

**Report
of
The 3rd Ministerial Meeting
of the
South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children
(SAIEVAC)**

**23 June 2010
Kathmandu
Nepal**



**Hosted by the Government of Nepal
with
Technical and Financial support
of
The South Asia Coordinating Group for ending violence against women and children
(SACG)**

Contents

THE 3RD SAIEVAC MINISTERIAL MEETING.....	3
1. BACKGROUND.....	3
2. PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING.....	4
2.1 INAUGURAL CEREMONY.....	4
2.2 ELECTION OF A CHAIR.....	5
2.2 PRESENTATION OF CHILDREN’S RECOMMENDATIONS.....	5
2.3 SAF COORDINATORS RECOMMENDATIONS.....	6
2.4 COUNTRY STATEMENTS.....	6
2.5 CLOSING SESSION.....	6
3. SYNOPSIS OF MINISTERS’ STATEMENTS.....	7
4. RECOMMENDATIONS.....	9
THE 4TH SAF COORDINATORS’ MEETING.....	11
1. ISSUES DISCUSSED.....	11
1.1 ORGANOGRAM.....	12
1.2 SAIEVAC GOVERNING BOARD TOR.....	12
1.3 SAIEVAC SECRETARIAT TOR.....	12
1.4 NATIONAL SAIEVAC COORDINATORS.....	13
1.5 WORKPLAN.....	13
1.6 CHILDREN’S RECOMMENDATIONS.....	14
1.7 PROCESS FOR BECOMING A SAARC APEX BODY.....	14
1.8 FINALISED DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS.....	14
2. DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS.....	15
REGIONAL CHILDREN’S CONSULTATION.....	17
1. CONSULTATION PROCESS.....	17
2. THEMATIC RECOMMENDATIONS.....	19
2.1 SAIEVAC GOVERNING BOARD.....	19
2.2 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS.....	20
2.3 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHILDREN.....	21
3. CONSOLIDATED RECOMMENDATIONS.....	22
ANNEX 1.....	23
AGENDA.....	23
COORDINATORS MEETING.....	23
MINISTERS MEETING.....	24
ANNEX 2.....	25
SPEECHES JUNE 22.....	25
REMARKS BY TURID HEIBERG.....	25
WELCOME SPEECH BY MR. MAHENDRA PRASAD SHRESTHA.....	27
SPEECHES JUNE 23.....	28
ADDRESS BY RT. HON. PRIME MINISTER MADHAV KUMAR NEPAL.....	28

ADDRESS BY HON. MINISTER, SARVA DEV PRASAD OJHA,.....	31
SPEECH BY TURID HEIBERG.....	32
ANNEX 3	34
STATEMENTS	34
HON MS AMINA AFZALI, GOVERNMENT OF ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN	34
HON'BLE MS RAZIN BEGUM, GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH	37
H E LOYNPO THAKUR S POWDYEL, ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN	40
HON MS MARIYA ALI, REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES	44
MR ZIAUDDIN, ADDITIONAL SECRETARY, GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN	47
HON MR M.L.A.M HIZBULLAH, GOVERNMENT OF SRI LANKA	49
HON. MINISTER, SARVA DEV PRASAD OJHA, GOVERNMENT OF NEPAL.....	51
ANNEX 4	54
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS	54
ANNEX 5	58
ORGANOGRAM	58
ANNEX 6	59
TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE SAIEVAC GOVERNING BOARD	59
ANNEX 7	60
TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE SAIEVAC SECRETARIAT	60
ANNEX 8	61
TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE NATIONAL SAIEVAC COORDINATORS.....	61
ANNEX 9	62
SAIEVAC WORKPLAN (2010-2015).....	62
1. BACKGROUND	62
2. VISION, AIMS, SCOPE, DEFINITIONS	63
3. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:.....	64
4. ISSUE BASED ACTION	69
MONITORING AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORK	72
COMMUNICATIONS FRAMEWORK	73
KEY ADVOCACY MESSAGES.....	75
KEY ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED IN SOUTH ASIA	76
INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL DOCUMENTS	78

The 3rd SAIEVAC Ministerial Meeting

June 22-23, 2010

1. 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 was held in Islamabad in May 2005, where ministers, senior government officials, representatives from SAARC¹; representatives from 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 came together.

One of the major outcomes of the Regional Consultation was the formation of the South Asia Forum for Ending Violence Against Children (SAF) which was a regional mechanism initiated with the vision of ending all forms of violence against all children in South Asia.

SAF is composed of representatives from the governments of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka and activities are coordinated by a Regional Secretariat hosted by the Government of Nepal.

SAF/SAIEVAC works within the mandate of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW); SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution, and the SAARC Convention on Regional Arrangements for the Promotion of Child Welfare in South Asia. SAF has held four consultations to date hosted by Pakistan (2006), India (2007), and Nepal (2008/2010) with support from SACG, to consolidate work throughout the region and to bring this agenda to the forefront of government debate.

The 4th SAF Consultation was held in Kathmandu on 21-22 January, 2010. After taking stock of progress and the opportunities presented by this Forum, participants, in collaboration with SAARC and the South Asia Coordinating Group on Action against Violence Against Women and Children (SACG)², decided to create a new Institutional Framework for ending violence against children throughout the region. The participants decided to change the name from SAF to the “South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children” (SAIEVAC). Participants also agreed to develop a workplan with regional and national actions and indicators that measure progress to end violence against children.

¹ *The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was established when its Charter was formally adopted on December 8, 1985 by the Heads of States for the Governments of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. SAARC provides a platform for the peoples of South Asia to work together in a spirit of friendship, trust and understanding. It aims to accelerate the process of economic and social development in Member States. Afghanistan joined SAARC in 2007.*

² *The South Asia Coordinating Group on Action against Violence Against Women and Children (SACG) is an inter agency group comprising of UN agencies and international NGOs working against violence against women and children in the region. This group offers financial and technical support to SAIEVAC.*

2. Proceedings of the Meeting

The South Asia Forum for Ending Violence against Children (SAF) organised the 3rd Ministerial Meeting in Kathmandu on June 23, 2010. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the new organisational structure for ‘The South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC)’, future plans for collaboration with SAARC, and a work plan to end violence against children.

The Consultation was hosted by the current SAF Secretariat, the Government of Nepal, Ministry for Women, Children and Social Welfare and supported by the South Asia Coordinating Group Against Violence Against Women and Children (SACG). SACG is comprised of representatives from regionally based UN agencies and international organisations working on violence issues in the region.

2.1 Inaugural Ceremony

The ***Rt Hon Prime Minister Mr Madhav Kumar Nepal*** inaugurated the Ministerial Meeting. During his Key Note Address the Hon Prime Minister stated,

“Our communities are entangled in many kinds of violence, which is intolerable to human civilization. Violence against children is the most detrimental and pressing problem that we all are facing in our region. It is the most sensitive issue which must be resolved to safeguard our future. This is why we have all come together today. It is high time for all of us to operationalize our agreements and to materialize our commitments. We all understand the importance of protecting children from violence and today we have an opportunity to capitalize on our time here, and establish a strong regional centre to end violence against children named, ‘The South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children’ So today I call on the Ministers and government representatives from across the region to seriously consider the proposal and recommendations being put before you. Let us not miss the opportunity to have a serious impact for children. Let’s take our commitments to the next level and turn them into valuable actions. We can demonstrate to each other and the world how collaboration and partnership can pave the way to sustainable and long-term solutions for ending violence against children. I see the success of this meeting in attaining these goals.”

During the Opening Session, two representatives from the children who attended the Children’s Consultation were invited to speak and stated,

“On the first day we learned the key principals of the UN and met Madame Turid from SACG who told how important children are. We learned about past children’s forums and the children who participated in them. We learned who were the stakeholders helping us and some of the key issues that children came up with. In groups we worked on the definition of violence and discussed the types of violence we see in our different countries. We will present today what we, the children, want and request that you implement what the children want. We are raising our voices about what we want and feel it is your job to carry this out. Please, please, today it is our duty to tell you and it is your duty to implement it. Please help us”,
Miss Mannal Madiha, Maldives and Master Rekesh Shaw, India.

This was followed by a short video which documented the process of the Children’s Consultation which had taken place over the previous two day and a half days.

In her opening remarks, **Ms Turid Heiberg, Chairperson of SACG** stressed that:

“SACG started out small - with support from a few agencies - but now more and more agencies are recognizing the positive contribution such interagency work can have for children and are increasing their interest. Even more collaboration is possible and SACG can assist in resource mobilisation – but all is dependent of course on how the workplan is being implemented at national levels. If we manage to slowly change legislation, policies and practices in the support of ending violence against children there will be a great deal of interest from international levels, donors and UN and International Agencies. The UN Special Representative on Violence against Children, Marta Santos Pais, has already said that she is available from mid November and that she is eager to address the first Board meeting. A global expert on legal reform, Peter Newell, has also expressed his interest in supporting a technical workshop on law reform in mid-November. The Board representatives will have the possibility to discuss with the UN Special Representative the linking of SAIEVAC to her mandate and office. This will of course be even stronger if this initiative attains the status of SAARC apex body.”

In his remarks, **Mr Sav Dev Prasad Ojha, the Hon Minister for Women Children and Social Welfare, Government of Nepal**, stated that

“Today, we the Ministers from the nodal agencies dealing with children’s issues have an exciting opportunity to endorse a series of recommendations that will form the core mandate of this new initiative and pave the way forward for children throughout the region. The Government of Nepal and the Ministry and Women, Children and Social Welfare are very much dedicated to ensuring the success of the new South Asian Initiative to End Violence Against Children and are delighted that the Government of Nepal has the Opportunity to host this meeting and envision a permanent secretariat here in Nepal”.

2.2 Election of a Chair

Following the Inaugural Ceremony H.E Sarv Dev Prasad Ojha, The Minister for Women, Children and Social Welfare, Government of Nepal was elected as the chairperson as per standard practice. This was followed by the review and the adoption of the Agenda for the Ministerial Meeting.

2.2 Presentation of Children’s Recommendations

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

2.3 SAF Coordinators Recommendations

The draft recommendations³ of the Coordinators were then presented for the due consideration of the Ministerial Meeting. The 10 recommendations supported the development of a new Institutional Framework entitled SAIEVAC, adopting the SAIEVAC workplan, establishing SAIEVAC as a SAARC Apex Body, and considering children's recommendations in the SAIEVAC Processes.

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

2.4 Country Statements

The Minister or the Government Representative from each SAARC Country then delivered their statements highlighting their respective Government's commitment to end violence against children in their country. (*Please See Section 3 for the Official Statements*)

2.5 Closing Session

During the Closing Session, *Ms Turid Heiberg* Chair of the SACG summed up the 3rd Ministerial Meeting of the South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC), stating:-

“South Asia is in the forefront globally and we have already received interest from the UN Special Representative on Violence against Children and other international bodies. I am highly encouraged and impressed by the genuine interest and the leadership provided by the governments in our efforts to end violence against children. The partnership being fostered in this process with clearly defined roles and responsibilities is the best way of ensuring direction and success”.

Turid also states,

“It took 2 years to get at this stage launching a workplan based upon the most urgent issues in the region, with a 5 year perspective and annual indicators to be measured. Thanks to the Government of Nepal for establishing the secretariat and be part of ensuring the SAIEVAC to become a reality. We have also been fortunate to have the SAARC Director to enlighten us about the process to establish SAIEVAC as a SAARC apex body.

The date for the first Board meeting has been set to start either on the 10th of November or the week after. You will very soon get the final dates and agenda. The SAARC representative mentioned the need for us to have a common project in several countries apart from the workplan and it is suggested that this will be around children's participation. The children have developed their views on how we can work regionally and there will be a lot of support from SACG to support increased children's participation in the countries and in the region. Turid emphasised the contribution of children and to also take their call to adults to take their concerns seriously – and how adults and children can live in positive relationships – solving daily challenges together as partners.”

³ See Coordinators Meeting section for details of the recommendations.

Mr. Ratna Kaji Bajracharya, Joint Secretary & SAIEVAC Coordinator, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Government of Nepal

So two days have been successful. I am very grateful to all of you. My minister and secretary has inspired me to take responsibility to do this. Thanks to all ministers who travelled from far. I also would like to thank SACG Mr Hassan Shifau, Director of SAARC who is always guiding this. This is only the start of our journey, we need to be an apex body of SAARC. I would like to thank Dr Rinchen who has been involved from the very beginning of the forum in Pakistan. Our young and energetic SAF Programme Manager, Sampreeti has also supported through this whole process. And not least, would like to thank my colleagues who have supported me to organise this. Tonight we will have a wonderful dinner to celebrate and I hope you will all join.”

3. Synopsis of Ministers’ Statements

While the whole text of the Country statements is annexed at 2, the synopsis of the statement of each Minister and Representative of the Government is given below.

Afghanistan – Hon Ms Amana Safi Afzali, Minister of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled

“The major challenges we are facing not only in Afghanistan, but on the regional level in terms of youth, women and children, like kidnapping, trafficking, physical and psychological violence, hard labour, early marriages and HIV/AIDS can be mentioned. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan supports the endless efforts of the technical committees and coordinating group of SAIEVAC, who have worked on changing the name, structure, terms of reference and work plan for SAF. I declare my agreement with all the decisions made during the fourth consultation meeting of SAF which took place on 21-22 January 2010 in Kathmandu.”

Bangladesh – Hon Ms Razin Begum, Secretary

“Violence against children is complex and diverse in its manifestations. Its elimination requires a comprehensive and systematic response by State, the United Nations, and all stakeholders. Local communities also have a responsibility for addressing violence against children and they should be assisted in doing so. Men have a role, especially in preventing violence, and this role needs to be further explored and strengthened. I would like to pledge the commitment of the Government of Bangladesh to consolidate the joint efforts and initiatives of the government machineries, development partners, civil societies and NGOs to end violence against children. I would like to reiterate our commitment to the international and regional engagement to strengthen the ongoing programmes to address violence against children in the South Asia Region.”

Bhutan – Hon Mr Loynpo Thakur S Powdyel, Minister of Education, Royal Government of Bhutan and Chairman, National Commission for Women and Children

“With all the progress the world has made in many spheres, it still leaves much to be desired. Sixty years since the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights, twenty years since the

proclamation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, ten years since the adoption of the SAARC Decade of Children, we meet here in Kathmandu to bemoan the limitations of our efforts and to assert the imperative to launch the South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children... The challenge is heightened by the inexorable contradictions inherent in the lethal lexicon generated by the conditions experienced by children – violence against children...It is my hope and my prayer that our South Asia Initiative will provide the necessary impetus to our efforts to secure a better future for our children and our children's children and beyond. I hope too that this effort will provide the seed for the evolution of a SAARC apex forum for the children of our region to articulate their dreams and their hopes for a secure and joyous future.”

