



ECPAT International GENERAL ASSEMBLY

29th November 2008

Royalty Barra Hotel, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil





ECPAT International **4th** General Assembly

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INTRODUCTION

ECPAT International held its 4th General Assembly in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on 29th November 2008. The Assembly took place immediately after the World Congress III against the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents (also held in Rio), a major global event that assessed the progress in combating the commercial sexual exploitation of children since the previous two Congresses whilst identifying new goals, targets and strategies to ensure more concerted action by all duty-bearers. The participation of the entire ECPAT global network in the World Congress III ensured that members joined the General Assembly with a greater sense of solidarity and the desire to strengthen our own policies and strategies for increased effectiveness and impact.

The ECPAT General Assembly takes place every three years to provide a platform for the network to discuss and review its governance structures and to elect the new Chairperson and ECPAT International Board of Directors. Throughout 2008, an extensive consultative process had been facilitated with the ECPAT network to review the ECPAT International Strategic Directions. The global results of this review were presented at the 4th General Assembly and it was agreed that further reflection on the outcomes of the World Congress III would be beneficial before the network approved (by electronic voting) the Strategic Directions 2009 – 2012 in early 2009.

The 2008 Assembly was kept solely as a Business Meeting of one day, focusing on governance issues, since it immediately followed the three days of the World Congress which included a rich array of workshops, technical presentations and networking.

The ECPAT 4th General Assembly was attended by 89 ECPAT delegates, while the total number of participants, including other ECPAT representatives and observers, was 148 persons.

OFFICIAL AGENDA

29 November 2008

- | | |
|---|--|
| 08:30-09:45 | <p>Welcome by the Chairperson</p> <p>Introduction and election of the Moderator</p> <p>Introductory remarks by the Moderator</p> <p>Moderator's announcements</p> <p>Explanation and approval of the Agenda</p> <p>Call for Any Other Business (AOB) agenda items</p> <p>Call for Resolutions</p> <p>Approval of procedures for ballots</p> <p>Adoption of minutes of 3rd International Assembly</p> |
| 09:45-10:45 | <p>Reports from the Chairperson, Treasurer and Executive Director</p> <p>Approval of Financial Statements</p> |
| 11:15-12:00 | <p>Constitution, By-laws, Policies and Guidelines and Resolutions</p> |
| 12:00-13:00 | <p>Summary note on Strategic Directions and
World Congress III against
Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents</p> |
| <hr style="border: 2px solid orange; width: 40%; margin: 0 auto;"/> | |
| 14:00-14:30 | <p>Report by Youth Representative to the Board/EICYAC</p> <p>EICYAC Introductions</p> <p>Endorsement of elected Youth Representative to the Board</p> |

- 14:30-15:15 Presentations by Board candidates for the posts of Chair,
Secretary and Treasurer
Question and Answer session with candidates
- 15:45-16:45 Presentations by Board candidates for the posts of
Regional Representatives
Question and Answer session with candidates
- 16:45-17:15 Vote on Chair, Secretary and Treasurer
Vote on Regional Board Representatives
- 17:15-18:15 Any other business
- 18:15-19:00 Closing remarks (outgoing Chairperson, incoming
Chairperson, Executive Director)

MINUTES OF MEETING

89 ECPAT delegates participated. The total number of participants, including other ECPAT representatives and observers was 148.

1. The outgoing Chairperson Amihan Abueva formally opened the 4th International Assembly.
2. The outgoing Chairperson introduced the Moderator nominated by the Board, David Matas.
3. The Assembly accepted the Moderator by acclamation.
4. The Moderator read out the Proposed Standing Orders and included an Order that resolutions should be presented in writing at the beginning of the session.
5. A motion was passed to approve the Proposed Standing Orders.
Mover: David Ould, ECPAT UK. Seconder: Tufail Muhamad, Pakistan Pediatric Association.
6. The Moderator appointed Giorgio Berardi and Alessia Altamura as enumerators; the following persons as drafting consultants: Cleophas Mally (French), Maria Eugenia Villareal



(Spanish), David Butt (English); Jo de Linde as timekeeper; and Catherine Beaulieu as Secretary.

7. The Agenda for the Assembly was adopted.
Mover: Anindit Roy Chowdhury, SANLAAP; Seconder: Vidya Selvamony, EQUATIONS
8. The Moderator announced that items to be included under the Any Other Business agenda slot could include statements, declarations or other presentations.
9. A motion for the inclusion of a discussion point on language requirements for Board members was presented in writing to the Moderator and referred to the AOB agenda slot (No.41)
10. A proposal on the use of the ECPAT name and logo through amending the Constitution by ECPAT France, ECPAT Italy and ECPAT Sweden was withdrawn and substituted with a proposal for the drafting of a recommendation to be subsequently approved by the Assembly.
11. The Procedures for Ballots were adopted.
Mover: Cath Moss, ENYA; Seconder: Theo Noten, ECPAT Netherlands.
12. The Assembly adopted the Minutes of the 3rd International Assembly by open ballot.
Mover: Maureen Crombie, ECPAT New Zealand; Seconder: Tufail Muhammad, Pakistan Paediatric Association.
13. Reports were received from the outgoing Chairperson Amihan Abueva and the Treasurer David Ould.
14. The Moderator requested that questions to the Treasurer be raised prior to the motion to approve the Financial Statements.
15. The report of the Executive Director Carmen Madriñán was received.
16. The Financial Statements were approved.
Mover: David Ould (ECPAT UK); Seconder: Maria Eugenia Villareal (ECPAT Guatemala)
17. The Moderator mentioned that in addition to the reports already presented, the regional and policy reports to be presented under the ECPAT By-Laws were also included in the binders.
18. Under the agenda item Constitution, By-laws, Policies and Guidelines and Resolutions Incoming Chairperson, Maureen Crombie summarized the report of the Board Legal and Advisory Committee regarding the use of the ECPAT name and logo. She invited the Assembly to define the issues ECPAT groups were facing regarding the use of the ECPAT name and logo in publications, advertising and other materials. Following discussion she reiterated that the issue would be given priority by the new Board.
 1. The Strategic Directions Review 2005-2009 document was presented by ECPAT International Deputy Director for Programmes, Mark Capaldi. The Assembly was asked to provide final feedback after the Assembly to ensure that the document reflects the outcomes from World Congress III.

2. EICYAC Youth Representative to the Board Lotta Segerström and EICYAC Chair Victoria Odhiambo presented the work completed by EICYAC over the last period.
3. Outgoing EICYAC members were introduced to the Assembly (Marion Kreissl, Jhader Moreno, Sen Mostafa, Victoria Odhiambo, Anila Pushpan and Lotta Segerström) and presented with certificates of appreciation by the Chairperson.
4. The incoming EICYAC members were introduced to the Assembly: Momodou Sanu Jallow (Youth Representative to the ECPAT Board), Simona Blumkowski (Western Europe), Laura Lerchner (Western Europe), Anna-Maria Khramchenkova (Eastern Europe/CIS), Mariyana Yevsyukova (Eastern Europe/CIS), Rojy Hawaldar (South Asia), Sabina Tamang (South Asia), Ana Lidia Rodrigues Lima (Latin America). Apologies were given for the absence of EICYAC members from Thailand, Zambia, Columbia, Cambodia and Uganda.
5. Lotta Segerström announced the recent election of Momodou Sanu Jallow as the new Youth Representative to the ECPAT Board. A motion to endorse the election was passed by acclamation. Mover: Lotta Segerström; Seconder: ECPAT UK.
6. The following persons presented their candidature for election to the Board. Chairperson: Maureen Crombie; Treasurer: David Ould; Secretary: Maria Eugenia Villareal.
7. The Moderator announced that votes for uncontested candidates would take place by open ballot.
8. Maureen Crombie was elected Chairperson of the Board.
9. David Ould was elected Treasurer to the Board.
10. Maria Eugenia Villareal was elected Secretary to the Board.
11. The Moderator announced that he would divide the candidates for Regional Representatives into two groups, the contested and uncontested, and proceeded to vote by open ballot for the uncontested candidates.
12. Presentations were received by the following candidates: Tufail Muhammad (South Asia); Alan Bell (Pacific); Theo Noten (Western Europe); Ingrid Liao (East Asia); Rosalind Prober (North America); Milena Grillo (Latin America); and Pamela Chisenga (Africa).
13. Tufail Muhamad was elected Regional Representative for South Asia.
14. Alan Bell was elected Regional Representative for the Pacific.
15. Theo Noten was elected Regional Representative for Western Europe.
16. Ingrid Liao was elected Regional Representative for East Asia.
17. Rosalind Prober was elected Regional Representative for North America.
18. Milena Grillo was elected Regional Representative for Latin America.
19. Pamela Chisenga was elected Regional Representative for Africa.
20. Presentations were received by candidates for the post of Regional Representative for Central and Eastern Europe: Kateryna Levchenko and Maia Rusakova (video presentation).

21. The Moderator announced that questions to Regional Representative candidates could come from delegates from any region.
22. A motion for secret ballots for contested candidates only was passed. Mover: Cath Moss; Seconder: Rosalind Prober.
23. Under the agenda item Any Other Business, following a discussion point on language requirements for Board Member posts the Incoming Chairperson mentioned that a policy piece of work would be developed by the new Board as a matter of priority.
24. The Moderator announced that Kateryna Levchenko was elected Regional Representative for Central and Eastern Europe/CIS.
25. In her closing remarks, the Executive Director welcomed all new members of ECPAT: ASSEJA (Cameroon), Network of NGOs fighting against CSEC in Kyrgyzstan; CASACIDN Argentina; Pro-Adolescentes Bolivia; ACTSEC Albania; ONDE Morocco; Aparejeyo Bangladesh; Moldova Network; Ghana NGO Coalition.
26. The outgoing Chairperson made her closing remarks. These were followed by closing remarks from the incoming Chairperson.
27. On behalf of the ECPAT International Secretariat, Mark Capaldi expressed special thanks to the Executive Director for the vision and leadership provided in preparing for World Congress III.
28. The Moderator adjourned the Assembly.

REPORTS TO THE ASSEMBLY

Report from the outgoing Chairperson Amihan Abueva

1. Board Meetings

During the period covered in this report the Board met on six occasions. A meeting of the new Board was held on 11 September 2005 after the 3rd International Assembly in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The Board subsequently met in February and August 2006; in March and October 2007; and in March 2008. Meetings were held in Bangkok, Thailand with the exception of the August 2006 extraordinary meeting which was held in London as many Board members were presenting in an ECPAT Symposium at the 16th ISPCAN Congress in the UK. The February 2006 meeting was preceded by a Board orientation retreat in Chiang Mai, Thailand, facilitated by an external consultant. The October 2007 meeting was an extraordinary Board planning meeting for World Congress III (WCIII).



2. Board Members

From September 2005 (post-Assembly) to October 2008, the Board was composed of:

Chairperson	Amihan Abueva
Treasurer	Mama Fatima Singhateh (until October 2007) David Ould (from March 2008)
Secretary	David Butt
Youth representative	Lotta Segerstrom
Members at large:	Cleophas Mally (Regional Representative for Africa) Cath Moss (Regional Representative for Central and Eastern Europe) Maria Eugenia Villareal (Regional Representative for Latin America) Ingrid Liao (Regional Representative for East Asia)

Rosalind Prober (Regional Representative for North America)
Maureen Crombie (Regional Representative for Pacific)
Tufail Muhammad (Regional Representative for S. Asia)
Theo Noten (Regional Representative for W. Europe)

Due to vacancies arising, elections for the posts of Secretary and Treasurer to the Board were held in February 2006 to cover the period leading to the 4th International Assembly. A message in three languages was sent by the Chairperson to the network informing them. The Secretariat called for nominations and organised an electronic voting system. Mama Fatima Singhateh was declared Treasurer to the Board and David Butt was declared Secretary.

In October 2007, following the resignation of the Treasurer, the Board decided to ensure its continued effective business by temporarily assigning its Secretary, David Butt to take on the functions of Treasurer, while Maureen Crombie (Regional Representative for Pacific), and Roz Prober (Regional Representative for North America) jointly took on the role of Secretary.

In February 2008, the Secretariat initiated the election process for a new Treasurer by calling for nominations which were followed by an electronic vote. David Ould was elected Treasurer to the Board of ECPAT International for the interim period leading up to the 4th International Assembly.

3. Board Committees

The following Committees continued their work during the period under review:

- **The Credentials Committee (CC)** reviews applications for new members, changes in status and cancellation of membership. It reviews applications twice a year. It is composed of Theo Noten (Chair); Cleophas Mally, Rosalind Prober, Maria Eugenia Villareal, Tufail Muhammad, Lotta Segerstrom, Carmen Madriñán and Mark Capaldi (CC Secretary).
- **The Disciplinary Committee** is composed of Cleophas Mally (Chair), Amihan Abueva, David Butt, Carmen Madriñán.
- **The Legal Advisory Committee** is composed of Cath Moss (Chair), David Butt, Ali Essam (to be invited), Mark Hecht, Stan Meuwese.
- **The Finance Committee** is composed of Mama Fatima/David Ould (Chair), Cath Moss(Interim Chair), Ingrid Liao, Schofield Ochieng/Desi Dzhurkova, Carmen Madriñán.

- **The Fundraising and Communication Committee** is composed of David Ould (Chair), Maureen Crombie, Theo Noten, Lotta Segerstrom, Ingrid Liao, Maria Eugenia, Roz Prober, El Fundraising Officer, El Communications Officer.
- **The Policy Advisory Committee** is composed of Maureen Crombie (Chair), Amihan, Cath Moss, David Butt, Lotta Segerstrom, Tufail Muhammad, Ingrid Liao, Carmen Madriñán.

4. Development of Policies and Guidelines

In February 2005 several motions for changes in the governance procedure of ECPAT were put to the network by electronic vote. The seven motions of the Board were approved by a large majority and subsequently adopted by the International Assembly in September 2005. As a result, the number of Board members was increased from 11 to 13 to include a Treasurer and a Secretary who are selected for their specific governance skills. In addition, regional members of the Board are now nominated and elected by their respective regions. Other changes included the abolition of the category of Honorary Patron/Partner and the introduction of the category of Honorary President into the Constitution. Also, as a result of the constitutional amendments the full Board is now required to meet at least once a year, instead of twice a year.

All the above changes were incorporated into an amended version of the ECPAT Constitution. Following the 3rd International Assembly, the new text of the Constitution was sent to the Legal Advisory Committee to ensure all amendments were captured correctly. The current Constitution was subsequently circulated to the network.

During the working period, the Board was also active in developing comprehensive Policy Guidelines. In preparation for the last International Assembly, several Policies were developed and four of these (Child and Youth Participation Policy; Partnership Policy; Child Protection Policy; and a Policy on Developing Alliances with the Private Sector) were presented at the Assembly. A Child Protection Policy was circulated to the network in February 2006 for approval, while the others were shared collectively at the end of May 2006. In September 2006, the ECPAT Composite Policies were voted on by the ECPAT membership. As a result, ECPAT now has a comprehensive set of Policy Guidelines, clearly stating ECPAT's views and positions on different important areas of its work, to ensure its effective functioning as a movement.

In addition to the foregoing, in February 2006 the Board developed guidelines establishing criteria for upgrading groups from affiliate to national status. The Board also reviewed the membership application processes to include child and youth participation components in the application form.

5. ECPAT Membership

During 2005 to 2008 several membership applications were reviewed by the Board. As a result twelve new groups became affiliate members of the ECPAT Network: ACTSEC (Albania); CASACIDIN (Argentina); Aparejeyo Bangladesh; ONG Pro-Adolescente (Bolivia); ABSE (Burkina Faso); Raíces and Paicabi (Chile); Ghana Coalition on the Rights of the Child; Jordan River Foundation; Network of NGOs fighting against CSEC in Kyrgyzstan; Network of National Organisations Fighting Against Child Prostitution and Trafficking (Moldova); KIWOHEDE (Tanzania).

In addition, two groups saw their membership upgraded from affiliate to national groups: ECPAT Austria and ECPAT Mexico.

On the other hand, five groups saw their membership withdrawn: ECPAT Samoa; Street Children Committee/Franciscan Chapel Centre (Japan); End Child Prostitution in Kenya (ECPK); Pro-ECPAT (Poland); and the Mannerheim League, in Finland (2006).

Other applications for membership have been reviewed and are still under consideration.

6. WCIII/Fourth ECPAT International Assembly

Following the government of Brazil's formal announcement that it would host WCIII in November 2008, the Board convened in October 2007 for an extraordinary meeting to plan and prepare for the Congress. The Board discussed the various aspects of the preparations of the network for effective participation in the Congress. In particular, the Board discussed developments related to the various thematic areas of ECPAT's work and identified new aspects of the commercial sexual exploitation of children that the Congress should also focus on. The Board discussed elements related to logistical support and other needs to be addressed in order to achieve the best possible results.

The Board agreed to provide support to the ECPAT group in Brazil in the run up to WCIII. The Chairperson attended the first WCIII planning meeting with the Executive Director in Brazil in February 2008. A consultation tool was placed on the ECPAT website and promotion of the online questionnaire and blog was initiated. The Youth representative discussed the involvement and outcomes for child and youth participation and indicated that EICYAC was looking at how it could communicate with other youth networks as well as inviting them to make use of the website consultation tool.

Planning for WCIII and ECPAT's 4th International Assembly continued at the Board meeting of March 2008, when Regional Representatives helped identify partners for organizing Regional Consultations and Thematic Meetings as well as funding support. Board members also agreed to act as regional media spokespersons for the Congress, while the Chairperson agreed to assist as global spokesperson. The Board also formed two sub-committees to work on planning the International Assembly (Cleophas Mally, Lotta Segerstrom, Maureen Crombie, David Butt) and to support preparation of the Congress (Maureen Crombie, David Ould, Theo Noten, Amihan Abueva, Cleophas Mally, Roz Prober, Lotta Segerstrom).

Board members participated in several WCIII Regional Consultations and Thematic Consultations around the world (see below).

7. Representation of ECPAT International at key meetings and events

During the period covered by this report, the Chairperson, regional Board members and the Youth representative to the Board all attended various international conferences, working groups and other events in their role as representatives of ECPAT International. The Chairperson had regular trips to Bangkok where she met with the Secretariat staff. Below are some of the events attended by Board Members.

In July 2006, the Chairperson participated in the **East Asia and Pacific Youth Camp** held in Taipei by ECPAT Taiwan.

In December 2006 the Chairperson participated in the **launching of the ECPAT A4A reports** in Bangkok. She provided support for the launch of the reports, replied to questions raised at the open forum and presented various aspects of ECPAT's work at the national level.

