



**Yokohama review combating Sexual Exploitation of Children**

**8 - 9 July 2005 Ljubljana, Slovenia**

**Europe and Central Asia**

**PREVENTING AND COMBATING  
SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE  
OF CHILDREN**

**Yokohama Review for Europe and Central Asia  
8-9 July 2005, Ljubljana, Slovenia**

## **YOUTH STATEMENT**

**Recalling** the final youth appeal made at the Yokohama World Congress, we, the young people at the Yokohama Mid Term Review want to raise the following issues and urge governments and agencies to follow up on our suggestions.

We, the young people want to **restate** the importance of education in order to combat and prevent Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children.

We **recognize** that Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children is surrounded by shame, silence and taboo in every society, and therefore we want the topic of the commercial sexual exploitation of children to be a mandatory component of national school curricula in every European and Central Asian countries. We **emphasize** that a change in attitudes towards victims and survivors of commercial sexual exploitation is crucial. While informing on the commercial sexual exploitation of children, it is important for educational programs to not only have a problem-oriented approach, but also a balanced approach towards sexuality, and to be sensitive towards every age groups of children.

We **urge** governments to consider the expertise of NGOs and youth organizations and to invite them to assist in educational programs, for example through peer to peer education.

We, the young people, **appeal** to the governments to:

- **Actively listen** to the victims and survivors of commercial sexual exploitation, which will lead to a better understanding of the needs of survivors and also be vital to improve the prevention of commercial sexual exploitation of children;
- **Establish** structures and procedures to respond to the urgent needs of new victims; including, but not limited to, proper social assistance, rehabilitation and preparation for reintegration; to have the option of a residence permit in cases of trafficking across borders and the provision of shelters offering specialized services to meet their unique needs;

We, the young people have ideas and expertise concerning the issues of the commercial sexual exploitation of children, but often lack resources.

We, the young people at this conference wish to **repeat** the final appeal made by the young people at the Yokohama congress for an international fund to provide resources for youth participation programs to combat the commercial sexual exploitation of children. We envisage resources from this Fund being used for programs designed by young people for young people.

We **envisage** this Fund being jointly created and managed by young people and with young people at all decision-making levels.

We **envisage** that governments and agencies will contribute to this Fund by supporting these programs and that governments will benefit from active participation in the programs they sponsor by gaining a clearer understanding of the problem of commercial sexual exploitation of children and learning and following up on the results of the programs.

We **envisage** that the Fund has a simple, clear and youth-friendly structure and application mechanism.

We **urge** Europe and Central Asia to take the lead on this Yokohama commitment.

We again **urge** the governments of Europe and Central Asia to make this Fund a reality and we **urge** the Council of Europe to look into the feasibility of initiating such a Fund at a European level.

To facilitate the above and enable the effective and meaningful participation of children and young people, we request that the Council of Europe assist, and that all present governments:

- **Identify** a lead government agency in every country to act as a responsible and accountable focal point to coordinate all initiatives against the commercial sexual exploitation of children and also encourage youth participation in these activities.

The focal point will be responsible and accountable for the development and implementation of the national plans of action, with an explicit mandate to involve young people in these activities, **liaising** with youth organisations working against the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

The focal point will also be responsible for supporting the Fund suggested by the young people in Yokohama and reaffirmed by the young people in Ljubljana to accelerate the implementation of the national plans of action.

In a partnership between children, young people and adults, we must take action now to stop the commercial sexual exploitation of children. Child and youth participation works, and is vital in the struggle against the commercial sexual exploitation of children! Help us inform children on the commercial sexual exploitation of children, give survivors a voice and appropriate care, support youth initiatives through the Fund and appoint focal points responsible for coordinating government efforts and together we can eliminate the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

