. With this, I would like to conclude my brief presentation.

Thank you.

Annexure 9

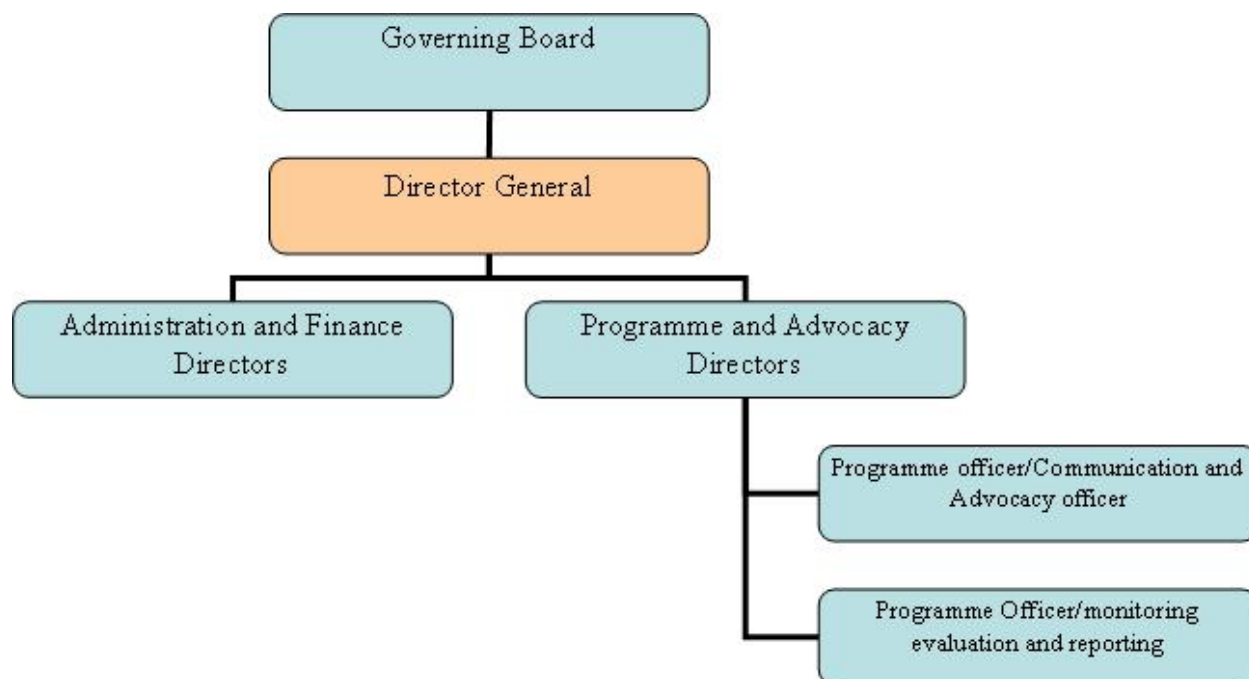
Terms of Reference for the SAIEVAC Governing Board

1. **Scope:** To end all forms of violence against children in all settings in South Asia
2. **Mandate:**
 - To review, approve and facilitate SAIEVAC processes and operations that ensure protection of children against violence in the region
 - To supervise and oversee the functions of the SAIEVAC Secretariat
3. **Roles and Responsibilities:**
 - To ensure SAIEVAC meets its goals and objectives
 - Commission or Initiate the review of policies, legislative frameworks and programme interventions in line with SAARC and international instruments
 - To approve SAIEVAC's workplans and budget
 - To Review and approve SAIEVAC Country Coordinators Reports (biannual reports to be submitted by the SAIEVAC Coordinators)
 - To ensure SAIEVAC's principles/work complements SAARC's existing initiatives and avoid duplication
 - To facilitate and monitor the implementation of the SAIEVAC strategic framework and its impact through the establishment of "bench marks"
 - To support resource mobilization
 - To ensure the development of advocacy and communication strategies for SAIEVAC
 - To guarantee and maintain regular communication and coordination with the SAIEVAC Secretariat, SAARC Secretariat and the SACG Chair and distribute key documents in a timely manner
 - To provide reports, presentations and other inputs to the SAARC Technical Committee on Women, Youth and Children
4. **Frequency of the Board Meetings and attendance required**

The Board should meet once a year, but it may have special sessions as and when required. The Board can only meet if 5 Members States are present to fulfill the quorum.
5. **Composition of the Board:**
 - Appointed Government Representative from each SAIEVAC member country – 8
 - SACG Chair – 1
 - 2 Child Representatives- On a rotational basis
 - 2 National Civil Society Organisation Representatives

Annexure 10

TOR of SAIEVAC Secretariat



1. **Scope:** To implement Governing Board's decisions to end violence against children in South Asia

2. **Roles and Responsibilities:**

- To develop, recommend and implement workplans, activities and budget approved by the Board in coordination with SAIEVAC Coordinators
- To co-ordinate and collaborate with SAIEVEC Coordinators on a regular basis to support country level initiatives, technical meetings and support cross country sharing of experiences and organize field visits.
- To monitor and evaluate progress of workplans and send annual reports to the Board for review
- Prepare/publish/update a regional directory on the institutions working to end violence against children
- To review policies, legislative frameworks, and programme interventions within the framework of SAARC and international conventions and agreements and make recommendations
- To develop and implement the Advocacy and the Communication strategy for SAIEVAC as approved by the Board
- To have regular communication and coordination with the Board and the SACG
- To coordinate an annual review on violence against children and ensure wide dissemination to key stakeholders regionally and nationally
- To prepare and facilitate thematic technical meetings with the Board and Coordinators

- To ensure consistency and complementarily with SAARC Initiatives and avoid duplication of efforts
- All documents related to the Secretariat, including Terms of Reference, minutes of the meetings, will be shared with the Board and the Coordinators
- To prepare all necessary proposals for programs and projects for resource mobilization
- Secretariat to develop institutional linkages with SAARC Secretariat

3. Location of the Secretariat

The SAIEVAC Secretariat will be permanently based in Kathmandu

4. Hosting of the Secretariat

The SAIEVAC Secretariat established under the aegis of the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Government of Nepal .