In February 2007, she took part in the **Friends of Helsinki Process Workshop on Trafficking** in Chiang Mai, Thailand where she presented the efforts of ECPAT International to work with the private sector in combating child sex tourism.

In March 2007, she chaired the first session on "Children, Violence and Society" at the **Forum organized by the Queen Sofia Centre for the Study of Violence** in Valencia, Spain. She presented the work of ECPAT International in addressing the problem of violence against children, especially commercial sexual exploitation (CSEC), and the study on violence on children in cyber-space. She also distributed various ECPAT materials.

In April 2007, she was invited to be part of the **Global Initiative NGO Consultation Meeting**,

organized by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime and chaired a symposium on NGO initiatives to fight trafficking in children.

In May 2007, she was a speaker in the **4th International Human Rights Forum (IHRF)** in Lucerne, Switzerland and contributed to an article about ECPAT's efforts to combat child sex tourism in two of the forum's publications.

In November 2007, the Secretary to the Board attended the **Internet Governance Forum** in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil with the Executive Director. The Secretary spoke on a panel addressing the sexual exploitation of children in cyberspace, and the interface between Internet child exploitation and freedom of expression.

In November 2007, the Chairperson attended the **Forum on Violence against Children** in Amsterdam, Netherlands. The Chairperson was invited by ECPAT Netherlands to participate in the discussions and hold a workshop with mainly young people on the issue of CSEC.

In December 2007, the Chairperson attended the **Human Rights Forum of Shohei Gakuin University** in Sendai City, Japan where she spoke on the issue of child sex tourism. She had an opportunity to meet representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UNICEF Japan regarding plans for WCIII as well as meeting members of ECPAT Stop Japan.

The Chairperson also assisted in organising **Children's Workshops on Preventing Child Trafficking** in three sub-national conferences in the Philippines that were led by the Inter Agency Council against Trafficking.

In February 2008, the Chairperson was a guest speaker at the **Forum on Child Sex Tourism** hosted by members of the European Parliament. ECPAT Belgium, the Regional Representative for Western Europe, former chairperson Jo de Linde, and a representative of the Tourism Code of Conduct also attended.

In February 2008, the Chairperson took part in the **Vienna Forum on Trafficking** organised by the UNGIFT (UN Global Initiative to Fight Trafficking in Human Beings). She was a speaker on a panel on the *Consequences of Sexual Exploitation on Children and Women*. Other ECPAT speakers were Gabriela Alexandrescu of Salvatii Copii (ECPAT Romania) and Camellia Teppelus of the Tourism Code Secretariat. The Regional Representative for Western Europe helped prepare the panel discussion.

In May 2008, the Chairperson participated in the **Second “Stop Child Trafficking” International Congress** held in the cities of Valencia and Castellon, Spain sponsored by Terre des Hommes Spain.

In early November 2008, the Chairperson participated in the **Specialists’ Meeting on “Recovery and Reintegration of Children Victims of CSEC and Trafficking.”** organized by the OAK Foundation in Edinburgh.

8. Representation at WCIII Regional Consultations and Thematic Meetings

In December 2007, the Chairperson, Carmen Madriñán and a representative of ECPAT Brazil attended the First Preliminary Meeting on WCIII in New York. This was the first meeting with officials of the government of Brazil and other former host governments, UNICEF and the NGO Group. The Government of Brazil presented their initial plans for hosting WCIII.

In January 2008, the Chairperson, Carmen Madriñán and a member of ECPAT Brazil attended the **First Official Planning Committee Meeting on WCIII** in Brasilia, Brazil. At this meeting the title of the Congress, its main themes, main organisational structures, and final choice of venue were decided. The ECPAT Youth Representative to the Board also attended the meeting plus further follow-up meetings. After consultation with the youth network through EICYAC input was given on how child and youth participation at the congress was envisaged. Both the Chairperson and Youth Representative to the Board attended the Congress Organising Committee planning meeting held in Brasilia in October 2008.

Regional Representatives played an active role representing ECPAT in the **Regional Preparatory Consultations** for the Congress that were held between April and October 2008 in Africa (Senegal), Europe (Switzerland), **Latin America** (Argentina), **East Asia** (Thailand) and **South Asia** (Nepal), **North America** (USA). In addition, the Regional Representative for North America participated in the **Global Thematic Consultation on Corporate Social Responsibility for World Congress III against the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents** September 25-26, 2008, Winnipeg, Canada. She also attended the Thematic Preparatory Meeting on Child Abuse Images and Sexual Exploitation of Children Online held in Bangkok, Thailand in August 2008, with the Regional Representative for East Asia and the Secretary. The Regional Representative for Latin America attended the thematic meeting **Engaging Men and Boys in Combating the Sexual Exploitation Children and Adolescents** held in Buenos Aires, Argentina on 4-5 August 2008.

9. Evaluating Board Performance

In February 2006 the Board reaffirmed that an external review would be beneficial and agreed an external consultant would be identified and tasked with carrying out an informal mid-term Board review. In March 2008 the Board review process and report were presented and a number of suggestions for areas of improvement over the remainder of the term of the Board were discussed. It was also noted that there was a need for Board members to support greater Member to Member information sharing within their regions, whilst recognising the language challenges of this within some parts of the network. The Secretariat is trying to strengthen this kind of activity through placing Associates in the field and through the use of micro-projects to facilitate the translation of ECPAT group materials into the non-official languages of ECPAT. Board members reaffirmed that they need to do more to profile their representation as ECPAT International as this sometimes gets lost (this should be made more explicit in the job descriptions of Board members).

10. Closing Comments

The past three years have been very exciting and busy ones in which ECPAT has continued to develop its specialised knowledge of the various facets of the work to combat the sexual exploitation of children. During this time, we have also worked to develop good working relationships with our partners in civil society and the private sector as well as with representatives in government, in order to expand and promote our work to protect children from sexual exploitation. We continue to develop and systematise our efforts to promote child and youth participation in our local and international networks. We are also very fortunate to have highly committed and highly skilled colleagues from many nationalities in our international secretariat.

I am very grateful for the friendship and support, the generous sharing of expertise and knowledge and the good will that has been extended to the Board and particularly to myself, especially during the short visits to or meetings with members of the network.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service these past three years. I look forward to continuing to be part of the network, and possibly taking other roles in the future.

Report of the Executive Director Carmen Madriñán

I am pleased to be reporting to you on the work of ECPAT International following such a significant event as the World Congress III. It is my hope that the examples of the work of our network and of the hundreds of other actors from around the world that shared their work through workshops, dialogues and other forums of the Congress, has served to reaffirm the power that we as civil society organisations have in mobilizing and supporting action for justice and application of child's right to protection against commercial sexual exploitation.

ECPAT as you know was a primary actor in this Congress as such demonstrating once again that we will not let States lose sight of their obligations to protect children from commercial sexual exploitation, while being prepared and able to assist them in fulfilling that duty. We have also continued to demonstrate that work against commercial sexual exploitation cannot be done on behalf of children but with children and young people as our core partners. In this regard the contributions of children and youth from the ECPAT Network in the Congress enriched the outcomes substantively.

I know that some elements during the Congress did not run as smoothly as they could have and that these may have caused you or others inconvenience. I regret this and hope that we will not focus on these but instead recognize the enormous efforts of the Brazilian government and our colleagues of ECPAT Brazil in mobilizing support with deep dedication and commitment for the hosting of this Congress. After seven years since the last Congress, we were deeply concerned that the review and renewal process that the Congress represents was in jeopardy as many States were losing sight of the global and international public policy dimension that work against commercial sexual exploitation of children must have if it is to reinforce and extend national efforts against a borderless crime. In this context, Brazil was unique in agreeing to host the Congress with all the political, social and financial backing that this implies and requires. Thus, I take this opportunity on behalf of ECPAT International to thank our Brazilian colleagues, particularly Neide Castanha, for their valuable support in this endeavor.



Our Network's contributions in the Congress were formidable with more than 60% of the international children attending being from our groups and more than 50% of workshops being organised by ECPAT. I mention this as a launching point to my report on the work of the international office, as much of what we achieve is through the collaborations that we have among groups and of groups with ECPAT International. Thus for me it is a pleasure to report on the work carried out by the Secretariat in the last three years since the last General Assembly, as I believe that we have been able to make very significant contributions to achieve the objectives then agreed.

To start with, we envisaged that greater support would be provided by the Secretariat towards building national coalitions to combat CSEC. The formation of coalitions and the overall growth of the network in the last three years have indeed been significant.

A total of 12 new groups joined the global ECPAT network in the last three years, in 12 countries:

- 3 in the Middle East and North Africa region (in Egypt, Jordan and Morocco);
- 2 in Europe and CIS (in Albania and Moldova);
- 3 in the Americas (in Chile, Bolivia and Argentina);
- 3 in Africa (in Burkina Faso, Ghana and Cameroon);
- and 1 in South Asia (in Bangladesh).

As envisaged in the strategic directions, expansion of the network has focused in countries where CSEC was found to be a growing problem and where few or no efforts to combat it existed. The new members from Egypt, Argentina and Ghana are national coalitions. In addition, two affiliate groups were upgraded to the status of national groups: ECPAT Austria and ECPAT Mexico. The present Assembly is thus attended by 82 ECPAT groups from 75 countries: 16 groups in Africa, 5 groups in Middle East & North Africa, 16 in the Americas, 12 in the East Asia and Pacific region, 9 in South Asia and 24 in Europe & the CIS.

The expansion of the ECPAT network has entailed major efforts in terms of research, missions to contact stakeholders in each prospective country, action at national conferences, and support to these newly affiliated groups to increase their capacities and assist them to become full ECPAT network members. In parallel, we have continued to promote concerted actions and build the capacity of existing groups and relevant actors in each of the regions where ECPAT works. I thus would like to highlight some key achievements in each region, noting that other actions conducted in the regions will be described when I specifically discuss the fulfilment of ECPAT's strategic objectives.

In the Middle East and North Africa, a region where CSEC issues are highly taboo and are usually discussed under other themes such as sexual abuse of children, work has focused on gradually opening up a space to discuss and address such delicate issues. Following a workshop held in Lebanon in 2005 to foster the formation of a national coalition (in partnership with local ECPAT group Dar Al Amal), a meeting with the Secretary General for the Lebanese Higher Council on Childhood was instrumental in providing an opportunity to discuss potential areas of collaboration including the development of a NPA against sexual exploitation of children. In addition, ECPAT's participation in the Arab Civil Society Forum for Children in Egypt (a follow up to preparations for the UN General Assembly Special Session on Children and to the First Arab Regional Forum on Civil Society Organisations Working in the Field of Childhood) ensured that two articles on child protection against CSEC and sexual exploitation through ICTs were incorporated in the forum's final declaration – quite an achievement considering the difficulties to ensure proper recognition of the CSEC problem.

Later in 2006, ECPAT led a series of workshops in the region to draw attention to and foster action against child sex tourism and the trafficking of children for sexual purposes. These included a regional workshop on combating child sex tourism attended by government representatives from all over MENA, including the First Lady of Egypt, Suzanne Mubarak, who made a presentation on the importance of breaking the silence around the trafficking in children and discussing taboo issues.

Furthermore, ECPAT's inputs into a draft Regional Plan of Action on Anti-Trafficking ensured that issues surrounding child protection and mail-order brides were incorporated, and that NGOs were included in the plan's implementation. Equally significant was ECPAT's contribution to the MENA regional launch of the UN Study on the Violence against Children. We thus feel confident that all the work described above was crucial to foster greater understanding and recognition of CSEC issues in the region and to catalise more targeted actions to tackle such violations in the forms that they take place in MENA.

Although the Secretariat has met some difficulties in re-filling the MENA Regional Officer post based in Thailand, work in the region has continued through EI's Programme for Care and Protection of Victims of CSEC and the Programme Combating Child Sex Tourism and Trafficking. For instance, a regional training workshop on protecting children from sexual violence and exploitation in emergency and disaster situations was conducted in Jordan for nearly 30 participants from Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Morocco, Bahrain, Tunisia, Syria, Somalia, Sudan, United Arab Emirates and the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

In Europe and CIS – The CIS region has been a focus of special attention in this period given the absence of knowledge and action against CSEC in this sub-region. Between 2005 and 2006, national consultations were held in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan to share the findings of situational analysis studies undertaken in these countries and promote appropriate counteractions. As a result, the Secretary of State for Kyrgyzstan pledged to sign the Stockholm Declaration and develop a national plan of action (NPA), and an ECPAT group was affiliated in the country. Similarly, the Government of Kazakhstan has been liaising with ECPAT with a view to developing an NPA against CSEC, and an ECPAT group is in the process of being formed in that country. Trainings were subsequently provided in Kyrgyzstan to enable professionals working with child victims of CSEC to conduct further trainings and thus build expertise on rehabilitation of CSEC victims in the country. Similar trainings took place in Moldova, where a network of organisations working to combat CSEC has also been established. Situational analyses were also conducted in Uzbekistan and Turkey in 2007: as a result, the formation of a coalition in Turkey has now been completed (though not yet affiliated to the ECPAT network). Much of the work in Eastern Europe and the CIS has focused on combating CSEC through new technologies, given that the ECPAT Regional Seminar on Child Pornography in Russia and the CIS, held in 2006, indicated that major gaps remain in adjusting legal frameworks and providing protection to children against exploitation in pornography and IT-related crimes. In partnership with ECPAT groups in Belarus, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine, a regional study was then conducted to increase knowledge of the incidence and scope of the use of IT technologies to sexually exploit children in this sub-region; follow up activities have since been conducted in these countries.

Moreover, important contributions in terms of child protection policy development were made within the framework of key European institutions. While collaborating with the Council of Europe Committee of Experts on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, ECPAT raised several technical issues related to the draft of a binding Council of Europe legal instrument on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and abuse. Inputs were also provided into the European Union's strategy on children's rights. Furthermore, ECPAT participated in the Consultative Meeting on Trafficking in Human Beings at the invitation of the Directorate General - Justice, Freedom and Security of the EC. This meeting provided the EC with recommendations to enhance national coordination mechanisms and ensure early identification of and assistance to victims of trafficking.

In the Americas, partnerships were created with several key stakeholders to maximise the impact of our common work against CSEC. In collaboration with ILO/IPEC, a 'Regional Forum of Specialists on CSEC, Child Trafficking and Domestic Child Labour' was held in

Peru, gathering specialists from 15 countries in the region. A website was then established for exchange and validation of experiences and to facilitate the use of existing mechanisms to enhance interventions - especially to better protect child domestic workers, a group highly vulnerable to exploitation in commercial sex. Moreover, a partnership with Save the Children Sweden and involving ECPAT group members and partner organisations from 8 countries in the region, is leading to the creation of a regional network to promote child safety on the Internet and within ICTs. This is a major breakthrough as few organisations are currently working on this pressing issue in the continent. Furthermore, a Regional Observatory on CSEC is being established thanks to a partnership with ILO-IPEC, the Instituto Interamericano del Niño and Save the Children Sweden: this will enable systematic collection and dissemination of information specifically on CSEC, including policy and legal information and examples of good practice, providing a solid justification for needed counteractions and assisting a wide range of actors working on related issues.

In Bolivia and in Mexico, national situational analyses on CSEC were conducted in partnership with the ECPAT groups in the country. Follow-up actions are being planned with support from the Secretariat.

In South Asia, very important partnerships have also been developed to catalyse actions against specific manifestations of CSEC in the region. As a member of the South Asia Coordinating Group on Action against Violence (SACG) - formed to coordinate regional inter-agency collaboration and comprising of UNICEF, ILO, UNIFEM, UNFPA, WHO, Save the Children and PLAN, among others - ECPAT led the formation of a Working Group on Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children within SACG, hence such issues are now given much more attention when planning child protection required actions. Sub-groups were also formed on Action against Early Marriage, Action against Physical and Psychological Punishment and Action against Human Trafficking – with ECPAT playing a key role in shaping their terms of reference and modes of work. The sub-group on Action against Human Trafficking, for instance, has comprehensively reviewed the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Convention against Trafficking of Women and Children for Sexual Exploitation, and made key recommendations to strengthen it and enhance support for children and women. The SACG took the responsibility for coordinating the regional preparatory consultation towards the World Congress III, which was hosted by the Government of Nepal.

Another important initiative in South Asia was the research study, conducted by the Secretariat in partnership with local groups, to examine the nature and extent of commercial sexual exploitation of boys in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan. These pioneering research studies

showed that sexual exploitation of boys is far more prevalent than previously acknowledged. The research findings were shared at numerous key forums and with several agencies. Ongoing research to investigate boy's prostitution in connection with religious pilgrimages in south Asian locations will form the basis of interventions to better protect boys in this region, a group that is usually neglected when tackling child sexual exploitation.

In the East Asia and Pacific region, efforts to expand knowledge and action against CSEC in the Pacific Island countries were advanced. For example, within the framework of the East Asia and Pacific Inter-Agency Group's activities, ECPAT International worked with UNESCAP and ECPAT New Zealand on a CSEC situational analysis overview in the Cook Islands – as well as on a regional overview report covering five Pacific Island countries, namely Fiji, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Kiribati and Papua New Guinea. Then, in November 2007, a Regional Stakeholders' Consultation and Planning Workshop on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Child Sexual Abuse in the Pacific was held in Fiji: governments and NGOs discussed the findings of such studies with a view to planning appropriate responses, while also receiving training on recovery and reintegration of victims so as to be able to incorporate related measures in national plans of action.

In Thailand, ECPAT International was invited by the Ministry of Tourism and Sports to be a member of the drafting committee on the National Plan of Action to Prevent Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Tourism. ECPAT International was also invited by the Government to contribute to the production of Thailand's first country report on the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child: our recommendations to strengthen action against CSEC in Thailand were well received by the committee preparing the report, which also expressed appreciation regarding the comprehensive information provided through ECPAT's Global Monitoring Report on Thailand.

We have also contributed to the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking (COMMIT) by providing technical expertise to a number of its initiatives.

Technical and also financial support were provided to numerous projects conducted by ECPAT groups, such as a legal reform project being undertaken by the National Coalition against CSEC in Indonesia; a care and protection training workshop run by the ECPAT coalition in Cambodia for its members; a training of trainers workshop for social workers organised by the ECPAT group in Mongolia, as part of the implementation of the NPA on Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Children and Women; the launch and implementation of the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism

by the ECPAT group in Korea; among others. Not to mention the provision of technical inputs at various regional level, such as the 7th ISPCAN Asian Regional Conference, where ECPAT highlighted inconsistent legislations that impede effective protection of Asian children against sexual exploitation.