**CONCLUSIONS BY THE PRESIDENCY  
OF THE FINAL SESSION**

1. During the last two days, we have re-affirmed our commitment to the Stockholm Declaration and Agenda for Action, the Yokohama Global Commitment and the Budapest Plan of Action and encouraged all countries to implement these as a matter of urgency.
2. We have reiterated the importance of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as of the European Convention on Human Rights, as the fundamental standards for all our actions to promote and protect the rights of the child.
3. We have taken note of the decisions adopted during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Summit of Heads of States and Governments of the Council of Europe (Warsaw, 16-17 May 2005).
4. We have heard the plea from our young people and we will forward it to our Governments.
5. We have underlined the importance of ratifying and implementing rapidly and effectively the international instruments of the United Nations, the Council of Europe and ILO on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and abuse and of ensuring an effective and rapid implementation of these instruments. These are the following:
  - ◆ the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (2000);
  - ◆ the ILO Convention No. 182 Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (1999);
  - ◆ the UN Convention against Trans-national Organized Crime (2000) and its supplementary Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (2000) and Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Air and Sea (2000);
  - ◆ the Revised European Social Charter, Council of Europe (1996);
  - ◆ the Convention on Cyber-Crime, Council of Europe (2001);
  - ◆ the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings (2005);
  - ◆ the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (1998);
  - ◆ the European Convention on the exercise of children's rights (1996).

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6. We must accelerate the implementation of the commitments already pledged since Stockholm
  - (i) to develop and up-date national plans of action against sexual exploitation and abuse of children, in consultation with professionals, NGO's, children and young people and others engaged in the fight against this scourge;
  - (ii) to establish national focal points on the sexual exploitation and abuse of children
  - (iii) to promote a European Network of these national focal points;
  - (iv) to encourage exchange of information, research, studies, technical assistance and best practices on ways to address sexual exploitation and abuse of children; and
  - (v) to ensure that adequate resources are allocated to sustain these measures.
7. It is also important to take stock of new knowledge and encourage the Council of Europe, UNICEF and their member States and the NGOs to carry out accelerated actions in order to:
  - (i) understand and reduce demand;
  - (ii) mobilize non-traditional actors;
  - (iii) tackle the challenges of new technologies that have emerged since Yokohama and consider the possibility of drafting a Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime (ETS 185) concerning, *inter alia*, mobile phones;

- (iv) consider the possibility of extending the G8 database of pedopornographic images to all Parties to the Convention on, Cybercrime (ETS 185); and
  - (v) co-operate with the private sector and other social partners.
8. We must build on the work already done in policy formulation and knowledge development and enhance professional training and exchanges; we must also give special attention to experiences in vulnerability mapping and in victim support, including long term needs of victims, alternative livelihood skills and family-based recovery programmes.
  9. It is vital to include children and young people as partners in decision-making, in the development of instruments and their implementation and monitoring, in the training of professionals and in other areas where they can contribute as partners together with adults to fight sexual exploitation and abuse of children.
  10. Co-operation between the Council of Europe and civil society organisations regarding awareness raising, training of professionals and the development of legal measures must be developed.
  11. We will follow with great interest and encourage the work of the Council of Europe in the area of victim protection.
  12. It is important to promote co-operation between all the interested parties and examine the possibility of opening the “Daphne Toolkit”, which at present only covers the 25 States of the European Union, to the 46 States of the Council of Europe, and even to the participating countries from Central Asia present at this Conference.
  13. The Council of Europe must implement the political Declaration and the Action Plan of the Warsaw Summit in order to “elaborate measures to stop sexual exploitation of children, including legal instruments if appropriate, and involve civil society in this process”. At this point, we have noted with great interest that the Working Group IV on legal procedures has recommended the elaboration of a treaty in this area.
  14. We must update and use on a regular basis the tool “REACT on sexual exploitation and abuse of children” for reviewing States’ efforts to implement the commitments made at the World Congresses, its preparatory meetings and in international instruments in order to identify lessons and models that can be shared across the region and contribute to improved action, and to continue to identify gaps and challenges outstanding. In this regard, the inclusion of Ombudspersons for children, social actors, children and young people in the review and discussions related to it is to be encouraged.
  15. The reports from the Working Groups and Seminars as well as the Youth Appeal are attached to these conclusions.

**DRAFT SUMMARY OF THE CONFERENCE**

**By Anita GRADIN**  
**General Rapporteur**

These have been intensive days here in Ljubljana, first the Regional Consultation for the UN Study on Violence against Children, which ended with the Ljubljana Final Conclusions to Act Now on Violence against Children; the last two days, we have been concerned with the Yokohama Review on Combating Sexual Exploitation of Children. As with previous conferences, there has been a broad representation from governments, researchers, NGO's and others. Once again, we have been able to state that the suffering of the sexually exploited child is enormous. Children do not only suffer physical violence and the risk of catching sexually transmittable diseases. Their inner world, the very core of the child's personality, is violated, which leaves the child with emotional and psychological scars. The exploited girl or boy is left with a feeling of betrayal and powerlessness. For the exploited child, childhood never begins, or it ends too soon.