5. Composition of the Secretariat

- The SAIEVAC Secretariat will employ a Director General to assist the SAIEVAC Coordinators
- Additional staff/consultants will be hired as deemed necessary by the SAIEVAC Secretariat Director General as approved by the Board)

Annexure 11

TOR of Internal Auditing Committee

SAIEVAC has policies in place to prevent corruption and fraud and to ensure a safe and child-friendly environment for children involved in SAIEVAC activities. These policies are intended for staff in the SAIEVAC secretariat as well as for volunteers, SAIEVAC coordinators, SAIEVAC Governing Board members and others working directly and indirectly, or relating to SAIEVAC at a professional level such as partners working to fulfill SAIEVAC's agenda.

SAIEVAC operates within an area that is defined by the level of confidence it enjoys and the maintenance of this level of public confidence must be reflected in all its activities. Any suspicion of irregularities, irrespectively of how serious they may be, may undermine the high level of confidence enjoyed by the organization. Consequently, the establishment of clearly-defined systems and guidelines aimed at preventing and counteracting all forms of irregularities is a strategically important issue for the entire organization.

The SAIEVAC Internal Auditing Committee

Two persons from the SAIEVAC Governing Board are to be selected to constitute the SAIEVAC Internal Auditing Committee for the duration of one year. The Director General is to send the budgets and audited accounts as well as an annual report regarding the child safeguarding ethical standards to the Internal Auditing Committee. In these reports the Director General will inform about the process to keep a high ethical standard within the work of SAIEVAC and any anomalies in the process and action taken.

The Internal Auditing Committee must also receive complaints about irregularities as soon as they come to the attention of the organization. Any person working within the framework of SAIEVAC can submit the complaint directly to the Committee members. The Director General or a person nominated by the Auditing Committee is to investigate or suggest how to follow up the claim of irregularities.

Tasks of the SAIEVAC Internal Auditing Committee

1. Study the annual audit of SAIEVAC's budgets and accounts
2. Study the annual reports from the Director General describing the progress to have high standards in preventing corruption/fraud and in safeguarding children involved in SAIEVAC's work. The Director General is to suggest actions to further strengthen the ethical standards and the internal auditing system
3. Look into complaints and action taken
4. Ask for updates from the Director General when they feel it necessary
5. Involve the rest of the SAIEVAC Governing Board in case of serious allegations
6. Ensure that the police or other governmental bodies are involved to investigate and follow up cases as recommended by the Internal Auditing Committee
7. The Internal Committee members are to present the internal auditing report to the Governing Board members at the annual meeting

SAIEVAC Secretariat Anti-Corruption and Fraud Policy

The aim

The aim of the anti-corruption and fraud policy is for the SAIEVAC Secretariat to illustrate and define the risks of corruption and fraud in its operations. All employees with the Secretariat are obliged to comply with this policy and it is the responsibility of the Executive Director to ensure continuous training, provide information on and follow-up of this policy.

The establishment of clearly defined systems and guidelines aimed at preventing and counteracting all forms of fraud and corruption is strategically important for the success of the Initiative. The aim of the policy is to clarify the risks and to integrate anti-corruption activities into the SAIEVAC initiative and secretariat.

Definition of concepts

Fraud is a crime and all suspicions concerning fraud are to be reported to the police.

Corruption is defined in terms of abuse of power and corruption of entrusted power for private gain. SAIEVAC defines corruption as “SAIEVAC is opposed to all forms of corruption, bribery, abuse of power and lack of impartiality”. Its actions must be founded on clearly-stated regulations, sound administrative routines and transparent decision-making.

Corruption and fraud in SAIEVAC

Corruption and fraud are purposeful actions undertaken by people not by systems. Consequently administrative systems and control functions will not be SAIEVAC’s only focus, individuals and how they act must also be examined. Administrative systems must be designed in order to prevent illegitimate transactions. If anticorruption activities are to be so sustainable and integrated as part of all SAIEVAC operations, it is vital that all levels identify the challenges they might meet. These challenges differ for the Secretariat and the countries and also their nature differs between countries. Consequently one precondition is to, in connection with operational planning and follow-up, continuously emphasize the issue of challenges and risks and establish clearly defined guidelines. Only then will it be possible to bring anti corruption activities to life.

Some of the challenges occur in connection with the procurement of goods and services, construction/repair activities, employment (both for permanent jobs and for consultants) plus for transports. The utilization of the organization’s resources for personal ends forms another risk factor.

Control systems in SAIEVAC

The Director General of SAIEVAC bears the primary responsibility for the work of combating corruption and fraud. This responsibility encompasses the following:

- The establishment of a system for internal control aiming at counteracting the risk of fraud and corruption and at securing the reliability and efficiency of the system.
- Ensuring that there is a system in place for the investigation of all suspected and accused cases of fraud or corruption.
- Ensuring that corruption and fraud parameters are included within all operational planning and follow up.

All employees at SAIEVAC Secretariat are responsible for the following:

- Behaving in accordance with the principles established in the Ethical Guidelines for SAIEVAC Employees.
- Rapidly providing information to the relevant manager if there are any suspicions as concerns corruption or fraud.

Routines for when corruption is discovered or suspected

- All suspicions of corruption or fraud must be reported to the Director General or directly to the Auditing Committee
- The Director General informs the Audit Committee of the Governing Board on how to investigate the case.
- The Director General bears the responsibility for informing the SAIEVAC Governing Board and keeping them up-to-date.
- The results of the investigation are submitted to the to the Auditing Committee of the SAIEVAC Board.
- A decision is taken by the Auditing Committee of the Board, on whether the matter is to be submitted to the legal authorities for criminal investigation or whether disciplinary measures are to be taken within SAIEVAC according to labor law agreements.
- Confidentiality is to be observed throughout the entire investigation process until its results have been established.
- The Director General is the only person from SAIEVAC who may make any statements to the media.

Commitment to Children

Awareness: SAIEVAC will ensure that all staff, partners, and other representatives are aware of child abuse and sexual exploitation and the risks to children. Children and their families will be made aware of the standards of behavior they can expect from SAIEVAC representatives and of how they can raise a concern.