In Africa, work has focused on supporting, planning and implementation of initiatives against CSEC undertaken by groups in the region and to enhance capacity for this purpose. For this reason, two Regional Network Resource Exchange workshops (RNREs) were actually conducted in the continent in the reporting period, in addition to various network development workshops.

For instance, to support the ECPAT coalition in South Africa, a workshop was held in 2007 where participants identified ways to better integrate child and youth participation in their work; planning was also initiated on how to lobby the South African Government and the World Cup Organising Committee to minimise threats to children at the 2010 World Cup. Another workshop was held in Zambia, attended by 40 participants from the ECPAT network in Zambia as well as from ECPAT groups in 13 African countries: they made an assessment of their programme development needs and the support to be provided by ECPAT International in this regard. In East Africa, a Regional Planning and Consultative Meeting held in Ethiopia in June 2008 allowed ECPAT groups in this sub-region to review achievements and gaps in their programmes and make plans for enhanced work in the next one-year period, which included several joint activities to allow for more concerted action. The meeting also included a training of trainers (provided by ECPAT International) on the Code of Conduct to Protect Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism, whereby the groups gained further knowledge on how to provide such trainings to the tourism industry in their countries.

Regional Coordinators based in the East and West Africa sub-regions supported networking among ECPAT groups and assisted them in conducting joint activities.

Work to combat CSEC was furthered in Cameroon: in partnership with the newly-affiliated ECPAT group ASSEJA and under the patronage of the Ministry of Social Affairs, a national consultation was held in Yaoundé to validate the findings of a situational analysis on CSEC and to define follow-up actions. A key achievement was a pledge made by the 51 participants to form a national committee to develop a NPA against CSEC. They also committed to promote legal reform and to map and mobilise resources to develop psychosocial support services and systems for child victims of CSEC and trafficking. In addition, the Minister of Tourism committed to working with NGOs to better combat child sex tourism.

Furthermore, a national consultation was organised in Niger to validate a CSEC situational analysis study, advocating for key stakeholders to jointly develop a NPA against CSEC.

Regional Network Resources Exchanges (RNREs) were organised in all regions: these capacity building, information exchange and networking events have been greatly appreciated by the ECPAT network groups, and are being gradually enhanced to better cater for their needs.

Various other initiatives were undertaken in each region through specific Secretariat programmes, in an attempt to fulfil ECPAT's strategic objectives. I now would like to examine how the Secretariat has endeavoured to support the fulfilment of such objectives in the past three years.

Objective 1 relates to the development of a strong and effective network to combat CSEC in all regions of the world, and some of the efforts in this regard have just been described.

ECPAT International continued to advocate at international and regional level as well as directly with governments to increase the adoption and implementation of the Stockholm Agenda for Action in a measurable way (Objective 2). Indeed, all Secretariat programmes contribute to promoting the adoption and implementation of the Agenda for Action. This task has been undertaken more specifically through the preparation and publication of 76 country-specific *Global Monitoring Reports on the Status of Action against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children*, covering all regions of the world. Presentation of the reports and subsequent advocacy undertaken to promote action on the priorities outlined in them have catalysed or advanced legal reform processes in a number of countries, while some important international instruments have been adopted or ratified by others. Several governments demonstrated appreciation for the information provided as well as willingness to work with ECPAT International to address the gaps identified in the reports. These reports have constituted the key resources used in the regional preparatory consultations for the World Congress III; they are also being used by governments to prepare their reports for the Congress, and have been heavily cited in all the Congress background papers.

In relation to developing the skills and knowledge of key stakeholders for action against CSEC (Objective 3), the above-mentioned RNREs as well as trainings, information materials and technical publications targeting both the ECPAT groups and other actors have been extensively provided.

The ECPAT International Information and Education Department has worked very hard to contribute towards increasing awareness and effective actions against CSEC through the creation, dissemination and exchange of information (Objective 4). A major task attributed to the Secretariat in the last Strategic Directions was to ensure that member groups are connected with each other and knowledgeable of up-to-date information to help them enhance their work to combat the threats related to sexual exploitation that some children face. The number of publications prepared by ECPAT and produced by the Secretariat's IED - research studies, training manuals, campaign materials, information booklets, good practice guides – has not only increased enormously in the last three years, but also been published in languages other than the three main languages used by the ECPAT Network (English, French and Spanish), namely Russian, Arabic, Bahasa, Thai, Khmer, in order to better meet the needs of ECPAT groups.

Another enhancement was the replacement of the former quarterly newsletter with more in-depth thematic- focused publications: as such, a series of informative thematic journals was initiated, which have contributed knowledge and stimulated dialogue among ECPAT groups and others on key issues such as child trafficking for sexual purpose, the linkages between CSEC and HIV/AIDS in Africa, good practices in child and youth participation etc. Also, an E-bulletin was started to enhance exchange of information among network groups on each other's initiatives; this activity-based publication is distributed quarterly.

As envisaged, resources on the ECPAT website have been expanded and more regularly updated. Country-specific as well as issue-specific information are now featured, together with news related to CSEC cases worldwide and initiatives being conducted by ECPAT groups and others, thus providing a comprehensive overview of current trends and developments.

Finally, the Information Technology and Resource Centre (ITRC) has helped ECPAT groups in Africa and Asia to improve their IT capacity, according to their specific requirements, which will contribute to the dissemination of local information and ideas in local languages.

In relation to strengthening legal frameworks and existing law enforcement practices to protect children from exploitation in commercial sex (Objective 5), this period has seen the consolidation of the Secretariat's Legal Programme. A significant achievement and learning experience for the ECPAT network, has been the detailed compilation of legislation governing the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) in 76 countries, which has been undertaken in connection with the the preparation of the Global Monitoring Reports. Each country report features the main provisions, if any, of laws on child prostitution, child trafficking

for sexual purposes and child pornography as well as other provisions that may be applied to related crimes. The areas of alignment as well as the existing gaps between national laws and the relevant international/regional standards are then outlined, followed by recommendations for legal reform. This comprehensive information is available for governments, legislators, law enforcers, child rights advocates and other stakeholders engaged in promoting laws that effectively protect children from commercial sexual exploitation, and has constituted a major reference and catalyser for legal reform initiatives.

Another very comprehensive publication on best practices was developed just in time for distribution at the World Congress III, aiming to improve understanding of legal instruments applying to CSEC and to increase protection for child victims within the legal system. It is based on case studies and builds on the experience of ECPAT groups working on legal issues.

Finally, the Legal Programme has developed tools to enable ECPAT groups to contribute to the reporting process under the Optional Protocol: as a result, ECPAT as a network now more actively and systematically contributes to child rights reporting mechanisms intended to strengthen the protection of children from commercial sexual exploitation. The Secretariat has also worked closely with ECPAT groups toward the preparation of country-specific Alternative Reports, as I will illustrate in a moment.

Objective 6 related to the prevention and reduction of child sex tourism in emerging, established and non-tourism destinations, using the *Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism*. Strategic liaison with key stakeholders and collaboration on key initiatives allowed ECPAT to advocate for child protection policies and practices within the private sector. ECPAT International is represented within the governing bodies of The Code and relevant working groups such as the UNWTO Task Force for the Protection of Children in Tourism. Furthermore, the Secretariat together with a number of ECPAT groups contributed to the new Strategy for the Organisational Development of 'The Code' Organisation, which set out important measures to cater for an increasing number of members worldwide. A new monitoring and information system was also developed to ensure more concrete outcomes from the implementation of the Code.

The partnership with the Accor hotel chain has had a significant impact at known child-sex tourism destinations in Asia, where a large number of staff trainings have taken place and awareness raising materials distributed. Liaison with the Accor headquarters in Paris is ongoing to discuss the gradual implementation of the Code in Accor hotels around the world. In addition, training sessions and awareness-raising events were organised for various other tourism-industry partners.

The production of awareness-raising and other materials undertaken with the purpose of combating the sexual exploitation of children in tourism includes: two CD-ROMs featuring a collection of good practices from the ECPAT network in combating child-sex tourism and trafficking in children for sexual purposes; a publication on Questions and Answers on the topic of Child-Sex Tourism; the very recent first edition of the training tool kit aimed at trainers and professionals in the tourism sector; and new Code promotional brochures. All of these materials are widely circulated and distributed.

We are particularly pleased to report on the work to fulfil Objective 7 i.e. to promote and uphold the right of children and youth to participate in analysing and planning actions against CSEC. In this regard, the Secretariat received three key mandates: 1) To support the ECPAT groups in examining their structures and in designing internal measures for integration and support of youth participation in their actions; 2) To promote and support child and youth participation within its own initiatives and relevant forums; 3) To build cooperation with the global youth movement through youth actions around the world for prevention of CSEC. The Secretariat's Child and Youth Participation Programme has secured outstanding results with regard to these objectives.

The South Asia Youth Partnership Project (YPP) - a pilot project conducted since 2005 in partnership with ECPAT groups in India, Bangladesh and Nepal - has proved extremely successful to promote meaningful youth participation in projects to combat CSEC and rehabilitate child victims, and greatly enhanced the capacity of the ECPAT groups and other local partners in this regard. Due to the strong positive response from the youth and partners involved in the project, the YPP South Asia entered its second phase, with a refined methodology. Following requests by ECPAT groups from various countries who are interested in this new methodology to systematically involve youth in their work against CSEC, the project shall be replicated in other regions.

The last Strategic Directions stipulated that the Secretariat would continue to support EICYAC in building youth networks that can participate in ECPAT's work at local, national, regional and international level. The Secretariat thus assisted the regional youth representatives of EICYAC to draft and implement their Regional Action Plans, which included setting up a database of child and youth groups/organisations in their regions to facilitate regional campaigns and programmes. An online course on advocacy was also provided to EICYAC members, which enabled them to develop a comprehensive advocacy strategy for EICYAC. Finally, the EICYAC website (www.eicyac.org) was launched. In the last three years, EICYAC has also undergone significant improvements in the way it functions. Also, each region is to have not only one but

two representatives in the EICYAC, to strengthen the youth movement against CSEC in each region.

The Secretariat has also facilitated and increased the participation of young people at events held by ECPAT as well as other agencies, which has led to greater conceptual clarity on the issue of children's participation. For instance, together with other organisations we facilitated the participation of 33 children to attend the UNCRC Day of General Discussion, held in 2006 in Geneva. Also, in support of the UN's Study on Violence against Children, we facilitated the selection of young people to attend and speak at the global launch of the study in New York, and at the Youth Forum of Violence against Children regional launch in Bangkok. Not to mention that children and youth from all regions of the world were enabled to contribute to all World Congress III processes thanks to a consultative tool and minimum standards for child and participation specifically developed for this purpose.

Promoting and supporting child and youth participation has also entailed the documentation and dissemination of best practices:

- As part of its work within the Inter-Agency Group on Children's Participation in the Southeast Asia and Pacific Region, the Secretariat contributed towards the *Minimum Standards for Consulting with Children* publication.
- *Discussion Paper on Child and Youth Participation at the 2008 World Congress*: with recommendations to enable increased and meaningful youth participation at the World Congress III.
- *CYP Survey Report*, highlighting strengths and challenges as well as recommendations on improving CYP within the ECPAT network in particular.
- *The Use of Resources to the Maximum Extent and its Relationship to the Participation Rights of Children*, submitted to the UNCRC Committee's Day of General Discussion.

Objective 8 related to ensuring the rights to care and protection of children at risk or victimised by CSE. The Care and Protection Programme, which traditionally focused on training care givers on concepts and methodologies related to the rehabilitation of CSEC victims, has seen some very important new developments in the last three years. New components have been included, namely trainings on protecting children from sexual violence and exploitation in emergencies and natural-disaster situations, as well as creating child-safe organisations to prevent and stop sexual exploitation of children within them. These had been areas of increasing concern on the part of the wider child-welfare community as well as the ECPAT network, and the demand for these types of trainings was considerable. For this purpose, a major publication was developed, entitled *Protecting Children from Sexual Exploitation and*

Sexual Violence in Disaster and Emergency Situations. Then, in 2006, ECPAT, UNICEF and Save the Children collaborated to produce a Child-Safe Organisations training toolkit, providing a framework for the development and practical application of child protection policies within groups that work with and for children. The Programme staff has now provided such trainings in various regions around the world, with extremely positive feedback from participants.

Finally, the Training of Regional Experts is a new ECPAT initiative providing intensive and ongoing training and support to a small number of child welfare professionals to develop their capacity to provide local training, tailored to the cultural context. The pilot region for this initiative was Africa, attended by 11 participants from The Gambia, Ghana, Sierra Leone and Zambia. Several resources were developed on a number of specific topics, such as child development and child psychology. The initiative will now be replicated in other regions.

Trainings on rehabilitation of CSEC victims have continued to be provided in all regions.

I also would like to mention an effort arising from a call from the Committee on the Rights of the Child for the development of international standards for care of children without parental care: ECPAT contributed to the draft of a set of guidelines which resulted in the UN *Guidelines for the Appropriate Use and Conditions of Alternative Care for Children*.

Objective 9 related to the need to ensure a positive impact of our work on the lives of children through monitoring and evaluation of our actions. There was mention in the last Strategic Directions that “ideally, a coalition assessment tool could be developed which will help strengthen ECPAT member organisations at national level and maximise the opportunities that can be gained from a vibrant network”. It was also envisaged that ECPAT International would strengthen its existing Monitoring & Evaluation system including a greater focus on impact assessment, whilst carrying out an analysis that benchmarks ECPAT effectiveness against other coalitions that are rights-based and advocacy-focused.

In the reporting period, the Secretariat invested significantly in developing a Monitoring and Evaluation System with the assistance of a consultancy firm from the UK and with the participation and inputs from a number of ECPAT groups as a means to ensure feedback from the network. The M&E system functions mostly through Output Summary Reports (produced quarterly) and Evidence of Impact Reports (as evidence is received, or quarterly), prepared by the Secretariat staff: they have made information on current programmes more accessible, enhanced work planning processes, improved awareness of lessons learned, and provided a better measure of whether we are meeting our stated objectives.

Moreover, a strategic planning assessment was conducted during 2007 to evaluate the ECPAT structures, strategies and programmes in supporting member groups in West Africa, Russia and CIS. The assessment credited ECPAT International as being the catalyst in bringing the CSEC issue to a much higher level of attention, analysis and action, as well as rallying players to collaborate on its reduction. A key recommendation referred to the need to strengthen member-to-member learning. Indeed, it is worth remembering that a key challenge identified in the 2005-2008 Strategic Directions was the “wide variation in the types of groups that make up ECPAT’s membership, their interests, expertise and needs”, which “sometimes makes it more difficult for the Secretariat to speak on every subject linked to CSEC and requires constant effort to maintain cohesion”. In an effort to address this challenge, the Secretariat will seek to develop mechanisms to facilitate more sharing of experience and expertise by matching members with ‘success experiences’ or special expertise with those seeking to learn related approaches. Sub-regional training programmes will also be developed based on specific common challenges.

A newly-developed self-assessment tool ‘Are We Strong Enough?’ (piloted as part of the West Africa and CIS review process) will be reviewed by members and the relevant ECPAT International Secretariat staff on an annual basis to track progress and identify priority capacity-building challenges.

Strengthening action and collaboration at all levels of society to protect children against trafficking for sexual purposes was Objective 10. In 2007 ECPAT entered the final phase of the multi-country Action Programme against the Trafficking of Minors for Sexual Purposes, undertaken in Ukraine, Thailand and Costa Rica. This unique intervention - a collaboration between local organisations, ECPAT groups, ECPAT International and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) - demonstrated the benefit of having interactive programme elements. Key activities included training of legal representatives, development of national level databases of cases, training on multi-disciplinary approaches to assist children affected by trafficking, as well as an innovative and highly successful awareness raising campaign.

Furthermore, with research demonstrating an increasing link between the trafficking of children for sexual purposes and child sex tourism, it was decided that the Combating Child Sex Tourism Programme would also include coordination of trafficking prevention efforts. As the engagement of travel and tourism companies has proved essential to combating child sex tourism, many child protection organisations have felt that a similar strategy should be put in place to tackle trafficking, especially when transportation companies are a central part of

the trafficking process and could play a huge role in fighting it. It is thus expected that greater effectiveness will be achieved in protecting children from both violations.

Objective 11 related to strengthening action and collaboration at all levels of society to protect children against child pornography and other possible dangers of new technologies. Envisaged activities to support this work by the Secretariat would focus on monitoring, advocacy and campaigning.

In the reporting period, the Secretariat actively contributed to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and the Internet Government Forum (IGF) processes. These are platforms for UN member States, UN experts, the private sector and non-governmental representatives to examine and take action on issues related to the Information Society. As a result, child protection was included in the WSIS final declaration and plan of action – and indeed the verbatim adoption of the key ECPAT proposal was a significant achievement at this global meeting attended by world leaders. In addition, spearheaded by ECPAT, a Dynamic Coalition on Child Safety on the Internet has been formally established within the IGF's structure, which will enable child rights organisations to systematically dialogue with these key stakeholders to push forward recommendations to enhance child safety within information and communications technologies. It should be noted that, in the past years, child protection organisations had minimal participation in the WSIS and the IGF, which used to focus heavily on technology, telecommunications and security issues. ECPAT's continuous engagement in such global platforms gradually ensured much greater visibility to child protection issues, to the point that a coalition on child safety is now formally included within the IGF.

The make-IT-safe campaign continued in more countries, aiming to engage the IT industry, other relevant private sector actors as well as governments in ensuring child safety in cyberspace. The campaign was particularly successful in Costa Rica and Eastern Europe. Also, micro-projects were supported by the Secretariat to enable ECPAT groups to undertake make-IT-safe initiatives in South Asia and Africa - in Africa in particular, a sub-regional make-IT-safe campaign is being conducted with local youth participating very actively as campaigners, as it was found that mobilising youth was a more effective strategy to ensure child safety online, given the reluctance of the private sector to adhere to the campaign. Another effort, to foster engagement from the private sector, has been the development of an initial model of a code of conduct for Internet cafés, piloted in the Philippines. Such a model will be refined and its adoption shall be promoted in other countries as part of the campaign.

