

*South Asia Forum Regional Preparatory Consultation for the World Congress III against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents, Kathmandu, Nepal, 27-29 August 2008*

## **BACKGROUND NOTE**

### **Purpose**

The South Asia Forum (SAF) regional preparatory consultation for the World Congress III against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents will be convened - at ministries level - by the South Asia Forum Secretariat in co-operation with the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare of the Government of Nepal. UN organizations, members of the South Asia Coordinating Group (SACG), NGOs and 15 young people are invited to take part in this regional preparatory consultation.

**The conference will focus on the development of a common understanding on the concepts as well as on the challenges and progress in addressing SAF/SACG priority issues for the region and their linkages to sexual exploitation of children and adolescents so that a collective formulation of the goals and targets can be identified and forwarded to the World Congress III against sexual exploitation.**

### **Objectives**

The specific objectives of the regional SAF consultation are to:

- To provide a common understanding and comprehensive overview on SAF/SACG priority issues for the region and their linkages to sexual exploitation of children and adolescents;
- To report on regional progress and challenges;
- To increase key stakeholders' capacity in addressing these issues;
- To formulate time-bound goals and targets which will be related to the countries' commitments and actions in the region and forwarded to the World Congress III.

The conference will address these objectives from the perspectives of national and regional actions taken in response.

### **Outcomes**

The SAF regional preparatory consultation for the World Congress III is expected to:

- Identify recommended approaches and commitments for strengthening national and regional capabilities in addressing sexual exploitation of children and adolescents;
- Build agreement among stakeholders in the region on required actions and strategies to confront sexual exploitation that are rights based and holistic, within systems to guarantee child rights;

- Generate mobilization among key stakeholders, including children and adolescents, for the World Congress III and its follow-up to enhance support for children victims of sexual exploitation.

The regional preparatory consultation and conclusions, reflecting the above outcomes, will be published and disseminated to key stakeholders and participants. Recommendations will be forwarded to the World Congress III against sexual exploitation of children and adolescents to be held in Brazil (Rio de Janeiro) from 25-28 November.

### **The key themes**

The regional preparatory consultation will be organized around **four themes**:

- Forms of commercial sexual exploitation and its new dimension
- Legal framework, accountability and law enforcement
- Holistic Integrated Inter-Sectoral Policies
- Strategies and goals for Regional and International Cooperation

Within this framework, **selected topics** will be examined. The listed topics are:

- Sexual exploitation and sexual abuse with a focus on creating “protective environment”;
- Child trafficking for sexual purposes;
- Physical and psychological punishment and its linkages to sexual exploitation;
- Child marriage.

Keynote papers will be available on the listed topics.

Analysis - presented by invited experts- and facilitators’ guidance during workshops- are expected to stimulate discussion among participants - leading to conclusions and recommendations that will build shared understanding and agreement on the **following questions**:

1. Situation and context- What are the scope and nature of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in the region and its consequences?
2. What progress has been achieved in the region since Yokohama Congress and what are the key factors influencing progress for children?
3. What are the promising practices to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation of children?
4. Who are the key players who can intervene to reduce the risk factors and increase protective factors?
5. What are the key recommendations and related key actions required to strengthen local, national, regional and international responses to sexual exploitation of children?