Prevention: SAIEVAC will ensure, through awareness raising and good practice, that staff and others minimize the risks to children. Staff and managers will create an environment where children's rights are respected and child abuse and sexual exploitation of children is prevented.

Reporting: SAIEVAC will ensure that staff and others are clear as to what steps to take where concerns arise regarding the abuse or exploitation of children.

Responding: SAIEVAC will ensure that action is taken to support, safeguard and protect children where concerns arise regarding their possible abuse and exploitation.

SAIEVAC CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICY

- SAIEVAC aims to be a child safe Initiative
- Everyone associated with SAIEVAC must be made aware of the risk of child abuse and sexual exploitation for the children we work with
- SAIEVAC will prevent, report and respond to all forms of child abuse and exploitation
- Staff and other representatives will at all times demonstrate the highest standard of behavior towards children and the standards of behavior outlined in this policy apply both to the private and professional lives of staff and representatives

Child abuse and sexual exploitation of children occurs on a global scale and in every country, culture and society. All child abuse and sexual exploitation involves the abuse of children's rights and is unacceptable. Staff and representatives of humanitarian work such as SAIEVAC are placed in a position of special trust by the populations they serve. SAIEVAC has a zero tolerance approach to child abuse and sexual exploitation of children by the staff, partners and others who represent SAIEVAC.

Definitions:

A child is defined as anyone under the age of 18 years and the child Safeguarding policy applies to all SAIEVAC staff, whether full time, part time or engaged on short-term contracts, e.g. consultants, researchers etc. and whether international or national, volunteers, board members, representatives of partner agencies and any other individuals, groups or organizations who have a formal/contractual relationship to SAIEVAC and SAIEVAC member country representatives.

Donors, journalists, celebrities, politicians and other people who visit SAIEVAC programs or offices in order to make contact with children must be made aware that this Policy applies to them while visiting our programs or offices.

All SAIEVAC staff and representatives must act in accordance with this Policy in both their professional and their personal lives.

Child abuse consists of anything which individuals, institutions or processes do or fail to do which directly or indirectly harms children or damages their prospect of safe and healthy development into adulthood. **Sexual exploitation** means any actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust, for sexual purposes, including, but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the sexual exploitation of another.

Awareness and prevention standards

The SAIEVAC Child Safeguarding Policy will be made widely available and publicized to staff, representatives, staff of partner agencies and other stakeholders including children and their careers. Distribution will include the use of translation into local languages, pictorial images and other child friendly material.

Recruitment and selection

Recruitment and selection of staff and others must reflect SAIEVAC's commitment to safeguard children by ensuring warnings; checks and procedures are in place to screen out anyone who may be unsuitable to work with children. The policy will be incorporated into all existing administrative systems, HR resource and management arrangements that define or determine how staff and other representatives carry out their work, including job descriptions, terms of reference, codes of conduct, performance management systems and disciplinary procedures. Children and their careers will be made aware of the systems that exist to raise a concern or a complaint.

Risk assessment and risk management

Activities within SAIEVAC will be assessed to make sure that child safeguarding risks are identified and adequate controls developed. These aspects should be included in the Monitoring and evaluation frameworks for such activities. Engagement with children and their careers for the purposes of marketing, media/communications and advocacy should be with informed consent, and should not exploit the child or career, nor increase their vulnerability, or place them at risk. Adequate controls should be developed for such activities.

Information and communication technologies

Guidance will be in place which governs the appropriate use of information and communication technologies such as the internet, websites, social networking sites, digital photography to ensure that children are not put at risk. This guidance should cover both the use of these technologies by staff and representatives as well as children who utilizes the technologies on our behalf or in response to a request by SAIEVAC

Reporting and Responding Standards

Reporting procedures will be developed to identify what, how and when concerns are reported. The procedures will include agreed management guidance on when and how to report concerns to national authorities as well as the local child safeguarding infrastructure and locally available child safeguarding resources. A minimum standard should be introduced for reporting concerns within 24 hours, unless it is impossible or impracticable to do so or other exceptional circumstances exist. These procedures must be easily accessible, known to and understood by all staff, representatives and staff of partner agencies.

Roles and responsibilities

Designated staff members will receive Child Safeguarding concerns/complaints at appropriate geographical/operational unit levels. All staff, representatives and staff of partner agencies must be aware of the contact details of the designated staff for receiving child safeguarding concerns/complaints.

Reporting of concerns and whistle-blowing

All staff, representatives and staff of partner agencies have a duty to report concerns, including both specific reports and unconfirmed concerns, regarding child abuse or sexual exploitation. A Whistle-blowing policy will be in place with procedures for staff to report any genuinely held belief that the Child Safeguarding Policy has been compromised or breached.

A standard format for reporting concerns and recording key data will be introduced and guidance, advice, training and support on the reporting and responding process will be made available to all relevant staff, representatives and staff of partner agencies.

Principles and practice in responding to allegations of abuse and sexual exploitation

In responding to allegations of child abuse or sexual exploitation of children, staff and managers shall be guided by best practice in this field and operate to a clear set of principles that focus on the best interests of the victim and any witness, protect their safety, physical and psychological health and welfare and respect their right to confidentiality, equality and access to justice.

Staff will act appropriately and effectively in the process of instigating any investigation or co-operating with any subsequent process of investigation, and will be guided by the principle of acting in the 'best interests of the child' in any such process. Staff will be required to cooperate in any investigation and to maintain the appropriate levels of confidentiality. Staff and managers must be aware of their roles and responsibilities in responding to, investigating and referring allegations of abuse and sexual exploitation to national authorities.

Annexure 12

TOR for the South Asia Coordinating Group on Action Against Violence Against Women and Children (SACG)

“South Asia Coordinating Group against Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Children and Women in South Asia” was established on 31 March 2004 to follow up on and work towards the Mid-term Review of the Yokohama Global Commitments on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children. After the Regional Consultation on Violence against Children held in May 2005, the group was renamed as “South Asia Coordinating Group on Action against Violence Against Women and Children (SACG)” in its meeting on 28 June 2005 to respond to broadened scope of issues. It was further proposed that women and children will be included within the title and scope of the Group.