To achieve Objective 12 - to make governments, international governmental organisations and the private sector more accountable for protecting children against CSEC - it was

envisaged that work directed toward governments would encourage enactment and enforcement of laws, development and implementation of National Plans of Action against CSEC, and other actions against CSEC. This entails advocacy and capacity building, and has been done through the various Secretariat programmes just described. I am pleased to mention a few examples of the success of such work, resulting from the joint efforts of the Secretariat and the local ECPAT groups. In Uruguay, we have worked closely with the national committee against CSEC responsible for developing a National Plan of Action against CSEC, and have also worked with the Government and UNICEF Uruguay to implement the *Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism*. In Argentina, we coordinated the establishment of a national committee to foster the implementation of the Code of Conduct, and developed a one-year work plan to implement the Code in the country. In Costa Rica, a national workshop targeting government officials and civil society organisations was held in collaboration with Save the Children, ECPAT Costa Rica and the Ministry of the Interior, focusing on the implementation of a national strategy against CSEC: this work was instrumental in creating links between different government sectors dealing with CSEC, and resulted in the establishment of a special team within the Ministry of the Interior, which will be working specifically on the issue. Presently we are working with the Thai Government in the development of a *National Plan of Action to Prevent Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Tourism*. Also, in support to the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking (COMMIT), ECPAT provided technical expertise for the Thai Government to host the 'Greater Sub-Mekong Seminar on Protecting Children from Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation in Tourism', which produced two key outcomes: a Letter of Intent outlining four regional agendas to tackle child trafficking and child sex tourism, and an outline of national strategies to support these regional agendas. Furthermore, we have been invited by the Government of Maldives to assist them to tackle CSEC in the country, and as an initial step a National Stakeholder Meeting was attended by over 50 high-level participants from various Ministries, law enforcement, the Judiciary, NGOs and the media; a situational analysis research will now be conducted to form the basis for the formulation of a national policy on CSEC and trafficking. Finally, we are the key organisation providing technical support to enhance the implementation of the National Plan of Action against CSEC and Trafficking of Pakistan.

'Cutting-edge' knowledge on CSEC and related issues has also been systematically built up, which is critical to ensure high standards of advocacy and programmatic work. As such, the linkages between CSEC and HIV/AIDS have been investigated in six African countries (Ethiopia, Kenya, the Gambia, Togo, Uganda and Zambia). These linkages had never been explored in depth in previous studies focusing on Africa, a continent greatly affected by HIV/AIDS. The goal of the research was to define the key elements that should be present when designing HIV/

AIDS interventions for this highly vulnerable group of children, and related recommendations have subsequently been widely disseminated to policy makers, international actions and other key stakeholders in the region. Also, sensitisation campaigns are being conducted in three African countries. Research to document the scale and scope of child pornography in four eastern European countries has led to the provision of trainings on Internet safety for children, social workers and other stakeholders in Ukraine and Moldova (in the latter, with a view to setting up a helpline). In Indonesia, previous research on the legal framework paved the way for the current legal reform programme in the country, while the study on boy prostitution in South Asia, has proved essential in drawing attention to this phenomenon and catalysing related initiatives. Research on the demand for sex with children in Peru was followed by a project promoting male behaviour changes.

Furthermore, as you all know, the ECPAT Secretariat has played a crucial role in organising all the preparatory processes culminating in the World Congress III against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents and ensuring wider involvement of the ECPAT groups and relevant child rights organisations in all the Congress processes. Besides, the Secretariat successfully enabling children and youth from all regions of the world to contribute to such processes by developing a consultative tool and minimum standards for child and participation. As you have witnessed, the World Congress III has been an important opportunity to renew world commitment for combating sexual exploitation of children, especially as this time the Congress involved the definition of concrete targets, strategies, clear indicators, and a specific timetable for achievement. A total of 137 countries adopted the RIO Pact.

I now would like to give you a brief account of the financial and human resources employed by the Secretariat to carry out the work just described.

In terms of support and coordination, the ECPAT International Secretariat was mandated to establish more decentralised mini-structures outside of the Bangkok office, based as much as possible within the ECPAT groups themselves. In the last three years, as planned, this was extended to regions where ECPAT groups were interested and able to support such structures. Regional Associate positions were thus developed for Western Europe, Latin America and the East Asia and Pacific region (in the previous period similar positions had already been created for Africa and CIS). In addition, a Regional Associate for the South Asia Youth Partnership Project (YPP) is now in place, and a National Coordinator was recruited to advance work against CSEC in Turkey and support the coalition recently established in this country. All such changes have enabled various activities to be organised among the ECPAT groups in these regions, significantly enhanced the communications and

networking among the groups, and created the necessary structures for increased provision of technical support to ECPAT members and partners in these regions, a key responsibility of the Secretariat. At the same time, the position of Sub-Regional Coordinator for East Africa became redundant as the coordination is now undertaken by the groups through Oak support.

In the financial year July 2005 to June 2006, the Secretariat's **fundraising efforts brought in a total of US\$ 1,480,179. Expenditure amounted to US\$ 2,185,896: 83% of it related to direct programme costs, while 17% related to administration costs.** We closed the year with a fund balance of US\$ 293,644.

In the financial year July 2006 to June 2007, we were **able to raise US\$ 1,922,500. Expenditure amounted to US\$ 2,149,750: 82% relating to direct programme costs and 18% to administration costs.** We closed the year with a fund balance of US\$ 66,394.

In the financial year July 2007 to June 2008, **we raised US\$ 2,672,910, and spent US\$ 2,552,900 - 84% relating to direct programme costs and 16% to administration costs.** The closing fund balance was US\$186,404.

Hence the Secretariat's financial situation has remained fairly stable in the past three years, with a significant increase in the funds raised in the last financial year, when we were also able to slightly increase the percentage of our direct programmes costs.

It was anticipated, at the time of the last Assembly, that the ECPAT International budget would grow by 40%. In the financial year 2004-2005 the funds raised amounted to US\$1,623,382, and expenditure to US\$1,419,374 (79% were allocated to direct programme costs and 21% to administrative costs, which means that we have managed to increase the direct programme allocation in the last three years). If we compare these figures with the 2007-2008 figures, we see that **there has been an increase of 64% in the funds raised, and of 79% in the expenditures – which far exceeds the anticipated growth.**

A contingency fund/reserve fund has not been set up due to demands to raise funds for specific regional projects and the World Congress III process. However, our fund closing balance has remained stable as explained above.

As expected, the International **Secretariat staffing levels remained fairly constant in the period**, with some increase in both the permanent positions and the number of interns. Improvements were made to the staff salary and benefits during the 2002-2005 period, followed by further benefits in the last three years, to ensure recruitment of better prepared professionals and staff retention.

Finally, a major achievement in the reporting period was the registration of ECPAT International in Thailand, awarded by the Royal Thai Government after several years of preparation of all required documents and reports. This has been extremely important to ensure stability in our work.

In closing, I would like to express my admiration for the Secretariat team without whom none of the work reported would be possible. Their dedication, professionalism and commitment to the work of ECPAT and the network enables us to “punch far above our weight”. I also would like to express my appreciation for those of you who have proactively supported our work in the past three years, and reaffirm our commitment to work closer and more effectively with the network to achieve our common goals. The implementation of the agreed actions of the Rio Pact will require systematic planning and long term engagement. I look forward to outlining the operational agenda that will enable us to achieve our goals and assure you of our full backing in this regard. Thank you.

Report from the Treasurer David Ould

Although I have only been your Treasurer since March I shall be reviewing ECPAT International’s accounts since the last Assembly. The audited accounts for the three years have already been sent to you in preparation for the assembly and I do not intend to go into these accounts in any detail, but simply to provide you with an overview of the results for those years and a brief summary of the financial situation for the current year.

1. Financial Performance

The first slide (Slide 1) shows the income and expenditure for the three years concerned and as you can see during this time income has increased substantially and expenditure slightly less so. However, it should be noted that as a result of the new strategic plan approved at the last assembly expenditure was significantly higher in 2006 than 2005. In the first two years there were substantial deficits of income over expenditure, as previous year carry-over funds were drawn down almost to zero in order to ensure full grant utilization for the respective periods. The effects of these balances can be seen on this slide (Slide 2), which shows our available



funds over the same period. I would note that for an organisation employing some 30 staff, the level of fund availability is very low and I would like to see us building the unrestricted reserves to a level of around three months of core office and salary costs. Without such reserves we have limited flexibility to ride out ups and down in fundraising income. This can be seen well from the last slide which shows salary numbers and costs over the three years. We have a professional and dedicated staff in Bangkok, many of whom have knowledge and experience that it would be hard to replace, and such reserves would ensure that we can retain them.

2. Fundraising

As you were told at the last Assembly, ECPAT International employed its first full time fundraiser in 2006 and this, together with the work done by the management in making and building contacts with governments, large NGO and corporate funders has led to an important increase in the range of our funding. In the last two years we have received grants from around 30 different funders (not counting smaller private donors) compared with less than 20 a few years ago. It is noteworthy that many of these are multi-year grants towards our work and such grants provide a good platform for the office to plan its work and objectives. You have also heard the exciting news of the campaign to be undertaken with the Bodyshop beginning in mid 2009. It is anticipated that, in addition to the money raised through the involvement of their shops in the campaign, the Bodyshop will provide some funding to the ECPAT International office in order to support the development of this project.

3. Financial Management and Controls

ECPAT International's accounts are audited annually by the Thai office of a large international firm of accountants. No problems have been noted by these auditors in the period since the last Assembly. Similarly, financial reports to funders have been produced on time and with the detail required by the funders. This is a tribute to the work of the staff concerned and as a new Treasurer I have been impressed by the thorough reports that are available when needed from the office. Detailed policies and procedures are in place to ensure that all orders and payments are properly authorised and controlled and I am confident that the office manages properly the large sums that are being spent.

4. Budget for 2008/9

The budget for this year is around \$5 million compared to around \$2.5 million last year. The main reason for this increase is of course the costs associated with the World Congress and this General Assembly. Excluding these costs shows a more manageable increase of 13%.

More than two thirds of these costs have already been committed by funders and the office and Board will closely monitor the position during the year in order to ensure that the organisation does not run a large deficit for the year.

In summary, ECPAT International is financially healthy and has the policies and controls in place to manage our planned growth, but as a Treasurer I would hope that after the current year has been completed we will be able to build a financial reserve. I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have on either this report or on the detailed accounts.

Slide 1:

ECPAT INTERNATIONAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE			
000'\$	2006	2007	2008
Rest. Income	1,017	571	1,951
Unrest. Income	463	1,351	722
Total Income	1,480	1,922	2,673
Expenditure	2,186	2,150	2,553

Slide 2:

ECPAT INTERNATIONAL RESERVES			
000'\$	2006	2007	2008
Restricted	294	54	168
Unrestricted	0	13	0
Total	294	67	186

Slide 3:

ECPAT INTERNATIONAL STAFF AND SALARIES			
000'\$	2006	2007	2008
Staff employed	29	31	32
Salary costs	774	1,073	1,298

REPORTS TO THE ASSEMBLY

Board Member for East Asia: Ingrid Liao

A- Strengthening the ECPAT network in East Asia

Many efforts to improve child protection have been made by active and dedicated ECPAT members in each country and at regional level demonstrating the vigorous collaboration and vitality of the ECPAT network in the East Asia Region.

- A Symposium on Sex Tourism of Children and Adolescents took place in Korea on October 31, 2005. Delegates from ECPAT groups in Cambodia, the Philippines and Taiwan attended the symposium. The Representative of East Asia presented a review of anti child sex tourism (CST) work. Strategies to prevent CST were generated during the meeting.
- The Regional Network Resource Exchange (RNRE) for the East Asia and Pacific region was held in Bangkok in June 2006.
- The East Asia Pacific Youth Human Rights Summer Camp was organised in Taiwan in 2006. Youth representatives from this region participated enthusiastically and shared valuable local experiences and different points of view. A Youth Action Plan was produced, which included linking up child/youth networks and the development of child friendly materials, etc. The plan is being widely implemented throughout the region.
- The Global Youth Participation Award was held in 2007. Mr. Sama Ismail Jusab from India won the silver prize for a “bringing children back to school” project, which successfully improved girls’ literacy rate in a remote area of western India. Ms. Dejino of Philippines won the bronze prize. As a survivor of child sexual abuse, she demonstrated bravery and devotion in fighting for the rights of the child. Ms. Lotta Segerström, youth representative on the Board of ECPAT International was an honoured guest at the ceremony. Two panel discussions on youth participation were arranged to foster communication among foreign guests, young people, and NGOs.



- The Second East Asia Pacific (EAP) Regional Network Resource Exchange took place in Bangkok from 25-28 February 2008. The programme included presentations from network groups, thematic speeches on the Tourism Code of Conduct and the ASEAN Regional Education Campaign to Combat Child Sex Tourism, with a training workshop on care and protection. Discussions on various issues were abundant and fruitful and helped to enhance communication and networking within this region as well.

B- Better protection mechanisms for experiential children/youth in East Asia

- Detailed Surveys on Human Trafficking and an evaluation of the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) in Mongolia helped to pinpoint the main forms of trafficking and clarify the vision of work to combat it.
- Awareness raising, child and youth participation, capacity building, and care and protection programmes were implemented in northern Thailand.
- The Tourism Code of Conduct was successfully launched in Japan and provides a useful scheme for preventing CST.
- Legislation remains crucial as a means of better protecting children. The law on Anti-Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation was adopted in 2007 in Cambodia, and legal reform on CSEC is ongoing in Indonesia, Korea, Japan and Taiwan. ECPAT International and UNIAP Thailand supported Thailand's Ministry of Tourism and Sports and the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security in organising the Greater-Mekong Regional Seminar in Bangkok from 5-6 November 2007.

C- Other Activities

- ECPAT/STOP Japan started the Anti-Child Pornography Campaign in Japan with the Japan Committee for UNICEF and other child's rights NGOs in Japan from March 1, 2008. The huge market in manga and other forms of animation that sexually exploit children has still not been prohibited.
- The International Conference on Prevention of Online Grooming and the International Conference on Strategies of Child Online Safety took place in Taiwan in 2007 and 2008 respectively. Advanced technologies and child protection has become an emerging issue in this region. Guests from the USA and Europe shared their experiences and participants from Japan and Korea joined with stakeholders from various sectors to generate effective ways of tackling the challenges presented by these new technologies.

D- Follow up of A4A and build up to WCIII

- East Asia Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for World Congress III against the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents, led by ECPAT International, UNICEF and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

was successfully held in Bangkok from 18-19 August 2008. The meeting's attendees discussed a set of time-bound goals and targets to combat child prostitution, trafficking, cyber crime and abuse in travel and tourism.

E- Future Challenges

- Need to give greater importance to the accountability of governments.
- Need to strengthen connections across this region.
- CSEC and child abuse images online as a growing issue in the region.

Board Member for the Pacific: Maureen Crombie

A - Strengthening the ECPAT network

- Child Wise works in partnership with all ASEAN countries to prevent child sexual abuse in tourism destinations. The ASEAN Regional Education Campaign was rolled out across South East Asia in 2006 and continues to raise community awareness and action.
- During 2006-2007, thirteen Child Wise Tourism Training workshops were delivered across the ASEAN region, equipping over 800 tourism staff from various sectors with skills to identify and report child sexual exploitation.
- Child Wise has set up a Cambodian office with national staff, which aims to build the capacity of Cambodians. This ECPAT group works in close cooperation with several key actors, including the Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Social Affairs, Veteran and Youth Rehabilitation, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Women's Affairs, and the Cambodian National Council for Children, UN agencies, NGOs and foreign embassies. The group's work includes training, workshops and the production of awareness raising and information materials.



In 2006, the group conducted capacity building on data collection methods for member organisations in cooperation with Cambodian Research Development. In 2007, in cooperation with Gender and Development of Cambodia, the group conducted capacity building workshops for member organisations on Gender Awareness.

In 2007, the affiliate group launched a database survey project called “NGO Joint Statistics on Rape and Trafficking”. 22 local and international NGOs participated in the study and the report collated information on 558 cases of rape and 761 cases of trafficking. The group organised International Children’s Day in cooperation with The National Council for Children and the NGO Committee on the Rights of the Child.

- In 2007, Suva, Fiji, a Regional Stakeholders’ Consultation and Planning Workshop on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children or CSEC and Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) in the Pacific was organised by ESCAP, ECPAT International, and Save the Children Fiji. Participants included government and non-government organisation representatives from the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu islands. The workshop provided a platform to review and share situations on CSEC and CSA in participating countries, consider strategies and appropriate approaches to take actions to respond to CSEC.

B - Better prevention and protection mechanisms

- The Child Wise ‘Speak Up’ campaign was launched in 2007 to encourage Australians to report child abuse. Over 12,000 posters and 14,000 postcards were distributed to more than 10,000 organisations Australia-wide, including libraries, community health centres and neighbourhood homes.
- Child Wise’s research project entitled ‘Speaking for Themselves’ has given a voice to young people involved in commercial sexual activity in Melbourne. The report aimed to assist government and NGOs with developing more appropriate intervention strategies and improving services for young people involved in commercial sexual exploitation.

Also, ECPAT New Zealand commissioned a similar research study entitled ‘Speaking for Ourselves’ which has focussed on the voice of under-age sex workers in Auckland.

- In 2006, ECPAT New Zealand partnered with Punanga Tauturu Inc. to conduct a situational analysis study of CSEC in the Cook Islands on behalf of ECPAT International and UNESCAP. In 2007, the ‘Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Child Sexual Abuse in the Cook Islands: A Situational Analysis Study’ conducted by The Cook Islands Women’s Counselling Centre, Punanga Tauturu Inc, for ECPAT New Zealand, was launched.

C - Agenda for Action

- In 2006, Child Wise ran a workshop for People against Child Exploitation (PACE) in Papua New Guinea to build its capacity as a coalition to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation. Subsequently, PACE has supported an updated National Plan of Action to help end sexual offences against children.
- Also in 2006, the New Zealand Ministry of Justice published the 'Stocktake on Protecting Our Innocence - the National Plan of Action against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children' in New Zealand.
- In 2008, ECPAT New Zealand assisted Punanga Tauturu Inc with their National Stakeholders' Workshop on CSEC, which involved 40 participants from the main island of Rarotonga and the outer island communities. Participation involved community workers, counsellors, education professionals, government officials, and social workers. The meeting concluded with a draft Cook Islands National Plan of Action framework

The Office of the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Internal Affairs strongly supported the National Plan of Action initiative and has provided staff resources to help progress the work. ECPAT New Zealand continues to assist with the development of the National Plan of Action too. The objective is to have the National Plan of Action ready for submission to the Cook Islands Cabinet in December, for inclusion in the government's budget strategy in January 2009.