We now see that the intensive work for setting the fight against the sexual exploitation high up on the political agenda is giving results. Many commitments made in Stockholm (1996), in Yokohama (2001) and in Budapest (2001) have been implemented. But when I read the analysis of REACT, I still find many gaps and shortcomings in the implementation. Therefore, it is important to ask governments to respect their engagements. It is also important to recognise the valuable work done by the NGO's and I would like to highlight the work of ECPAT in this field, the organisation that took the initiative of the First World Congress in Stockholm.

Already in Stockholm in 1996, the participating 122 countries committed themselves to work out plans of action. Too many have not fulfilled that promise. A plan of action is a political platform and shows the political will of a country. It is therefore important as a basis for co-operation between governments and the civic society. A plan of action can, to my mind, also act both as a carrot and a stick for the public administration concerned.

We can also note that there has been less progress in relation to bilateral co-operation agreements and communication among states and between states and the civil society organisations. Good practices needs to be shared to ensure that all children in Europe and Asia are protected equally.

It is important to involve children and young people at all levels of the fight against sexual abuse. Children must be informed about e.g. how dangerous the use of computers can be. Paedophiles do often make contacts through chat websites.

### **Working groups**

Four areas are highlighted in the analysis of REACT in which the implementations in many areas are lacking. These are:

1. **Victim support**. Any action has to be taken in the best interest of the child. Some countries have for instance set up hotlines for child victims and launched public information campaigns. UNICEF is supporting some countries associated with sex tourism and child abuse in making national programmes. For the first time, sexual offences are being systematically registered and training courses for staff engaged in preventive or remedial work are being organised. A children's Ombudsman could also work very much on the preventive aspects.
2. **Co-operation and co-ordination on international and national level**. We are facing a big challenge. All signs point in the direction of a rapid increase in the number of children being sexually exploited. According to one recent estimate,

at least 2 million children are being sexually exploited worldwide. It is particularly appalling that the sexual exploitation of children is being increasingly commercialised. It is a sad fact that children have been sexually exploited for centuries. But over the last decades, the “business of abusing children” has become more organised and openly marketed.

3. **National action plans and national focal points, including the participation of children and young people.** We need to integrate the fight against the sexual exploitation of children into the broader social policy. It is a tragic fact that children who suffer abuse at home or lack family support and protection run higher risks of becoming victims of sexual exploitation. The familiar surroundings and in particular the NGO- community have an important role to play in providing such pressure. Governments have to include children and the various youth organisations in the fight.
4. **Child friendly law enforcement and judicial procedures.** In 1989, the UN Convention on The Rights of The Child was approved. Now, most countries have ratified it. It sets out international legal standards prohibiting the sexual exploitation of children. It also sets a clear basis for the promotion of the welfare of all our children. Because the Convention on the Rights of the Child is the most widely ratified convention addressing children’s rights in the world, it sets a global standard. One clear obligation is that national governments should take all appropriate measures to prevent children from being sexually exploited. But this is not enough. This obligation needs to be followed up by concrete action. And even though most countries have laws regarding sexual abuse and sex trade, the efficiency of the legislation differs. The judicial machinery must be much more effective. Many cases are never reported and most cases are closed at an early stage. Judges and prosecutors need training in order to be able to handle court cases, so that many more offenders can be convicted. May I also be permitted to pay tribute to Mr Gudbrandsson for his interesting presentation of the Children’s House in Reykjavík. It looked to me as a child friendly environment.

Working groups have also dealt with good practices from intentional organisations, governments, NGO’s and the private sector. These good practices needs now to be shared, particularly with the countries that still have not implemented the commitments made.

We now have nine very interesting recommendations from the various Working Groups; I am sure that you will take them back with you to your countries and organisations.

### **Seminars**

During the various seminars, we gathered some new knowledge, never previously discussed in-depth concerning the sexual exploitation of children.