Building on the spirit of the Regional Consultation on Violence against Children, where the country delegates have agreed that the priority action should be to reduce/eliminate physical and psychological punishment and early marriages in the region, SACG have agreed to focus its activities on these two issues. Besides, it has also identified human trafficking- as a third area of priority in the region. To initiate action on these issues, SACG has established the three sub-groups namely: Early Marriage, Physical and Psychological Punishment and Human Trafficking. These sub groups are mandated to provide technical input to SACG and if necessary to South Asia Forum (SAF) through SACG.

In the SACG Roundtable meeting in September 2009, SACG members recommended that:

- Regional interagency cooperation in South Asia be reproduced at the national level in each SAARC country and promote coordination and a comprehensive mapping on the child protection work of all agencies to assess synergies, promote joint initiatives and complementarity.

SACG is now mapping opportunities to expand at a national level to better support coordination, collaboration and sharing among agencies and civil society.

6.1 SACG TOR 2009-2010

SACG is composed of regional representatives from 10 UN agencies (ILO Sub Regional Office New Delhi, UNAIDS RST Bangkok, UNDP RCC Colombo, UNESCAP, UNFPA-SRO Kathmandu, UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia, UNIFEM South Asia Sub-regional Office, UNODC Regional Office for South Asia, New Delhi, OHCHR, and WHO South and East Asia Regional Office), 4 international/regional organisations (ECPAT International, Plan International Asia Regional Office, Save the Children Sweden, Regional Office for South and Central Asia, Terre des hommes Foundation) and one intergovernmental organisation (IOM Regional Office for South Asia) and USAID, Planète Enfants and SAARC Secretariat as observers.

Objectives

- To strengthen networking among the SACG member agencies building an alliance to prevent, address and end violence against women, girls and boys.

- To promote a coordinated approach in preventing violence and protecting women and children by strengthening protection systems.
- To engage in collaboration with other global and regional forums and bodies working on ending violence against women and children such as SAARC.
- To provide necessary technical and other support to South Asian Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC) and participate in SAIEVAC technical meetings as observers and resource bodies.

Strategies

1. Networking and capacity building

- Networking among SACG members and other agencies/organizations working on violence against women, girls and boys in South Asia through:
 - Regular exchange of information on best practices, programme intervention frameworks and protection strategies.
 - Linking up with other groups/networks. Children's and young people's groups, organizations and networks as well as women's groups will be given special importance for inclusion.
 - Regular updating website for posting information from SACG and from its member agencies.
- Capacity building to support SACG work-plan implementation.

2. Advocacy on ending violence in South Asia

- Promoting policies and programmes towards ending violence, guided by a rights-based and evidence-based approach with governments, SAIEVAC, SAARC, I/NGOs and groups of women, children and young people.
- Promoting findings/recommendations from regional reviews at regional meetings/consultations.
- Supporting campaigns as well as developing joint pledges for effective implementation of the regional initiatives and commitments.
- Advocating for reforming laws for their effective and consistent implementation, inclusion/increase of programmes on ending violence based on the indicators developed from global/regional commitments and declarations and increased government budget allocations.
- Partnering with media to support preventive actions against violence against women and children and promoting positive awareness raising through development education.

3. Building knowledge base on violence issues in South Asia

- Based on the emerging areas of research, working collectively to build evidence based information and knowledge base on violence - which will be inputted to the SAIEVAC thematic meetings as well as for other regional initiatives.
- Establishing links with universities and other academic institutions to create knowledge base.
- Create consolidated inventory of available resources on violence and conduct regular updates to SACG website to upload new resource material.

4. Strengthening regional monitoring function on violence issues in South Asia

- Reviewing the changes in trends in areas of violence against women and children based on indicators identified by SACG subgroups on global and regional commitments and declarations.
- Monitoring the implementation and progress of global and regional commitments on ending violence including CRC and its Optional Protocols, CEDAW, SAARC Conventions, Follow-up to the UN Study on Violence against Children and the UN Study on Violence against Women recommendations, Global Congresses against Sexual Exploitation of Children, SAF Regional Preparatory Consultation against Sexual Exploitation of Children and SAIEVAC Regional Consultations on Violence against Children.

Annexure 13

TOR for Civil Society Organisations

Objective

Civil Society representation on the Board is meant to enrich the Governing Board decision making processes by offering ground level experience of violence issues and successful implementations to combat violence.

Membership on Board

2 Civil Society Representatives will sit on the Board. Civil society representatives will have equal status to Board Members and will have voting rights.

Technical Support

Civil society organizations will be encouraged to attend technical SAIEVAC meetings as participants or facilitators. They will share their experiences in order to ensure governments understand the reality on the ground. They will be able to form linkages with government officials and children in order to have a larger impact nationally.

Criteria for Selection

- 1.) Mandate of organization should promote child rights
- 2.) Should have a recorded track record in protecting and promoting child rights
- 3.) Should be a nationally recognized CSO

Selection Process for Civil Society Representatives

- 1.) SACG and SAIEVAC Secretariat to identify 3 nationally recognized CSO's for each member State
- 2.) Within each Member State SACG and SAIEVAC Secretariat to identify the CSO which will be nominated as Governing Board Member to represent at regional level
- 3.) Two civil society organizations will be represented on the Governing Board for the duration of 1 year on a rotational basis.
- 4.) All 8 CSO's will be invited to join SAIEVAC technical meetings

Annexure 14

TOR for Regional and National Children's Network

Terms of Reference for the Regional Child Participation Network

The SAIEVAC Secretariat Child Participation Program will be based on the following terms of reference in order to strengthen the meaningful and ethical participation of children in the region to end violence against children.

General principles:

- Non-discrimination and inclusiveness
- Democracy and equality of opportunity
- Mutual Respect
- The physical and psychological safety of the participants
- Adult responsibility
- Voluntarism
- Informed consent and transparency
- Participation should be an enjoyable and stimulating experience.