D - Build-up to World Congress III

- Leading up to World Congress III against the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents, the East Asia and Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting was organised by ECPAT International, UNICEF, and ESCAP in collaboration with other UN agencies and international non-governmental organisations. The meeting was attended by Child Wise Australia and Punanga Tauturu Inc. Cook Islands.
- At World Congress III against the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents Technical Experts Child Abuse Images Preparatory Meeting, Peter Pilley from the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) represented the DIA - ECPAT New Zealand joint 'hotline and filtering' project. Peter will present and participate in one of the Forms of Sexual Exploitation and Its New Picture - Paedophilia and pornography, Internet crimes and new technologies panellist sessions.
- Cindy Kiro, New Zealand Commissioner for Children, will be a keynote speaker at the Congress.
- ECPAT New Zealand has planned a post-World Congress III against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents briefing meeting with key New Zealand government and NGOs, to take place early in December 2008.

E - Future Challenges

- Advance the CSEC fight against child pornography and Internet crimes.
- Build ECPAT New Zealand's organisational capability and develop New Zealand's coalition capacity.
- Carry out research and develop plans to mitigate the short and long-term impact of the New Zealand Prostitution Reform Act 2003.
- Promote specific Regional Commitment and Action Plan for the East Asia and Pacific Region against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children with the following key commitments and priorities:
 - i. Enact/improve laws, policies and programmes to promote and protect child rights and ensure effective implementation and enforcement of relevant laws, especially criminal and civil laws.
 - ii. Establish and implement Memorandum(s) of Understanding or agreement(s) to combat cross-border trafficking of children with comprehensive measures.
 - iii. Encourage region-wide adoption/ratification of international treaties and other instruments concerning child protection and ensure their implementation and monitoring takes place/is reported.
 - iv. Work for greater coordination and cooperation, not only for national plans/agendas for action, but long-term strategies, development of indicators, and where appropriate a national focal point in each country, with effective implementation measures and databases for evaluation, reporting and improvement.
 - v. Identify or establish child/young people's committees, which are independent advisory and consultative bodies to the government on legislation and issues that pertain to them.
 - vi. Organise national and regional monitoring meetings, involving all relevant stakeholders, to review and evaluate progress.
 - vii. Promote better access to education for all children, more education on the rights of the child, and awareness-raising against CSEC and its linkage with child abuse, drug abuse, internet crimes, Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs), including HIV/AIDS, reproductive health and sexuality, aiming at a process that promotes the child's personal growth and self-esteem, aimed at harm avoidance.
 - viii. Reaffirm the importance of the family and strengthen social protection for children/young people and families more concretely through information campaigns and community-based initiatives of CSEC, with particular attention to protection from exploitation.
 - ix. Research, identification, collaboration and resources to address what key external environmental factors are impacting on Pacific Island countries' capacity to develop and implement National Plans of Action.

- x. Urge countries, especially Pacific Island nations that did not attend the First World Congress, to adopt the Stockholm Declaration and Agenda for Action.
 - Help restore and rebuild the Samoa national group, following its recent disaffiliation from ECPAT.
 - Strengthen and support the recent Punanga Tauturu Inc. National Plan of Action initiative in the Cook Islands.

Board Member for South Asia: Dr. Tufail Muhammad

A - Strengthening the ECPAT network in South Asia

Every effort was made to strengthen the ECPAT network in South Asia. There was a visible shift from negative mode towards a positive and collaborative attitude among the SA network, with a commitment among members to increase effectiveness and visibility of actions against the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) in the region:

1. The Regional Network Research Exchange (RNRE) was organised in Kathmandu from 8-10 February 2007. All groups/affiliates participated actively to encourage communication and coordination among ECPAT members within the region in implementing the ECPAT agenda. A clear demonstration of this was the MoUs signed for RNRE follow-up activities in the region.
2. The regional launch of the A4A Report was held in Kathmandu on the occasion of the RNRE. The event was well attended.
3. The India A4A launch was a good indicator of how Indian groups are collaborating on the ECPAT agenda. The attitude was positive and cooperative, with participants sharing their commitment to build an active and vibrant network.
4. The annual meeting of the ECPAT International Child and Youth Advisory Committee (EICYAC) was held in Kathmandu to learn from experiences of the Youth Partnership Project (YPP). The excellent support and coordination received from EICYAC/ECPAT Secretariat from YPP Nepal team/Maiti Nepal resulted in greater learning and awareness among EICYAC members on YPP programmes and projects.
5. Regional training on “Child Safe Organisations” was organised in Kathmandu for ECPAT



members and partner organisations. The Secretariat received positive feedback on the learning opportunity it provided to member organisations to improve child protection standards within their organisations.

6. The regional launch of the “Prostitution of Boys” studies was held in Dhaka from 8-9 June, 2006. Follow-up activities/interventions are being carried out by ACD, Equations, CWIN and PPA in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan.

Membership application from two groups: Aparajeyo Bangladesh and STOP India have been approved (with certain conditions in the case of STOP). These have been notified and invited to the World Congress III and the ECPAT International General Assembly.

B - Mechanisms to enhance protection from sexual exploitation for experiential children/youth in SA

- Child Safe Organisations regional training was conducted in Kathmandu in August 2007. This training focused on building the skills and capacities of ECPAT member organisations in identifying, assessing and managing child protection risks within their own organisations. Participants shared a follow-up action plan to improve their response mechanisms to child protection concerns within their own organisations.
- A regional training for trainers on psychosocial care and protection of CSEC victims was organised in Kathmandu in collaboration with Sanjog Pakistan and Group Development.

C - Other Activities

- The SA Board member attended international conferences in York, Chicago, Athens, Manila, San Diego and Hong Kong, where he presented papers on themes related to child sexual abuse (CSA) and CSEC.

D - Follow up of A4A and build up to WCIII

- A4A reports have now been translated into at least six local languages. A regional workshop held on Child Safe Organisations and ECPAT support is being given to a workshop planned for May on the follow-up actions to the A4As.
- A consultation focused on measures for implementation of national plans of action against CSA/CSEC was held at Islamabad, Pakistan in May 2008. PPA is following up on the recommendations from this consultation.
- The South Asia Regional Preparatory “Children’s Forum” and the South Asia Forum (SAF) Regional Consultation in preparation for the WCIII was held from 24th-29th August, 2008 in Kathmandu. In partnership with the SAF, a ministerial level regional coordinating body and the South Asia Coordinating Group on Action against Violence against Women and Children (SACG) was an exemplary practice in the region of greater collaboration among

governments, UN Agencies, NGOs and children and young people against sexual exploitation of children. The SA ECPAT member organizations actively participated in the SAF Regional Consultation and contributed substantively to discussions during the thematic workshops related to CSEC and Trafficking.

E - Future Challenges

- Need for a SA network development strategy: although there has definitely been greater collaboration and coordination among ECPAT network members, there is a need to agree on and develop a network development strategy for the region. Without this exercise, it will be difficult to envision a dynamic and expanded network with a clear mission statement and that supports strategies against CSEC and with due consideration of critical elements/factors, such as the dominance of trafficking issues in the region.
- Need to assess the current membership: there are some members who are clearly part of the network by default and do not seem to bring much value to it. The challenge would be to introduce a process of dialogue and reflection/assessment whereby these non-performers / or those whose work is not primarily focused on CSEC leave the network and pave the way for new members.
- Child protection remains a major concern within organisations in their work against CSEC in the region. We need to invest more in capacity building and in monitoring processes to raise standards of care and protection within ECPAT member organisations.

Board Member for Africa: Cleophas Mally

A – Collaborative Network Activities in Africa

- 10 country reports monitoring the Agenda for Action and the status of commercial sexual exploitation of children were finalized in collaboration with ECPAT groups in Africa; the launch of the reports took place in Zambia in November 2007.
- Situational Analyses on CSEC were carried out in Cameroon and Niger – led by the two ECPAT groups in the country. National consultations followed the release of the reports.
- Regional Network Resource Exchange (RNRE) Meetings were held in The Gambia, Tanzania and Ghana which included the active participation of all groups in the region. An Africa wide Child Safe Organisation Training of Trainers was held in Zambia.



- Major work being started on Make IT Safe and protecting children from CSEC on-line in three countries in West Africa which utilize African youth as activists and social mobilisers to raise awareness of the dangers of CSEC on line and to promote safety Codes of Conduct for Internet Cafes.
- Regional research on the linkages between CSEC and HIV/AIDS undertaken in Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, The Gambia and Togo. The research report findings were launched at the Africa ISPCAN Congress in 2007. Follow up awareness raising activities were then undertaken.
- Microprojects to combat CSEC were carried out in Togo, Benin, Ivory Coast, Cameroon and Sierra Leone.
- A key challenge being faced in the region is maintaining the presence of EI Coordinators in the region (terms and conditions, isolation from EI) – regular coordinator meetings and a more competitive package is being implemented to address this.

B – Regional representation by Africa Board Member

- The Regional Board member also held a meeting with ECOWAS on child protection issues in relation to CSEC. In Togo, WAO Afrique gave legal assistance to a CSEC victim of 15 years of age which was a first in the country (and a very high profile case). In Togo, key work was the creation of a national Movement of children to promote CYP participation. Meetings have taken place with the Government of Togo on CSEC and HIV/AIDS and a national conference is being planned. Newsletter shared nationally and with some key global partners.
- The Regional Board member visited Ghana and met with the new group. Certain groups in W. Africa have requested that they become national groups (Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Togo). Educational International invited the Board Member for a meeting in Egypt to support the links between education and CSEC. Future plans will include visits to 6 countries in Africa to visit ECPAT groups to promote better representation within the global network. Cleophas participated in two meetings at the regional level: Child Trafficking workshop for networks in West Africa (held in Senegal); input into Parliamentarian committee on legislation on CST in Togo (work planned next year on internet cafes); Funds from UN to run a regional Make IT Safe campaign; The Board Member was also selected to be part of the Advisory Council on VAC.

C - The francophone West African Sub-Regional Coordinator and supervised by the Director of WAO-Afrique (Cleophas Mally)

- The Sub-regional Coordinator (SRC) carried out all her duties regarding to countries under her coordination, helped three counties: Cameroon, Benin and Cote d'Ivoire for the proposal of micro projects and their funding. Activities supervise by the regional officer for African at EI and the deputy director of EI.

- The SRC undertook a mission in Dakar- Senegal from 17th to 21st September 2007; the aim was to make dynamic the process of setting up an ECPAT group in this county. A meeting was held between the SRC and NGOs working on Child issues and CSEC at Dakar-Senegal who expressed their will to join EI network as a national coalition. More than ten NGOs, national and regional offices of UNICEF and Plan International were reached through this activity. The big challenge was that all the NGOs met do not have the same understanding of CSEC and most of them work on Child sexual abuse more than CSEC. The SRC kept contact with the leading NGO for further technical support of EI
- From October to November 2007, the francophone sub regional coordinator of EI underwent an internship at the ECPAT International Secretariat. The main objectives of this initiative were:
 - to design a regional project proposal on CSEC and HIV/AIDS following the research on the linkage between CSEC and HIV/AIDS in six African countries and to design posters, brochures, materials for this project
 - to design a project proposal on Make-IT-Safe especially on the promotion of the code of conduct in cybercafés in African countries and to design posters, brochures, caps, t-shirts, materials for this second project ,
- A second internship took place in Sept to November 2008 to assist with the preparations for the Africa network to participate in the World Congress III.
- The Make IT Safe campaign was launched on December, 21st 2007. It brought together children, youths, cybercafés and video clubs managers, Medias, IT companies, NGOs, and some related ministries delegates. Around 95 persons took part in this launch, but one hundred thousand people heard about it through Medias: audio, audio-visual, written. Children and youths actively participated in through their illustrative sketch depicting the phenomenon of commercial sexual exploitation of children via IT. During this launch, the EI francophone Sub Regional Coordinator–SRC-made a presentation on Make-IT-Safe campaign initiated by EI.

Awareness raising sessions took place from 11th to 18th February 2008. The first goal of these sessions was to inform and raise awareness on commercial sexual exploitation of children via IT from these audiences and by so doing call on them to face up to their responsibilities on child security matters. Five towns of Togo were visited by a team composed of the EI francophone SRC and a staff of WAO-Afrique for this purpose.

D - Africa Technical Preparatory Meeting for the World Congress III

The Regional Board Member and the ECPAT Africa Network actively took part in the Africa Technical Preparatory Meeting for the World Congress III against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents which took place in Dakar, Senegal from 24 – 25 September, 2008. Participants

evaluated progress made since the African-Arab Conference in Rabat in 2004 and drew up agreed goals and targets representing Africa's concerns for presentation in Rio de Janeiro. The participants eventually agreed to 30 recommendations related to discussions emerging from the eight workshops held on: 1) the underlying forms and causes; 2) legal framework and application of laws; 3) cross-sector cooperation; 4) corporate social responsibility.

Board Member for Latin America: Maria Eugenia Villarreal

A - Strengthening the ECPAT network in Latin America



Many efforts have been made to strengthen and expand the ECPAT network in Latin America, with the support and commitment of the members of the network in this region.

1. The Regional Network Resource Exchange (RNRE) workshop, organised in Peru in July 2006, was structured in two sessions. The first session was developed in collaboration with ILO-IPEC, based on the strengthening of inter-institutional networks in the region. The main objectives were to create a five year scenario for the fight against CSEC and propose regional actions for the future. The second session was developed by ECPAT groups to improve links between them. The ECPAT groups also had a chance to share experiences.

2. The launch of the Global Monitoring Report of Mexico was held on the occasion of a mission to support the ECPAT group there in creating a national network. The Regional

Officer (RO) and the regional representative attended to this event.

3. The Second Regional Network Resource Exchange Workshop and Training Meeting of the ECPAT Network in the Americas and the Second ILO-ECPAT Regional Forum of Experts on CSEC were held in Chile, from 21-23 August 2007. ECPAT International, in collaboration with the NGOs Raíces and Paicabi, organised these events. The objectives included strengthening prevention and support strategies against the commercial sexual exploitation of children through capacity building; and generating a platform for learning and knowledge exchange between the members of the ECPAT network in the Americas. Other aims were to enable countries to improve their capacity to generate more effective responses in combating the sexual exploitation of children; developing a regional youth network and planning strategies

for coordinated action; discussing regional issues and planning activities such as the World Congress III and the maintenance of the regional website on CSEC; bringing CSEC issues to the public (through a forum held in Valparaiso where representatives from ECPAT groups in Guatemala, Mexico, Colombia, Costa Rica and ECPAT's Executive Director highlighted ways in which CSEC is manifested in their respective countries and in the region).

4. The Board member for Latin America and the RO for the Americas travelled to Colombia in July 2007 to represent ECPAT International at the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN) Conference. The RO gave a presentation on Violence in Cyberspace and joined ECPAT Mexico and ECPAT Guatemala in their presentations on ECPAT experiences in the fight against CSEC in the region. Fundacion Renacer (ECPAT group in Colombia) also participated in the Conference. Other activities included meeting with the Executive Director of ISPCAN and the Director of the Colombian Institute for Family Welfare (ICBF).
5. A meeting on Men, Masculinity and Sexual Violence was held in Mexico City on August 4th and 5th 2008. This meeting was organised with MenEngage and Instituto Promundo. The aims of the meeting were to generate better understanding of the linkages between gender and CSEC and to identify, define and develop joint regional and global strategies to further incorporate messages and reflections about masculinity and gender inequalities and to actively engage men and boys in preventing sexual exploitation and sexual violence.

B - Mechanisms to enhance protection from sexual exploitation for experiential children/youth in Latin America

1. The first regional forum for the creation of a regional network of specialized agencies working on information and communication technology (ICT) safety was organised by ECPAT and Save the Children. Participants shared experiences and estimated the viability of a movement to promote safe ICTs in the region.
2. A training-of-trainers workshop was held in Peru by the Brazilian organisation ECOS, to provide technical support to ECPAT partners in Peru for implementing the behavioural change project.

C - Other Activities

1. The Board member for Latin America attended international conferences in York, Barcelona, Sao Paulo, La Paz, Bolivia and Belgium, where she was a panellist on themes related to child sexual abuse and CSEC.

D - Build up to WCIII

1. A meeting to prepare the Regional Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean for World Congress III was held in Recife, Brazil, May 2008 on the occasion of the Third Assembly of the National Committee against sexual violence against children and the meeting of ECPAT Brazil network.
2. The Board Member for Latin America travelled to Sao Paulo, Brazil in June 2008 to represent ECPAT International at the Conference on Sexual Commercial Exploitation in Tourist, organised by the Brazilian's Tourism Secretariat.
3. The Regional Preparatory Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean in preparation for the World Congress III was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina on 20 and 21 August 2008. Prior to the preparatory meeting there was a meeting of MERCOSUR and associated countries. This regional meeting aimed to create a space for reflection and for regional exchange on lessons learned, strengths and challenges, and to establish priority themes for the region. The meeting was organised by ECPAT International, the Government of Argentina (represented by their Human Rights Secretariat), Save the Children, ILO-IPEC, UNICEF and the Inter-American Institute of the Child. All ECPAT network members (youth and adults) participated.
4. A conference on Social Work with Families at High Risk of Sexual Exploitation, was organised by The Secretary of Social Development, 15-17 September 2008 in Belo Horizonte, Brazil.

D. - Future Challenges

1. Strengthening national systems for child protection and monitoring progress in the region remain a priority.
2. Supporting the creation of a regional network to combat violence against children and child pornography through the new technologies and cyberspace.
3. Supporting the establishment of a regional observatory on CSEC for Latin America in coordination with the Inter-American Children's Institute to strengthen the capacity of civil society and governments to combat CSEC, improve information sharing and provide technical assistance.
4. Developing care models and protection and attention programmes for young boys sexually exploited or at high risk.
5. Developing mechanisms to promote the signing and implementation of the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism.

Board Member for North America: Rosalind Prober

A - Strengthening the ECPAT network in North America

The two ECPAT groups in North America, Beyond Borders and ECPAT USA, are now working side by side and sharing information and expertise. ECPAT USA was particularly helpful to Beyond Borders regarding signings in Canada of the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism. ECPAT USA has had so many successful signings in the US. The working relationship is now very positive and we look forward to working more closely together. Both ECPAT USA and The Canadian Centre for Child Protection, an NGO partner of Beyond Borders, are members of the Financial Coalition working with major financial institutions, such as banks and credit card companies, to stop online child sexual exploitation.



ECPAT USA works with an extensive network of NGOs in the United States. Many of them contributed to the Alternative Report submitted to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child last year. ECPAT USA participates in a large number of US coalitions and committees working to combat the sexual exploitation of children. It is a member of: 1) American Bar Association Human Trafficking Advisory Committee; 2) International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children Financial Coalition Against Child Pornography; 3) National Centre on Missing and Exploited Children Prevention Committee; 4) Technical Working Group for the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Community Intervention Program; 5) US Conference of Catholic Bishops Advisory Council on Human Trafficking.