Maldives – *Hon Ms Mariya Ali, Deputy Minister of Health and Family*

“Primary intervention is essential for safeguarding children. In this regard the Department of Gender and Family Protection (in the Maldives) is in the process of developing a child friendly website focusing on child participation and is also preparing to develop a campaign to address child abuse prevention in the Maldives. Furthermore we are working to mobilize local communities including NGOs and stakeholders at atoll level to establish community level interventions for child abuse prevention. I thank SAIEVAC for providing a forum to share our issues and worries, achievements and hopes in protecting the children of the Maldives from exploitation. Because there is more to be done than achieved, my delegation and I will be pleased to have a constructive discussion and take home much valued recommendations.”

Pakistan – *Hon Mr Ziauddin, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Social Welfare and Special Education*

“In May 2005, the Regional Consultation for the UN Study on Violence Against Children was held in Islamabad. In its follow up the South Asia Forum was established and its Regional Secretariat was set up in (my) ministry. We hosted the Secretariat in the first phase for a period of two years besides hosting the First SAF Ministerial Meeting in July 2006. Each member state's progress report on preventing and combating early marriages and physical and psychological punishment was reviewed. Operational and structural mechanisms of the Forum were finalized. All the governments of the region need to work to achieve the principles adopted by the Convention on the Rights of the Child. We all need to work together for the protection of the best interest of the child.”

Sri Lanka – *Hon Mr M.L.A.M Hizbullah, Deputy Minister, Child Development and Women Affairs*

“Sri Lanka is very much pleased with the decision to further develop SAIEVAC. With the establishment of the Secretariat and the formulation of the Annual Work Plan, I do believe that it would be possible to achieve the target of ensuring a better future for children in our SAARC countries. Without such objectives, no project would be successful I am very pleased that I got the opportunity to participate in this Ministerial Meeting. We hope to formulate and implement related plans in the future.”

Nepal – *Mr Sav Dev Prasad Ojha, Minister, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Government of Nepal.*

“Finally, in regards to the efforts made by the Government of Nepal, this 5th meeting of SAIEVEC Coordinators and the 3rd Ministerial meeting will be a milestone for protection and promotion of child rights in SAARC level. I also want to request that SAARC also recognise this process as a way to operationalise the many standing directives of the SAARC mechanisms on Children, including the findings of the Assessment of the SAARC Decade of the Rights of the Child, by including SAIEVAC as an apex body of SAARC. SAIEVAC is a global pioneer initiative and through our work we can demonstrate how effective regional cooperation can be to the rest of the world. Today's meeting is a milestone for this demonstration.”

4. Recommendations

The Ministerial Meeting of the South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC) was held on the 22-23 of June 2010 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The meeting was attended by the Ministers, Head of Delegations, SAIEVAC Coordinators and Children from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The meeting was hosted by the Government of Nepal with financial and technical support of the South Asia Coordinating Group on Action Against Violence Against Women and Children (SACG).

The Ministers and the Head of Delegations, while appreciating the report of the SAIEVAC Coordinators Meeting, realizing the importance of instituting a mechanism as a formal structural entity with clearly defined focus on promoting and protecting the rights of the children and ending violence against children in the region, and recognizing the opportunity it presents in supporting various directives of SAARC in relation to children such as the Colombo Declaration on Children of South Asia and the findings of the Assessment of the SAARC Decade of the Rights of the Child, endorses the recommendations of the SAIEVAC Coordinators and the Children’s Consultation and directs that:

- 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;
- 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;
- 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;
- 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);

- 5) The Governing Board be constituted and the first meeting be convened by later half of 2010;
- 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;
- 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;
- 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;
- 9) The Workplan as submitted by the SAIEVAC Coordinators be operationalised 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;
- 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.

The 4th SAF Coordinators' Meeting

June 22, 2010



1. Issues Discussed

The 3rd Meeting of the SAF Coordinators was held on 21-22 January 2010, where the idea for a new Institutional Framework as well as a five year workplan for Ending Violence Against Children was proposed and initiated.

During the 4th SAF Coordinators Meeting held on 22 June, 2010, the Institutional Framework was expanded and key recommendations developed to be submitted for approval at the 3rd Ministerial Meeting, held June 23 2010.

Children presented two sets of recommendations to the SAF Coordinators. The process for becoming an Apex Body of SAARC was discussed. Finally the participants drafted recommendations to be presented to the Minister's the next day.

All documents had been circulated to SAF Coordinators before the meeting and their feedback incorporated into the draft documents discussed during the meeting. However, further discussions were necessary to finalise the proposal and agree the key recommendations to be presented to Minister's.

The proposal for the New Institutional Framework included the SAIEVAC Organogram, A Terms of Reference (TOR) for the SAIEVAC Governing Board, SAIEVAC Secretariat and SAIEVAC National Coordinators as well as a five year SAIEVAC Workplan to end violence against children. The Coordinators reviewed and discussed at length the organogram and TORs as detailed below.

1.1 Organogram

Participants reviewed and discussed the proposed organogram. It was felt by participants that national civil society groups should be represented on the organogram as National Organisations Working with Children as civil society is an important stakeholder working to end violence against children

Additionally, a regional Children's Forum was added to the SAIEVAC structure. This is to ensure children's participation continues at both national and regional level.

However, it was expressed by the SAF Coordinators that clear terms of reference for all bodies including SACG at Regional and National Level, National Organisations working with Children, and Regional and National Children's Forums should have clear Terms of Reference to ensure proper functioning of all SAIEVAC processes.

1.2 SAIEVAC Governing Board TOR

The TOR for the SAIEVAC Governing Board was discussed and some minor changes in language were incorporated. It was confirmed that the Governing Board will have a mandate of reviewing, approving and facilitating SAIEVAC measures that ensure protection of children against violence in the region, and will supervise and oversee the functions of the SAIEVAC Secretariat.

Discussion among the SAF Coordinators formed the consensus that the Board will meet, at a minimum, once a year, but language has ensured there is an option for additional meetings if determined necessary by the Board.

It was confirmed a quorum of two thirds of the voting members is required and the Board can only meet if at least five of the Member States are present to fulfil the quorum.

The composition of the board was adopted to consist of an appointed government representative from each of the eight SAIEVAC member countries, the SACG Chairperson, two child representatives (a boy and a girl on a rotational basis) and the SAIEVAC Secretariat Coordinator (ex officio member).

It was decided that National Civil Society Organisation representation would be determined by the Board. National Civil Society Organisations will be invited based on their expertise in the issue of interest to be discussed at the Board Meeting.

Additionally, participants felt it is necessary to clarify criteria for appointment to the Board. This will be undertaken at the first Board Meeting.

1.3 SAIEVAC Secretariat TOR

Participants agreed on the proposed scope and roles and responsibilities of the SAIEVAC Secretariat,

There was discussion and clarification on the point of the location of the Secretariat. It was decided that a Permanent Secretariat be proposed in Kathmandu to ensure a strong link with SAARC and a institutionalised regional centre.

Participants felt that the location of the Secretariat and Hosting of the Secretariat should be broken into two separate points in the TOR to reflect that the “Location of the Secretariat” was Kathmandu and ”Hosting of the Secretariat” was under the aegis of the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Government of Nepal.

It was discussed that the composition of the SAIEVAC Secretariat will depend on the type of resources available. It is the initial responsibility of the hosting nation to provide infrastructure and logistical support to the SAIEVAC Secretariat. Additionally a Chief Executive must be in place to fulfil the requirements of SAARC Apex Body.

It was also agreed that the SAIEVAC Governing Board will review and approve the strategic workplan and activities of the secretariat. The secretariat itself reports to the Governing Board and is responsible for developing and implementing the SAIEVAC workplan through SAIEVAC National Mechanisms.

1.4 National SAIEVAC Coordinators

Participants asked that the title of the TOR be changed from TOR for the Coordinators to TOR for the National SAIEVAC Coordinators to eliminate any confusion between the National SAIEVAC Coordinator and the SAIEVAC Secretariat Coordinator’s roles.

The roles and responsibilities were approved as proposed. However, participants felt it was necessary to add that National SAIEVAC Coordinators are responsible for resource mobilization. It was felt by participants that National SAIEVAC Coordinators are best placed to raise funds at a national level through existing contacts and relationships.

At the moment Coordinators are high level government representatives, but it was felt in the future they are more likely to be technical people within the government. Participants felt it was necessary for criteria to be developed for SAIEVAC National Coordinators. Such Criteria will be developed at the first Governing Board Meeting.

Participants also decided that National SAIEVAC Coordinators would meet at least once a year, as and when the Board decides and dependent on available resources.

1.5 Workplan

A workplan was presented which included key actions for ending violence against children and indicators for measuring change. Actions will work towards building comprehensive child protection systems, as well as for addressing the key regional issues of child labour, early marriage, trafficking, sexual abuse and exploitation, and corporal punishment. The workplan additionally presents a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, a Communications Framework, and Key Advocacy Messages.

Participants decided because of time constraints the workplan would be adopted as it until the first board meeting in which Board Members would review and finalise the workplan. (*Annex 5*)

1.6 Children's Recommendations

Children presented impressive recommendations on the key regional issues. All participants agreed the children's recommendations would be considered in the final draft of the workplan and would be considered by the Board at the first SAIEVAC Governing Board Meeting. (*Annex....*)

Children then, under the recommendations of the SAF Coordinators drafted additional recommendations which outlined how children could participate in SAIEVAC processes at regional and national level. (*Annex....*)

1.7 Process for Becoming a SAARC Apex Body

Participants addresses the strategic approach to institutional linkages with the SAARC Secretariat and agreed SAIEVAC should move to become a Apex Body of SAARC.

Hassan Shifau, Director of SAARC briefed the Coordinators on the requirements for becoming an apex body which include that the organisation consist exclusively of nationals of member countries and be based in the region with a minimum of four constituent units at the national level endorsed by the Ministries of Foreign/External Affairs of the Governments of their respective countries. Additionally, the organization should be non political and secular, concerned with promoting social, economic and cultural development of the region as envisaged in the SAARC Charter, and the organization shall have an established Headquarters with an Executive Officer.

Participants decided that this process could even be brought forward before the first Board meeting and SAF Coordinators Requested that the Secretariat with support from the SACG begin to ensure the requirements are met. Participants agreed that every effort to complete the process should be made by the first half of 2011.

1.8 Finalised Draft Recommendations

Nine recommendations were presented for endorsement by the Ministers and government Representatives the following day. These recommend the new institutional framework for SAF with a change in name to SAIEVAC, endorse the workplan, and propose SAIEVAC to become a SAARC Apex body.

An additional 10th recommendation was added which proposed that children's recommendations be considered and that children's participation be included in all SAIEVAC processes. This recommendation ensured that the work children had done over the two day Regional Children's Consultation was included in the SAIEVAC structure, processes and workplan.

2. Draft Recommendations

The Ministerial Meeting of the South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAF) was held from the 22-23 of June 2010 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The meeting was attended by the Ministers, Senior Executives, SAIEVAC Coordinators and Children from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The meeting was hosted by the Government of Nepal with financial and technical support of the South Asia Coordinating Group (SACG) on Action Against Violence Against Women and Children.

The Ministers and the Head of Delegations, while appreciating the report of the SAIEVAC Coordinators Meeting, realizing the importance of instituting a mechanism as a formal structural entity with clearly defined focus on promoting and protecting the rights of the children and ending violence against children in the region, and recognizing the opportunity it presents in supporting various directives of SAARC in relation to children such as the Colombo Declaration on Children of South Asia and the findings of the Assessment of the SAARC Decade of the Rights of the Child, endorses the recommendations of the SAIEVAC Coordinators and directs that:

- 1) The South Asia Forum (SAF) shall be changed to the South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC) and the proposed Organogram and the Terms of References for SAIEVAC be adopted and a permanent Secretariat for SAIEVAC established;
- 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,
- 3) 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;
- 4) A Governing Board shall be established as the institutional mechanism to govern the SAIEVAC process as per the approved Terms of Reference. Such a Board shall consist of a Board Member appointed by each Member State, the SACG Chairperson, 2 Child Representatives (a boy and 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).
- 5) The Governing Board be constituted and the first meeting be convened by later half of 2010;
- 6) Each Member State shall have a National SAIEVAC Coordinator who will be responsible for coordinating national level activities including, in addition to being the focal point for SAIEVAC Regional Level activities. Their functions of the Coordinators will be defined in the TOR;
- 7) The SAIEVAC Secretariat with guidance of the SAARC Secretariat shall make every effort to attain the status of SAARC APEX Body during the first half of 2011.

- 8) The SAIEVAC Secretariat shall initiate institutional linkages with relevant global and regional instruments and bodies such as the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence against Children to reinforce the mandate and functions of SAIEVAC;
- 9) The Workplan is operationalised, as recommended by the SAIEVAC Coordinators, 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.

Regional Children's Consultation

June 20-23, 2010



1. Consultation Process

“Through this Consultation we came to know how important we are. Because of children we are having these meetings and forums,” Manna Madiha, Maldives

The South Asia Regional Children's Consultation on Violence Against Children was held in Kathmandu from 20-22 June, 2010. The Children's Consultation was for children to make recommendations to government officials to support their continued participation in SAIEVAC processes.

National Consultations about violence issues took place in the 8 SAARC Countries. Children discussed how violence affects them and proposed solutions for ending violence. Additionally children were introduced to the current SAF Structure and were given information about the plans for SAIEVAC. Children from each country then chose one boy and one girl to represent them at regional level.

Over two and a half days the sixteen children, two from each of the eight SAARC member states, came together in multi-cultural, interactive, participatory sessions to discuss how Children, National Governments and SAIEVAC could work to end violence against children.

On the first day of the Consultation the children determined that South Asian children experience violence in the context of five major thematic issues including corporate

punishment, early marriage, child labour, sexual and commercial exploitation, and trafficking. They discussed these issues in detail and made a series of recommendations for specific actions governments can take to end violence in these forms.

On the second day children finalised their definition of violence as "Abusing children mentally, emotionally, physically and/ or sexually with or without any reason by which children lose their dignity, confidence that leads to violation of their rights and hinders their development is called violence against child."

The children presented their thematic recommendations to the SAIEVAC Coordinator's Meeting on 22 June. SAF Coordinators assured that these recommendations would be considered for integration into the workplan at the first Board Meeting.

Then SAF Coordinators requested that the children refine and make specific recommendations for children's participation in the SAIEVAC processes. Children then reviewed their recommendations and made solid suggestions for Children's participation in the SAIEVAC processes and about how government could support and increase children's participation, at both national and regional level to further prevent violence against children.

During the Ministerial Meeting on 23 June, Mannal Madiha from the Maldives and Rikesh Shaw from India were the two children who were selected by their peers to speak in the inaugural ceremony and present their recommendations to the Minister's and Government Representatives.