Representation on SAIEVAC Governing Board:

- One girl and one boy will represent the children from the region in the Governing Board on a rotational basis
- Children on the Board will be selected by the children at the national and regional level in a fair and representational manner

Responsibilities of Children on the SAIEVAC Governing Board

- Children on the Board will be responsible for representing the views and feedback from other children connected to the SAIEVAC structure
- The children on the Board will feedback the results from the Board Meeting to the other children in the region
- Adult members of the Governing Board will be sensitized to children's involvement in terms of child friendly environment, language, processes etc.
- Children will present the process and outcomes of their activities at Regional and National level forums at Governing Board and will seek guidance from the Board

Children's Participation: SAIEVAC Workplan

- The Governing Board will integrate children's recommendations into the SAIEVAC workplan
- The SAIEVAC Secretariat will seek to operationalise children's recommendations to facilitate their implementation
- The SAIEVAC secretariat will look into ways of continuously communicating their work to children in the region through emails, websites, child friendly publications, media etc.

SAIEVAC Secretariat's role vis-à-vis children's participation

- The representation of children in SAIEVAC is on a continuous basis, allowing children in the SAARC countries to influence decisions at the national and regional level to end violence against children
- The SAIEVAC Secretariat will communicate regularly with selected children and national and regional child forums to ensure commitment, ownership and participation through different mediums, such as web-platforms and other virtual communication channels.
- Accountability mechanisms will be defined to ensure SAIEVAC seriously considers and follows up on children's recommendations
- The SAIEVAC Coordinators will be accessible to selected children's representatives and forums at national level to listen and learn from children and support children in their own initiatives
- The SAIEVAC Secretariat and Coordinators, with the support from SACG will help facilitate at least one national level children's consultation a year and one regional child consultation once every second year on child rights issues including child protection and anti-violence issues.
- SAIEVAC Secretariat will nominate one person to become the focal point for the Regional and National Child Forum to End Violence Against Children
 - Communication and updates on developments of activities of SAIEVAC
 - Developing child friendly versions of key documents and disseminating it to the RCF and National Children Forums in each country
 - Updating the website and portal on regular basis
 - Supporting moderation of posts on the social networking platform on the web
 - Supporting and facilitating development of reports, documents based on the activities of children at regional level and dissemination of those activities etc.

Operational structure for the Regional Children's Forum (RCFEVAC)

- Democratic selection of the child representatives of National Child Forums to End Violence Against Children from country members will form the Governing Body of the Regional Children's Forum to End Violence Against Children.
- The Governing Body of the RCFEVAC will meet once in a year and will discuss:
 - The annual plan and activities of the RCFEVAC
 - The nominations and representation to the governing board members
 - Important issues pertaining to National Child Forums
 - Linkages and involvement with other child led organizations/ initiatives into the RCFEVAC
 - Rules/ regulations and any other operational issues
- The members of the governing body of RCFEVAC will communicate each other through a social networking platform on web and will have an exclusive page on the website of SAIEVAC.
- The representatives of the Governing body members of RCFEVAC will also represent the RCFEVAC in relevant global meetings and conferences.

Terms of Reference for National Children's Networks

The SAIEVAC Secretariat Child Participation Program will be based on the following terms of reference in order to strengthen the meaningful and ethical participation of children in the region to end violence against children.

General principles:

- Non-discrimination and inclusiveness
- Democracy and equality of opportunity
- Mutual Respect
- The physical and psychological safety of the participants
- Adult responsibility
- Voluntarism
- Informed consent and transparency
- Participation should be an enjoyable and stimulating experience.

Representation on SAIEVAC Regional Consultation of Children:

- One girl and one boy will represent the children from the country in the regional consultation of children
- Children on the Board will be selected by the children at the national and regional level in a fair and representational manner

Responsibilities of Children of the National Forums

- Children of the National Forums will be responsible for presenting the views and feedback on protection issues in their country
- The children on the National Forum will feedback the results from the Board Meeting to the other children in the Forum and Country
- Children will present the process and outcomes of their activities at Regional and National level forums at Governing Board and will seek guidance from the Board

Children's Participation: SAIEVAC Workplan

- The Governing Board will integrate children's recommendations into the SAIEVAC workplan
- The SAIEVAC Secretariat will seek to operationalise children's recommendations to facilitate their implementation
- The SAIEVAC secretariat will look into ways of continuously communicating their work to children in the region through emails, websites, child friendly publications, media etc.

SAIEVAC Secretariat's role vis-à-vis children's participation

- The representation of children in SAIEVAC is on a continuous basis, allowing children in the SAARC countries to influence decisions at the national and regional level to end violence against children

- The SAIEVAC Secretariat will communicate regularly with selected children and national and regional child forums to ensure commitment, ownership and participation through different mediums, such as web-platforms and other virtual communication channels.
- Accountability mechanisms will be defined to ensure SAIEVAC seriously considers and follows up on children’s recommendations
- The SAIEVAC Coordinators will be accessible to selected children’s representatives and forums at national level to listen and learn from children and support children in their own initiatives
- The SAIEVAC Secretariat and Coordinators, with the support from SACG will help facilitate at least one national level children’s consultation a year and one regional child consultation once every second year on child rights issues including child protection and anti-violence issues.
- SAIEVAC Secretariat will nominate on person to become the focal point for the Regional and National Child Forum to End Violence Against Children
 - Communication and updates on developments of activities of SAIEVAC
 - Developing child friendly versions of key documents and disseminating it to the RCF and National Children Forums in each country
 - Updating the website and portal on regular basis
 - Supporting moderation of posts on the social networking platform on the web
 - Supporting and facilitating development of reports, documents based on the activities of children at regional level and dissemination of those activities etc.

Operational structure of National Children’s Forum (NCFEVAC)

- National forum of child led organizations/ initiatives working towards ending violence against children will be formed in each country in South Asia and will be linked to community and grass roots initiatives.
- Democratic selection of the representatives of child led organizations/initiatives on ending violence against children from member countries will form the Governing Body of the NCFEVAC.
- The governing body of the NCFEVAC will meet once in a year and will discuss:
 - The annual plan and activities of the NCFEVAC
 - The nominations and representation to the governing board members of RCFEVAC
 - Important issues of the to Regional and National Forum and coordination among regional and national initiatives
 - Linkages and involvement with other child led organizations/ initiatives into the NCFEVAC
 - Rules/ regulations and any other operational issues
- The members of the Governing Body of NCFEVAC will communicate with each other through a social networking platform on web and will have an exclusive page on the website of SAIEVAC.