B - Mechanisms to enhance the protection of experiential children/youth in North America

The focus on trafficking in children and consequent changes in legislation since 2005 in our region has been significant. ECPAT USA has been a lead organisation in the campaign to have children sexually abused in prostitution regarded as trafficking victims. ECPAT USA held two briefing sessions over the summer, for staff members of the US Congress and the US Senate,

on US policies that should be changed to protect children from sexual exploitation. It has advocated for changes in the US trafficking law to improve the chances of finding and helping trafficked children. It has undertaken research and analysis to highlight the problem of state laws in the United States that lead to children being arrested rather than assisted.

In Canada, Beyond Borders works closely with Ben Perrin who spearheaded the child trafficking legislation. Rosalind Prober will speak in Rio at World Congress III on the protection needs of indigenous and aboriginal children who are vulnerable to sexual exploitation and trafficking. Beyond Borders' NGO partner, The Canadian Centre for Child Protection, with which Beyond Borders founded Canada's tipline, will be adding a section on reporting child trafficking.

C - Follow up of A4A and the build up to WCIII

Both ECPAT USA and Beyond Borders had successful launches of the A4A report. The most important event held in the region was the Canada - United States Consultation in Preparation for WCIII. The purpose of the regional meeting was to identify where Canada and the US stand in their efforts to protect children from sexual exploitation, the obstacles they face and where to go from here. The organisation by ECPAT USA and another NGO allowed not only for important discussion and recommendations for WCIII but brought together top people from across the region. It was a great unifying event and kick-off to more collaborative action in Rio.

ECPAT USA supported and helped Beyond Borders organise with many partners the WCIII Global Consultation on Corporate Social Responsibility in Winnipeg.

D - Future Challenges

ECPAT USA and Beyond Borders were a part of the North and South American region and attended the Regional Network Resource Exchanges RNREs in Peru and Chile. The language issue became a major stumbling block. Building the North American region as a stand-alone region is now a priority. A network development strategy will have to be developed with the Secretariat to build up this region.

Beyond Borders holds annual bilingual (English/French) media awards for journalists who raise awareness on the issue of child sexual exploitation. A future challenge will be to make the awards a North American event incorporating ECPAT USA.

Board Member for Central and Eastern Europe (including CIS and Central Asia): Cath Moss

A - Strengthening the ECPAT network in Central and Eastern Europe

There are currently 11 countries in the Central and Eastern European Region where ECPAT has member groups: Albania (Albanian Coalition against Trafficking and the Sexual Exploitation of Children), Belarus (Children - Not for Abuse), Bulgaria (Neglected Children Society), Czech Republic (Ecumenical Network for Youth Action – ENYA), Estonia (Tartu Child Support Centre), Kyrgyzstan (Network of NGO Fighting against CSEC in Kyrgyzstan), Moldova (Network of National Organisations Fighting against Child Prostitution and Trafficking), Romania (Save the Children Romania (Salvati Copiii), Russian Federation (Russian Alliance against CSEC), Serbia (Belgrade Support to Exploited Children and Youth (Beo Support), and Ukraine (All-Ukrainian Network on the Struggle against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children).



New Members:

Since the 3rd Assembly, three new organisations have been welcomed as members in the region:

- Albania: Albanian Coalition against Trafficking and the Sexual Exploitation of Children;
- Kyrgyzstan: Network of NGO Fighting against CSEC in Kyrgyzstan;
- Republic of Moldova: Network of National Organisations Fighting against Child Prostitution and Trafficking.

Strategic Situational Analysis, Programmatic and Training Highlights:

With the support of ECPAT International and specialist NGOs, situational analyses on the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) and professional research were implemented in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

Olha Shved (ECPAT CIS Associate), also carried out extensive assessments of the CSEC situation in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

Training sessions for caregivers working on the rehabilitation of children who became victims of the commercial sexual exploitation of children were implemented in Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. Also implemented were training programmes for teachers on Safety in Modern Technologies in Belarus, Ukraine and Russia.

ECPAT International supported the organisation of a number of roundtables:

- Reform of Child Protection in Ukraine: European Choice in the Parliament of Ukraine;
- Children Not for Abuse, the ECPAT affiliate in Belarus, organised a roundtable to monitor progress on implementing the Agenda for Action in Belarus based on the 2006 Global Monitoring report.
- A Human Rights roundtable was organised by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine.

Regional Youth Network Development:

From 2005 – 2008 several Regional Youth Programmes on CSEC were carried out. These were initiated by the Board Member for CEE, with the cooperation of Milica Petrovic (EICYAC CEE Representative), Olha Shved (CIS Associate), Sonja Kecmanovic (Serbia: Beosupport), Liliana Rotaru (Republic of Moldova: Network of National Organisations Fighting against Child Prostitution and Trafficking), Junita Upadhyay (EI Programme Officer for Child and Youth Participation), Stephanie Delaney (EI Programme Officer for Care and Protection), the Ecumenical Network for Youth Action (Czech Republic), and key youth activists from Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Poland, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

Three regional transformation training / capacity building / networking seminars were held: in Czech Republic (2006), Serbia (2007) and Moldova (2008). There were also several CSEC national programmes and projects, implemented by young people in the regional network, at local and national levels.

In cooperation with young people from Western Europe, and with an ECPAT micro-project grant, the “Booklet on the Development and Best Practices of 10 Youth Movements within ECPAT Groups” was produced and will be circulated at World Congress III.

Joint East-West Multi-Stakeholder Training Programme on Trafficking in Children for Sexual Purposes (Trafficking III) 2004-2006

This programme was initiated by the ECPAT Europe Law Enforcement Group.

In total 184 participants were trained, 94 social workers/caregivers and 90 professionals from law enforcement, in Albania, Belarus, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russia, Serbia and Ukraine. The Project's objective was to enhance knowledge, awareness and expertise and to improve the operational skills of various stakeholders in order to protect children from trafficking for sexual purposes in Western and Eastern Europe, to recognise child victims of trafficking, to address their specific needs from a child rights perspective and to improve prosecution of traffickers. The Third Partner – Expert Meeting (2006) was organised in Bulgaria by Theo Noten and Lydia Zagorova (Neglected Children Society).

Joint East-West Multi-Stakeholder Training Programme on Trafficking in Children for Sexual Purposes (Trafficking IV) 2007

Following the 2004-2006 Multi-Stakeholder Training Programme, a new programme was developed called “Implementation of Multi-Stakeholder Training Programme on Trafficking in Children for Sexual Purposes”. Training materials were developed and training seminars took place in seven Central and Eastern European countries of origin for many victims of human trafficking who arrive in Western Europe. The countries that took part were Albania, Bulgaria, Belarus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Moldova and Russia. For further information see the report from Theo Noten, Regional Representative for Western Europe.

Regional Network Resource Exchange (RNRE) ECPAT Europe and CIS

The Network Resource Exchange (RNRE), held in Barcelona, Spain in 2007, was a very important meeting for our region, not only on account of the content but also for networking with Western Europe. It was superbly organised by Sendrine Constant (EI Europe Regional Officer), Alessia Altamura (EI Europe Associate), Olha Shved (EI CIS Associate) and ECPAT Spain. There were sessions on fundraising, child pornography and the involvement of the private sector, training of trainers on child protection, research and lobbying, as well as an open forum.

Europe and Central Asia Regional Preparatory Meeting for World Congress III against the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents

The regional preparatory meeting for the World Congress III took place at the ILO Conference Centre in Geneva, Switzerland. The overall goal of the meeting was to derive a set of recommendations for action from the region that would serve as inputs into the World Congress. New challenges and dimensions of commercial sexual exploitation of children were examined. More targeted strategies and measures to address CSEC by building on current progress were proposed. We further examined what was working well in different parts of the region, to document good practices. We also tried to formulate a systemic and multi-sectoral approach to guarantee children's and adolescents' right to be protected from sexual exploitation.

B - National Highlights:

Albania: The group supported the organisation of a training course entitled 'Protection of Children from Trafficking for Sexual Purposes', which was organised by the Children's Human Rights Centre of Albania in cooperation with ECPAT Netherlands and ECPAT Belgium. The aim of the training course was to strengthen the capacities of governmental institutions and NGOs to work against child trafficking in Albania. In cooperation with the Children's Human Rights Centre of Albania, ACTSEC also organised computer literacy classes for children from socially excluded and marginalised areas. Significant efforts have been made in conducting awareness raising activities for students and teachers on the sexual exploitation and trafficking of children. A strong youth network has been developed and is very active at local, national and regional levels.

Belarus: Activities and programmes were organised and carried out in schools and communities on the prevention of child abuse and CSEC. Several articles were published in the media. Training of specialists - teachers, psychologists, legal agencies and those working in health care institutions – also took place. Belarus took part in the project "Joint East West research on trafficking in children for sexual purposes in Europe", whereby the first and only research of this kind was conducted in Belarus. Results of the research were presented during a round table in Minsk. Representatives of government and NGOs took part in this event. Training was carried out for pedagogues, psychologists, and police. Cooperation between NGOs and governmental organisations has become more close and fruitful since these training sessions.

The youth network of our organisation was set up and peer to peer programmes are being implemented on CSEC prevention. Two projects, supported by ECPAT International, were undertaken on CSEC prevention for children from boarding schools in Minsk. We also took part

in the “Regional Overview on Child Sexual Abuse Images through the Use of Information and Communication Technologies in Belarus, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine”. This is also a unique research for Belarus. We are working on the safety of children in cyberspace now, and this will be our primary activity in the near future. In 2008, we are going to start the project “Every child has the right to access information” with the support of the IOM in Belarus.

Bulgaria: Members from the Neglected Children Society took a very active part in the “Trafficking III” Project. They provided the national manager, coordinator and trainer for the training programme in Bulgaria, conducted 3 national trainings in Bulgaria with the participation of expert trainers from the Netherlands; participated in four expert European meetings and hosted the final expert meeting in Bulgaria. The members then participated in the “Trafficking 4” Project and organised two national trainings for police officers and social workers with participation of expert trainers from Estonia; established the training programme for national trainers; and coordinated the participation of Bulgarian trainers in seminars in Estonia and Russia. In 2007, in cooperation with ECPAT International, they wrote the Alternative Report on the Implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Children on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography and presented the report at the pre-session of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in Switzerland. Members also participated in two regular meetings of the Human Trafficking International Donors’ Coordinating Group hosted by the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, where they made a presentation. Finally, they organised the national preparation, consultation and awareness campaign for the World Congress III, which included consultative meetings with the State Agency for Child Protection, the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, the Parliamentary Children, Youth and Sports Affairs Committee, UNICEF Bulgaria, as well as promoting the World Congress III to media outlets.

Czech Republic: In 2007, the Ecumenical Network for Youth Action (ENYA) opened a new purpose-built shelter in Prague. The residential youth home Majak (Lighthouse) is open to youth at risk of sexual exploitation, young people leaving institutional care and those who have been sexually exploited or are in danger of exploitation. ENYA provided innovative leadership while implementing several transformation training seminars and capacity building seminars with experiential young people, youth at risk, Roma youth and youth activists at local, national and regional/global levels on CSEC. ENYA has established and is currently working on programmes related to child and youth involved in pornography, developing protection programmes and assistance to children/young people who come to harm or self-harm in ICT-related contexts, and has a special programme for boys and young men on CSEC issues.

Estonia: In 2006, the National Action Plan to combat trafficking in human beings was established. One part of the Plan deals with children. A list was established so that specialists and governmental representatives can exchange information. Research, carried out by the representative from the Child Centre did not find any case of child trafficking in Estonia. Several educational work and training sessions have been implemented for specialists and multi-professional teams.

Kyrgyzstan: A National Consultation on Combating CSEC was organised by ECPAT International together with the EI-Pikir Centre in 2005 to share main findings on CSEC. The Network of NGO Fighting against CSEC in Kyrgyzstan is actively lobbying on the issue of CSEC in the Administration of the President of Kyrgyz Republic. Several members are experts on Committees on Child's Rights. As a result of recommendations and lobbying by the EI-Pikir Centre, the lead NGO of the network, the government of Kyrgyzstan has expressed interest in adopting the Stockholm Declaration and Agenda for Action and in developing a national plan of action to protect children from CSEC. In 2007-2008, thanks to the small grant from EI, the network implemented "Presentation of the network of NGOs representing ECPAT International in Kyrgyzstan". In the framework of this project, 2500 copies of a booklet about the newly developed network fighting against CSEC were published in Russian and in the Kyrgyz language. Presentation of the network, the strategy and members (nine NGOs and children's shelters) took place in the House of the President. Young people from Kyrgyzstan participated in the ECPAT Regional Youth training programmes and in the Preparatory Children and Youth Forum held in Germany in October 2008.

Republic of Moldova: The Government recently approved a Special Resolution on repatriation procedures for trafficking victims and illegal migrants, which meets international standards. One database containing information on criminal cases was developed within the Ministry of Internal Affairs, at the Centre for Combating Trafficking in Persons. Another database, with information on victims (within the Ministry of Family and Child Social Protection) will be created this year. The Moldovan Network conducted a variety of activities to address all forms of CSEC in the country. In 2006, it organised a workshop on national and international legislation related to CSEC, attended by lawyers and a representative of the Penal Reform Institute. The workshop focused on identifying some of the main gaps in Moldovan legislation which hinder the protection of children from sexual exploitation. CCF, a network member, also conducted research on child pornography in Moldova in 2008, as part of an ECPAT regional research project on the issue. Reform of the Residential Care System started in 2006 and it envisages reducing by 50% the number of children in institutions by 2012. In this way more children will benefit from placements in family or community-based services, thus lowering the risk of becoming victims of CSEC.

Romania: Ongoing work includes establishing and maintaining projects addressing child participation, abandonment prevention and family reintegration projects; setting up counselling, documentation and research centres and a children's hotline; providing assistance and rehabilitation services to homeless children and child victims of trafficking; and conducting advocacy work on the Code of Conduct to prevent child sex tourism.

Russian Federation: Activities have covered research, training of specialists, preparation of scientific and methodological publications, prevention, rehabilitation of CSEC victims, development of social partnerships in the field of CSEC, counteraction and changing public opinion on CSEC. Stellit, a member organisation of the Alliance, participated in the ECPAT research on child pornography along with Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus. The risks connected with the development of information technology (IT) were analysed and several cases of child pornography that were brought to court were detailed. Stellit and Syostri Crisis Centre have conducted several training sessions for different stakeholders; including government officials, law-enforcement representatives, staff of social-rehabilitation centres etc. Several publications have been developed and published, including a handbook, materials for parents and specialists, materials for government representatives and the ECPAT training guide on combating trafficking in children for sexual purposes, which was adapted for use by Russian specialists. The Syostri Crisis Centre has developed and published a methodology for providing help to the child victims of CSEC and a methodology for identifying and estimating the consequences of minors' abuse. In the field of prevention, a model for promoting a healthy lifestyle and preventing different kinds of risk behaviour, including CSEC, has been developed for organisations and implemented. Outreach work on the streets of St. Petersburg was conducted in cooperation with partner governmental organisations. Currently being implemented are two projects on the design and implementation of a methodology for identifying and rehabilitating child victims of CSEC and training specialists. Through work to promote and implement the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism, Accor hotels were the first hotel chain in the Russian Federation to sign and adopt the Code of Conduct. In 2008 a set of social advertising postcards on the prevention of child abuse were designed by the NGO Stellit, with the participation of child victims of commercial sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. The cards were printed and circulated in St. Petersburg cafés and public places with the aim of informing and changing public opinion.

Serbia: This year, the Ministry for Social Protection of the Republic of Serbia drafted a national strategy to protect children from all sorts of violence in a comprehensive way. The strategy is based upon data forwarded to the Ministry in charge by the agency for coordination of protection of victims of trafficking and by NGOs involved - including Beo Support. Although this is an initial step at country level, it is an opening and a promising development. Beo Support's

main concern is to raise funds for further development of our peer-to-peer methodology to empower children to resist sexual violence, with a special focus on children at risk. Another concern is the wish for more cooperation with colleagues from the region, namely Balkan groups - Albania and Bulgaria, with whom we have common problems, particularly in the area of multidirectional cross/border trafficking of youth. The only barrier to excellent cooperation with these colleagues is financial, and Beosupport will try to explore with them possibilities for setting up common work, since the groups are highly complementary in expertise and experience.

Turkey: ECPAT started its work in Turkey in partnership with Yeniden (Yeniden Sağlık ve Eğitim Derneği) in 2004. They researched the level of commercial sexual exploitation of children on a national basis. Additionally, a symposium on Children and Adolescents at Risk was organised by the ECPAT partner Yeniden in Turkey. Following this, the idea of including Turkey in the ECPAT network was developed. In April 2007, a memorandum of understanding was prepared with partners and the International Child Centre (ICC) agreed to act as the Secretariat. In April 2008, the Turkish Network against CSEC was established and the national coordinator Şahin Antakyalıoğlu was appointed.

Ukraine: Presentations on ECPAT and the global effects of CSEC were given in schools and technical-pedagogical colleges. Seminars for teachers and social workers on preventing sexual violence and sexual exploitation were held in 2007. In 2008, seminars were organised for law enforcement and social workers (on identification of children who became victims of sexual exploitation and violence). Cooperation was developed with the private sector, and included a joint project between Microsoft and several NGOs of the All-Ukrainian network on “Child Safety on the Internet” (peer-to-peer work in summer camps, schools and training programmes for the staff of Microsoft). The All-Ukrainian Network lobbied on the new law on possession of child pornography. Highlights of the work of La-Strada Ukraine Centre, a member of the Network, included running the National Toll Free Hot Line on preventing violence and protecting child rights, organising several seminars (“Organization of the social rehabilitation for children who suffered trafficking and sexual exploitation”, “Organization of the protection of children rights”etc., as well as regular thematic meetings with children/young people in the transit centre.

C - Other Activities:

- **XI ISPCAN European Regional Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect**, November 2007 in Lisbon, Portugal: Olha Shved and Maia Rusakova (Russia) made presentations.

- **Publications:** The following publications were translated into Russian: Global Monitoring Report on Belarus and on Ukraine; Questions and Answers about CSEC; Violence against Children in Cyberspace; ECPAT information booklet; Combating the Trafficking in Children for the Purpose of Sexual Exploitation (a manual for pedagogues, law enforcement personnel and caregivers); Training for Trainers (a manual for trainers); Combating the Trafficking in Children for Sexual Purposes - Questions and Answers; and postcards were made in Russia and Ukraine about Safety for Children in Internet. All these materials were also disseminated in English in Central and Eastern Europe.