The four recommendations put forward by the children were well received and adopted by all Ministers and Government representatives of the SAARC Member States.

Bhutan – *Hon Mr Loynpo Thakur S Powdyel, Minister of Education, Royal Government of Bhutan and Chairman, National Commission for Women and Children stated, "I commend the children on an excellent job, which will help us finalise this meeting".*

Afghanistan – *Hon Ms Amena Safi Afzali, Minister of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled stated, "It is our duty to get these recommendations enforced and we will do this and we will implement it".*

Bangladesh – *Hon Ms Razin Begum, Secretary stated "We have given space for children because they understand what they need to support themselves",*

SACG Chair, Ms. Turid Heiberg *"The children have done an indepth, advanced and detailed work. It is fantastic what they have done - a high level of thinking and reflecting and feeling."*

On the final evening, the children participated in Closing Ceremony where they shared their thoughts and feelings on what had happened during the Children's Participation.

2. Thematic Recommendations

During their Consultation, the children determined the five thematic areas where children are most likely to face violence, abuse and exploitation. In addition, the children identified three main stakeholders who should be encouraged and enabled to do more towards working to end violence against children.

These three groups are the SAIEVAC Governing Board, National Governments and the children themselves. The recommendations were quite broad based and encompassed the passion the children felt about the situation of violence against children across the region.

Below are the thematic recommendations put before the Coordinators' Meeting by the children:

2.1 SAIEVAC Governing Board	
Corporal Punishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conduct a joint study at regional level on corporal punishment in schools, homes and workplaces; ▪ Develop plans and undertake community awareness campaigns through joint action plans at regional and country levels, and ▪ Establish/ strengthen the monitoring mechanism on the CRC.
Child Marriage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review the existing birth registration mechanisms and monitor them, ensuring they are practically implemented at all levels of society in each country, and ▪ Coordinate with governments to have laws banning child marriage.
Trafficking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop proper monitoring mechanisms and strengthen the existing ones at national and regional levels; ▪ Work with the government in preventing or ending trafficking of children, and ▪ Set up a committee for rescue and repatriation of trafficking victims.
Sexual Abuse and Exploitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implementation of UN CRC Optional Protocol against commercial sexual exploitation of children; ▪ Developing and dissemination of child friendly and other IEC materials for sensitizing children; ▪ Working with other organisations and governments to create youth employment programmes in the region, and ▪ Lobbying governments to sign the UN CRC protocol on sexual abuse and exploitation.
Child Labour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Working with governments and relevant organisations to create vocational training opportunities for vulnerable children to prevent them being forced into the worst forms of child labour, and ▪ Lobby governments to ban child labour (in all settings).

2.2 Recommendations for National Governments	
Corporal Punishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Teacher training programmes to include components on child rights; ▪ Include child rights issues as part of school syllabus; ▪ Develop prohibition of corporal punishment law and its implementation, and ▪ Develop and implement strict monitoring mechanisms for school administrations to prevent corporal punishment.
Child Marriage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Governments to guarantee school education, vocational education and employment opportunities for children/ adolescents; ▪ Formation of grass roots level committees of teachers, police, local leaders, children and other stakeholders to stop child marriage, and ▪ Implementation/ operationalization of anti-child marriage laws.
Trafficking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To form regional laws and multilateral treaty on trafficking in collaboration with other regional bodies and organisations; ▪ Adequate measures to be developed for rescue and repatriation of trafficked children, and ▪ Governments to ensure rehabilitation and proper care of trafficked children in each country.
Sexual Abuse and Exploitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To carry out research on the magnitude of sexual abuse of children and develop/ publish a child friendly version of said research for wider distribution; ▪ Provisions of law and policies to end abuse and exploitation of children, and ▪ Governments to establish a similar toll free number for reporting sexual abuse and exploitation across the region.
Child Labour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Organisations and individuals employing children should be strictly dealt with within the law of the country; ▪ One uniform law on child labour with a single definition should be in place, and ▪ Media should be involved in sensitizing the community and raising positive awareness on the issue.

2.3 Recommendations for Children

Corporal Punishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All children should understand the rights enshrined in CRC; ▪ Develop and facilitate channels and linkages for children to get immediate help when in need; ▪ Share good practices and success stories to bring positive change for children and replacing corporal punishment; ▪ Adults should look for alternatives on how children can be treated in a child friendly manner, and ▪ Work with children to help them to keep themselves safe and free from harsh punishment.
Child Marriage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lobby governments to implement the existing laws against child marriage and advocate for amendments and policies to deal with the issue of child marriage; ▪ Capacity building of children so they can raise their voice against child marriage; ▪ Advocate with governments in making education compulsory for all children, and ▪ Convince parents/ adults of the bad effects of child marriage.
Trafficking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sensitize children on who to and how to report trafficking cases; ▪ Campaigning, advocating and lobbying for strong legal provisions on trafficking, and ▪ Undertake awareness programmes on trafficking.
Sexual Abuse and Exploitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create children forums on sexual abuse (including internet and user groups); ▪ Supporting and referring cases of abuse and exploitation to relevant organisations; ▪ Support and work with child protection organisations and agencies which can bring about positive changes in the lives of children having suffered abuse and exploitation; ▪ Helping and sensitizing children to be alert and to be able to protect themselves from abuse and exploitative situations, and ▪ Establishing child-led organisations and self-help groups for children.
Child Labour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Advocate for child-friendly environments for children working as child labour; ▪ Strict laws on compulsory education till 18 years of age so that children are able to maximize their growth and potential; ▪ Formation of children groups and forums to raise funds to support children in need, and ▪ Working with governments to have strong legal provisions and a protective environment for children working as child labourers.

3. Consolidated Recommendations

On the advice of the SAF Coordinators, the children reworked their thematic recommendations in order to “better catch the attention of the governments” through providing a short list of recommendations to the SAARC Member States represented at the Ministerial Meeting. The institutionalization of children’s participation and the role of SAIEVAC had also been considered and discussed in depth by the children prior to the formulation of the recommendations below:-

“We, the children of South Asia, after intense consultation over a period of two and a half days, supported by facilitators from SACG, hereby submit the following recommendations to the Ministerial Meeting for endorsement’.

- 1) Institutional mechanisms be put in place in each Member State for close coordination and working relations among children and the SAIEVAC coordinators;
- 2) The nomination to the Board and all other related mechanisms of SAIEVAC be undertaken through close consultation and involvement of children;
- 3) The SAIEVAC processes at regional and national level and SACG provide support in terms of financial, technical, and human resources to enable children to contribute meaningfully in the SAIEVAC process, and
- 4) The SAIEVAC processes ensure that the best interest of children and child-friendly environments become standard practice in SAIEVAC mechanisms.

Annex 1

Agenda

Coordinators Meeting

22 June 2010

Agenda

Time	Session
0830 – 0930	Registration
0930 – 1030	<p>Opening Session</p> <p>Chair by Mahendra Prasad Shrestha, Secretary, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Government of Nepal</p> <p>Welcome Remarks by Ratna Kaji Bajracharya, Joint Secretary/ SAF Coordinator, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Government of Nepal</p> <p>Remarks by Turid Heiberg, Chair, South Asia Coordinating Group Against Violence Against Women and Children (SACG)</p> <p>Opening Remarks by the Chair</p>
1030 – 1045	TEA BREAK
1045 – 1130	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Election of the Chairperson • Adoption of the Agenda • Review and Adoption of the 4th SAF Coordinators Meeting Report
1130 – 1230	<p>Review and finalization of SAIEVAC Institutional Framework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organogram • Board TOR and appointments • Secretariat TOR • Coordinators TOR
1230 – 1300	Strategic approach to institutional linkage with the SAARC Secretariat
1300 – 1400	LUNCH
1400 – 1430	Presentation of Children's Recommendation
1430 -1530	Review and endorse the SAIEVAC Operational Plan
1530 – 1600	TEA BREAK
1600 – 1700	Formulation of the Draft Recommendations for the Ministers Meeting

Ministers Meeting

23 June 2010

Agenda

Time	Session
0925	Arrival of participants and guests
0930	Arrival of the Chief Guest, Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Mr. Madhav Kumar Nepal Chair by Hon. Minister Sarv Dev Prasad Ojha, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Government of Nepal
09.30-9.35	Welcome Remarks and the Objectives of the meeting by Mr. Mahendra P Shrestha, Secretary, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Government of Nepal
9.35-9.40	Inauguration by Rt. Hon. Prime Minister
9.40-9.55	Presentation by Child Representative
9.55-10.05	Opening Remarks by Ms. Turid Heiberg, Chairperson, SACG
10.05-10.10	Remarks by Mr. Madhav Prasad Ghimire, Chief Secretary, Government of Nepal
10.10-10.20	Key Note Address by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister
10.20-10.25	Vote of Thanks by Mr. Ratna Kaji Bajracharya, Jt. Secretary Cum SAF Coordinator, Government of Nepal
10.25-10.30	Remarks by Hon. Minister Mr. Sarv Dev Prasad Ojha
10.30	Group Photograph
10.30-11.30	TEA BREAK
11:30-12:00	1.) Election of the Chairperson 2.) Adoption of the Agenda 3.) Presentations of Recommendations by children
12:00-13:00	Presentation of recommendations from SAF Coordinators Meeting, 22 June, 2010
13:00-14:00	LUNCH
14:00-15:00	Statements by the Ministers Afghanistan Bangladesh Bhutan India
15.00-15.30	TEA
15:30-16:00	Statements of Ministers (Contd...) Maldives Pakistan Sri Lanka Nepal
16:00-16.30	Adoption of the Recommendations
16:30-17:00	Closing Session
19.00-21.00	Dinner hosted by the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Government of Nepal.

Annex 2

Speeches June 22

Remarks by Turid Heiberg

Chair of South Asia Coordinating Group against Violence against Women and Children (SACG)

Coordinators Meeting 22 June 2010

Honourable SAF coordinators and government representatives from all the SAARC countries, the representative from SAARC, SACG representatives and Representatives from the UN, INGO's and Civil society

It is a great pleasure to be part of welcoming you all – we have been working together for a long time to make sure this event was a success and now it is finally happening.

Children have been participating in national consultations and they have been together here in Kathmandu since Sunday preparing their messages to us. I went and talked to them on Sunday and they are a great group of children, wanting to take part in changing their environments to become violence free and helping solve difficult issues. They clearly state that: “Nobody, whether they are our parents, teachers or others have the right to physically, emotionally and sexually abuse us”. They go on to state that: “Ending violence is our right” (National consultation with Nepali children).

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the government representatives for the lead role you have taken in creating this initiative to end violence against children. It is a remarkable initiative that already is getting global recognition.

It is also an initiative that has implied a lot of work for all of us. First the initial phase leading up to the January meeting and the 4th meeting of the South Asian Forum for Ending Violence against Children – you have the report in your bags – and then the follow up of the decisions taken there by the SAF coordinators to design a regional South Asia Initiative of Ending Violence Against Children. You have already discussed the draft proposal for the formation of SAIEVAC – and today we will again discuss the finer details and recommendations.

SACG – has invested a lot in support of this initiative which should respond to the urgent issues children face such as early marriage, child labour, sexual violence, trafficking and corporal punishment. But it is also absolutely timely as the work to scale up child protection is happening globally – and South Asia now has the chance to become a pioneer through this good example of how to build a structured response.

SACG started out small - with support from a few agencies - but now more and more agencies are recognizing the positive contribution such interagency work can have for children and are increasing their interest. Even more collaboration is possible and SACG can assist in resource mobilisation – but all is dependent of course on how the workplan is being implemented at national levels. If we manage to slowly change legislation, policies and

practices in the support of ending violence against children there will be a great deal of interest from international levels, donors and UN agencies and International Agencies.

So - the challenge going forward is to show progress and ensure the workplan has a 5 year timeline so that we can proceed consistently.

The UN Special Representative on Violence against Children, Marta Santos Pais, has already said that she is available from mid November and that she is eager to address the first Board meeting. A global expert on legal reform, Peter Newell, has also expressed his interest in supporting a technical workshop on law reform in mid-November. Having a special focus on law reform at this point of time is particularly useful as this was one of the main recommendations in the UN study on Violence against Children and continues to be one of the main areas that Marta Santos Pais is taking forward.

The Board representatives will have the possibility to discuss with the UN Special Representative the linking of SAIEVAC to her mandate and office. This will of course be even stronger if this initiative attains the status of SAARC apex body.

So once again – a warm welcome to all and thanks to all who have made this meeting possible – government representatives, SACG members, children representatives, donors and the many who have worked voluntary.

I am very hopeful that the meeting will be a success.

Thank you

Welcome Speech by Mr. Mahendra Prasad Shrestha

Secretary, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare

23 June 2010

Namaskar, Good morning.

Hon'ble Chair Sarva Dev Ojha Minister for Women, Children and Social Welfare ,
Chief Guest Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal, Government of Nepal,
Hon'ble Minister from Afghanistan and Bhutan, Hon'ble State Minister, Deputy Minister from
Maldives and Sri Lanka and hon'ble Constituent Assembly Members,
Respected Chief Secretary and Secretaries of Government of Nepal,
Distinguished Delegates and SAARC Representative,
SACG Chair and members,
Child Representatives, Representatives from Civil Society and Media persons,

On behalf of the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Nepal I would like to welcome all of you in this session. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Rt. Hon. Prime Minister of Nepal for his gracious presence in this session.

My heartfelt gratitude to all Hon. Ministers, Deputy Ministers and distinguished delegates from the SAARC countries. I am very grateful to respected Chief Secretary and secretaries of the Government of Nepal. I would like to welcome all the distinguished guests.

“South Asia Forum for Ending Violence Against Children (SAF)” is a regional mechanism initiated in 2005. The Main objective of SAF is to end all forms of violence against children in South Asia. SAF works within the mandate of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution and the SAARC Convention on Regional Arrangements for the Promotion of Child Welfare in South Asia. SAF is composed of representatives from SAARC member Countries.

SAF has held four consultations to date hosted by Pakistan in 2006, India in 2007, Kathmandu in 2008 and Kathmandu in January 2010 with support from the South Asia Coordinating Group on Violence Against Women and Children (SACG).

In January 2010, the Kathmandu consultation meeting endorsed to change the name of SAF into SAIEVAC (South Asian Initiative to End Violence Against Children). I am confident that this ministerial meeting would be able to review and finalize the SAIEVAC institutional framework.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of you in this session. We been very encouraged by the presence of Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister of Nepal . I wish for the pleasant stay of our distinguished guests at Kathmandu.

I wish for the success of the meeting.

Thank you.

