



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

“In Solidarity with the Children of SAARC”



ADOPTED RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 4th SAIEVAC MINISTERIAL MEETING

**9th – 11th May 2016
New Delhi, India**



**Hosted by the Government of India
Ministry of Women and Child Development
In collaboration with
The SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat**

Introduction

The 4th SAIEVAC Ministerial Meeting held on the 11th of May 2016, was hosted by the Government of India, Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD), in collaboration with the SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat in New Delhi, India.

H.E Shri. Rajnath Singh, the Hon'ble Home Minister of Government of India, was the Chief Guest of the Inaugural Ceremony of the Meeting. **H.E Smt. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi**, the Hon'ble Minister of MWCD presided over as the Chair of the Meeting with the Hon'ble Secretary, **Shri. V.Somasundaran** as the Co-Chair of the Meeting. The Meeting was attended by the SAIEVAC Ministers from Afghanistan, Bhutan, Maldives, Srilanka, Nepal (represented by the Secretary) and the Ministerial Statements of Pakistan and Bangladesh were delivered by their respective representatives. The Secretary General of SAARC was represented by the Bhutan Director of SAARC Secretariat.

The 4th SAIEVAC Ministerial Meeting was preceded by a 2 days Technical Preparatory Meeting convened from the 9th - 10th May 2016. The Meeting was attended by the Governing Board Members, SAIEVAC National Coordinators, NACG (National Action and Coordinating Groups for Ending Violence against Children) Chairs, Child Board Members and Special Invitees from all the SAARC Member States and collaborating partners.

The Technical Meeting after 2 days of elaborate discussions on the different agenda items, negotiated and tabled the following recommendations for the consideration of the Hon'ble Ministers to provide necessary directives to move the SAIEVAC movement forward.

The 4th Ministerial Meeting considered and adopted the recommendations as submitted by the Technical Meeting, which included the recommendations of the 6th Governing Board Meeting (Annexed).

Adopted Recommendations

1. The Meeting after reflecting on the Review of Progress of 10 Years of SAIEVAC and views expressed by the different Member States endorsed that:
 - a. There is an urgent need for all Member States to continue to act in a concerted, cooperative, coordinated and comprehensive manner to move the violence against children (VaC) agenda in a campaign mode while identifying and addressing areas of priority such as violence in schools, trafficking, documentation & sharing of good practices;
 - b. SAIEVAC as a regional platform is highly relevant to all Member States in moving forward the VaC agenda;
 - c. The different milestones set has been largely achieved in creating a meaningful, relevant and dynamic institutional mechanism that serves the aspirations/expectations of South Asia in ending VaC;

The Meeting also drew consensus on the urgent need to:

- d. Create effective and sustainable strategies, both technical and financial, for the SAIEVAC Regional Mechanism to continue to accelerate its efforts to move the SAIEVAC Movement forward;
 - e. Address the thematic areas of sexual abuse and exploitation, including online safety, and trafficking as we move forward the planning process for the next Five Years.
2. The Meeting after assessing the follow up actions taken on the recommendations of the 3rd Ministerial Meeting held in Nepal in June 2010, endorsed that all the recommendations have been followed through successfully. The Meeting further endorsed that the process of follow up of the remaining areas shall be continued with the Government of Nepal and other Member States by the SAIEVAC regional Secretariat (SRS) and the progress reviewed during the 7th GBM.
 3. Considering the briefing on the 1st Five Year Workplan and also taking cognizance of the decisions of the 6th Governing Board Meeting held in March 2016 in Colombo, the meeting further reinforced the need to develop the 2nd FYP building on the findings of the evaluation of the 1st FYP and in harmony with the SDGs. The Meeting also endorsed the need to undertake wider consultative process so as to ensure that the FYP becomes relevant to all the Member States taking into consideration the different settings.