The representatives of the Governing Body members of NCFEVAC will also represent the NCFEVAC in relevant meetings and conferences at regional and national level.

Annexure 15

Sample Letter from Chairperson

SAIEVAC Secretariat
C/O Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare
Government of Nepal
Kathmandu

12 November 2010

Mr. Divakar Devkota
SAIEVAC Governing Board Member
Government of Nepal

Sub: Application for the SAARC Apex Body status

Hon'ble Member,

It is indeed such a great honour and privilege for me to be elected the Chairperson of the 1st Governing Board of SAIEVAC and I thank you and all other members for your trust and faith in me. I will do my best to provide the necessary support and guidance to the Board and the SAIEVAC Secretariat to achieve our common goal of ending violence against children in South Asia and the world at large. I also thank you for your unstinted support and cooperation in conducting the 1st Governing Board Meeting successfully.

As endorsed in the meeting, one of the solemn responsibilities for us is to adopt dedicated follow-up of the recommendations of the 3rd SAIEVAC Ministerial Meeting held in June 2010 in Kathmandu. Out of the 10 Recommendations, the most critical one pertains to the application process for SAIEVAC to attain SAARC Apex Body status. As you are aware, the interim SAIEVAC Secretariat with support of the South Asia Coordinating Group (SACG) has initiated the application process. However, there is still substantive room for reinforcing this effort.

In view of this, the First Board Meeting endorsed that while the SAIEVAC Secretariat will explore all opportunities to complete the registration and application process by 2nd week December, the Hon'ble Board Members will individually and collectively advocate for support with their respective Foreign Ministries and relevant organizations to create an optimal environment for SAIEVAC to achieve this objective. I therefore urge you to kindly mount the necessary advocacy in your country so that collectively we can create the necessary understanding and commitment for SAIEVAC to become a SAARC Apex Body in order to realize the ultimate goal of ending violence against children.

SAIEVAC as the first regional initiative of its kind presents a historic opportunity for us to work together to promote and protect the rights of children and to provide greater global impetus in this direction. This therefore calls for a strong commitment and accountability from all of us as we work to ensure its success.

I would also like to request you to kindly keep the Secretariat informed of any developments so that we can cross share our experiences and progress. The recommendations of the Board Meeting are enclosed for your kind reference.

Thanking you.

Yours Sincerely,



Mr. Wasil Noor Muhammad
Chairperson, SAIEVAC Governing Board
Board Member Afghanistan
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled

Please communicate your response to:

Sampreety Gurung,
Programme Manager, SAIEVAC Secretariat
sampreety@gmail.com

Turid Heiberg
SACG Chair
Turidh@sca.savethechildren.se

Annexure 16

SAIEVAC Five Year Workplan

(2010-2015)

1. Background

The governments of South Asia have followed up the recommendations to the UN Study on Violence Against Children (2006) to varying degrees. Current initiatives to protect children from violence are fragmented, largely uncoordinated and ad hoc. Adopting a child protection systems approach means children are treated as individuals and receive a comprehensive range of services for larger overall impact. It comprises the set of strategies, policies, plans, laws, regulations and services needed across all social sectors — especially social welfare, education, health, security and justice — to support prevention and response to protection related risks.

Responsibilities need to be spread across government agencies, with services delivered by national and local authorities, non-State providers, and community groups, making coordination between sectors and levels, including routine referral systems, a necessary component of effective child protection systems. Strengthening such systems requires attention to policy reform, institutional capacity development, planning, budgeting, monitoring and information systems. Child protection systems are most effective when structured around community-based protection and require an aware and supportive public.

Through the formation of the South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC) governments have reiterated their commitment to addressing the enormous scale and urgency of violence against children in all forms and this workplan is a strategic framework to coordinate, standardize, and monitor progress annually.

While the UN Study's recommendations are an overall *broad* framework for all governments in South Asia, this workplan provides *specific* actions for governments in the region and offers practical indicators to ensure governments can measure change.

2. Vision, Aims, Scope, Definitions

2.1 Vision

SAIEVAC's vision is 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.

2.2 Aims

The aims of the workplan are:

To ensure the realization of children’s rights as stated in the UNCRC and its Optional Protocols
To prevent and respond to all forms of neglect, abuse, exploitation and violence against children in all settings

To promote the adoption, implementation, and monitoring of integrated national strategies with adequate budgets and resource allocation to prevent and protect children from violence and ensure response

To reinforce regional cooperation to end violence against children in South Asia

2.3 Scope and Definitions

A child shall mean any person under the age of 18 years and will include adolescents in its mandate. In line with Article 19 of the UNCRC, “*violence*” is defined as including all forms of physical or mental violence, injury and abuse, neglect and negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse. This definition covers exposure of children to violence in the home, communities, schools, institutions, workplaces, and in development and emergency settings. Violence is understood to occur not only between adults and children but also between children.

Violence shall be used as a general term encompassing all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation

Gender aspects of violence will be addressed as part of the integrated approach and due account will be taken of the different risks boys and girls face in respect of violence and of the different consequences of violence for girls and boys.

All children within the jurisdiction of States regardless of their sex, race, colour, language, religion, caste, class, disability or other status, national or social origin, political or other opinion should be protected from all forms of violence and discrimination.

3. Strategic Objectives:

By 2015, Governments of South Asia will have reached the objectives and measured progress through the use of the indicators below. Progress on output indicators will be reported on an annual basis and submitted to the SAIEVAC Secretariat and Board.

3.1 Objective 1: REGIONAL COOPERATION

Member States will exchange experiences and good practices, provide each other mutual assistance, facilitate implementation of regional agreements and coordinate and cooperate to capitalize on the experiences of States to end violence throughout the South Asian Region.