Speeches June 23

Address by Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal Government of Nepal 23 June 2010

*Honourable Ministers,
Distinguished Government Delegates from the SAARC Countries,
Honourable Members of Constituent Assembly
Chief Secretary, Secretaries of Government of Nepal
Chair of SACG,
Children Representatives,
Representatives from the UN, INGO's, Civil Society and the Media*

I have the great pleasure to be here in this august gathering. First of all, on behalf of the Government of Nepal and myself, I would like to welcome you all to the 3rd Ministerial Meeting of South Asian Initiative to End Violence against Children, which was formerly known as South Asia Forum for Ending Violence against Children. Government of Nepal is proud to host this Meeting which will deal with the demanding aspirations of the political decision makers, civil society and children in South Asia to eradicate any form of "Violence against children" in the days to come.

Our communities are entangled in many kinds of violence, which is intolerable to human civilization. Violence against children is the most detrimental and pressing problem that we all are facing in our region. It is the most sensitive issue which must be resolved to safeguard our future. This is why we have all come together today.

Across the region, millions of children are facing abuse, neglect, exploitation and other common forms of violence. These perils transversely cross the social, cultural, religious and ethnic lines. Children in all countries are suffering at their homes, in their schools and communities, in their workplaces or in institutions. Conflict, natural disaster, calamities, climate change and other emergency situations have made their lives more vulnerable. Oftentimes perpetrators of violence are someone known to the children, whom the children trust.

South Asian children also face discrimination and marginalization because of poverty, caste, ethnicity, religious belief or disability which can prevent them from accessing necessary child protection and social welfare services. Children in the region are now up against numerous harmful traditional practices, the most common being early marriage. There are millions of children who are compelled to be involved in the worst forms of labour, drug abuse and commercial sex industry who need our support. In addition, it is vital for us to give attention to children without caregivers, children with HIV/AIDs, children with disabilities, children in trafficking and street children.

Violence against children is even more serious for girl children in the region, where they face gender biases before birth and continues throughout their lives. In Nepal, we have already recognised this as an urgent issue, which is why the Government of Nepal has initiated 2010 as the "Year Against Gender Based Violence". Our goal is to create a Nepal free from gender based violence where women, men, girls and boys can realise their full potential and live a

life of dignity. The National Plan of Action on Eliminating Gender Based Violence specifically looks at responding to and preventing gender based violence and will go a long way to ensure the rights of girls and women throughout the country.

At this juncture, I would also like to highlight all of our commitments towards the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols. In order to ensure the rights of children for survival, protection, development and participation, we all are striving hard. Not only this, we are also endeavoring to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

We do realize that issues concerning children, including violence and abuse, often transcend our national borders. Therefore, our governments are cooperating on the key issues in the region through SAARC and Global Mechanisms and Directives. The 16th SAARC Summit is a testament to this regional cooperation to create a violence free environment for children in the region. Furthermore, the Summit also emphasizes the commitment shown towards the **SAARC Convention on Regional Arrangements for the Promotion of Child Welfare in South Asia**. The SAARC Social Charter, SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution, the SAARC Framework for the Protection, Care and Support of Children Affected by HIV/AIDS, and the SAARC Development Goals (SDGs) are other examples we in this region are agreed to attain. All of these efforts reinforce our commitment to ending violence against children.

Let me also recall to another signpost of our regional cooperation. In 1996, in the SAARC Rawalpindi Resolution on Children in South Asia, SAARC Ministers declared 2001-2010 as the Decade of the Rights of the Child and agreed to eliminate child labour, initiate and strengthen community based social support systems, reduce the Under-5 Child Mortality Rate, lessen the severe and moderate malnutrition and enable all children of primary school age to complete school.

The COLOMBO STATEMENT ON CHILDREN OF SOUTH ASIA in 2009 reiterated a commitment to children's needs and recognized that South Asia continues to face challenges in timely attainment of SDGs and MDGs and the realization of children's rights.

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 South Asian Regional consultation on "violence against Children" was held in Islamabad in May 2005 and involved governments, ministers, development partners and civil society representatives from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

One of the major outcomes of the Regional Consultation was the formation of the "South Asia Forum for Ending Violence Against Children, a regional mechanism initiated with the vision of ending all forms of violence against all children in South Asia."

However, there is still much progress to be made for children. It is high time for all of us to operationalize our agreements and to materialize our commitments. We all understand the importance of protecting children from violence and today we have an opportunity to capitalize on our time here, and establish a strong regional centre to end violence against children named, "The South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children".

I am happy that children representatives from all SAARC countries are also present here with us today. The children's participation has been chosen to represent their countries and has been an inspiration and driving force to our meetings. I urge to our Hon. Ministers and distinguished delegates, who gathered here, to accord top priority to children's voice. Listening to them and considering seriously what they have said can be a hallmark for our new regional centre, and an integral part of our decision-making nationally as well.

In Nepal Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare has been created as a nodal ministry to work for the children. Additionally, Central Child Welfare Board has been established to better ensure the right of the children and work for the protection of the children. The development of over 4,000 child clubs throughout Nepal is an incredible step forward for Child Rights movement and in the realization of child rights throughout the country. Now the Government of Nepal is picking up Child Friendly Local Governance System. We have many non-governmental organizations and their umbrella organization which are dedicated towards the elimination of violence against children. Many other development partners are collaborating towards this effort. But our efforts have been sporadic requiring more concentration, deliberation, attentiveness and integration.

So today I call on the Ministers and government representatives from across the region to seriously consider the proposal and recommendations being put before you. Let us not miss the opportunity to have a serious impact for children. Let's take our commitments to the next level and turn them into valuable actions. We can demonstrate to each other and the world how collaboration and partnership can pave the way to sustainable and long-term solutions for ending violence against children. I see the success of this meeting in attaining these goals.

I thank you all for your attention.

**Address by Hon. Minister, Sarva Dev Prasad Ojha,
Ministry of Women Children and Social Welfare, Government of Nepal
23 June 2010**

*The Chief Guest Rt. Honourable Prime Minister, Government of Nepal,
Honourable Ministers of Afghanistan and Bhutan, Deputy Ministers of Maldives and Sri Lanka,
Distinguished Government Delegates from the SAARC Countries,
Honourable Members of Constituent Assembly,
Chief Secretary, Secretaries of Government of Nepal,
Chair of SACC
Children Representatives,
Representatives from the UN, INGO's, Civil Society and the Media,*

First of all, I would like to thank all the Member states of SAARC who have, despite very busy schedules, made time to come together and discuss the important and pressing issue of violence against children in this forum. Having you all here demonstrates government commitment throughout the region to this important cause.

The Government of Nepal and the Ministry and Women, Children and Social Welfare are very much dedicated to ensuring the success of the new South Asian Initiative to End Violence Against Children and are delighted that the Government of Nepal has the Opportunity to host this meeting and envision a permanent secretariat here in Nepal.

Today, we the Ministers from the nodal agencies dealing with children's issues have an exciting opportunity to endorse a series of recommendations that will form the core mandate of this new initiative and pave the way forward for children throughout the region.

I want to solicit all participants for your support in ensuring this process. I regard this as a success. By working together we can have a much larger impact. Collaboration and cooperation is key to ending violence throughout the region, and this meeting is one step forward moving towards this goal.

I also want to request that SAARC also recognise this process as a way to operationalise the many standing directives of the SAARC mechanisms on Children, including the findings of the Assessment of the SAARC Decade of the Rights of the Child, by including SAIEVAC as an apex body of SAARC. SAIEVAC is a global pioneer initiative and through our work we can demonstrate how effect regional cooperation can be to the rest of the world. Today's meeting is a milestone for this demonstration.

I thank you all for your cooperation and support over the meeting and look forward to continued collaboration in the future. I declare close of this inaugural session. Thank you.

Speech by Turid Heiberg

Chair of South Asia Coordinating Group against Violence against Women and Children (SACG)

23 June 2010

Honourable prime minister, honourable ministers and government representatives, child representatives and representatives from the UN, INGO's, Civil Society and the Media.

Finally, we have reached this moment in time where we have all come together to discuss a regional set up and work-plan to end violence against children. This is a day for us all to be proud and celebrate!

To my knowledge it is only Europe that has in place a similar regional strategy and workplan – though many governments around the world have achieved a lot by reforming laws, establishing policies and initiating activities. Children are slowly beginning to see the results of increased attention to the urgency of protecting children against violence as set out by the UN Study on Violence against Children (2006).

Thus, South Asia is in the forefront, and we have already received interest and a positive response from the UN Special Representative on Violence against Children; Marta Santos Pais. She has requested to join the first board meeting of SAIEVAC and address its members.

Violence against children cuts across caste, class and religious boundaries – it happens in every group and setting. And finally our attention is directed towards the harmful consequences for children as well as the undignified ways that adults impose violence on children.

As Paulo Pineiro, the expert who led the UN study, says: “Too often, politicians and professionals trivialise the issue of corporal punishment. But in doing so, they insult children, and miss the point. While we deny children equal protection of their human dignity, we are denying them their status as human beings and holders of human rights alongside the rest of us. We are treating them as possessions not as people”.

Pinheiro continues to say that: “In women’s long struggle for equality, challenging routine violence against them in their homes has been a vital part of their struggle. That a husband could lawfully beat his wife, such concepts belong to history books – except for children.

It is time that we not only combat sexual violence, child labour, early marriage, trafficking and other issues but also now is the time to look into the way children are treated in all settings including in their homes. It is important that we link law reform to positive non-violent forms of discipline.

As chair of the South Asia Coordinating Group on Action against Violence against Women and Children (SACG) I am proud that we have reached to this stage of partnership with governments taking the lead – insisting on progressing to end violence against children. This is the best safeguard for regional UN agencies and INGOs taking part in the struggle with the

Governments. A partnership with clearly defined roles and responsibilities is the best way of ensuring direction and success.

When we were approached by the SAF coordinators in 2009 to start to reflect around this regional initiative we were positively in agreement – seeing the regional South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children as the logical way to bring progress, set standards and care for children.

Realising the seriousness on behalf of government representatives it is a pleasure to cooperate and increasingly more and more agencies are coming on board to support. For this consultation we have received substantial technical and financial support from Planete Enfants, Terre des homes, UNFPA, UNHCR, ECPAT, Save the Children and not least from UNICEF and Plan International.

I am perhaps most impressed by the contribution of children. They have attended in-country consultations in every country and over the last few days have also participated in a regional consultation. They call upon adults to take their concerns seriously – and they see very clearly how adults and children can live in positive relationships – solving daily challenges together as partners.

Let us take them seriously – let's listen and let's act.

Thank you.

Annex 3

Statements

Hon Ms Amina Afzali, Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Minister of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled

23 June 2010

Excellency General Secretary South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC),
Excellency Nepal Minister of Women, Children and Social Welfare,
Excellencies Ministers of (SAARC) member countries or (SAF/ SAIEVAC) (Pakistan,
Nepal, Maldives, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka),
Distinguished International and National NGO representatives, SACG members,
Ladies and Gentlemen

First of all let me convey the sincere gratitude of President Hamid Karzai to the distinguished members of this important meeting.

I am happy to see myself among the colleagues from regional countries and I am joining other ministers to express my heartiest appreciations to the government of Nepal for their warm welcome and hospitality for the 3rd Ministers Meeting of South Asian Forum for Ending Violence Against Children.

Honourable participants!

The Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan supports the endless efforts of the technical committees and coordinating group of SAF, who have worked on the change of name, structure, terms of reference and work plan of SAF. Hereby, I declare my agreement with all the decisions made during the fourth consultation meeting of SAF coordinators that took place on 21-22 January 2010 in Kathmandu. I wish a successful future for SAF/ SAIEVAC members and my especial appreciation goes to Nepal Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to brief you now on the situation of children in Afghanistan.

As our regional friends know, during the past three decades of war and insecurity, returning of five million refugees to Afghanistan, drought and natural disasters are devastating factors that have created huge economic and social difficulties for all Afghans while young generations, who are the future of our country, are more vulnerable to these calamities.

Afghanistan population is 25 million with 51% male and 49% female, around 15 million are under 18 years old youths and children, eight million children are going to school including 35% girls and 65% boys and the remaining others are outside the school who are at risk which have been divided into 23 Categories in Strategies of Children at risk that each one has its own special programme.

According to National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment, 24% of the population can read and write and 76% is illiterate. The 1.2 million of children aged 5 to 17 includes 169,000 children with disability at the school age. Due to insecurity 2.3% of children cannot attend the school. Thirty six percent of the population lives under the poverty line that comprises 9 million people.

The Government of Afghanistan has codified laws and strategies advocating the right of women and children and has conducted several campaigns against violence during the past eight years. It is obvious that the violence has intensified in the society due to lack of law, weak law enforcement and low level of awareness about laws. The most important documents that directly address the violence against children are listed below:-

- **The Constitution of Afghanistan, especially article (54) supporting child and mother.**
- **The civil law:** regarding definition of family, eligibility of marriage and explanation of parent responsibilities regarding their children.
- **Law of juvenile Rehabilitation Centres**
- **The Education Law:** This law ensures the right and accessibility of children to education. And also focuses on education for all boys and girls equally without any discrimination.
- **The Labour Law:** This law has determined child protection, compulsory labour's prevention, overwork, hazardous labour for children health, preventing of over time work and determining of logical age of children for work.
- **The Law of Public Health:** This law is set up for the establishment of creative and preventative measures for children's health and free health facilities for all citizens particularly focused in the area of health and nutrition for child and mother across the country.
- **The law of ending violence against women:** This law is constituted to ensure the legal rights, humanistic prestige of women, soundness of family, and prevention of violence against women.

The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan for providing better economic and social services has developed and formulated deferent strategies under the chamber of The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan has planned to provide more economic and social services as mentioned in the Afghan National Development Strategy (ANDS) approved on April 21, 2008. Within this strategy, separate sectors strategies have been formulated for a series of priorities, programmes and projects foresight 2008-2013, to be implemented national institutions in dealing with focal issues, particularly to address Afghanistan's international commitments to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that the country has ratified. According to the second and third pillars of this strategy certain benchmarks should be met including:- supporting, monitoring and developing public services, ensuring accountability, ensuring gender equality, adopting a social security strategy, promoting the political participation of women, promoting quality education for all, reducing child mortality ensuring the health of the child and mother, and protecting vulnerable children. The Convention on Rights of Children (CRC) and Social Charter, International Labour Organization (ILO) and (138 & 182) conventions have been accepted and being under implementation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled has launched two significant social protection programmes on vulnerable child protection as below:- Child Protection Action Network (CPAN) and Social Workers Development were established. This network

is currently functioning in 28 of the 34 provinces of the country including 51 districts. CPAN is an inclusive network of governmental and non-governmental organizations that have a mandate and perform field interventions in the area of child protection. CPAN's overall goal is to prevent and respond to exploitation, abuse, and violence against children and ensure the protection of all children in Afghanistan. CPAN holds monthly meetings in each of the provinces and addresses child protection issues or problems that have been identified or referred by the community during the three years of registration reaching 3,557 children cases on 12 categories of cases of violence which had been monitored and followed, the achievement of the programmes are listed below:-

- 1,315 cases of children conflict with law have been registered and followed during the last two years which included 790 boys and 425 girls.
- 1,125 cases of children trafficking monitored and registered in the last four years.
- 115 early marriages, 175 sexual exploitation and 111 trafficking cases have been registered in the last two years which were under investigation.