The need to “do something to stop demand” has been discussed for years, but it has never been deeply explored. During this Conference, we have for the first time discussed this issue with regard to the different aspects of demand, the reason for it and now we need continue to develop this work to see how the different causes for demand can be eliminated.

The seminars have also underlined the importance of involving all sections of society in the collective fight against sexual exploitation and abuse. Some particular sectors of society need to be more involved, such as communities (e.g. sport communities, religious communities etc). During this Conference, we have heard how the religious and the sport communities can be used to prevent sexual exploitation of children and protect children from falling prey to abuse and also be part of the rehabilitation of children victims of sexual exploitation and abuse.

The Convention on Cybercrime of the Council of Europe deals with ways of fighting sexual exploitation of children through computer systems. However, new ways of sexually exploiting children are being developed, particularly through the use of mobile phones. We thus need to look beyond Internet, and into the new generation of mobile telephones and how we can combat this new form of exploitation.

We also need to involve the labour sector, in particular trade unions, and new parts of the private sector, and not only the tourism industry and Internet service providers. Governments could encourage the private sector to be involved in the implementation of the plan of action.

### **Trafficking of children for sexual purposes**

Trafficking in human beings has been discussed at great length in the last few years. The Palermo Protocol is in force. But many countries have still not ratified it. Of the 52 countries represented at this conference, only 29 have ratified the Protocol. Please, do something about it when you get home!

Many actions, instruments and programmes have been developed, the last development being the Council of Europe's New Convention on Actions against the Trafficking in Human Beings. I hope all your countries will sign and ratify this Convention as soon as possible.

Trafficking in human being focused mostly on women; at the same time, we have to remember that at least 30% of those being trafficked are children. I hope all countries will work out a Plan of Action as recommended by UNICEF.

It has been a pleasure to listen to all of you representing the Council of Europe, UNICEF, OSCE, NGO's and governments discussing how to prevent the trafficking of children and help to prevent children from falling prey to this modern day slavery, as we all agree that trafficking in human beings is a major human rights violation.

We have a lot of homework to do in our countries and organisations in order to achieve zero tolerance against the sexual exploitation of our children. We have to act on the appeal from these children.

**REPORT FROM WORKING GROUPS**

**Prepared by  
Dr. Polona Selic**

Working groups focused on the gaps that have become apparent following the REACT exercise. I would like to extend my thanks to all the chairpersons and excellent panellists for their enthusiastic work which inspired fruitful and lively discussions. Resource persons gave encouraging examples of good practice in their respectful organizations. We heard of networks that have been built up by connecting expertise and make it broadly available to governments and NGOs. Cooperation mechanisms have been developed with the police and judicial authorities, youth participation was recognized as an integral part of the fight against sexual exploitation and abuse. We learnt that NGOs have developed skills and knowledge necessary for empowering the youth. The child exploitation tracking system has been introduced and some comparisons were made.

As a member of the PC-S-ES group of specialists of the Council of Europe and on behalf of the PC-S-ES group of specialists, thank you for the passion, spirit and knowledge you shared.

Your (meaning all present in the working groups) participation have resulted in several recommendations, which will be presented at the end of this report.

The first working group was aimed at exploring the field of victim support – to indicate lessons learned and face identified challenges.

All participants strongly agreed that if a child becomes a victim, the principle of the best interest of the child should guide the response and victim support – any kind of action should be and could only be done in the best interest of the child.

The services and responses should be based on general international standards and adapted to the national and local situation. Services are therefore expected to be flexible and to be evaluated at regular intervals. Victim support needs a systematic approach to cover the whole process of case management towards the ultimate goal, which is for sexually exploited and/or abused girls and boys to find their independence again. There was a call for coordination and cross-border collaboration in cases of trafficking – a special emphasis was put upon the countries of origin and destination.

Referral mechanisms linked to case management is a key area for successful victim support. The main aim of any service is to restore the child's faith. Every professional included should master the language of the child and be aware of cultural and ethnic specificities. The trust will also depend on the degree of commitment. Children and young people were recognized as very important actors in the process; a special effort is to be put into awareness-raising, especially of those at risk. The complex and integrated process of victim support should end when the child is reintegrated and their independence is found again.

Cooperation and coordination at a national and international level were discussed in the second working group.

