



**South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children [SAIEVAC]
SAARC Apex Body**

"In Solidarity with the Children of SAARC"



6th Governing Board Meeting

16-17 March 2016

**Hosted by the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs
Government of Sri Lanka**

**Organized by the SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat
Supported by UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia**

ADOPTED DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The 6th Governing Board Meeting (GBM) of SAIEVAC was held from the 16-17th of March 2016 in Colombo, Sri Lanka, hosted by the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, Government of Sri Lanka with support from UNICEF ROSA.

All the Governing Board Members except for Nepal and Pakistan attended the GBM. The SAIEVAC Coordinator of Afghanistan could not attend due to some unfortunate logistic obstacles enroute.

The Outgoing Chairperson, initiating the proceedings of the 6th GBM welcomed the Board Members to the 6th GBM.....(*will be in the main report*)

As per established procedures Ms. Tahmina Begum, GB Member Bangladesh having completed her term of 2 years handed over the Chair of the Governing Board to Ms. Kunzang Lhamo, Governing Board Member from Bhutan.

The SACG Board membership of the SACG was also taken over by Ms. Kendra Gregson, UNICEF, who is the new SACG Chair from Ms. Sherin Khan, ILO who completed her term as the SACG Chair.

The outgoing SACG Member in her statement..... (*will be in the main report*)

The Incoming Chairperson in her inaugural statement...(*will be in the main report*)

- 1. The Business Session of the 6th GBM commenced with review and adoption of the Tentative Agenda (Annex...) tabled by the Member Secretary without any amendments.**

2. Considering the Follow Up Report of the recommendations of the 5th GBM (Annex...), the 6th GBM endorsed the following:

- a) Taking note of the disconnect between the term of the SACG Chair and the GB Membership, the GBM recommends the SACG to consider a suitable/appropriate process of harmonizing their governance transition with the duration/term of the SACG GB Membership so as to avoid such a situation;
- b) Noting that there was a significant gap between the 5th GBM and the 6th GBM and its consequences on the term of the CSO and Child Representatives, the SRS is directed to make efforts to the extent feasible to hold 2 Meetings a year, as per the decisions of the past GBMs;
- c) While there is an institutionalized process in place for participation of children in the Governing Board and standards and guidelines for child participation in general have been adopted and in use, there is still significant room for establishing meaningful, coordinated and uniform child participation forums at the national levels. The GBM therefore recommends that:
 - i. The SRS coordinate with different national mechanisms to put in place meaningful national child participation forums and report progress in the next GBM; and
 - ii. The SRS, NACGs and the Government Mechanisms institute procedures for coordination to strengthen child participation in general and the involvement of the child GB Members in the different SAIEVAC/VaC activities at the national level to the extent feasible.
- d) The GBM noted that much progress has been achieved both in the institutionalisation process of the NACGs as well as the overall improvement in the coordination and collaboration of the NACGs with the Government mechanisms. However the GBM also noted that there is still much room for strengthening the recognition of the role of the NACGs in the larger framework of the SAIEVAC National mechanisms and recommends that:
 - i. The SRS as the regional coordinating hub of the NACGs facilitate the efforts to create more productive working relationships between the NACGs and the Government mechanisms;
 - ii. The GB Members, Coordinators and the NACG Chairs make dedicated efforts to establish meaningful and productive working relationships;
 - iii. SAIEVAC Government mechanisms to continue efforts in strengthening the NACGs so that they become effective partners in moving the VaC agenda forward; and
 - iv. The NACGs to hold a Review Meeting on the sidelines of the proposed 4th Ministerial Meeting;
- e) Considering that the SRS had invested significant efforts to strengthen the institutionalisation and coordination mechanisms for the child helplines and noting

that effective helplines can create the desired response systems for children, endorses that:

- i. The Helplines take up the offer of India to provide technical expertise from Child Line India, Track Child and Khoya Paya to support the helplines to strengthen their capacity; and
 - ii. The SRS to coordinate/interface where relevant and necessary between the different helplines and the India mechanism to avail such opportunities.
- f) The GBM considering that significant effort and time has been invested in finalising the desk review of the Faith Based Initiatives, endorses the report and directs the SRS to design appropriate activities to disseminate the report;
- g) Considering the appraisal of the SRS on the Foster Care System and after significant discussions on the next steps, the GBM endorses that:
- i. All the Member States will share with the SRS their existing national laws, policies and practices on Foster Care for compilation into a compendium of that can be used for cross border learning/sharing by the end of March 2016;
 - ii. Where the laws and policies are in local/national language, the National Coordinators will provide a short descriptive para in English to be included in the compendium; and will also provide the web linkages of these instruments where they can be accessed for those who are interested; and
 - iii. The SRS will share these with SAIEVAC India to package the compendium in time for the proposed 4th Ministerial Meeting in May 2016.