In terms of case management and referrals, 92% of the registered cases have been investigated and referred to supportive agencies and the remaining 8% of registered cases are under investigation.

With contribution of related organizations 2,376,708 vulnerable and child at risk have been supported in the past four years but still five million children are at risk.

The Government and non government organisations held conferences, seminars and lots of campaigns on ending violence against children. The report received from NGOs indicating that 116,742 children and 118,042 adults benefit directly from awareness programmes.

Two high ranking commissions of campaign against human smuggling and violence against women under the direction of the ministry of justices and women's affairs have been established. The main aim and responsibilities of the commissions are implementation of laws, control and prohibition of violence, human smuggling and trafficking in the society.

Ladies and Gentleman,

The major challenges we are facing not only in Afghanistan but on the regional level in terms of youth, women and children like kidnapping, trafficking and physical, psychological violence, hard workers, early marriages and HIV/AIDS can be mentioned.

The Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan recommends the following issues regarding ending violence against children, as follows:-

Conducting a careful assessment of children at risk for future planning, exchanging views and opinions on child protection among member countries, strengthening cross border control and prevention cooperation on child trafficking and smuggling, providing financial support to vulnerable children's families, and expanding regional awareness programmes.

One again I would like to appreciate SAIEVAC member's efforts, SACG's endeavours and Nepal Ministry of Women Affairs, Social and Children Welfare's commendable preparations for organizing and hosting this critical meeting.

Thank you for your attention.

Hon'ble Ms Razin Begum, Government of Bangladesh

Secretary

23 June 2010

1. The hon'ble chairperson of the 3rd Ministers Meeting of South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC), your excellencies, the hon'ble ministers from SAARC members countries, head of delegations, children from South Asia region, the South Asia Coordinating Group (SACG), Coordinators from member countries, members of delegates, management personnel, ladies and gentlemen very good afternoon to all of you.
2. I would like to take the opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Government of Nepal for all out support for organizing the 5th Meeting of the Coordinators and 3rd Meeting of the hon'ble ministers in Kathmandu. I would like to thank the children from participating countries for developing very comprehensive recommendations for ending violence against children in South Asia Region.
3. Like other nations, violence against women is pandemic in Bangladesh. A number of surveys and studies conducted during 1992-2008 indicate the prevalence of violence against women and children in Bangladesh ranges from 42 to 58 percent. The most common form of violence is physical assaults and followed by sexual assault and harassment. The psychological or mental violence either separately or inclusively with other forms of violence is high but the victims are not aware about such violence.
4. The impact of psychological violence is not so prominent and the people rarely recognized it. The costs of violence against women and children are extremely high. They include the direct costs of services to treat and support abused women and their children and to bring perpetrators to justice. The indirect costs include lost of employment and productivity, and the costs in human pain and suffering. The extent of violence against women and children is a reflection of the degree and persistence of discrimination that women and children continue to face. It can only be eliminated by addressing discrimination, promoting women's equality and empowerment, and ensuring that women's and children's human rights are fulfilled.
5. There are some international charters, declarations and documents on the basis of which the national plans of actions have taken. These are as follows: Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948, Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women 1979, Convention on the Right of the Child 1989, UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women 1993, Beijing Platform for Action 1995, UN Secretary General's Reports on VAW/C 2006, and Millennium Development Goals 2000. Corresponding to the international standards, the national legal instruments relating to VAW are the Constitution of Bangladesh, National Policy for the Development of Women 2008, National Policy for the Development of Children 1994, National Action Plan for Women 1998, National Action Plan for Children 2004, and Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper 2008-2011.

6. There is a Central Cell to Prevent Violence against Women and Children in the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs. It receives the information on VAW from various sources and takes necessary measures for their remedy. To review the functions of the Cell on VAW/C and monitor the overall activities there is an Inter-Ministerial Committee on Preventing Violence against Women and Children & Prevention of Dowry headed by Hon'ble State Minister of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs. Members include Hon'ble Members of the Parliament, high officials from various ministries and divisions and representatives of NGOs.
7. Apart from that Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Ministry of Social Welfare, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Ministry of Home Affairs have specific programmes on VAW. In addition to the Government's Initiatives, there are Development Partners, NGOs and CBOs who have their own programmes to address VAW in Bangladesh.
8. Under the Multi-Sectoral Programme on Violence against Women (MSPVAW) of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs six One-Stop Crisis Centre (OCC) have been established at Public Medical College Hospitals, one in each division from where treatment, legal, psycho-social counselling, DNA Profiling, rehabilitation etc. services are provided to the women and children victims of violence In addition, National Trauma Counselling Centre, VAW Helpline, and VAW Database also provide valuable services to the victims, service providers, professionals and stakeholders.
9. Development Partners have made significant engagement to address the Gender Based Violence and to improve the access to Justice for the women and children victims of violence. Danida, GTZ, UNFPA and UNICEF have joint programmes with the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, DFID, EU, UNDP are supporting Police Reform Programme under the Ministry of Home Affairs, The Netherlands Embassy supports Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies under the Ministry of Planning, WHO supports the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Other donors including CIDA, IOM and USAID have their own programmes to address the issues relating to GBV. In addition, most of the development partners and agencies in Bangladesh have special department or desk to address the issues relating to gender and gender based violence in Bangladesh.
10. The Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) like Aparajeyo Bangladesh National Women Lawyer's Association, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad and Association for Community Development are operating shelters, drop in centre and halfway home where the legal and psychological services are available. Moreover, Manusher Jonno Foundation, Ain-O-Shalish Kendra, Odhikar, Steps Towards Development, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust, Naripokkho, Bangladesh Society For the Enforcement of Human Rights, Madaripur Legal Aid Association, Breaking The Silence, OXFAM, Action Aid Bangladesh, BRAC and We Can Campaign have been implementing various programmes to address Gender Based Violence in Bangladesh.
11. Despite huge efforts and initiatives under public and private arrangements to address Violence against Children in Bangladesh, majority of the victims do not have access to justice and other services. People at large are not aware about the services and legal options. The forensic facilities are not available at Upazila Health Complex. So, victims have to come to the district level hospital for such facility and require medical certificates

for filing the criminal cases against the perpetrators. Particularly, the victims of sexual assault do not preserve the evidence for forensic and DNA test due to their lack of knowledge. The delay of disposal of the cases and in absence of witness and evidence most of the abusers get rid off the criminal confinement in the jail and punishment.

12. Violence against children is the worst form of discrimination and violation of human rights. It causes untold misery, cutting short lives and leaving countless children in pain and fears. It harms families across the generations, impoverishes communities and reinforces other forms of violence throughout societies.
13. Violence against children is complex and diverse in its manifestations. Its elimination requires a comprehensive and systematic response by State, the United Nations, and all stakeholders. Local communities also have a responsibility for addressing violence against children and they should be assisted in doing so. Men have a role, especially in preventing violence, and this role needs to be further explored and strengthened.
14. The institutional mechanism of providing all sorts of services to the women and children victims of violence from one place is getting popular. In Bangladesh, the services of One Stop Crisis Centre are appreciated by development partners, civil societies and NGO Communities. This model can be replicated at district and upazila levels with appropriate adjustments to increase the geographical coverage and to reach more victims of violence.
15. An advanced future strategy is required to redress sufferings of women and children victims of violence and prevent its recurrence through awareness and sensitization. It is felt necessary to base the future vision on past experiences and current learning. This will also facilitate coherent programming as well as allow stakeholders to remain true to its strategic focus on gender based violence in Bangladesh.
16. I would like to pledge the commitment of the Government of Bangladesh to consolidate the joint efforts and initiatives of the government machineries, development partners, civil societies and Non-Government Organizations to end violence against children. I would like to reiterate our commitment to the international and regional engagement to strengthen the ongoing programmes to address violence against children in South Asia Region.
17. I believe the establishment of South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIVAC) will expedite the process addressing the issues to end violence against children in South Asia. I will express my sincere thanks to the organizer for making the event a great success. I conclude here with the hope that with the concerted effort from SAARC and SAIEVAC we can eliminate all sorts of violence and discrimination against children and women.

H E Loynpo Thakur S Powdyel, Royal Government of Bhutan
Minister of Education,
Chairman, National Commission for Women and Children

23 June 2010

As a little boy, I heard the lays of this land from minstrels who made their annual visits to our village every winter. But, my first serious engagement with this lovely capital city of what we in Bhutan call Bae Yul was during my final year in high school. The unseen passage in our Dzongkha paper presented a beautiful description of Kathmandu valley. I remember the magic bowl the passage depicted. When I went to college, I read mellifluous verses about the enchanting Kantipuri Nagari. Today, I am privileged to view the home of Sagar Matha and Swayambhu, Boudhanath and Pashupatinath for real. I thank you for this honour.

I and the members of my delegation are most grateful to the organizers of this important event, the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Government of Nepal, officials of the South Asia Forum, the South Asia Coordinating Group, and our kind hosts for the very warm quintessential Nepali *atithi satkar* and for the excellent arrangements made for our meeting.

We express our deep appreciation to the members of the Third SAF Coordinators' Meeting, including the representatives of the children, for the hard work they have done to set the agenda and make meticulous preparations for the ministerial meeting. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Government of Nepal for the high honour of hosting the secretariat of the South Asia Forum.

Allow me to share a little story. I have forgotten the profile and contours of my memory of Stepney Green Coat in East London, England, as I attended this middle school as part of my teaching practice some 27 years ago. But one exchange has remained ever fresh. My tutor and I shared a lunch-table that day. "What do you normally do after school, Mr James (I think that was the name!)", I ventured to ask.

"I and my wife are expecting our first child. When I reach home, I take my guitar and sit close to my wife and play soft, melodious tunes. We believe that our baby in my wife's womb will hear my sweet music. It will know that the world to which it is coming must be a beautiful, welcoming world – full of music and delight. Our baby will be happy and excited to be born in this world."

Much water has flowed down the Thames since. Everything going well, the baby would have become a big man or woman now. Perhaps, expecting their own baby! If nothing has changed, it would be the wish of every parent to see the birth of their baby in a world just as musical, just as sweet and welcoming. At all times and in all places, it is, indeed, the cherished dream of all parents since the birth of humanity – to ensure the joy and well-being of their children.

With all the progress the world has made in many spheres though, it still leaves much to be desired. Sixty years since the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights, twenty years since the proclamation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, ten years since the adoption of the SAARC Decade of Children, we meet here in Kathmandu to bemoan the

limitations of our efforts and to assert the imperative to launch the South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children.

There is no alternative. The need is urgent. For many, the idyll that was the child's universe has been smashed. How many children must go to sleep on an empty stomach? How many must call it a day with a tale of tears in their eyes? Who could count the children who have never known or will never know the joy called childhood?

Singly and collectively, we have done much to address the needs of children in our region, but what we have done far looks far less compared to what we have yet to do. The challenge is heightened by the inexorable contradictions inherent in the lethal lexicon generated by the conditions experienced by children – *violence against children*.

Children are believed to be the image of innocence and joy, the smile of the family, beauty of the society, the cause of hope. That is the reason why the normal human mind rejoices at the mention of children in the same way as it recoils from any thought of violence. The mind revolts when children become the victims of violence. The tragic fact, however, is that even as we speak, millions of children in our own region go through the trauma of separation, abuse, exploitation and deprivation often on a scale too scary even to imagine.

Our region is home to some of the most enlightened minds and among the greatest of civilizations that the human race has ever produced. It should have the necessary resources of mind and material to engage and empower the most precious of the species and marshal the genius and creativity of its children to take our nations forward. Children hold the key to our future and it will only be as good as our children make it. We owe it to the children of our many lands to give what is due to them.

Despite all its challenges, the Kingdom of Bhutan is convinced of one fact – that the people are its greatest wealth and that children are the most important part of this national treasure. Our belief in the sanctity and preciousness of all life-forms, human life above all, derives from the profound foundations of our ancient and hallowed spiritual traditions. The Constitution provides for a comprehensive complement of principles that require the State to establish and advance those conditions that enhance the enjoyment and full blossoming of life.

Section 17 of Article 9 is of particular significance in securing the fundamental protection of children: *The State shall endeavour to take appropriate measures to ensure that children are protected against all forms of discrimination and exploitation including trafficking, prostitution, abuse, violence, degrading treatment and economic exploitation.*

Section 20 further provides that *the State shall strive to create conditions that will enable the true and sustainable development of a good and compassionate society rooted in Buddhist ethos and universal human values.* The long-term goal of the country, as conceived and articulated by His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo Jigme Singye Wangchuck, is expressed as Gross National Happiness. It is a development paradigm that seeks to balance the immediate needs of the body with the sublimer impulses of the mind.

All development programmes of the Royal Government are today assessed in terms of their GNH compatibility and approved only if they support the ultimate vision of the country. More recently, the Ministry of Education has launched a nationwide *Educating for GNH*

programme to bring the dream of the country to the real life of our children who will be our leaders tomorrow.

Bhutan is a signatory to most of the major international instruments related to the rights of children, including the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC), the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the UNESCO Education for All protocol, the MDGs, the SAARC Development Goals, and related conventions and optional protocols. The Royal Government has established an autonomous National Commission for Women and Children (NCWC) to protect, promote and report on issues related to women and children and to liaise with the international and regional bodies. It has been playing a critical role in creating awareness about human rights issues and in launching important initiatives to secure the best interests of children and women. The Commission has drafted and submitted to the Parliament two landmark bills - *Child Care and Protection Bill* and *Adoption Bill*. A *Domestic Violence Bill* will be submitted to the Parliament in the near future.

The Commission has also supported the training of a good number of legal and law enforcement officials, teachers and representatives of NGOs on many important issues of gender, human rights, CRC and women's empowerment. A *Woman and Child Protection Unit* has been set up in the Royal Bhutan Police facility to ensure proper treatment of women and children who come into conflict with the law. A Rapid Response Mechanism has also been launched and attached with the Royal Bhutan Police to respond to emergencies. Besides, the judiciary and the monastic body have been deeply involved with the NCWC in advancing the knowledge of legal and human rights provisions. His Lordship the Chief Justice of Bhutan has personally conducted several sessions around the country on the theme *Know Your Law to Protect Your Right*.

The Ministry of Labour and Human Resources has launched a comprehensive framework of actions to regulate labour laws as they relate to children and their rights. Bhutan's emerging media play their own role to highlight children's issues and concerns. The Ministry of Education has pledged to ensure that every Bhutanese child of school-going age is in school by the end of 2013 and that basic education is available to all the children as guaranteed by the Constitution. A newly established *Nazhoen Helpline* provides regular counseling and support service to all the youth in the country.