The importance of establishing National Focal Points (NFPs) was underlined. They should have enough powers at national level and should coordinate the relevant tasks in cooperation with NGOs experienced in the fight against the sexual exploitation and abuse of children and provide the monitoring of the implementation of the National Action Plans (NAPs). Internationally, NFPs should create a network, which could support international cooperation in connection with investigations in extra-territorial criminal offences and extradition proceedings, including assistance in obtaining evidence.

Concerns have been voiced relating to the increase of child prostitution and the lack of research and studies in this area.

**The role of NAPs and NFP bodies was discussed in the third working group, which examined the involvement of children and young people and child participation as essential to fight the sexual exploitation of children.**

Few countries in the region have been able to develop NAPs for children or special APs and that small number should be our concern. Even fewer countries succeeded in establishing basic structures. The process of establishing NAPs is a difficult task and we were reminded that there is a specific tool developed as a model for action planning that could be used by governments. Several examples were described and it was agreed that NAPs should be within a CRC context.

However, an NFP as a neutral independent body is to be nominated or established since inter-sectorial bodies are rarely available. Decentralization in some cases may also be of use in order to ensure that any kind of action takes place. NFPs should get clear accountability and necessary resources from national government. Many participants younger than I am (they emphasized that dividing delegates into young and others is not the best solution) mentioned the importance of breaking the silence surrounding the topic – they wanted to be listened to, be taken seriously and effectively use the decision-making process, which should be open to them. Therefore, joint youth/adult partnerships are to be encouraged to develop, implement and monitor the implementation of NAPs, and this should be the role of NFPs. Young people should be regularly consulted by NFPs and regular financial support to groups should be provided by governments to children and networks of young people. Survivors of sexual exploitation and abuse should be systematically included in the process and their opinion should be taken into account by all partners. It was emphasized that the CRC is still the most relevant document on the participation of children and young people.

**Another rich discussion was led in the fourth working group dealing with child-friendly law enforcement and judicial procedures.**

It was concluded that children suffer trauma during judicial procedures; therefore these procedures should be adjusted accordingly in order not to inflict further harm. Problems in investigating sexual abuse were mentioned and interrogation problems were highlighted. An excellent example of the Children's House was presented and evidential problems, such as special knowledge essential to the understanding of abused children and upholding principles of procedures were addressed. The competency of legal actors, standards of proof and poor investigation results were mentioned with respect to the best interest of the child as a primary issue. The need for multi-agency collaboration was confronted with common and widespread attitudes from professionals wanting to be independent. Ways to develop a framework to ensure that the whole judicial procedure from the police report to the final verdict become as rapid as possible, were examined. The need to develop a multidisciplinary approach was recognized and efforts towards child-friendly proceedings were described. A minimum should be a child-friendly environment as well as counselling for victims and under age offenders; the latter should be given special care since they can also be victims. Families of child victims should get proper counselling.

Nine recommendations were derived in the summing up process:

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. States should ratify or accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, on the Sale of Children, Child Pornography and Child Prostitution to enable an effective cooperation in the fight against the sexual exploitation of children, in particular in the context of articles 5 and 6.
2. States should be aware of the emerging phenomenon of child prostitution, the lack of reliable information in this area and the need for urgent action by society.
3. There is a strong call for NAPs, either general or focused on certain issues, and technical assistance by international bodies and agencies should be provided. States should be urged to set up NFPs with enough competencies for monitoring the implementation of NAPs, in cooperation with NGOs and networking nationally and internationally. NFPs should have a specific mandate to inform young people about all relevant issues.
4. Children and youth participation is essential. Young people should be involved in decision-making processes and funds for their participation are to be provided by states.
5. Strategies for victim support are to be based on partnership between different stakeholders, including children and young people. National strategies should be adopted and linked at local level by means of financial support, evaluation methodologies (quantitative and qualitative) and shared examples of good practices.
6. States are urged to develop child-friendly law enforcement and judicial procedures, which should be as fast as possible. There is a call for binding instrument specifically on child-friendly judicial procedures in cases of sexual abuse in order to protect children's rights to the maximum.
7. Child victims are entitled to information and explanations about all procedures, including medical examinations. That is most important in cases which are not being prosecuted or taken to trial.
8. There is an ongoing need for relevant training of professionals. To ensure that child victims are not re-victimized during judicial procedures, it is essential that all involved with the child receive special training on children's rights and in particular on the questions regarding sexual exploitation and abuse of children.
9. Children should learn about their rights at different levels of education. The CRC should be included in the curriculum. Proper training for educators is mandatory. Peer education is to be encouraged.