D - Member Organisations Perspectives on Current Challenges and Future Strategic Directions:

- National focal points on CSEC need to be created as a matter of priority.
- It is extremely important to ensure the sustainability of the Eastern and Central European Youth Network. An increase in resources, including financial resources, is necessary for the continued development and expansion of the Network and our programmes and projects. An increase in the number of micro-projects is also desirable.
- More CSEC awareness raising campaigns targeting young people are needed, as well as awareness training sessions targeting key stakeholders (child protection officers, social workers, teachers, community members and parents) to enable them to be more effective and to play their part.
- There is a need to better protect institutionalised children/young people, who lack proper parental care. The residential care/state institutional systems must be reformed to ensure that every child/young person lives within a family setting. Social assistance must be provided to those leaving institutions (help with finding employment and accommodation, further education etc.), and informative training should target both the staff and the children in institutions.
- More priority needs to be given to the Balkan region by ECPAT International, the European Officer, the Associate for Europe and the new Regional Representative to the Board. The Balkan region as a whole and current and potential new members and contacts, should be given priority in ECPAT work plans. There is a need for substantial investment in resources, including financial resources, which could be channelled through the current ECPAT members for future development of Balkan regional (and member organisation's) programmes and joint projects.
- There is an urgent need to prevent the trafficking, pornography and prostitution of minority children - Roma children in particular. Specific and targeted strategies to integrate Roma families and children into the community must be developed, and the integration of Roma children should be monitored. Roma leaders should be trained to run awareness raising campaigns.

- Transition and distribution centres must pay more attention to identifying which children are actually CSEC victims, with assistance from trained psychologists. Such psychologists could also participate in criminal investigations by helping to gather evidence, supporting the child and testifying in court as witnesses.
- Rehabilitation and reintegration programmes addressing the specific needs of CSEC victims are urgently required, providing short and long-term medical, psychosocial and legal support, as well as education, vocational training and micro-loans. These must be cooperatively provided by governmental institutions and NGOs, and involve the community.
- Countries must ratify the *Council of Europe's Convention on Cybercrime and the Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse*.
- National Criminal Codes should be revised to specifically define child/youth prostitution as the use of any child below the age of 18 for sexual activity in exchange for remuneration or in kind compensation, according to the Optional Protocol standards. Furthermore the law should clearly prohibit all acts of obtaining, offering, procuring and providing a child for prostitution and criminalise the clients of prostituted children/young people.
- Anti-trafficking laws must be enforced more rigorously. Corruption must be dealt with firmly.
- Research, protection programmes and assistance to children/young people who come to harm or self-harm in ICT-related contexts are all urgently needed.
- There is a strong necessity to tackle the production and distribution of child/youth pornography in the region. Specific training must be provided to law enforcement personnel. Awareness raising campaigns through mass media are also needed.

With this report and in the last days of being Central and Eastern European Representative on the Board, I would like to express my deep thanks to all those who have contributed to the work described in this report. Your contribution and insights are invaluable. I am also grateful to those who have supported me, worked closely with me, and co-developed new programmes and projects over the past six years. It has been a privilege to be on the ECPAT International Board representing you, your organisations and the region as a whole. I would like to make special mention of the Regional Youth Network and commend to you its members, who worked against many odds to unite their efforts to work on a regional basis on CSEC. Thank you for the opportunity and experience, which has been life changing. I have met and made so many brilliant, committed and gifted friends. Thank you very much.

Board Member for Western Europe: Theo Noten

In Western Europe there are ECPAT groups in Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the UK.

A - Strengthening the ECPAT Network in Western Europe (WE)

“In working together networks become stronger”. An example of such cooperation in the period 2005-2008 has been the multi-stakeholder training projects.

1. Implementing multi-stakeholder training on combating trafficking in children for sexual purposes

From 2005-2008 the ECPAT Europe Law Enforcement Group, coordinated by ECPAT Netherlands and led by the WE Board member, undertook two projects

on multi-stakeholder training on combating trafficking in children for sexual purposes. In the 2005-2006 project, 19 ECPAT partners in 19 countries were involved in the training of about 400 people. In the second part, from 2006-2008, in 12 countries, six in Western and six in Eastern Europe, another 440 people (half from law enforcement and half from child protection agencies) were trained by 42 trainers, in an ECPAT Train the Trainer programme in June 2007. In an evaluation meeting in November 2007 in Vienna, reports on the training sessions were shared. These training sessions were well received by participants and evaluated as being useful, not only for improving skills and knowledge but also for networking between relevant professionals. An impact assessment was done with the help of ECPAT young people assisted by representatives from Western and Eastern Europe of the ECPAT International Child and Youth Advisory Council (EICYAC). For these trainings the translated and adapted ECPAT training guide was used. In 2008, 12 country specific training manuals were published and distributed. A Train the Trainer Guide has been published in English and Russian. It is available at www.ecpat.net. The generic training guide is also available in English, Russian, Spanish and French at that address.



Groups involved came from Albania, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Italy, Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Switzerland, the UK and Ukraine.

2.ECPAT Europe meetings

In 2006-2007, as a result of cooperation between the ECPAT Europe Law Enforcement group, coordinated by the WE Board member, and ECPAT international three Regional Network Resource Exchange (RNREs) meetings were organised, in association with four European (East & West) ECPAT meetings, in Tirana, Sofia, Barcelona and Vienna. At these meetings the main topics were child and youth participation, the Global Monitoring Regional Report, combating child pornography, fundraising strategies, joint European lobbying strategies, implementing the Code of Conduct for the protection of children from sexual exploitation in tourism and creating child safe organisations. An introductory training session on creating child safe organisations was provided in November 2007 using ECPAT International training material.

B - Europe and CIS preparatory meeting for the World Congress III

The ECPAT International Secretariat and ILO with the cooperation of the ECPAT Europe Law enforcement group coordinator organised the Regional Europe – CIS preparatory meeting in Geneva for the World Congress III on 8-9 September 2008, with the assistance of ECPAT Switzerland.

The meeting was well attended with about 100 participants from NGOs, UN Agencies and government officials. The Europe – CIS network provided many speakers, one of whom was the WE board member, to share knowledge and expertise. Recommendations from the panels and workshops will feed into the World Congress III.

From 31 October - 2 November ECPAT International in cooperation with ECPAT Germany organised the Europe and CIS Youth preparatory meeting for the World Congress III. The young people's recommendations will also feed into the Congress.

C - Cooperation with ECPAT International officers: regional associate and focal point

The WE Board member has been in regular contact with the tourism desk and the regional officer and regional associates of ECPAT International in the Bangkok Secretariat as well as in Europe and the CIS. In the period October 2006 - March 2008 the WE Board member cooperated with the ECPAT International focal point for European institutions and discussed with her input to several children's rights networks lobbying, mainly the EU and the Council of Europe.

D - Political lobbying

States in Western Europe are party to three regional intergovernmental bodies: the European Union (EU) currently composed of 27 states, the Council of Europe (CoE) comprising a total of 47 states, including some CIS countries and the OSCE (Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe), comprising 56 countries including all CIS countries, the US and Canada.

1. The EU and the Council of Europe have developed legal frameworks for their member states. They have, among others, developed legal frameworks to combat the sexual exploitation of children and trafficking in children. The WE board member and the focal point for European institutions with the help of ECPAT members in the region have been active in lobbying these institutions. The ECPAT Global Monitoring reports for all the countries have been a great asset in this lobbying work. The reports show how the regional legal frameworks are being implemented in the states. Therefore all global monitoring reports have been sent to the relevant departments in the EU, the CoE and the OSCE and are being used as a means of establishing improvements that need to be made and to monitor the actions of the member states.

2. Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)

OSCE Alliance Expert Coordination Team against Trafficking in Human Beings

In the period 2005-2008 the WE Board member has been a member of the OSCE Alliance Expert Coordination Team (AECT), which meets in Vienna about three times a year. The OSCE office of the Special Representative against trafficking in human beings is also promoting the ECPAT multi-stakeholder training to combat trafficking in children and sexual exploitation. The AECT provided input for the EU action plan against trafficking in human beings and produced a paper on the topic of demand for exploitation.

OSCE Ministerial Council Decision on Combating Sexual Exploitation of Children

In November 2006 in Vienna the WE Board member was invited to discuss with the OSCE promoting the Tourism Code of Conduct as a tool for combating trafficking in children. In the OSCE Ministerial Council decision on Combating Sexual Exploitation of Children, Brussels 5 December 2006, the ECPAT Code of Conduct is mentioned. The initiative came from the French government and the USA and was supported by the Belgian government that was chairing the OSCE Ministerial Council in 2006. ECPAT has lobbied for this OSCE ministerial council decision and helped in developing it. The WE Board member gave a presentation at a side-event at the OSCE Human Dimension conference in Warsaw in October 2006 as part of the discussion.

OSCE – ODIHR Conference on Combating Sexual Exploitation of Children, 18-19 October 2007

The WE Board member helped to prepare the OSCE – ODIHR Conference on combating the sexual exploitation of children that was held from 18-19 October 2007 in Vienna. Several representatives of the ECPAT network in Europe were invited to speak and or moderate the different sessions. Jo de Linde, the former ECPAT chair, was a keynote speaker. Other ECPAT experts were Muireann O Briain, Maia Rusakova and Alessia Altamura. The two youth representatives for Europe, Marion Kreissl and Milica Petrovic, were also invited and spoke at this conference.

3. Council of Europe (CoE)

Council of Europe Convention against the Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse of Children

The Committee of Experts on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PC-ES), established in 2005 as a sub-committee of the European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC), prepared this new convention. Open for signature on 25 October in Lanzarote, Spain, it requires five ratifications for entry into force, three of which must be member states (as of 25/10/2007: 23 signatures no ratifications).

The convention is a comprehensive legal instrument divided into ten different chapters covering all relevant aspects of the protection of children against sexual abuse:

- preventive and protective measures;
- substantive criminal law (including classification of different offences, one of which criminalises ‘grooming’);
- investigation, prosecution and procedural law - including child-friendly procedures;
- treatment of sex offenders;
- national database and exchanges of information;
- international cooperation.

The convention provides comprehensive and exhaustive coverage of the protection of children against sexual exploitation and abuse, thus consolidating existing standards in the field. The new instrument fills gaps, ensures coherence in Europe and equal protection for all its children by establishing clear common standards and definitions that are applicable in all European countries, in particular through harmonising criminal law and other relevant measures.

ECPAT campaigned for the signing and consecutive implementation (and ratification) of the Council of Europe *Convention against the sexual Exploitation and Abuse of Children*. The WE Board member was a member of the ECPAT International preparatory team that contributed to the development of the CoE Convention. ECPAT members were able to influence the whole process by lobbying relevant ministries in their countries using material prepared by the ECPAT International preparatory team.

Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in human beings enters into force
ECPAT co-signed a letter to the European Commission from the NGO Group's working group on trafficking in human beings on the occasion of the entry into force of the Council of Europe *Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings*. The letter asks the European Commission for the EU to become a party to the Convention and to encourage EU member states to ratify it and to put its own instruments and policies in line with the provisions of the Convention against Trafficking.

4. European Union (EU)

EU Expert Meeting of 28-29 June 2006

The WE Board member participated in the EU expert meeting from 28-29 June 2006 on implementing the EU action plan to combat trafficking in human beings, and helped formulate the recommendations coming out of this meeting, which was organised by Austria during its presidency of the EU ministerial council.

EU Anti-Trafficking Day 18 October 2007

ECPAT made suggestions for the European Commission's "recommendations on identification and referral to services of victims of trafficking in human beings", which were discussed in Brussels on the EU Anti-Trafficking day on 18 October and have since been forwarded to member states.

EU Expert Group on Trafficking in Human Beings

The European Commission has set up the Group of Experts on Trafficking in Human Beings (21 members). Former ECPAT International executive director, Muireann O Briain, has been appointed a member of this group. Her application was prepared by the WE Board member and the European Focal Point.

The Commission may consult the group on any matter relating to trafficking in human beings. The task of the group of experts, in particular, is:

- (a) to establish cooperation between Member States, other parties and the Commission on the range of questions relating to trafficking in human beings;
- (b) to help the Commission, by issuing opinions related to the trafficking in human beings, and ensuring a coherent approach to the subject;
- (c) to help the Commission assess the evolution of policy in the field of trafficking in human beings at national, European and international levels;
- (d) to assist the Commission in identifying and defining possible relevant measures and actions at European and national level across the range of the anti-trafficking policy;

- (e) the Group of Experts shall issue opinions or reports to the Commission at the latter's request or on its own initiative, taking into due consideration the implementation and further development at EU level of the EU Plan on best practices, standards and procedures for combating and preventing trafficking in human beings and related forms of exploitation.

In recent discussions within the EC it was suggested that the expert group's mandate be extended to include the sexual exploitation of children and child pornography, an area the ECPAT expert knows very well.

European Parliament Conference "Stop child sex tourism and the sexual exploitation of children", 13 February 2008

The Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe organised this conference in the European Parliament to address the problems of child prostitution and child sex tourism. Anti-trafficking experts as well as representatives of the travel industry were invited. The WE Board member prepared and co-organised this meeting and provided ideas for speakers who included: Amihan Abueva, Chairperson of ECPAT International, Mr. Seila Samleang, country director Aple Cambodia; Mirela Shuteriqi, resource person on anti-child trafficking programmes, Terre des Hommes; Geraldine Pauly, Accor; and Maria Grazia Giammarinaro of the European Commission. The conference culminated in the SAYNO (www.sayno.eu) campaign, which was announced by ALDE in July 2007 and seeks to obtain public signatures to pressure EU member states into becoming more active in combating child sex tourism and the sexual exploitation of children.

Offenders Beware

Under the leadership of ECPAT Germany, five countries (Austria, Estonia, Germany, Italy, Netherlands) began a three-year project in 2008 to combat child sex tourism, through awareness raising, education and training and to promote the Tourism Code of Conduct.

eNACSO

The European Child safety Online network is active at EU level. It lobbies for a child-safe online environment. The network started in 2008. Two ECPAT groups, Austria and the Netherlands, are members. The WE board member represents ECPAT and the Dutch Hotline on Child pornography.

E - Miscellaneous

- ISPCAN - ECPAT International organised a side event at the International conference (3-6 September 2006) of ISPCAN (International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect) on The Demand Factor in the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children.
- UNICRI - At a conference organised by UNICRI and ECPAT International on 30 and 31 October in Rome the results of the ECPAT International anti-trafficking project in Ukraine, Costa Rica and Thailand were presented. The WE board member facilitated the discussion at the end of the meeting.
- ICMEC-INHOPE - The ECPAT-NL manager participated in and spoke at meetings organised by INHOPE and ICMEC (International Centre for Missing and Sexually Exploited Children) on how to improve the fight against child pornography and child abuse images on the internet.

In these meetings, a holistic approach taking into consideration not only the Internet, but also trafficking in children, the exploitation of children and young people in prostitution and child sex tourism was advocated.

- *UNGIFT conference in Vienna in February 2008* - The UNGIFT (UN Global Initiative to Fight Trafficking in Human Beings) conference was a major conference organised by UNODC and other UN agencies (UNICEF, ILO, IOM) and OSCE on how to combat trafficking. The WE Board member helped prepare the panel discussion on “Consequences of Sexual Exploitation, Especially on Women and Children” by providing the organisers, Unicef Innocenti, with a list of potential ECPAT speakers.
- *Code of Conduct for the protection of children from sexual exploitation in tourism* - in 2006-2008 the WE Board member participated in the two annual meetings of the UN World Tourism Organisation Taskforce on the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Tourism. At the Taskforce meeting in November 2007 in London special focus was put on law enforcement relating to the prosecution of child sex tourists and the WE board member participated in a panel on this. In 2006-2008 the WE Board member also participated in the Annual General meetings of the Code of Conduct and took part in the election and discussions around the election of the Code Steering Committee and Executive Committee. There is regular contact with several ECPAT organisations in Europe who are all working in their own countries on this Code of Conduct.

F - Challenges

- In affluent countries in Western Europe, the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents is a problem that concerns not only Western European states’ native children and adolescents but also those coming from other countries inside and outside Europe.

- Children and adolescents suffer from sexual exploitation in prostitution as well as in pornography, which is more prevalent because of ICT services.
- All children have the equal right to be protected from sexual exploitation, and states as well as the private sector and civil society should provide this protection. Children and adolescents - child and youth victims as well children and youth advocates - can also be agents of change;
- Western Europeans are also active in the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in countries to which they travel inside and outside Europe. This should be stopped.
- Although the legal framework provided by international as well as national instruments is good, there is still room for improvement. In particular, the implementation of international conventions and the enforcement of national legislation leave much to be desired.
- The same is true for the care and recovery provisions. These are lacking for children and adolescent victims of sexual exploitation in all its specific forms.
- Improve the visibility of the ECPAT network in achieving the desired improvements. We should strive to improve the quality of our work. If we want to have better results we must seek greater resources.

G - ECPAT in the NGO Advisory Council for the follow up of the UN Study on Violence against Children

The WE Board member represents ECPAT International on the International NGO Advisory Council for follow up of the Violence Study (<http://www.crin.org/violence/index.asp>). The council had meetings in June and in October 2007 in New York and lobbied the UN member states to implement fully the UN Study's recommendations, to appoint a Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence against Children and to include a strong reference against corporal punishment in the UN Omnibus resolution on Children's Rights in 2007. On October 19 a side event was organised on the occasion of the UN General Assembly Third Committee meeting.

On 27 November the UN General Assembly decided to establish a Special Representative to the Secretary-General on violence against children. The decision to create the new position was made under the General Assembly's annual resolution on the Rights of the Child, adopted in the Third Committee [by a vote of 176 to 1]. The only country voting against was the United States.

The mandate for the new Special Representative includes enhancing the visibility of all forms of violence against children, advocating for the elimination of this violence, and supporting the implementation of the Violence Study's recommendations. Other aspects of the mandate

include identifying and sharing good practices and enhancing coordination and communication among key actors (including the UN system, member states, NGOs, children and youth).

The NGO Advisory Council also welcomed the resolution's call to change attitudes that condone or normalise violence, including violent forms of child discipline. However, the NGO Advisory Council expressed deep regret that the General Assembly's annual resolution had once again failed to identify corporal punishment explicitly among the many forms of violence that states are urged to prohibit and eliminate. This is a key recommendation from both the UN Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children and the Committee on the Rights of the Child. In February 2008, the process to decide where the SRSG mechanism is to be placed (New York or Geneva) and who might be suitable candidates for the SRSG position was started. So far UNICEF New York has taken a strong position in trying to bring the SRSG position within its sphere of influence. In November 2008 a SRSG had still not been appointed. There is a strong reference to the need to appoint an SRSG as soon as possible in the 2008 Children's Rights resolution.

