



**\*\*\*MEDIA ADVISORY\*\*\* MEDIA ADVISORY\*\*\* MEDIA ADVISORY\*\*\***

## Central Organizing Committee

Sub-office for the Promotion of Rights of Children and Adolescents  
Special Office for Human Rights - PR

Esplanada dos Ministérios – “Bloco T” – Annex II, Room 424.

70.064-900 – Brasília – DF

Phone: (61)3429-3225 Fax: (61)3223-4889

### **Information Note**

#### **World Congress III Against the Sexual Exploitation of Children & Adolescents**

**Introduction:** The sexual exploitation of children and adolescents is a global reality and the problem is growing. Eliminating this horrific practice, and protecting children and adolescents from it, is a challenge all countries in the world must meet together. Following Stockholm 1996 and Yokohama 2001, Brazil will host the World Congress III Against the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents in Rio de Janeiro.

**Place and Date:** The World Congress will be held at the Riocentro Exhibition and Convention Centre, located in Barra da Tijuca, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from 25-28 November 2008.

**Who:** The Government of Brazil is inviting every government to participate in the World Congress. Countries are encouraged to establish a national working group from within existing child rights frameworks, to prepare and nominate country delegations of up to 5 persons. Delegations could include: Heads of State, Ministers, representatives of government, civil society, media and the private sector, and adolescents engaged in eliminating the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents. 3,000 delegates are expected to participate in the Congress, representing +150 countries and including 300 adolescent (aged 12-18 years) participants.

**Dignitaries:** The President of Brazil is scheduled to open the Congress and the First Lady of Brazil will be the Honorary Chair. Queen Silvia of Sweden is also expected to attend. The participation of a globally renowned UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador is also possible.

**Organizing Partners:** Government of Brazil, UNICEF, ECPAT, and the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child

**Previous World Congresses:** The First World Congress Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children took place in Stockholm, Sweden in 1996, resulting in the ‘Stockholm Declaration and Agenda for Action’, which was adopted by 122 countries. This committed countries to develop strategies and plans of action with agreed-upon guidelines. In December 2001, the Second World Congress Against Sexual Exploitation of Children was held in Yokohama, Japan, resulting in the ‘Yokohama Global Commitment 2001’. The Congress consolidated global partnerships and reinforced the global commitment to protect children from sexual exploitation. A total of 161 countries have now signed the ‘Stockholm Declaration and Agenda for Action’.



**Current Picture:** More than a decade after Stockholm, many studies - including the recent 'UN Study on Violence Against Children' - indicate that the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents is increasing. There is also growing evidence of criminal activity related to the trafficking of children for sexual purposes, exploitation by tourists and travelers, the proliferation of child abuse imagery and internet-related crimes. The sexual exploitation of children is fueled by international demand, which threatens children and adolescents of all ages, in every corner of the world.

**Call for Action:** What has been achieved in specific areas is noteworthy. Nevertheless, given the scale of these crimes against children, it is clearly not enough. New energy, collaboration, strategies and goals must be brought together in a concerted way to confront the scourge that is affecting hundreds of thousands of children caught up in prostitution, pornography, and trafficking, including those subjected to sexual exploitation in armed conflict, emergencies and natural disasters, or in the wake of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The global response must be more emphatic and comprehensive as the problem continues to become more complex in its manifestations and scope.

**Key Themes:** The following 5 key themes will be addressed at the World Congress: Theme 1: New Dimensions of Commercial Sexual Exploitation; Theme 2: Legal Frameworks and Enforcement; Theme 3: Integrated Inter-Sectoral Policies; Theme 4: Role of the Private Sector and Corporate Social Responsibility; Theme 5: Strategies for International Cooperation.

**World Congress Objective:** Mobilize all countries to guarantee the rights of children and adolescents, especially to be protected against sexual exploitation by taking action to:

- Building on current achievements, examine new challenges and dimensions of sexual exploitation and set more targeted strategies and measures to address them.
- Examine what works in different regions and identify channels to facilitate better exchange of experiences
- Open channels and secure greater international cooperation on key issues (including cross-border, but also inter-regional cooperation) Catalyze a systemic and inter-sector approach to guarantee children and adolescents' right to be protected from sexual exploitation
- Establish time-bound goals for each of the themes of the Congress

**A New Approach:** The World Congress provides a key opportunity to enhance international cooperation, whilst promoting practical advances in tackling this problem. The World Congress III will activate the global community to put in place, clear, achievable and measurable goals and targets that will further a shared global vision for eliminating the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.

**Preparatory Process:** National Working Groups will review progress since Yokohama 2001, identifying positive national experiences and challenges to be addressed relevant to the Congress themes. Several pre-Congress consultative meetings will be held in various regions of the world to contribute proposals to the Congress. Special attention will be given to the meaningful participation and contribution of adolescents in the Congress



**Languages:** The World Congress will have translation into the following languages: English, Portuguese, Spanish and French.

**Media Opportunities:** Full consideration will be given to national and international media to cover the World Congress.

**Partner Websites:** [www.sedh.gov.br](http://www.sedh.gov.br), [www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org), [www.ecpat.net](http://www.ecpat.net), [www.ngo.org](http://www.ngo.org)

Sugiro sinalizar que a partir do dia 19 de maio entrará no ar site do Congresso, com maiores informações.

No dia 19 de maio, juntamente com o lançamento no Rio de Janeiro, será lançado o site oficial do evento onde serão disponibilizadas todas as informações e notícias sobre a organização e mobilização para o Congresso