Indicators:

of technical meetings organized by SAIEVAC to support States

of meetings organized by SAIEVAC to share experiences and best practice throughout the region

of reports and publications produced on experiences and best practices

of technical papers and recommendations made to SAARC

3.2 Objective 2: NATIONAL STRATEGY

By 2015, All States have developed and started implementing a comprehensive national strategy, policy, or plan of action on violence against children which is integrated into the national planning process with realistic and time-bound targets, adequate resources and is coordinated and monitored by a nodal agency that has the human and financial capacity to involve multiple sectors.

Indicators:

By 2011, # of States that have developed and adopted a national plan of action to end violence against children that specifies the role of each ministry at every level of government and identifies and secures adequate resources for implementation, has time bound realistic targets

By 2011, # of States with a nodal agency with primary responsibility for the protection of children against violence which has assumed a key coordinating and monitoring role including budgeting and allocation of resources

of states with adequate funding and human resources to implement the national strategy and plan of action

3.3 Objective 3: LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

By 2015, all States have developed and are enforcing national legislative measures to prevent, prohibit and eliminate all forms of violence against children in all settings including in the families, in schools, in communities, workplaces, institutions and emergency situations and brought national laws, bylaws, policies, regulations, plans and programmes in line with the UNCRC and other International and Regional legal instruments and agreements.

Indicators:

of States conducting a consolidated review which identifies gaps and proposes recommendations on national policies, legislations and practices to address violence

of States who have adopted legislation to end all forms of violence against children in all settings including prohibiting all forms of sexual violence and abuse, corruption of children and solicitation of children for sexual purposes, prohibiting corporal punishment and all other cruel,

inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of children, both physical and psychological, prohibiting all harmful traditional and customary practices, such as early and forced marriage, honour killings and bondage, prohibiting exposure of children to violent and harmful content, irrespective of its origin and through any medium, prohibiting female feticide and child sacrifices and prohibiting all forms of exploitation of children through the use of new technologies.

of States who are enforcing legislation that bans violence against children

of States where perpetrators are held accountable in a court of law for their crimes and punished according to law and in the best interests of the child

of States where national laws obligate the respect of the right of the child to be heard and to attribute due weight to children's views

of States where birth registration is mandatory and free of cost and can be done by mothers

of States that have free and compulsory education

3.4 Objective 4: PREVENTION

By 2015, all States have measures in place to prevent all forms of violence against children in all settings, which address underlying causes as well as more immediate risk and protective factors

Indicator

of States that have mechanisms in place to identify risk factors as well as children and families at risk

of States that have allocated adequate resources to address risk factors in order to prevent violence against children

of States that have legislation and policies in place that address gender and other inequalities such as those based upon national or social origin, language, religion, and ability/disability or

of States that are implementing legislation and policies that address gender and other inequalities

of States that have economic and social policies in place that address poverty or # of States that are implementing economic and social policies that address poverty

of States that promote social norms which do not condone violence against children and which promote non-violent values

3.5 Objective 5: DATA COLLECTION

By 2015, all States have developed and started implementing systematic national research and consolidated data collection, analysis, and dissemination systems disaggregated by sex, race, language, religion, caste, class, disability or other status, national or social origin, to inform evidence-based effective action, mobilize adequate resources and assess progress achieved.

Indicator

of States who have established national databases with data collection systems at local, district and national level which include children's births and deaths, children entering or leaving institutions, on persons convicted of violent offenses against children and other child protection issues

of States who have carried out baseline interview studies with representative groups of children, parents and other caregivers to identify the experience of children of all forms of violence

of States who are collecting quantitative and qualitative data on the length and outcomes of judicial proceedings involving children are collected

of States who have agreed regional standards for data collection to ensure comparability of data

3.6 Objective 6: PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND LEARNING

By 2015, all States have built the capacity of all professionals who work with or for children (for example social workers, counselors, foster carers, police officers, lawyers, judges, teachers, health care professionals, school principals, youth works, people employed by detention facilities and child-care institutions, immigration and humanitarian workers, government officials/policy makers, etc.) to improve prevention, detection and response.

Indicators:

of States with regular in-service training on child protection is in place for all government employees working for and with children such as Ministry officials both national, high-level managers, police, health care professional, lawyers, teachers, care-givers working in state institutions, public information and media specialists, export and import officials, army and border security forces etc.

of States that provide short training on prevention and response to all forms of violence against children for politicians, members of parliament and other non-government policy and decision-makers and private sector including Chambers of commerce etc

of States with national curriculum regulations for relevant professions should include compulsory, ongoing training on prevention, identification, assessment and reporting of violence against children and the protection and continuity of care to children

of States with Bachelor's of Social Work or Master's of Social Work programmes

of States with child development and child counseling Bachelors and Master's programmes

of States employing social workers as government employees

of states that provide short training on prevention and response to all forms of violence against children for religious institutions, their leaders and related opinion makers.

3.7 Objective 7: CHILD CARE STANDARDS

By 2015, All States have developed standards for all caregivers of children and for alternative care options such as community-based care and regulations for institutions, services and facilities for the care, education and protection of children which entails proper case management and regular and independent monitoring.

Indicators:

of States with regulations and standards in place for institutions, services and facilities for the care, education and protection of children including special education, pre-school and crèche facilities

of States annually monitoring all institutions, services and facilities including obtaining feedback from children getting services or living in the institutions

of social workers, psychosocial counselors, doctors, nurses, police, judicial officers, caregivers trained in case management

of juvenile detention centres operating in each State

of institutions, services and facilities who adopt Codes of Good Conduct incorporating the prohibition, prevention and rejection of all forms of violence against children and reporting obligations

of States that ensure the supervision of the safety, well-being and development of any child placed in alternative care and the regular review of the care arrangement provided

3.8 Objective 8: REPORTING

By 2015, all States have ensured that all professionals working with or for children (including those working for the State) who suspect acts of violence have been committed against a child are required by law to report the crime. Institutions or facilities in contact with children should be required to investigate allegations quickly and fully. Reporting systems should be safe, well publicized, confidential, accessible and child friendly, allowing children, their representatives and others to report violence against children.