4th SAIEVAC Ministerial Meeting

4. The Meeting after being briefed on the recommendations of the 6th GB Meeting with certain highlights on areas that required further attention of the Ministerial Meeting endorsed that:
 - a. The 6th GB Meeting Recommendations will be tabled to the Ministerial Meeting for consideration and further directives if any;
 - b. The Meeting also underlined that the proposed Compendium of Foster Care for compilation into a compendium of laws that can be used for cross border learning/sharing and the Regional Action Plan on Ending Child Labour will now be tabled to appropriate SAIEVAC regional forums in the near future.
5. The Meeting welcoming the presentation on Track Child and Khoya Paya: ICT initiative to trace missing children, requested the GoI to consider providing technical cooperation for regional cross sharing and programming, given the reality that this is also a serious cross border challenge.
6. Considering the brief overview of the current status of Missing Children and Cross Border Trafficking initiatives of SAIEVAC and partners, and taking note of the recommendations endorsed at the 6th GB Meeting, the Meeting further reinforced the need to review the products (Annex – A of main Report) of the Pilot Phase, including the Recommendations of the Trilateral Convening held in Bangkok in 2012 and the Follow Up Meeting of the Trilateral Convening held in September 2013 in Bhutan and table the outcome of the review for the consideration of the 7th GB Meeting.
7. The Meeting expressing its unanimous appreciation for “Childline 1098- India safety net for children” as a very valuable learning opportunity, endorsed the need to explore opportunities for cross country learning and technical cooperation with CHILDLINE India Foundation.

The Meeting further highlighted the need to accelerate efforts to activate the SDF Toll Free Helpline Project given the enormous need to create effective response mechanisms through the adoption and strengthening of the Uniform Toll Free Helpline 1098.

8. The Meeting after considering the Progress Review of 20 years of the 1st World Congress on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and way forward for South Asia, and noting that there is urgent need to strengthen regional and national efforts to address the issue, endorsed that :
 - a. A regional strategy on addressing all forms of Sexual Abuse, Exploitation (including online) and Trafficking be developed, which also builds on the existing situations in the different Member States, that will guide SAIEVAC while developing the 2nd FYP;
 - b. SAIEVAC to initiate a process for setting regional standards and codes of conduct that safeguard children from commercial sexual abuse and exploitation in travel and tourism; and
 - c. SAIEVAC Regional and National mechanisms explore opportunities to mainstream and scale up efforts to address sexual exploitation and abuse of children including trafficking by tapping into potential opportunities for technical and financial support .
9. The brief overview of the ‘Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012’ was found very informative and the meeting considered the possibility of triggering legal review, reform and cross country learning/sharing to reinforce better protection of children from sexual offences including a Regional Seminar on POCSO to be organised by GoI.

The Meeting also considered the need to create platforms/linkages in the region between the National Commissions for Children such as the NCPCR in India in order to exchange regional learning and sharing.

The Meeting also proposed that the SRS and the Member States explore the possibility of setting/linking up existing Forensic Laboratory for children and women with funding sources such as the SAARC Development Fund. The meeting also discussed and endorsed that a Concept Note will be developed by GoI, to be shared with the upcoming meeting of the SAARC Technical Committee on Women Youth and Children being hosted in July in Pakistan.

10. On the agenda of SDGs and SAIEVAC – moving forward the recommendations of the 6th GBM Meeting, the Technical Meeting noted that while appropriate and relevant recommendations on the SDGs are already included in the GB Recommendations, it is also critical to draw the attention and consideration of our Ministers on the recommendation - *'positioning SAIEVAC as a Regional Pathfinder organization for the Global Partnership to end violence against children with support of the SACC'*.
11. The meeting welcomed the statements of the Child Governing Board Members and the key issues (Annex B of main report) highlighted by them and endorsed that the statements are adequately recorded and reported on.
12. The agenda on Status of Child Participation, NACG Platforms & Institutional Strengthening of the SAIEVAC Movement reviewed the existing situation, progress made, including challenges and opportunities in the different Member States and endorsed the need to continuously explore the opportunities to strengthen the institutional mechanism for NACGs and Child Participation.

The Meeting acknowledged the current status of NACG and Child Participation in Nepal and the NACG - EVaC India Case study. The meeting further reinforced the need to strengthen legitimate and meaningful spaces for the NACGs within the Government Mechanisms, so that the NACG platforms become productive spaces for partnerships for moving the national VaC agenda forward.

The Meeting also endorsed that the NACGs develop a calendar of events so that there is a proper plan in place for coordination and implementation of activities.



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.

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

1. **The Business Session of the 6th GBM commenced with review and adoption of the Tentative Agenda tabled by the Member Secretary without any amendments.**
2. **Considering the Follow Up Report of the recommendations of the 5th GBM, 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:**

4th SAIEVAC Ministerial Meeting

- 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, 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, 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 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 SACC 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 SACC
- 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.

9. 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.

10. 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

11. 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:

4th SAIEVAC Ministerial Meeting

- 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.

12. 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.



**SAIEVAC
Regional Secretariat**

GPO 5850, House no. 103
apan Marg, K.M.C. - 3,
Maharajgunj , Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel: +977-1-4017558, 4376274,
E-mail: info@saievac.org
Website: www.saievac.org