3. Considering the briefing on the status of the SAIEVAC Project funded by the SDF and the review and endorsement of the SAIEVAC Academy and SMIS, the GBM recommends that:

- a) The IAs make efforts to accelerate the project closure so that the SAIEVAC mechanisms can move forward with other possibilities and opportunities with the lessons learnt from the project;
- b) The SRS make efforts to discuss with the SDF to refine and fast track the project closure formalities;
- c) The SRS to discuss with SAIEVAC India to bring them on board in relation to the SAIEVAC Academy and the SMIS; and
- d) Open in public domain the SMIS to showcase/house existing public information pertaining to different thematic areas

4. While considering the progress of implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Child Marriage, the 6th GBM while further reinforcing the need to accelerate the implementation of the Plan, underlines that:

- a) The Regional Action Plan is a guiding benchmark for minimum standards required to be put in place in line with international and regional instruments for ending child marriage; and
 - b) The Regional Action Plan is not prescriptive in nature and that the different SAIEVAC mechanisms can develop and implement their national plans that take into account/contextualizes national priorities and peculiarities.
- 5. Considering the agenda item on the Review and Endorsement of the Regional Action Plan on Ending Child Labour (Annex...), the GBM after elaborate discussions, endorsed that:**
- a) A further time extension till 15th April will be provided to the Member States to provide additional feedback; and
 - b) The SRS will thereafter finalize the RAP after 15th April using whatever comments/feedback is received and prepare for tabling the same in the proposed 4th Ministerial Meeting for launching
- 6. Considering the briefing on the Missing Child Alert (MCA) Project and the proposed way forward that includes the formation of a Trilateral Review Team for the MCA Phase I products (Annex...), the GBM while reinforcing the decisions of the 5th GBM on the importance of the MCA, after protracted deliberations on the gaps and challenges experienced in the project phase endorses that:**
- a) A Review Team be constituted with the three Coordinators, NACG Chairs and independent Expert/s;
 - b) The SRS to develop a clear Terms of Reference and finalize it in consultation with the SAIEVAC Coordinators;
 - c) The 1st Meeting of the Review Team be held on the sidelines of the proposed 4th Ministerial Meeting in Delhi or earlier, during which time a clear process for the review be developed and endorsed; and
 - d) The Review Team table a clear way forward and recommendations for the MCA to the next GB Meeting.
- 7. The 6th GBM after considering the brief over view of the High Level Round Table Meeting on the SDGs and its outcome (Annex...) endorses that the High Level Meeting on the SDGs was most timely and significant for SAIEVAC and partners and further recommends that:**
- a) The SRS find opportunities to harmonize the next workplan of SAIEVAC with the SDG Goals and targets;
 - b) The SRS with support of the SACG develop a regional strategy that defines clear milestones towards the realization of the SDGs;
 - c) The SRS find opportunities to further review and refine the SMIS to align its data and information with the SDGs;