We also work in collaboration with several international organizations particularly the UNICEF, UNESCO, Save the Children, WFP, JICA, DANIDA, UNDP, Helvetas, and other bilateral and multilateral development partners.

The fundamental rights of children to survival, protection, participation and development are promoted through several informal, formal, legislative and institutional arrangements. His Majesty our beloved Druk Gyalpo believes that the future of a country is best mirrored in her youth and he embodies the nation's commitment to the children of our country. The Royal Government's commitment to realizing the principles of equity and justice to advance the national goal of Gross National Happiness presents an ideal platform to build conditions that ensure the best interests of children.

I believe with Carl Sandberg that:-

There is only one man in the world.

*His name is All Men.
There is only one woman in the world.
Her name is All Women.
There is only one child in the world.
And the child's name is All Children.*

The basic needs of children, as indeed the profound needs of human beings, are fundamentally the same irrespective of the different parallels and meridians that they inhabit. The cry of a child or the smile of a baby is the same in Taplejung or Minduling, Panchgani or Peshawar, Candy or Chittagong, Male or Kandahar – each can bloom and blossom in an environment of love and care and security.

It is my hope and my prayer that our South Asia Initiative will provide the necessary impetus to our efforts to secure a better future for our children and our children's children and beyond. I hope too that this effort will provide the seed for the evolution of an apex forum for the children of our region to articulate their dreams and their hopes for a secure and joyous future.

We may not be able to resurrect the idyll, but we can help make the world better place for children. May this sacred birthplace of the lord of love and compassion, the peerless Buddha, sanctify our prayers and guide our efforts.

Thank you and Tashi Delek!

Hon Ms Mariya Ali, Republic of Maldives

Deputy Minister of Health and Family

23 June 2010

Bismillahir-Rahmani-Raheem

Hon Mr Chairperson, Distinguished Ministers and Deputy Ministers of Afghanistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, distinguished colleagues from all member countries, NGOs and SAARC Representative , ladies and gentlemen,

Assalaam Alaikum

First and foremost, I would like to thank the Government of Nepal and the South Asia Forum for Ending Violence against Children (SAF) Secretariat for hosting this meeting to discuss the new organizational structure for SAF, future plans for collaboration with SAARC, and a 5 year work plan to end violence against children. We are very delighted to have the opportunity to participate in this meeting. I wish SAIEVAC success on this imperative and most important task. The emphasis on meaningful participation of children that this very cause is imparting negative consequences on the social fabric of the Maldivian community.

Ladies and gentlemen, let me share with you some of the experiences and achievements in the area of child protection in Maldives. My statement will focus on issues relating to child protection, although I acknowledge it is very much linked to woman's rights. Maldives signed the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in August 1990 and was ratified in February 1991. In the 20 years after the ratification of the convention, Maldives has excelled in the area of provision of child rights. However, further work in achieving protection is needed.

On ratifying the convention, the Law on the Protection of the Children (Law 9/91) was passed in November 1991. A new Draft of Children's Act is due to be completed this year that will replace Law 9/91. This law incorporates the provisions of UN CRC and will provide a legal instrument reinforcing the child protection system in the Maldives.

Honourable Chair

Victims of Child sexual abuse gained legal visibility in 2008 due to a number of high profile cases that led to public pressure to make laws against offenders more stringent. As a result the government brought amendments to the sexual misconduct laws. In addition to this, a Law on 'stringent punishments for perpetrators of sexual violence against children' have also been passed in 2009 by the Parliament, which proposes strict punishments for the accused perpetrators and withdraws the constitutional right to remain silent during the investigation.

In 2006, further efforts were made to strengthen the child and family protection services. In this regard Family and Children Service Centres were established in twenty atolls in the Maldives. To strengthen the child protection system and building the capacity of the existing staff, Department of Gender and Family Protection Service continuously supporting and providing guidance to staff on international best practices to link theory to practice and to increase their work ethics and confidence in handling complex caseloads. Hence, these

measures would lead to better and specialized child protection services provided by our department.

Honourable Chair

The Department of Gender and Family Protection services along with the Family and Child Protection Department (FCPD) of the Maldives police services works together in safeguarding children. In this regard, establishment of a sex offender registry is in place and I would like to stress here, that safeguarding children is given the highest priority in Police three year action plan. Furthermore, providing medical support for victims of child abuse and neglect, a referral system was introduced in 2006 including establishment of a Family Protection Unit at IGMH. This service is planned to be rolled out to private and regional hospitals including private clinics in the Maldives. Further efforts are being made to work with the relevant sectors to strengthen intersectoral coordination among relevant stakeholders and to develop better procedures and guidelines to strengthen the existing services provided to children and families.

Honourable Chair

Furthermore, the Department of gender and family Protection services has launched a child helpline in November 2009, which links children in need of care and protection. So far we have made up to 700 interventions and it is expected to reach an estimated 2,700 calls by October. The department together with the Police and UNICEF has also established a national child protection data base this year, to document and track reported cases of children exposed to violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation. .

Hence, there two alternative care institutions established for children: one for children below 9 years (Hiya) and the other exclusively for boys above the age of 9. Currently the Hiya provides care for a total of 47 children from different families. These children comprise of children who do not have a guardian to look after them in cases where parents or guardians have been arrested for committing major crimes or who are presently serving jail sentences. Also, Children who are severely abused physically or sexually in their homes and do not have any other safe place to live. Kinship placements are sort for children subsequent to thorough assessments of the relatives the children would be placed with. Efforts are being made to formalize these arrangements in terms of regulations.

Furthermore, to strengthen the services provided by these institutions Minimum standards for children's homes and institutions have been developed and will be formalized in the following months. A Domestic Violence Bill has been drafted will be presented to the Parliament in July.

Honourable Chair

Primary intervention is essential for safeguarding children. In this regard, the department is in the process to develop a child friendly website focusing on child participation and also is preparing to develop a campaign to address child abuse prevention in Maldives. Furthermore we are working to mobilize local communities including NGOs and stakeholders at atoll level to establish community level intervention for child abuse prevention.

The new gender mainstreaming policy introduced in 2009 mandates each ministry to address gender issues within their relevant sectors. It will also further strengthen the child safeguarding mechanisms as it looks at women and men and girls and boys.

Honourable Chair

The Maldives is seeing an increase in religious factions, although a minority, it is leading to an increase in child marriages that are not registered. Parents choosing not to give vaccinations and preventing children from attending mainstream school. We need to learn from our regional experiences to address these issues effectively.

I thank the south Asia forum for providing the Maldivian Delegation, a forum to share our issues and worries, achievements and hopes in protecting the children of the Maldives from exploitation. Because there is more to be done, than achieved, my delegation and I will be pleased to have a constructive discussion and take home much valued recommendations.

Before I conclude I would like to thank the Government of Nepal for the excellent preparedness and your hospitality on this meeting.

Thank you and Wassalam Alaikum

Mr Ziauddin, Additional Secretary, Government of Pakistan
Ministry of Social Welfare and Special Education
23 June 2010

Bishillah Hi Rehman Nir Rahim

His Excellency Sarva Dev Prasad Ojha, Minister for Women, Children and Social Welfare,
Government of Nepal
Honourable Ministers
Distinguished Delegates
Dear Children
Media Personnel
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is indeed a great pleasure for us to be here for the 3rd Ministerial Meeting of the South Asia Forum for Ending the menace of Violence Against Children, in Kathmandu, a beautiful city of Nepal. I would like to thank your Government for hosting this meeting and providing a platform for the SAARC countries to share experiences and common agendas in order to develop common programmes which will help in providing congenial and protective environment to our children. The presence of the Honourable Prime Minister of Nepal speaks of the firm determination, strong political commitment and openness for providing a protective environment to children.

Let me take this opportunity to appreciate the contribution of the SAF Country Coordinators in the finalization of institutional framework, TOR of Secretariat and Coordinators of the South Asia Initiative for Ending Violence Against Children, preparation of its five year work plan, defining its future collaboration with SAARC and the role of children in this Regional movement.

Ladies and gentlemen, in May 2005, the Regional Consultation for the UN Study on Violence Against Children was held in Islamabad. In its follow up the South Asia Forum was established and its Regional Secretariat was set up in the National Commission for Child Welfare and Development, Ministry of Social Welfare and Special Education. We hosted the Secretariat in the first phase for a period of two years besides hosting the First SAF Ministerial meeting in July 2006. Each member state's progress report on preventing and combating Early Marriages and Physical and Psychological Punishment was reviewed. Operational and structural mechanism for the Forum was finalized by appointing County Coordinators for the SAF networking.

Ladies and gentlemen, Pakistan is the world's sixth most populous country with an estimated population of 170 million and an annual growth rate of 2.05 percent. Children under 18 comprise almost 47% per 1,000 whereas under five mortality is 95.2 and life expectancy is 66.5. The overall literacy rate aged 10 years and above is 57% (69% for male and 45% for female).

Ladies and gentlemen, let me share with you that:-

1. Pakistan has taken various policy, legislative, administrative and programmatic measures to end violence against children at home, schools, work places, institutions and communities.
2. Finalisation of the National Child Protection Policy, Criminal Law Amendment Bill and National Commission on the Rights of the Children Bill are among the legislative and policy measures being undertaken.
3. National and Provincial Child Protection Centres have been established to protect vulnerable children from violence, abuse, neglect, discrimination and exploitation.
4. The Children Complaint Offices in the Federal and Provincial Mohtasib Secretariats have been established to receive and resolve children's complaints.
5. National Plan for Action for Children has been prepared and is being implemented.
6. National Education and Health Policies are being implemented to enhance access of the poor and vulnerable children to education and health facilities.
7. National Policy for Disabled Persons is under implementation.
8. National and provincial media workshops have been organized to sensitize the media professionals for creating awareness among the general masses regarding the negative consequences of early marriage and corporal punishment.
9. A national campaign has been launched in this regard.
10. A Country Report on the issue of child abuse and exploitation has been prepared for the 3rd World Congress against sexual exploitation of children and adolescents. Similarly, Child Support Programme, Pakistan Sweet Homes, National Centres for Rehabilitation of Child Labourers and Poverty Reduction Initiatives like Benazir Income Support Programme are reflective of government's sincere efforts in addressing the children's issues in Pakistan.

Ladies and gentlemen, all governments of the region need to work to achieve the principles adopted by the Convention on the Rights of the Child for promoting non-discrimination, survival, development and protection, ensuring children's views and participation and, above all, we all need to work together for the protection of the best interest of the child.

Honourable Chairperson. Last but not least, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Government of Nepal and the Organising Committee for giving us a warm welcome and providing great hospitality. I appreciate the excellent arrangements of the meeting from the core of my heart. Many greetings and love from the children and people of Pakistan to you all. Thank you.

Hon Mr M.L.A.M Hizbullah, Government of Sri Lanka
Deputy Minister, Child Development and Women Affairs

23 June 2010

On behalf of the government of Sri Lanka, I wish to offer my immense thanks with much gratitude to Hon Sav Der Prasad Ojha, the Minister for Women, Children and Social Welfare, Government of Nepal, for inviting me to participate in this third Ministerial Meeting of the South Asian Forum for Ending Violence Against Children.

The vision of SAF inaugurated in the year 2005 initially as a Regional Mechanism was to eliminate violence against children in South Asia.

The United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC) the elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAV), as well as the SAARC convention envisaged to eliminate violence against children. This is very important in SAF work too.

Sri Lanka is much pleased with the decision taken to further develop SAIEVAC (South Asian Initiative to End Violence Against Children) as the frame of the new organization at the 4th SAF consultation forum. With the establishment of a Secretariat for SAIEVAC, replacing the Governing Body and the formulation of an Annual Work Plan, I do believe that it would be possible to achieve the target of ensuring a better future for the children in our SAARC countries. Without such objectives, no project would be successful.

It is very appropriate to have named the prevention of early marriage, the elimination of sexual abuse and the violence against children, the elimination of corporal punishment and the elimination of Child Labour, as the results envisaged. In this regard it is very important to build up indicators and evaluate the progress achieved.

The violence against children in Sri Lanka, as reported, is of varying degrees and nature. The age 18 years has been accepted as the age for marriage in Sri Lanka. In case of Muslim, it is different. Marriages below the age prescribed by law have been reported in estate sector and the rural areas in Sri Lanka. We have taken necessary steps to carry out awareness programmes at various levels ie children's clubs and schools about the adverse effects of early marriage specially targeting adolescents.

Rules and regulations have been revised and amended to end violence to children in Sri Lanka. The penal code has been amended so as to impose severe punishments to child abusers. It is very important that Sri Lanka has developed and maintained I.N. co-operation and goodwill by signing all the agreements of the U.N.O and SAARC. The Ministry of Education has abolished corporal punishment in schools. Programmes of varying nature are being successfully implemented to further develop the concepts of child friendly schools and create awareness among school teachers. Sri Lanka is working very closely with the ILO to eliminate child labour in Sri Lanka. We have signed agreements with the ILO to that effect. A special programme is in the process of being implemented to eliminate child labour from Sri Lanka by the year 2016. The participation of Children at this Ministers forum is also very important. The Department of Probation and Childcare Services, in Sri Lanka has established a mechanism to enlist the active participation of Children in Sri Lanka, at various levels, village, divisional, district and national by establishing children's clubs at divisional and District levels and National Children's council at national level.

We are indeed very proud to record that the President and the Secretary of the National Children's Council in Sri Lanka have been invited and that they are now participating in this all important forum.

Finally, I am very pleased as the Deputy Minister of Child Development and Women Affairs that I got the opportunity to participate in this Ministerial Meeting. We hope to formulate and implement related plans in future together with Mr Sarath Abayagunawardana, Commissioner of Probation and Child Care Services in Sri Lanka who is also with me here now.

I wish to extend my warm facilitation to SAF which has been within a very short period of 5 years, advancing progressively with a new outlook.

Thank you very much.

Hon. Minister, Sarva Dev Prasad Ojha, Government of Nepal
Ministry of Women Children and Social Welfare

(Translated by Mr Ratna Kaji Bajracharya, Jt Secretary and Mr Mahendra P Shrestha, Secretary)

23 June 2010

Honourable Ministers from Afghanistan and Bhutan
Honourable Deputy Ministers from Maldives and Sri-Lanka
Distinguished Delegates from SAARC member states
Honourable Constituent Assembly Members
Chief Secretary and secretaries of Government of Nepal
Chair of SACG and Members
Children Representatives
Representatives from UN, INGOs, Civil Society and Media,
And all other participants

Child Marriage, trafficking, child sexual abuse, corporal punishment are one of the main issues and challenge regarding children in Nepal. Government of Nepal has promulgated various Laws, policies and plans to address these issues. I would like to discuss here few of them:

Interim Constitution of Nepal, 2007 has provisioned in Article 22 the rights of children in line of 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 have been prepared on behalf of Government of Nepal is 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 Development 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 Development 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 Toll Free No. 104 for the investigation of missing children and Child Help Line with Toll Free No. 1098 is operational for immediate help to the needy children.