Report from Youth Representative to the Board: Lotta Segerström

This report to the General Assembly covers the main activities undertaken by me as the youth board representative over the last three years, as well as principal actions by the ECPAT International Child and Youth Advisory Committee (EICYAC) carried out with the support of the ECPAT International Secretariat.

A - Strengthening the EICYAC and Child and Youth Participation (CYP) within the ECPAT International network

7. The first annual EICYAC meeting, held in Bangkok in April 2006, provided an opportunity for handover between the old and new EICYAC. It was a productive meeting where the vision, mission and mandate of EICYAC were developed, as well as a plan of action.



8. Throughout this term, EICYAC members have actively participated in Regional Network Resource Exchanges (RNREs), and other regional meetings. On several of these occasions, EICYAC members conducted workshops on the importance of meaningful child and youth participation, giving advice and sharing best practices in order to strengthen CYP within ECPAT groups.
9. Current and former EICYAC members assisted the ECPAT International Secretariat in carrying out a survey on child and youth participation within the ECPAT network. The survey resulted in a report by the CYP officer, Junita Upadhyay, entitled “Ensuring meaningful Child and Youth Participation against Commercial Sexual Exploitation – the ECPAT Experience”. The report concluded, among other things, that there was no “one approach” to CYP within the network, and noted many encouraging examples of CYP. The need for longer term planning for CYP was identified with that of more resources for this area of the work.
10. In order to strengthen efforts against CSEC by the ECPAT youth network, it was noted that a database on existing youth groups was needed. EICYAC members helped set up and compile information for the Child and Youth Database, which will be very valuable for reaching out to the youth network, and for implementing regional campaigns or projects.
11. The second EICYAC Annual Meeting was held in Kathmandu, Nepal, in July 2007, to provide an opportunity for the EICYAC to meet with and learn from the Youth Partnership Project. EICYAC visited the Maiti Nepal Shelter, and also a school in which an outreach programme is being carried out. This was a very enriching and inspiring experience for all EICYAC members.
12. There have been concerted efforts by ECPAT International to strengthen and institutionalise further the participation of children and young people within the network. As a member of the Credentials Committee, the youth board representative helped formulate a new question on the application form for new ECPAT members, pertaining to the group’s existing and future plans for CYP. Furthermore, youth organisations can now apply for ECPAT International membership.
13. As acknowledged in the Yokohama Youth appeal – young people often lack the resources to put their ideas into action. ECPAT International set up a fund for micro projects to which youth groups can apply (approx. 1000 USD). EICYAC members in Western Europe, Eastern Europe, Latin America and South Asia and several other youth organisations in the network have made use of these funds and carried out micro projects against CSEC.
14. Towards the end of the term covered by this report, an external review was carried out of EICYAC and its functioning, to evaluate what works well and what could be improved. The review concluded, among many issues, that EICYAC members sometimes felt isolated in their regions. This resulted in changing the current EICYAC structure by electing two regional members for the term 2008-2011. Furthermore, the next EICYAC is encouraged

to work together with and advise on more programme areas of ECPAT International (EI) as opposed to only working with the CYP program.

B - Outreach and Advocacy by EICYAC

15. In a capacity building effort, EICYAC members took part in an online course on Advocacy conducted by the Secretariat and co-led by EICYAC members. This course was well received and it is recommended that it be replicated in other settings, such as within regional youth networks.
16. One of the key advocacy initiatives undertaken by EICYAC was to compile and submit feedback on the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) General Comment of 2007 on Article 12, the child's right to participate.
17. The EICYAC website www.eicyac.org was re-launched with the support of the Secretariat and now includes a large resource collection with child friendly information on CSEC, and good practices on CYP. All EICYAC material is continuously uploaded, and the website has been used in mobilizing for the World Congress.

C - Various EICYAC activities and missions

18. Day of General Discussion with the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child 2006 – Youth board representative co-facilitated the preparatory child and youth forum, which was co-organised by an interagency group including ECPAT International.
19. The youth board representative was invited as an honorary guest to the global youth participation award ceremony in Taiwan (organised by ECPAT Taiwan) where opening remarks were given on the importance of CYP in the fight against CSEC. The mission included visits to two other cities in southern Taiwan to give formal presentations on the same topic, at a university and community centre. A workshop was held with ECPAT Taiwan youth on World Congress III.

D - Preparing for World Congress III against the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents

20. To secure participation and seek input from children and youth at all stages of the congress process, two child-friendly online consultation tools were developed by EICYAC together with the Secretariat: one on the process of participation and one on the themes of the congress. These have been used in offline forums as well as online consultations.
21. The Youth Board representative was a youth representative on the Central Organising Committee for the congress. For the first time ever, a young person participated in the organising committee and at planning meetings for the congress. After consulting the youth network through EICYAC, suggestions were made on how children, adolescents and youth should participate in the congress. The youth representative to the board was also a member of the Child and Adolescent Participation Commission which

was established for the congress, and which worked to prepare for the meaningful participation of children and adolescents at the congress. Feedback from the youth network included: Quality before quantity; Maximize opportunity for CYP at national level and in the follow up, rather than just seeing to CYP at the actual event.

22. A preparatory Youth Meeting is being organised in Rio de Janeiro by the youth board representative and the Western Europe representative, with support from the EI Secretariat. The objective of the youth meeting is to mobilize older youth, who are not participating in the Child and Adolescent Forum, and to provide them with the opportunity to network and to prepare for active and strategic participation in the congress. It is also a chance to plan for follow-up activities.
23. A number of EICYAC members will make presentations at workshops during the World Congress III.
24. A journal is being produced and compiled by the EI Secretariat on the topic of meaningful participation of children and young people against CSEC. Most EICYAC members have contributed articles to the journal, which will be published in time for the congress.

E - Regional EICYAC Activities

In this report I shall not attempt to present all of the vast number of activities carried out by EICYAC members in their respective regions. A few projects and activities are mentioned below as examples of what EICYAC has achieved on a regional level in the last three years.

25. North America: The EICYAC representative, Jill McLean, has been working with the tourist guide book Lonely Planet regarding inserts with information on CSEC (with support from Child Wise Australia). Furthermore, she attended a round-table discussion with the Canadian Governmental Committee against the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Youth, in Ottawa in February 2007, where she presented research on the specific situation and needs of aboriginal children and youth, and expressed to the committee the need for young people to be involved in the process.
26. Latin America: Following the Regional Network Resource Exchange (RNRE) and with support from the EI Secretariat, the regional youth network has developed and is significantly stronger with youth activities in Mexico, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Uruguay, Chile, Colombia and Brazil. The Latin American EICYAC representative, Jhader Moreno, was involved in the National Forum “Young people united for a Colombia without child sexual exploitation”, which was held in Bogotá, in December 2006. In the region, the Brazilian youth network has been very actively involved in preparing for the World Congress III.
27. Western Europe: The regional youth network has been strengthened thanks to efforts by EICYAC representative, Marion Kreissl. A joint micro project was carried out with Eastern Europe and the CIS, to produce a brochure on “How to start a Youth Group”. This was finalised in time for the World Congress III. The Western European EICYAC

representative participated in the Trafficking IV Expert Meeting, and various other regional forums. Lastly, she was heavily involved in preparing the alternative report to the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children (OPSC) for Austria, and coordinated youth involvement.

28. Eastern Europe and CIS: A joint regional project was carried out in Serbia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Belarus, celebrating International Children's Day with various activities on 20th November 2007. The Eastern Europe EICYAC representative, Milica Petrovic, participated in the Joint East West Multi-stakeholder Training Programme on Trafficking in Children for Sexual Purposes as a youth participant. In addition, she participated in and spoke on behalf of the regional youth network. At the meeting on Combating Sexual Exploitation, organised by the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Vienna, a number of youth meetings were also organised in the region, which has greatly facilitated the strengthening of this regional network.
29. Africa: The African EICYAC Representative, Victoria Odhiambo, carried out a micro project in Kenya on Make IT safe, with the double objective of raising awareness about child pornography and lobbying the public and cyber café owners. She also led a capacity building online programme for youth in the region. Young people in six countries in Africa were involved in research on the link between HIV/AIDS and CSEC in the African context.
30. South Asia: The EICYAC representative, Anila Pushan, implemented a micro project named "Awareness Raising on CSEC & Child Trafficking during Flood", with the support of the Secretariat, in Rajshahi District of Bangladesh. It began in January 2007. A number of cultural programmes such as street drama and folk song were organised in flood prone localities. She also participated in the Youth Speak events organised by SANLAAP in India.
31. East Asia: The East Asia EICYAC representative attended a number of regional conferences, among them the Regional Task Force meeting on combating Child Sex Tourism (CST) in Bangkok October 2006, where he shared ideas on how children and youth can be involved in the fight against CST. He also facilitated a Children National Consultation on "the Draft Report on the implementation of children's rights in Cambodia" and attended the National Consultation on the drafting of the Juvenile Justice Law.

F - Future Opportunities & Challenges for EICYAC

32. There is much potential and many opportunities for advocacy at regional and global level, which can be used to greater advantage. Representing a global network of children and young people who are active in the fight against commercial sexual exploitation means speaking with a great deal of authority. With the right capacity building and support, EICYAC can make better use of the expertise.

33. A challenge for EICYAC is to link more closely with groups of marginalised and experiential youth, to speak more credibly on behalf of those vulnerable to, and affected by CSEC.
34. To sustain the youth network is another challenge – and there is the need for continued support from the Secretariat as well as increased support from the ECPAT groups in the regions. This support can only come with the understanding of the added value of Child and Youth Participation, and the insight that CYP enhances programme by making policies better targeted and effective.
35. As children and young people have been involved in preparing for the World Congress III, it is equally important to ensure they continue to remain involved in the follow up and monitoring of commitments made at the congress by all stakeholders. There will be numerous opportunities for networking at the congress, which, hopefully, will be sustained by joint actions.

To conclude, these three years have been incredibly enriching and it has been an honour to serve on the Board of this network, on behalf of children and young people. We have taken important steps to institutionalise child and youth participation, and to strengthen the youth network, but I believe a great deal still remains to be done to further strengthen the quality and workings of children's influence. I could not have fulfilled my role on the Board without my friends in EICYAC, a lot of help from the Secretariat, and support from ECPAT Sweden.

Although I am sad to leave the Board, and EICYAC, it is with great excitement that I hand over to the next group of EICYAC members. I wish them all the best for the next three years and am ready to support in any way I can.

REPORT FROM THE POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

In **February 2005**, at the ECPAT International Board retreat and meeting, there was:

- Confirmation that the Policy Advisory Committee (the Committee) be established with the following Board members:
 - Maureen Crombie (Regional Representative for the Pacific)
 - Amihan Abueva (Chairperson)
 - Cath Moss (Regional Representative for Central and Eastern Europe)
 - David Butt (Secretary)
 - Lotta Segerstrom (Global representative for EICYAC)
 - Tufail Muhammad (Regional Representative for South Asia)
 - Ingrid Liao (Regional Representative East Asia); and
 - Carmen Madrinan (Executive Director)
- Agreement about the guidelines and steps for the policy development process, including the development of 'terms of reference' for each new policy, to cover areas such as harmony with existing policies, role and relationship with the ECPAT network, monitoring, implementation, compliance and review.
- Discussion on how the Board and Committee may possibly benefit from a policy 'think tank' where external expertise could add value to the formulation of policy. There was suggestion that the Committee develop this idea and present a proposal to the Board for its consideration.

Note: These policy 'think tank' discussion points and suggestions are pending and will be part of the handover to the new Board.

At its inaugural meeting, the Committee:

- Noted that there was a large number of organisational policies either in draft or under consultation for the Child and Young People's Participation Policy. It was agreed that this policy be reviewed and be made ready for sign-off by the Committee and Board in May.
- Recommended the Child Protection Policy (minus the reference to the Statement of Ethical Codes of Conduct) be circulated to the network for approval and voting,
- The Committee recommended and the Board adopted the Photographs and Images Policy.

- The Board noted that the development of a policy manual with a glossary of definitions would be a helpful ECPAT tool, for the Secretariat and National Groups. It was agreed that this should be completed by December 2008.

Note: The development of a policy manual is pending and will be part of the handover to the new Board.

In **August 2006**, at the ECPAT International Board meeting:

- The Update on the Outcome of the Reconciliation Meeting report produced some lessons learnt that related to the previous ECPAT International Assembly (the Assembly) and election process, for the Committee to deliberate upon.

For example:

- The establishment of a Nomination Committee (for the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer posts) to assist the Secretariat and Assembly Moderator with the election process;
- At the Assembly there should be procedures in place to ensure a smooth transition of power; and
- The Assembly's election nomination form to be amended to include a new disclosure section.

Many of these lessons learnt have been incorporated into the ECPAT International 4th General Assembly scheduled for 29 November 2008.

Note: The new Nomination Committee etc. procedures incorporated into the ECPAT International 4th General Assembly will be recommended to the new Board, for policy development.

- The Committee reported that the Child Protection, Child and Youth Protection, and EICYAC Voting Procedure policies had been completed (although there was some implementation work to be undertaken).
- Policy related matters arising from this Board meeting for consideration by the Committee, included the development of new policies surrounding:
 - Crisis management;
 - Assembly nomination criteria and process; and
 - Guidelines and rules for implementing, monitoring and reviewing policy.
- All Board members signed the Conflict of Interest Policy.

In **March 2007**, at the ECPAT International Board meeting:

- Carmen Madrinan presented the Crisis Management Guidelines.

To sum up, the **current status of policy** work for completion and/or consideration by the new Board includes:

1. ECPAT International General Assembly nomination process policy.
2. ECPAT International General Assembly transition of power policy.
3. Development and implementation of a policy manual.
4. Establishment of a policy think tank.
5. Network strategy development policy.
6. Use of the ECPAT name and brand.

REPORT FROM THE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

In 2005, at ECPAT's 3rd Assembly, considerable time was devoted to revising the Constitution, bringing it up to standard and adjusting it to reflect more accurately the changing realities of the ECPAT Network.

After the Assembly, in February 2005, at the ECPAT International Board meeting, the amendments to the Constitution that the Assembly had approved were reviewed and integrated into the new (and still currently valid) revised Constitution and By-Laws. The document was further reviewed by a legal professional and then circulated to the Network.

Since the last Assembly, the Board Members of the Legal and Constitution Committee (LAC) Committee have been called on to research and give their opinion on various issues as they arose. Requests were dealt with promptly when they came in. In all cases the Board then discussed the issues, reviewed LAC recommendations and took action.

Issues dealt with included conflict of interest concerns, interpretation of the Constitution concerning various issues that arose in connection with the normal running of the Board, and assistance when needed on any legal and constitutional matters.

We have been very grateful for the legal expertise given by David Butt, a lawyer and member of LAC, who was able to ensure sound legal and constitutional advice on very complicated matters during the past three years. His help has been invaluable.

Issues which the new Legal and Constitutional Committee that will be appointed at the first Board meeting after the 4th Assembly, might want to consider are:

1. Reviewing and, if needed, defining new voting procedures for the election of the Youth Representative to the Board (there is a proposal that the Youth Representative be elected by the youth (EICYAC), instead of by Member Organisations, which is the situation now.)
2. Change of name of the Central and Eastern Europe region to reflect and include new members from CIS and Central Asia.
3. Update of the Constitution and By Laws to reflect current policy on the use of the ECPAT logo.
4. Update of the Constitution and By Laws to reflect current policy on the need for an ECPAT member nomination (in addition to that of the organisation of which a candidate is a member) when candidates submit their nominations for election to the International Board (this is to guard against the possibility of cases of self-election).
5. Constitution and By Laws review and possible amendments governing the change from Affiliate Member status to National Member status.

REPORT FROM THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

In the years 2005-2008 the following decisions were made by the Board:

Affiliations

Bolivia: Proadolescentes (2006)

Morocco: National Observatory for Child Rights (ONDE) (2006)

Burkina Faso: Association burkinabée pour la survie de l'enfance, ABSE (2006)

Ghana: NGO Coalition on the Rights of the Child (GNCRC) (2006).

Albania: Albanian Coalition against Trafficking and the Sexual Exploitation of Children (ACTSEC) (2006)

Cameroon : Association Enfants, Jeunes et Avenir (ASSEJA) (2006)

Moldova: Network of National Organisations Fighting against Child Prostitution and Trafficking (2007)

Bangladesh: Aparejeyo Bangladesh (March 2008) - with the recommendation that the two existing members in Bangladesh try to work more closely together to form a coalition.

Kyrgyzstan: Network of NGOs Fighting against CSEC in Kyrgyzstan (2008)

Youth organisations membership

With regard to youth membership in ECPAT International, it was decided that youth organisations can join the network in the same way as others: by joining an existing coalition/affiliate, as a first choice; by directly applying to join the network, if no ECPAT group or affiliate exists in the country.

CYP Participation: one of the criteria for ECPAT membership

The following questions have to be answered when completing the membership application form:

- Does the group involve children and youth in its programmes and in what capacity?
- Are children and youth represented in the governance structure of the organisation?
- Is the organisation linked to any child and youth networks?
- What plans does the organisation have to strengthen child and youth participation within its organisation?

In March 2008, the Board agreed in principle that no new groups would be affiliated or upgraded before the Board meeting in Rio de Janeiro in November 2008.

Disaffiliations

ECPAT Samoa (2006)

Street Children Committee/Franciscan Chapel Centre, in Japan (2006)

The Mannerheim League, in Finland (2006)

Pro-Ecpat group, in Poland (2007)

End Child Prostitution in, Kenya (ECPIK) (2007)

Upgrades from affiliate to national group

ECPAT Austria (2007)

ECPAT Mexico (2008)

Guidelines for the upgrade criteria

The Secretariat with the Credentials Committee prepared some draft guidelines/criteria that could be used to review applications of groups wishing to move from affiliate status to national group status. In March 2008 Guidelines for the Upgrade Criteria were adopted as a 'living document' and will be shared with groups asking about up-grading.

Network development

The Board agreed that network development and assessment of current membership are issues to be discussed regularly at meetings of both the Credentials Committee and the Policy Advisory Committee. The use of the ECPAT name and logo by National and Affiliate groups should also be part of this discussion.

Sleeping members

The issue of groups perceived as 'sleeping members' of the network or not contributing well to the goals of ECPAT was discussed in March 2008. The Secretariat, Regional Board Representatives and Sub-regional Coordinators are to follow up on this. All groups are to be monitored in relation to ECPAT International's requests for network engagement in the World Congress III process. If groups do not respond, then the Credentials Committee recommended that the disaffiliation process be started at the end of 2008 for each group that did not meet these requirements.

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