- d) The SRS continue to expand and strengthen its partnership with other international, regional partners including the relevant private sector groups; and
 - e) The SRS work towards positioning SAIEVAC as a Regional Pathfinder organization for the Global Partnership to end violence against children with support of the SACG
- 8. Considering the appraisal on the ongoing efforts to develop a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework and the process to be put in place to undertake a meaningful evaluation of the 1st Five Year Workplan that informs the development of the 2017-2021 Workplan, the GB endorses that:**
- a) The SRS finalize the development of the Monitoring Framework that is underway;
 - b) The SRS develop a Terms of Reference for the Evaluation of the 1st Five Year Workplan that can be considered by the Technical Meeting of the proposed 4th Ministerial Meeting; and
 - c) Apprise and seek endorsement of the 4th Ministerial Meeting for the evaluation of the 1st FYP and the development of the next FYP.
- 13. Considering the appraisal on the major Regional Events under consideration to step up the implementation of the regional plans and programmes, the GBM endorses the following:**
- a) The 2nd Regional Convening on the Kathmandu Call for Action to implement the Regional Action Plan on Child Marriage to be held in Kathmandu in consultation with SAIEVAC National Mechanism, Nepal;
 - b) Convene the Expert Group Meeting on Violence in Schools that also provides focus on Corporal Punishment/Physical and Humiliating Punishment;
 - c) Organize the Regional Consultation on Child Labour with Focus on the Brick Kiln Industry to be held in Pakistan sometime in the 3rd quarter of 2016;
 - d) Explore the opportunity to convene a Regional Workshop on Positive/Best Practices in Child Protection and VaC; and
 - e) The National Mechanism Afghanistan will organize a national level consultation on child labour and Carpet Weaving and invite participation from the other Member States as and when the event is scheduled in 2016.
- 13. Considering that 2016 is a milestone for 10 Years of Global Study on VaC, 10 years of SAIEVAC and 20 years of Global Congress on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, and the Commemoration/Advocacy opportunities to reinforce VaC agenda at Global, Regional and National levels, the GBM after assessing the proposal of Government of India (GoI) to host the 4th SAIEVAC Ministerial endorses the following:**

- a) The 6th GBM considering the agenda item and noting with appreciation the offer of Government of India to host the Meeting, after elaborate discussions endorsed the following:
- i. The proposed dates of 9-11 May 2016 in New Delhi is finalized for the 4th SAIEVAC Ministerial Meeting;
 - ii. The Meeting will consist of the Technical Meetings for the 9-10 May with the Ministerial segment on the 11th May;
 - iii. The GoI as the host will offer accommodation, meals, transport and other local hospitality for a maximum of 5 member delegation including the Minister and, the participating Member States will be responsible for their travel arrangements;
 - iv. The SRS to provide the list of participants to the Technical Meeting by end of the day (17th March) and the Member States to provide the names and the contact details of the Ministers by the end of March positively;
 - v. The participation of the representatives of partner agencies or special invitees will be purely self funded and agenda specific. However, the organizers can facilitate logistical arrangements for their participation.
 - vi. The Invitations for the Technical Meeting will be extended by the Governing Board Member and the Invitation for the Ministers by the Minister of MWCD;
 - vii. The SRS and GB Member India will share the draft agenda with the Board Members and other participants at the earliest; and
 - viii. The first Organizing Committee that includes the SRS team and the NACG India will be held on the 28th of March in New Delhi

12. The GBM under the any other issues considered the following:

a) On the application process for renewal of the Apex Body Status:

- i. The SRS will submit the application for renewal to the SAARC Secretariat in September 2016 for consideration by the SAARC Council during the 19th SAARC Summit to be held in Pakistan; and
- ii. The SAIEVAC National mechanisms to advocate for the renewal with the respective SAARC Desks of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of their respective countries.

b) Considering the briefing on the SAIEVAC Logo and proposed next steps, the GBM directs the SRS:

- i. To share the draft logo with the SAIEVAC National mechanisms at the earliest so that appropriate feedback can be provided; and
- ii. The final draft Logo be tabled to the next GBM for approval

c) Noting with concern that while South Asia has the highest number of children and is also the region with the highest burden of violence against children, the CRC Committee still doesn't have even one member from the Region. The 6th GBM therefore recommends that:

- i. All the Member States to advocate for nomination of experts/representatives to the CRC Committee from their respective countries; and
- ii. As soon as a Member State nominates a candidate, the other Member States will make efforts to converge efforts to lobby through a united front.

d) Taking Note of the psychological impact on children as a result of the Great Nepal earthquake and taking into consideration the different views expressed in the Meeting, the GBM recommends that:

- i. The SRS explore opportunities to coordinate regional learning on coping mechanisms in disaster situations by using the Nepal experience;
- ii. The SRS make efforts to link this with the ongoing initiatives of the SAARC Secretariat and the SAARC Disaster Management Centre based in Delhi;
- iii. The SRS to include this as part of the SAIEVAC Academy resources for learning and capacity building; and
- iv. The SRS to coordinate with SAIEVAC India to explore opportunities for support from India since this is integral to the National Plan of Action for Children of the Government of India, which is under active consideration.

13. Date and Venue of the Next Meeting:

The SAIEVAC National Mechanism Maldives in principle offered to host the 7th GBM in the last quarter of 2016. The final decision on this will be communicated to the SRS by the 15th of April for further dissemination to the other Member States.