Allow me to conclude by personal reflection:

I have seen that, in any great undertaking, it is not enough for a person to depend simply upon herself or himself. Therefore, we are to join forces and make a difference together.

## **REPORT ON THE SEMINARS**

Prepared by

**Giorgio Berardi**

Regional Officer for Europe and the CIS  
at the ECPAT International Secretariat

I will approach the four seminars that took place yesterday in the second part of the afternoon one by one, starting with the first that had the title “**Understanding and reducing demand**”.

The issue was presented by Dr June Kane, who introduced a matrix based on different types of demand for children who are exploited or abused. The types proposed brought new concepts to a body of research that, up to the present time, has not been copious, and the concepts highlighted were then the focus around which much of the following discussion revolved.

Participants concentrated on how to improve on the ideas put forward, to include for example a reflection on the types of reaction expressed by children when they are faced with risks originating, say, from paedophiles or from so-called derived demand, the type that appears more clearly profit-oriented as it is managed by intermediaries such as pimps.

Proposals were heard from the floor for an enlargement of the number of types of demand, to include what was defined as ‘systemic demand’, i.e. demand that may be ingrained in closed institutions, such as juvenile prisons.

Participants drew attention to the fact that men seek sexual contact with children for a variety of reasons, and from the resulting debate the suggestion was made that the category of consumers should be broken down into further sub-categories that better reflect the underlying motives, and this would call for specific studies focusing on the customer and the commercial drive they originate.

It was highlighted how prevention measures often fail to recognize a progressive reduction in the age of consumers that – with special reference to child pornography on the net – is often found in an age group adjacent to that of victims. This may lead to assume that, in some cases, exploited children very rapidly become exploiters themselves. Studies carried out in Italy, Cambodia and New Zealand have shown that the median age of clients of child prostitution has progressively decreased from 40 to 25 over the past 30 years.

Other interesting considerations were expressed for instance by drawing comparisons between various aspects of exploitation and migration, owing to the vulnerability associated with some forms of migration. This led to hypothesize the need for the expertise of other types of professionals, and closer partnerships with specialized organisations, when discussions and decisions are made regarding systems for the prevention of and protection from child exploitation and abuse.

A concrete outcome of the seminar was the proposal for a brainstorming session that should be convened in order to outline new research programmes aiming to collect more information, perhaps with support from the Council of Europe.

The second seminar focused on ways of “**Mobilising communities and common values to protect children from sexual exploitation and abuse**”.

This seminar featured two presenters.

The first, Ms Teny Pirri-Simonian, spoke about ways of involving communities of faith, by recognising that all faiths share common values, such as the respect for human dignity and for the dignity of the child.

It was highlighted how this approach would not need the establishment of new, ad hoc structures, because communities of faith usually have theirs already in place.

The need was expressed to bring different religions together and to provide forms of education that may be subdivided into four steps:

- a. Learning and accepting one another’s faith (this involves respect for differences and the separation of faith values from cultural values)
- b. Understanding the phenomenon of globalization and realizing that there is scope and need for the involvement of people of faith to take part in combating the sexual exploitation of children.
- c. Understanding and respecting human dignity.
- d. Taking action to eliminate child abuse and exploitation (with exposure to different projects, and by identifying platforms for common projects).

It was underlined that the need to involve communities of faith in the movement to eliminate the sexual exploitation of children is based on the simple fact 80% of the world population share a belief in faith values.

The involvement of communities of faith, it was suggested, could also be of assistance in the mobilization of the education sector.

In view of possible resistance by the hierarchies of some churches, the need was mentioned – on the one hand – to address theological faculties and religious schools in order to approach those who will be tomorrow’s religious leaders while they are still in their training years; and, on the other, to address the grassroots in faith communities so that they may exert adequate pressure on their religious leaders.

The second presentation at the seminar was held by Mr Johann Olav Koss, who had addressed the plenary session as keynote speaker in the morning.