Indicators:

of States with mandatory reporting systems in place

of States with a national toll-free child helpline

of States with victim and witness support programmes in place to ensure privacy and confidentiality is maintained

3.9 Objective 9: REFERRAL MECHANISMS

By 2015, all States have clearly defined procedures for the referral of child victims of violence and the modalities for inter-agency cooperation (that is between social services, education, health, police, prosecution authorities, voluntary and private agencies) following an assessment of the specific circumstances of each particular victim, given due weight to his/her views, and when it is in the best interest of the child also to her/his parents' or guardians' views.

Indicators:

of States with procedures in place for the referral of child victims

- # of States with procedures to assess child victims without delay
- # of States with advocacy and support services to encourage children to speak to relevant authorities about their experience of violence
- # of states with trained Best Interest Determinations (BID) committees established
- # of individual cases reported and actions taken to respond to the child victim by individual countries

3.10 Objective 10: RECOVERY, REHABILITATION AND SOCIAL REINTEGRATION

By 2015, all States have taken all appropriate measures to promote physical and psychological recovery and rehabilitation of child victims and witnesses of violence and their families if necessary, without delay and in an environment that fosters children’s health, self- respect and dignity.

Indicators:

- # of States with accessible, child-friendly and universal recovery and reintegration services including legal, health and social services, are provided to all child victims of violence
- # of States with services which follow a multidisciplinary and multi-agency approach

3.11 Objective 11: THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

By 2015, all States have judicial systems that pursue the best interests of the child and respect the rights of the child including the child’s right to protection from violence.

Indicators:

- # of States with child friendly judicial systems which protect the privacy of children when necessary
- # of States who expedite judicial proceedings involving children
- # of States with free legal aid provided to child victims, witnesses and perpetrators of violence
- # of States with a minimum age of criminal responsibility set at a minimum of 12 years
- # of States with alternatives to institutional care for child perpetrators
- # of states that have social workers and case workers to support with judicial enquiries and enforcement agencies.

3.12 Objective 12: EDUCATION AND AWARENESS RAISING

By 2015, all States have made information on the rights of the child and child protection widely known to both adults and children through awareness raising, public information and media campaigns. Additionally, South Asian governments focus campaigns to address specific national issues (such as early marriage, corporal punishment), breakdown misconceptions and change societal behaviour.

Indicators:

- # of awareness raising campaigns in each country addressing causes and consequences of early marriage, corporal punishment, sexual abuse and exploitation, trafficking and child labour

of awareness raising campaigns conducted to educate parents, caregivers and communities on positive discipline techniques, non-violent values and the consequences of corporal punishment
of awareness public education campaigns which teach caregivers how to give care

3.13 Objective 13: CHILD AND CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION

By 2015, all States support the meaningful and active participation of civil society, children, and young people so that they can prevent and monitor violence against children, make recommendations to end violence against children and be involved in decision-making processes for actions to end violence against children.

Indicators:

SAIEVAC establishes one regional forum for children's participation

of States with a national forum for children's participation

of States with national forum for civil society participation

of states that have established awards, recognition and prizes for pioneers, leaders and child rights activists including children

4. Issue Based Action

The issues of early marriage, sexual abuse and exploitation, trafficking, corporal punishment, and child labour are seen as extremely critical issues that are affecting children throughout the region. Gender and discrimination are cross-cutting issues throughout all areas. Additionally, lack of birth registration is an important and is a preventive measure for many forms of violence. Birth registration provides an official record of a child's existence, nationality and age and is considered a fundamental human right under Article 7 of the UNCRC and should therefore be made mandatory and free of cost in all countries in South Asia. For more information about the severity of these issues in the region please see ANNEX 1.

All South Asian Governments commit to implement the following recommendations and report back to SAIEVAC using the indicators provided. All recommendations are in line with the 'SAARC Convention on Regional Arrangements for the promotion of child welfare in South Asia' and the UNCRC.

4.1 Expected Result: EARLY MARRIAGE

By 2015, All States have raised the legal age of marriage for both boys and girls to 18 and implement article 4(3)(d) of the SAARC Convention on Regional Arrangements for the promotion of child welfare in South Asia.

Indicators

of States where 18 is the legal age of marriage for both boys and girls

of States who show a percentage decrease in number of early marriages nationally

of States that actively enforce legislation banning forced and early marriage

- # of States where birth registration is compulsory and free of cost and can be done by mothers
- # of States where marriage registration is compulsory and free of cost
- # of States which have defined an age for sexual consent that does not discriminate between boys and girls
- # of States which have mapped and identified geographic areas where early marriage is still high

4.2 Expected Result: TRAFFICKING

By 2015, all States have 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

Indicators

of States that incorporate the provisions of the SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution through the implementation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)

4.3 Expected Result: SEXUAL ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION

By 2015, all States have taken the necessary steps to end sexual abuse and exploitation against children 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 sexual abuse and exploitation.

Indicators:

- # of States that have legislation to prohibit all forms of sexual abuse, exploitation and harassment including physical and non-physical forms in all settings against both boys and girls
- # of States that are enforcing and implementing legislation that prohibits all forms of sexual abuse, exploitation and harassment including physical and non-physical forms in all settings against both boys and girls
- # of States that have ratified the UNCRC Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography
- # of States that have ratified ILO Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour
- # of States that prevent and protect children from exploitation in brothels, dance bars and restaurants and similar establishments
- # of telecommunications services in each country that have adopted and enforce a Code of Conduct
- # of travel and tourism industry in each country that have adopted and enforce a Code of Conduct

4.4 Expected Result: CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

By 2015, all States have identified the necessary actions and measures to prohibit all corporal punishment in all settings including law reform and are reinforcing positive parenting practices and positive classroom management programmes.

Indicators:

of States that have laws in place to ban corporal punishment in all settings including at home, schools, institutions, workplaces

of parenting programmes developed at national, district, local level.

of teachers and health professionals trained to offer positive parenting counselling services

of parents reached in each country

of States including positive discipline techniques in national teacher training programmes

of teachers trained in positive discipline techniques

4.5 Expected Result: CHILD LABOUR

By 2015, States recognise the right of the child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development by ratifying ILO Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour.

Indicators:

of States that have ratified ILO Convention 182

of States that have programmes where children can combine work with educational opportunities

of States that have initiated a Code of Conduct for protecting children in workplaces