Some of district Level structures for child protection are:

District Child Rights Promotion and Protection Sub-Committee, District Gender Mainstreaming and Child Rights Coordination Committee, District Resource Group, District AIDS Coordination Committee, District Child Club Network etc.

Some of community level structures are:

Village Child Rights Promotion and Protection Sub-Committee, Child Club/forum, Local Resource Group, Village AIDS Coordination Committee, Child Care Homes and Child Correction Home, Para-legal Committee.

Other Structures:

Children Desk at National Human Rights Commission, National Women Commission, and National Dalit (Oppressed Caste) Commission are working for promoting the rights of the

children. Likewise, Juvenile Bench have been functional at 28 District Court for the hearing of issues regarding children in conflict with law.

Some of the Programs run by the Government of Nepal are:

- Child Protection and Development Program
- Child Friendly VDC program
- Protection of Children affected by HIV and AIDS
- Decentralized Action for Children and Women
- Learning without fear Program
- Program for Child Friendly Local Governance
- Children as Zone of Peace campaign
- Monitoring of Child Care Homes program
- Child Labour Elimination Program
- Program for street children
- Protection of children Affected by Armed Conflict
- Child Welfare Program

Government of Nepal has been 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 etc.

Finally, in regards to the efforts made by the Government of Nepal, this 5th meeting of SAIEVEC Coordinators and the 3rd Ministerial meeting will be a milestone for protection and promotion of child rights in SAARC level. With this, I would like to conclude my brief presentation.

Thank you very

Annex 4

List of Participants

A. GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES	
Afghanistan	Ms. Amena Safi Afzali Hon'ble Minister Ministry of labor, Social affairs Martyrs and Disabled Government of Afghanistan
	Mr. Wasil Noor Muhmad Deputy Minister & SAIEVAC Coordinator Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs Martyrs and Disabled Government of Afghanistan
Bangladesh	Ms. Raiza Begum Secretary Ministry of Women and Children Affairs Government of Bangladesh
	Mr. Anis Ahmad SAIEVAC Coordinator Ministry of Women and Children Affairs Government of Bangladesh
	Dr. Abul Hossain Projector Director Ministry of Women and Children Affairs Government of Bangladesh
Bhutan	Mr. Thakur S. Powdyel Hon'ble Minister National Commission for Women and Children Government of Bhutan
	Mr. Norbu Gyaltshen Director & SAIEVAC Coordinator National Commission for Women and Children Government of Bhutan
Maldives	Ms. Mariya Ali Deputy Minister & SAIEVAC Coordinator Ministry of Health and Family Government of Maldives

Nepal	Mr. Sarva Dev Prasad Ojha Hon'ble Minister Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare Government of Nepal
	Mr. Ram Bachan Ahir Yadav, State Minister, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Government of Nepal
	Mr. Madhav Prasad Ghimire, Chief Secretary, Government of Nepal
	Mr. Mahendra Prasad Shrestha Secretary Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare Government of Nepal
	Mr. Ratna Kaji Bajracharya Joint Secretary & SAIEVAC Coordinator Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare Government of Nepal
	Mr. Tikaram Sharme, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Government of Nepal
	Mr. Dharma Raj Shrestha, Executive Director Central Child Welfare Board, Government of Nepal
Pakistan	Mr. Syed Abrar Hussain, Ambassador of Pakistan
	Mr. Ziauddin, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Social Welfare and Special Education, Government of Pakistan
	Mr. Muhammad Hassan Mangi SAIEVAC Coordinator National Commission for Child Welfare and Development Government of Pakistan
Sri Lanka	Hon. M.L.A.M. Hizbullah Deputy Minister Minister of Child Development & Women's Empowerment Government of Sri Lanka
	Mr. Sarath Abegunawardana SAIEVAC Coordinator Department of Probation and Child Care Services Government of Sri Lanka
Regional Expert	Dr. Rinchin Choppel Technical Adviser Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare Government of Nepal
B. SAARC SECRETARIAT	Mr. Hassan Shifau, Director
C. CHILDREN & CHAPERONE	
Afghanistan	Ms. Frishta Ansari Said Jamal, Child participant
	Mr. Noor Mohamud Ghulam Nabi , Child participant

	Mr. Ghulam Sakhi Allah Nazar, Chaperone
Bangladesh	Ms. Hasina Akter, Child participant
	Mr. Md Jamal Miah, Child participant
	Ms. Mst Masia Shafi, Chaperone
Bhutan	Ms. Ugyen Dema Dorji, Child participant
	Mr. Sonam Tenzin, Child participant
	Ms. Yangchen Thinley, Chaperone
India	Ms. Putul Sharma, Child participant
	Mr. Rakesh Shaw, Child participant
	Mr. Satyaki Sengupta, Chaperone
Maldives	Ms. Manaal Mohamed, Child participant
	Mr. Hussain Zameel, Child participant
	Ms. Aishath Mohamed Salih, Chaperone
Nepal	Ms. Nirmaya Magrati, Child participant
	Ms. Sunita Gurung, Child participant
	Mr. Salam Kahan, Child participant
	Mr. Aunrag Chaudhary, Child participant
	Mr. Keshav Khadga, Child participant
	Mr. Surendra Rana, Child participant
	Mr. Kil Bahadur Malla, Chaperone
	Ms. Sangita Khatiwada, Chaperone
Pakistan	Ms. Sana Muqaddas, Child participant
	Mr. Tamotious Rafiq, Child participant
	Mr. Safdar Raza, Chaperone
	Ms. Samina Victor, Chaperone
Sri Lanka	Ms. Noor Hasima Mohamed Haris, Child participant
	Mr. H.M. Amila Chathuranga, Child participant
	Ms. Gammuna Liynace Sulari Sandarena, Chaperone
D. SACG MEMBERS	Mr. Ron Pouwels, Regional Advisor Child Protection, UNICEF ROSA
	Ms. Antariksha Roka, UNICEF ROSA
	Mr. Daniel Toole, Regional Director, UNICEF ROSA
	Mr. Bimol Bhetwal, ECPAT International
	Ms. Junita Upadhaya, ECPAT International
	Mr. Rasa Sekulovich, Plan International
	Mr. Uddhav Poudyal, Chief Technical Advisor, ILO-Nepal

	Ms. Naveeda Khawaja, UNFPA
	Mr. Vinit Sharma, Regional Advisor, UNFPA
	Mr. Madhuwanti Tuladhar, Gender and Child Rights Coordinator, Plan Nepal
	Ms. Cecilia Conilleau, Country Director, Planete-Enfants
	Mr. Rajendra Raut, Planete-Enfants
	Ms. Shodashi Raymajhi, Planete-Enfants
	Ms. Turid Heiberg, Save the Children Sweden
	Mr. Jerome Conilleau, Save the Children Sweden
	Mr. Chiranjeet Das, Save the Children Sweden
	Ms. Catherine Kates, Save the Children Sweden
	Ms. Radha Kamath, Save the Children Sweden
	Mr. Bimal Rawal, Save the Children Sweden
	Mr. Laxman Belbase, Save the Children Sweden
	Mr. Ashish Damle, Save the Children Sweden
	Mr. Karuna David, Regional CS Officer, UNHCR
	Mr. Amrit Bhandari, Community Service Assistant, UNHCR
	Mr. Johan Olhagn, OHCHR
	Dr. Madhuri Singh, USAID
	Ms. Muna Basnyat, Terre des hommes

A. OTHERS (UN AGENCIES, DONORS, INGOS, NGOs)	Ms. Sushila Adhikari, Consortium of Organization Working for Child Participation
	Ms. Mira Ghale Gurung, Programme Officer, DANIDA
	Ms. Gillian Mellsop, Country Representative, UNICEF Nepal
	Ms. Laxman Das Durga, Adviser, SIDA, Nepal
	Ms. Jasmine Raj Bhandari, Social Protection Specialist, World Bank, Nepal
	Mr. Donal Keane, Plan Nepal
	Mr. Brian Hunter, Country Director, Save the Children Nepal
	Ms. Tara Kanel, Team Leader-Child Protection, Save the Children Nepal
	Mr. Rajan Burlakoti, Maiti Nepal
	Ms. Indira Thapa, Project Officer, Save the Children Nepal
	Ms. Rakshya Amatya, Maiti Nepal
	Mr. Milan Dharel, CWISH
	Ms. Sumnima Tuladhar, CWIN Nepal

Annex 5

Organogram

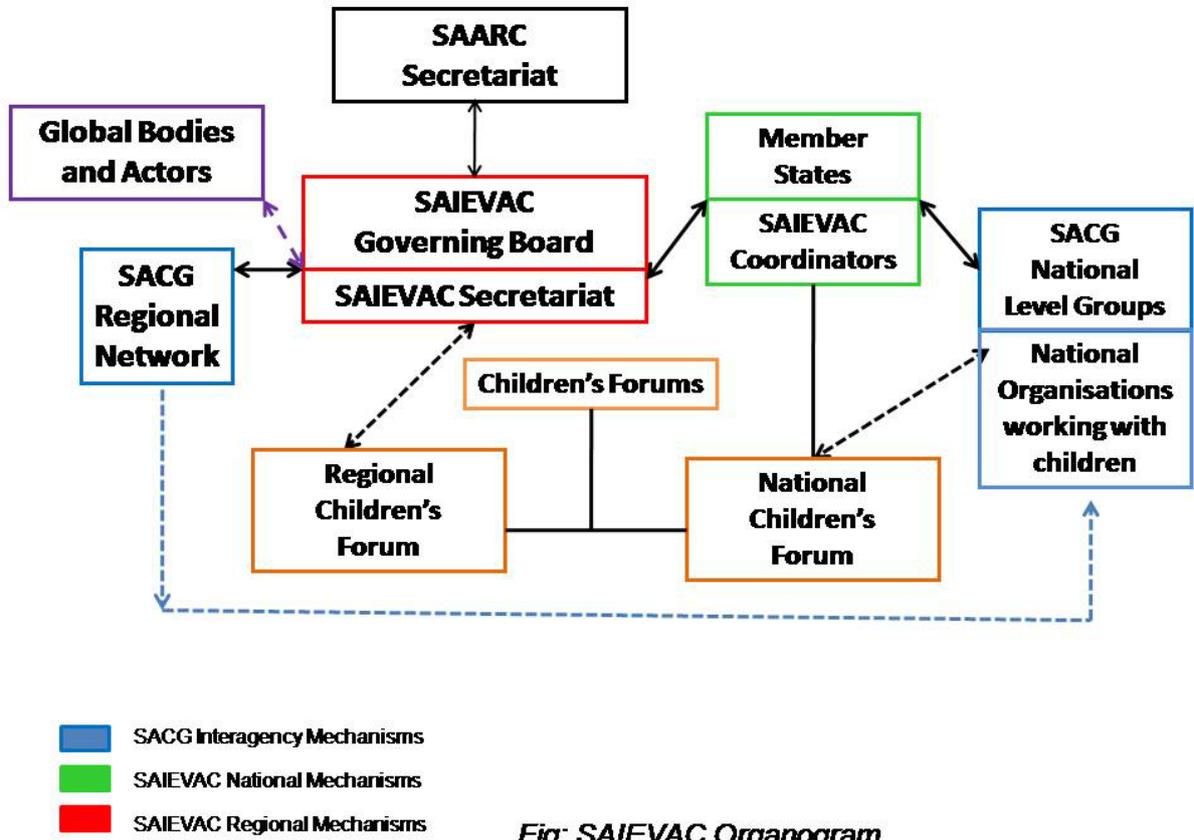


Fig: SAIEVAC Organogram

Annex 6

Terms of Reference for the SAIEVAC Governing Board **South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children (SAIEVAC)**

1. **Scope:** To end all forms of violence against children in all settings in South Asia
2. **Mandate:**
 - To review, approve and facilitate SAIEVAC measures 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. A quorum shall be 2/3 of voting members. The Board can only meet if 5 Members States are present to fulfil 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
 - SAIEVAC Secretariat Coordinator (ex officio member) – 1

National Civil Society Organisation Representation to be determined by the Board.

Annex 7

Terms of Reference for the 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 complementarity 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 Nepal Government will hold ex-officio position as SAIEVAC Secretariat Coordinator
 - The SAIEVAC Secretariat will employ a Programme Manager to assist the SAIEVAC Coordinators
 - Additional staff/consultants will be hired as deemed necessary by the SAIEVAC Secretariat Coordinator as approved by the Board)

Annex 8

Terms of Reference for the National SAIEVAC Coordinators

South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children (SAIEVAC)

1. **Scope:** To end violence against children in South Asia and specifically in his/her own country
2. **Roles and Responsibilities:**
 - Be a child rights advocate in his/her country
 - To support Ministries in the coordination of national level initiatives to protect children from violence, including the collection and analysis of data pertaining to violence against children in all settings.
 - Take part in scheduled SAIEVAC meetings, including Board meetings, and ensure budgets and the results and success of the SAIEVAC Secretariat
 - Develop and implement the SAIEVAC Workplan at national level in collaboration with relevant Ministries
 - Report every six months to the Board through the Secretariat
 - Collaborate with child rights Civil Society Organisations and local NGOs, INGOs, UN Agencies and Networks on addressing child protection and violence against children
 - Develop formal linkages with a national children's forum/network
 - Disseminate information from SAIEVAC, SACG and SAARC to relevant Ministries at national and local level, local NGOs, INGOs and UN Agencies
 - Share national good practices on ending violence against children with other SAIEVAC member countries
 - Assess the national situation of violence against children
 - Accomplishes and completes various assignments as required
 - Mobilize resources at national level
3. **Criteria for SAIEVAC National Coordinators Selection**

To be developed at the first Governing Board Meeting.
4. **Coordinators Meeting**

SAIEVAC Coordinators to meet at least once a year, as and when the board decides

Annex 9

SAIEVAC 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

- a. To ensure the realization of children's rights as stated in the UNCRC and its Optional Protocols
- b. To prevent and respond to all forms of neglect, abuse, exploitation and violence against children in all settings
- c. 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
- d. 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 workers, 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, caregivers 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

1. # of States where 18 is the legal age of marriage for both boys and girls
2. # of States who show a percentage decrease in number of early marriages nationally
3. # of States that actively enforce legislation banning forced and early marriage
4. # of States where birth registration is compulsory and free of cost and can be done by mothers
5. # of States where marriage registration is compulsory and free of cost
6. # of States which have defined an age for sexual consent that does not discriminate between boys and girls
7. # 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

