

World Congress III- Background Information and objectives.

Congress Objectives

- To mobilize all continents to guarantee the right of children and adolescents to be protected from sexual exploitation by taking action
- To analyze new challenges and dimensions of contemporary sexual exploitation
- To identify advances and gaps in legal framework and liability
- To open channels and secure greater international cooperation on key issues
- To discuss initiatives of social responsibility
- To establish clear, achievable and measurable targets to guarantee children and adolescents' right to be protected from sexual exploitation.

Congress Activities

- Panels, workshops, round-tables, exhibitions and experiential forums. ECPAT International will ensure the active participation of children and youth.

Preparatory work

- National Working Groups will review progress since Yokohama 2001 and propose concrete action to enhance impact identifying relevant time-bound goals for each of the Congress themes.
- Several thematic consultations will be held in different parts of the world contributing analysis and proposals to the Congress.
- Concrete advances in action at national,

The Government of Brazil, ECPAT International, UNICEF and the NGO Group to the Convention on the Rights of the Child are preparing for the World Congress III against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents to be held in Rio de Janeiro from 25-28 November 2008. More than 3,000 participants comprised of governments, civil society, international organisations, private sector, children and young people are expected to attend this global forum convened to map out the actions that have to be taken to combat the sexual exploitation of children.

The World Congress III is an important opportunity to renew global commitment to combating sexual exploitation of children and to galvanize international will and support for the concrete action required to guarantee the right of children and adolescents to be protected from sexual exploitation. The Congress will also provide an opportunity to assess progress and review emerging trends in order to adjust and refine the conceptual and practical tools that will be used to combat the commercial sexual exploitation of children at the global level, as well as define measurable targets that can be achieved through a more empathic focused and concerted effort.

The work of the ECPAT International network is guided by the Outcome document of the First World Congress

against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Stockholm, Sweden¹ in 1996: **The Declaration and Agenda for Action**². Reaffirmed in 2001 at the Second World Congress in

¹ For more information, please check: <http://www.csecworldcongress.org/en/stockholm/index.htm>.

² Cf.:

http://www.csecworldcongress.org/PDF/en/Stockholm/Outome_documents/Stockholm%20Declaration%201996_EN.pdf.

Yokohama³, Japan, meanwhile 161 governments have signed this commitment to combat the commercial sexual exploitation of children in their nations. The World Congress III is the only global forum where public commitment and accountability is reviewed on the progress being made in the implementation of the Stockholm Declaration and Agenda for Action across the world.

Congress Outcomes

The Congress Rapporteur (former Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, Mr. Jaap Doek), supported by specialist consultants and an Expert Reference Group, will consolidate contributions for a Outcome Document that will include a statement on priority actions to be taken and specific time-bound goals and targets to combat the sexual exploitation of children, reflecting inputs from Congress processes on key thematic areas.

For more information, please visit:
http://www.ecpat.net/World_Congress/

Over the last decades ECPAT International has been a lead partner in mobilising and supporting the processes and follow up action of the previous two World Congresses, ensuring that these events served as a mechanism to secure commitment and strengthen global action against the violation of children's rights. As a key organising partner of the World Congress III, ECPAT is committed to support all the processes of the Congress along with partner organisations, and welcomes any support to ensure adequate, appropriate, and timely consultation, planning, preparation and follow up action.

³ For more information, please check: <http://www.csecworldcongress.org/en/yokohama/index.htm>.