Mr Koss mentioned the fact that sport is the seventh largest industry in the world, ahead of well-established economic giants like the car industry and that the importance of this sector in influencing other fields has been repeatedly highlighted over the years, ranging from episodes where the Olympic truce was observed just like in ancient times to the success of campaigns that used sport personalities appealing for support towards a variety of deserving causes.

Sports, it was underlined again, can be an invaluable tool to restore the self-esteem of child victims of sexual exploitation. At the same time, it should be ensured that sports do not

become a breeding ground for violence, or that they are reduced to a winner-or-loser dualism, as there is no self-esteem to be gained from a mere winner-or-loser situation. In that respect, a lot of work is called for with and by sport leaders, especially those working with children and young people, and by role models in the various sports.

While sports may not be a cure-all in the rehabilitation of victims of sexual exploitation, it was stated that it should have a space in it.

The joint conclusion was that the seminar could be seen as a starting point to identify and verify opportunities to use faith and sports as tools in the fight against the sexual exploitation of children.

The third seminar concentrated on what is lying in wait “**Beyond cyberspace: new technologies and sexual exploitation and abuse of children**”. The issue was introduced by Mr Cormac Callanan who presented his audience with an array of insights into the constantly shifting frontiers of computer and communications technologies, showing how the borders separating consumer electronics, IT and communications have already melted away.

The core of the presentation was a description of emerging technologies, with special emphasis on the more advanced types of mobile phones and the dazzling hand-held potential they represent in terms of both use and abuse when compared to models produced but a couple of years ago.

A seemingly relentless trend of convergence and integration is impacting on the instruments we have so far been using – separately – for home entertainment, communication and computing until very recently.

In this respect, emphasis was laid on the speed of innovation which results in volatile standards and, consequently, in regulations that are constantly at pains to recover lost ground.

The nature of new technological devices is characterized by the fact that they are intimately personal, access to the web is now ubiquitous at all times, their compact size makes them extremely handy, their storage capacity grows enormously at progressively shorter intervals of time, and – as a result – it becomes increasingly difficult to gauge the risks that may become reality with each new machine. This aspect is linked to the fact children and young people are perfect targets for the marketing of these new products and are keen and fast learners of all the new features, as parents and older generations appear more and more unaware of available functionalities.

A consequence of all this is the tendency for responses in the prevention sector to be almost exclusively reactive, as it is hard to be proactive towards phenomena that are hardly imaginable today, although they could hit us as early as tomorrow.

Tentative ideas put forward included the need for safety devices to be required to be inbuilt in technological products for sale to children, but this – too – is an element that would need to be conceived on a constantly shifting ground, and for this reason the general outlook did not seem to allow much scope for optimism.

The fourth seminar of the afternoon centred on “**Mobilising the private and labour sector in the fight against sexual exploitation of children**”.

Based on two presentations, by Ms Christine Beddoe and Mr Patrick Daru, the focus of the discussion was the need – for the future – to insist on the involvement of private sector and trade union representatives in any talks regarding the prevention of sexual exploitation and child labour.

It was underlined that the question of child labour (the sexual exploitation of children is classified as one of the worst forms of child labour) has been on the world agenda for a number of years, and it was explained that the importance of involving trade unions in prevention programmes also lies in their not being donor-dependent, and in the fact that they have a presence at the international, national and local levels, with the relevant capacity to exert influence on decision-makers.

It was mentioned how globalization in the labour market has brought more complicated elements than in the past, with the reappearance in Europe of the phenomenon of child labour and other forms of exploitation. The difficulty of reaching out to exploited children as a result of the illegal sectors in which they often find themselves was also highlighted.

The need for contribution from the private sector, and thus for adequate representation, at the negotiating and drafting stage of National Plans of Action was mentioned as a significant measure for the engagement of a portion of society that – with a few exceptions – has so far been conspicuous for its absence. It was clearly underlined how that requirement has not been met since it was clearly spelled out in the Agenda for Action signed in Stockholm in 1996.

Finally, with the objective of private sector involvement in mind, the discussion focused then on the methodologies that may be more suited to reach out to the corporate world and help it take on and fulfill its obligations towards the community, with case studies being mentioned in the debate to point to a few existing success stories.