1. # 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:

1. # 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
2. # 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
3. # of States that have ratified the UNCRC Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography
4. # of States that have ratified ILO Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour
5. # of States that prevent and protect children from exploitation in brothels, dance bars and restaurants and similar establishments
6. # of telecommunications services in each country that have adopted and enforce a Code of Conduct
7. # 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:

1. # of States that have laws in place to ban corporal punishment in all settings including at home, schools, institutions, workplaces
2. # of parenting programmes developed at national, district, local level.
3. # of teachers and health professionals trained to offer positive parenting counselling services
4. # of parents reached in each country

5. # of States including positive discipline techniques in national teacher training programmes
6. # 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:

1. # of States that have ratified ILO Convention 182
2. # of States that have programmes where children can combine work with educational opportunities
3. # of States that have initiated a Code of Conduct for protecting children in workplaces

Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

The overall objectives of the SAIEVAC M&E framework are:

1. To measure and demonstrate the impact of SAIEVAC
2. To measure progress against expected results on regular basis
3. To ensure quality of SAIEVAC's work
4. To ensure effective and appropriate use of the financial and human resources
5. To hold SAIEVAC accountable to Member Governments, SACG, children, donors and partners
6. To clarify roles and responsibilities for M&E

The Monitoring and Evaluation of SAIEVAC activities will be done against:

1. The Strategic objectives and indicators as defined in the workplan
2. The expected results and indicators under each thematic issue including: violence against children, child protection systems, trafficking, early marriage and sexual abuse and exploitation, corporal punishment, child labour

The Monitoring and Evaluation will consist of:

1. 1 Annual Report indicating main achievements and activities at country and regional level, giving the rationale for deviations in progress and recommendations for the next years plan
2. 1 Annual Learning Review at regional and national level including a range of stakeholders such as government, civil society, children organisations
3. 1 annual financial audit conducted by independent audit company for SAIEVAC Secretariat
4. 1 Mid-Term Review of SAIEVAC objectives and impact after 2 years of implementation of the SAIEVAC Plan
5. 1 final Evaluation involving government, civil society and children by December 2015

The Roles and Responsibilities within the reporting process:

1. SAIEVAC Secretariat will be responsible for providing an annual progress report to the board showing main achievements reached against the plans and rationale for deviation
2. SAIEVAC Coordinators report annually on progress within country to the SAIEVAC Secretariat
3. SAIEVAC Secretariat will be responsible for coordinating the annual learning review undertaken by the SAIEVAC National Coordinators and consolidating the report for submission to the board
4. The SAIEVAC Secretariat will facilitate the annual audit
5. The Board is responsible for conducting the Mid-Term Review and the Evaluation
6. SAIEVAC Board shares progress internally and externally to key stakeholders including SAARC through strategic communication

Note: If integrated into SAARC, SAIEVAC will follow SAARC monitoring and evaluating processes

Communications Framework

Clear communication about SAIEVAC and its role in ending violence against children is key to its success. Therefore all coordinators are responsible to ensure clear and timely communication through the identified channels.

Internal Communications

Internal communications will be lead by the SAIEVAC Secretariat. The SAIEVAC Programme Manager is responsible for all regular communication with Coordinators.

Objectives

- To facilitate effective communications (consistent, timely and relevant information)
- To inform governments and SACG, ensuring that they are aware of SAIEVAC and their contribution to ending violence throughout the region
- To be effective in the use of communication tools and methods
- To communicate successes and share best practice

Methods

- Board and sub group meeting agendas and minutes will be circulated to Coordinators
- Email circulation lists are held for disseminating information
- All e-mails will include contact details to promote feedback
- SAIEVAC Website updated as a prime resource for Coordinators to access information. All reports, minutes and other important documents will be placed on the website <http://www.sacg.info/forum.php>
- Events and conferences
- Bi-annual board meeting
- SAF Programme Manager available by phone
- Personal contact with Coordinators

Standards

- Agendas – circulated not less than 6 weeks prior to meeting
- Minutes circulated not later than 2 weeks after meeting
- Annual report – produced annually in January
- Newsletter – produced annually in June
- Additional documents circulated to all interested parties.

External Communications

External communications is the main responsibility of the SAIEVAC Secretariat; however, all Country Coordinators are responsible for communication within their country.

Objectives:

- To increase SAIEVAC visibility across a diverse audience
- To promote networking and exchange from key actors
- To promote consistent messages about SAIEVAC
- To increase Governmental support for SAIEVAC at all levels

Key Audiences

- Government officials including key Ministers and Prime Minister/President
- General public

- Children
- Media outlets
- UN Agencies, INGO's, NGOs, and CBOs

Methods

- Media – press invited to key events and informed through distribution of press releases (to be written by SAIEVAC Secretariat when necessary)
- Website – hosted on the SACG website and updated by SACG Chair
- Conferences or workshops- held nationally by governments to inform key stakeholders
- Annual Newsletter- to be composed by SAIEVAC Secretariat and circulated by coordinators
- Publications – including minutes, agendas, SAIEVAC Updates
- Interviews
- E-mail information
- Involving children in meetings and workshops

Key Messages

- The South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC) is a collaboration of South Asian States who have joined forces to have a greater impact for children
- Every child has the right to a life free from violence. SAIEVAC works to ensure this right throughout the region
- SAIEVAC believes children can make a valuable contribution to their own development, and works to engage children at the highest level in decision-making processes

Key Advocacy Messages

- 1. Implement credible national plans.** Governments of South Asia need to implement national plans for ending violence against children. Some of these plans exist on paper but are not properly implemented; in other cases plans will need to be developed or strengthened. National plans should focus on creating an integrated and holistic approach by developing child protection systems that respond to violence from the prevention stages through to rehabilitation and reintegration of children. Donors, international agencies, and local and national NGOs should assist in the development of plans and implementation.
- 2. Legally ban all forms of violence in all settings.** The legal prohibition of violence is important as it conveys a clear message of political commitment to prevention work and the use of non-violent alternatives for conflict resolution. It constitutes a vital safeguard for child victims and witnesses, being a strong reference for capacity-building initiatives and the development of guidance and codes of conduct for professionals working with and for children. Law reform gains renewed value when used in support of public information and awareness-raising activities, for promoting positive discipline, ending harmful practices, social mobilization and behavior change.
- 3. Mobilise additional resources.** Governments need to mobilize additional resources to address all issues of violence in a comprehensive manner so that services reach marginalized populations. Donors, international agencies, and local and national NGOs should support this process.
- 4. Recognise violence goes beyond the physical.** Violence is multidimensional and includes both physical and psychological abuse, neglect and exploitation. It calls for a holistic approach to the treatment of the circumstance of the violent incident, towards the child and towards the perpetrator (s). The best interest of the child must be viewed in this context when designing societal reactions and responses.
- 5. Understand that both boys and girls experience violence.** It is a common misconception in South Asia that only girls suffer from violence and that boys are able to protect themselves. In fact it has been shown that boys also experience violence and in some settings may be more vulnerable to violence. Governments need to ensure that legislation and programmes protect and prohibit violence against both boys and girls and address their particular needs in different settings.

KEY ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED IN SOUTH ASIA

Early Marriage

Early marriage is rampant in South Asia with 46 per cent of young women reporting being married before the age of 18. Early marriage usually occurs because of poverty and the lack of economic opportunities for girls in rural areas. Girls are either seen as an economic burden or valued as capital for their exchange value in terms of goods, money or livestock. Early marriage may also be seen as a way of protecting young girls and ensuring their security. Research has shown that child brides are often more likely to experience domestic violence and sexual abuse and least likely to take action against this abuse. They attain lower schooling, lower social status in their husbands' families, have less reproductive control, and suffer higher rates of maternal mortality. They are often forced out of school without an education and experience health problems as their bodies are too immature to give birth.

Sexual abuse and exploitation

The most hidden and underreported form of violence against children and youth is sexual abuse. Sexual abuse affects both boys and girls and often happens within the family, in schools and the community, in the majority of cases (outside armed conflict zones) perpetrated by someone familiar to the child. Additionally, commercial sexual exploitation of children continues to be one of the most pervasive violations of children's rights in South Asia and includes child abuse through child prostitution, sex tourism, child pornography, internet pornography and trafficking. Recent studies provide evidence of sexual exploitation of boys to a much larger extent than previously recognized. The victims of exploitation and abuse are also at high risk of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). Sexual abuse and exploitation are seldom reported because of a lack of child protection services, a lack of awareness-raising of them as human rights violations and crimes and because of the stigma faced by victims of such abuse and exploitation.

Trafficking

The criminal and clandestine nature of trafficking makes it difficult to gather reliable data but child trafficking is widespread in South Asia, and include both internal trafficking and trafficking across international borders. Victims of trafficking end up in various forms of abuse and human rights violations including sexual and economic exploitation, i.e. doing domestic work, working in factories, on the streets, or in other forms of hazardous labor that come in the way of the children's enjoyment of rights and fundamental freedoms. A common feature of child trafficking is that young girls and boys are often trafficked from rural communities to urban areas.

Traffickers are motivated by financial gain, and sometimes lure young girls into sex work on false pretenses. Children are vulnerable to being trafficked if they are poor or because of a high rate of unsafe migration, weak law enforcement, insufficient household income, ill-treatment and physical abuse at home and in the community, parental alcoholism, lack of food, and forced marriages. When children without birth registration and identity proof are trafficked tracing them becomes extremely difficult. In most of the countries in the region, birth registration is still difficult to obtain as seen by the fact that 36% of South Asia's children are unregistered at birth.

The governments of South Asia have committed themselves through ratification of the SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for

Prostitution(2002) to tackle the issue. As part of a coordinated regional response, the governments have also committed to implement a SOP (Standard Operating Procedures) for effectively implementing the SAARC Convention.

Corporal Punishment

Violent punishment of children is now recognised as a human rights violation. The Committee on the Rights of the Child and other human rights Treaty Bodies systematically recommend prohibition of corporal punishment and other humiliating forms of punishment in all settings including the home/family. Explicit prohibition was also recommended by the UNSG's Study on Violence against Children. South Asian States committed to prohibiting all corporal punishment following the Study's 2005 regional consultation and the follow-up meeting in 2006.

Corporal punishment is widely practised at home and in schools, other institutions and penal systems for young people, as well as in situations of child labour. It remains socially accepted throughout the region, as it does in all regions of the world, except in the few countries where it has been prohibited and systematically challenged through sustained public, teacher and parent education. Corporal punishment in the form of hitting, slapping, kicking, beating, pulling hair, etc., and other forms of humiliating punishment are not as yet generally perceived as abusive. There is inadequate teacher training and parent education, promoting positive, non-violent forms of discipline.

The persisting legality and social approval of violent punishment is the most symbolic reflection of children's low status in societies, as possessions rather than individual people and rights-holders. Ending this legalised violence against children is not only a human rights imperative, it is also an essential strategy for reducing and eliminating all other forms of violence against children. No state can claim it has an effective child protection system while its laws still authorise and defend corporal punishment.

Child Labour

In South Asia, around 44 million or 13% of all children are involved in child labour. Economic exploitation is seen as one of the most common forms of violence in the region. Children often work long hours with little or no pay. There is a great deal of commonality across the South Asian countries in the forms of child labour, most notably in the areas of children in hazardous child labour, child domestic labour, children in export oriented industries, child bonded labour particularly in agriculture, and child labour in the informal economy, particularly in urban areas. Children not only face occupational hazards like handling heavy machineries or chemicals in their workplaces, but are also vulnerable and subjected to physical and sexual abuse. Additionally, these children are usually denied educational opportunities, which leads to a cycle of poverty and vulnerability.

INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL DOCUMENTS

International and Regional texts aimed at safeguarding the rights of the child and protecting children from violence

United Nations Treaties

- Convention on the Rights of the Child, GA Res. 44/25, annex, 44 UN GAOR Supp. (No. 49) at 167, UN Doc. A/44/49 (1989), entered into force 2 September 1990
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, GA Res. 54/263, Annex I, 54 UN GAOR Supp. (No. 49) at 7, UN Doc. A/54/49, Vol. III (2000), entered into force 12 February 2002
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, GA Res. 54/263, Annex II, 54 UN GAOR Supp. (No. 49) at 6, UN Doc. A/54/49, Vol. III (2000), entered into force 18 January 2002
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly resolution 2200A (XXI) of 16 December 1966, entry into force 23 March 1976, in accordance with Article 49
- International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, Adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly resolution 2200A (XXI) of 16 December 1966, entry into force 3 January 1976, in accordance with Article 27
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly resolution 39/46 of 10 December 1984, entry into force 26 June 1987, in accordance with Article 27.1
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, Adopted by General Assembly resolution 2106 of 21 December 1965, entry into force 4 January 1969, in accordance with Article 19
- International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, adopted by General Assembly Resolution 45/158 of 18 December 1990
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, New York, 18 December 1979. Adopted by the United Nations General Assembly. Entered into force as an international treaty on 3 September 1981
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Adopted by General Assembly Resolution 61/106 of 13 December 2006; entered into force May 2008
- Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (ILO No. 182), 38 ILM 1207 (1999), entered into force 19 November 2000
- Convention concerning the Minimum Age for Admission to Employment and Work (ILO 138), adopted on 26 June 1973; entered into force 19 June 1976
- Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, Adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly Resolution 55/25 of 15 November 2000.
- UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, 1951, and the Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, 1967
- Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, 1954
- Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, 1961

Hague Conference on Private International Law

- Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Inter-country Adoption (concluded on 29 May 1993, entered into force on 1 May 1995).

International Declarations/Agendas for Action/Guidelines

- The Rio de Janeiro Pact to Prevent and Stop Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents, 3rd World Congress Against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents, Rio de Janeiro, 25-28 November 2008
- “Violence against Children”, United Nations Secretary-General’s study, 29 August 2006
- The Yokohama Global Commitment adopted at the 2nd World Congress Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, Yokohama, Japan, 17-20 December 2001
- Declaration and Agenda for Action adopted at the 1st World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, Stockholm, Sweden, 27-31 August 1996
- United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty, 1990
- United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (Tokyo Rules, 1990)
- United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (Beijing Rules, 1985)
- “A World Fit for Children”, UN General Assembly outcome document adopted on 10 May 2002
- UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, A/HRC/11/L.13, 15 June 2009
- UN Common Approach to Justice for Children, March 2008

MDGs

- The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

SAARC Conventions and other documents

- SAARC Social Charter, 4 January, 2004.
- SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution, January 2002.
- SAARC Convention on Regional Arrangements on the Promotion of Child Welfare in South Asia, January 2002.
- The SAARC Framework for the Protection, Care and Support of Children Affected by HIV/AIDS.
- The SAARC Development Goals (SDGs)
- Colombo Statement on Children of South Asia, 10 July, 2009