

**ECPAT INTERNATIONAL
END CHILD PROSTITUTION, CHILD
PORNOGRAPHY AND TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN
FOR SEXUAL PURPOSES**



**ECPAT INTERNATIONAL AND
THE 1ST AND 2ND WORLD
CONGRESSES AGAINST
COMMERCIAL SEXUAL
EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN
BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

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1. FIRST WORLD CONGRESS

1. The Beginning

ECPAT began in 1990 as a campaign in response to research on sexual exploitation of children in the Asia region. By the end of the first year, national offices had been set up in the Philippines, Taiwan and Sri Lanka with a Secretariat in Thailand. By 1992 the network had been expanded to include groups in Europe and North America. The campaign grew rapidly in the first three years to include Latin America, Australia and New Zealand. ECPAT worked in more than 20 countries to uncover the hidden world of commercial child sex. Initially, the focus was on legal changes to provide more protection for children within their own countries.

After three years of campaigning, ECPAT began to understand that the issue of commercial sexual exploitation of children could not be solved by any single nation working alone. Clearly, there was a global trade in children, promoted and sustained by international criminal alliances and paedophiles, which crossed all national boundaries. Coordinated international action was needed to counter these crimes against children. The organization made a crucial decision to stimulate the direct involvement of governments, in addition to NGOs, in ending the commercial sexual exploitation of children. Accordingly, ECPAT convened a consultation for governments and NGOs in Bangkok in June 1994 and from that meeting came the recommendation for an international congress in which governments, international organizations, NGOs, and a range of stakeholders could work together to plan measures to address the widespread abuse of children.

2. Next Steps

In October 1994, the Executive Director of ECPAT travelled to Sweden to meet with members of the government to discuss the international congress. Following preliminary discussions with three cabinet ministers, the Swedish Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson, confirmed his government's willingness to host and support the First World Congress against CSEC. The Swedish Cabinet appointed the Minister of Civil Affairs as the Minister in charge of planning the Congress. Plans were made to approach Her Majesty Queen Silvia to seek her Royal patronage for the event. The City Conference Centre in Central Stockholm was selected as the venue; August 27 to 31, 1996 were chosen as the dates of the Congress.

In addition to the support of the Swedish Government, NGOs and other organizations were invited to participate in the planning, organization, and hosting of the Congress. A Local Support Committee was established and Save the Children Sweden convened the first meeting. Representatives of the police and travel industries were also invited to participate.

3. International Planning Committee

Three organizations – ECPAT, UNICEF, and on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (NGO-CRC), formed the core partnership in collaboration with the government of Sweden in the planning of the First World Congress. The initial meeting of the Congress Planning Committee was held in Geneva in February 1995. The Swedish Minister of Civil Affairs sent out the invitations to participate in the meeting. Participants comprised UNICEF, Interpol, NGO-CRC, ECPAT, WHO, ILO-IPEC, ISPCAN. In addition, representatives of the Swedish Government and Swedish NGOs were invited to attend. The suggested agenda for the first meeting, prepared by ECPAT, included:

- Programme and speakers for the 1996 Congress
- Planning and research required in advance of the Congress
- The structure of decision-making and the responsibilities of staff
- Future meetings and the role of the Planning Committee



The first meeting was chaired by ECPAT, with subsequent meetings chaired by the Chairperson of the Swedish National Committee for UNICEF.

4. Regional Consultations

A Drafting Committee, chaired by Professor Vitit Muntarbhorn, Chulalongkorn University Thailand, prepared the Declaration and Agenda for Action in advance of the Congress. The process took more than 18 months of writing, editing, and re-drafting the document. The document was circulated on March 19, 1996 in preparation for six regional consultations.

(1) Bangkok, Thailand

The Asia-Pacific Regional Consultation on CSEC was held in Bangkok from April 2 to 5, 1996. The Consultation was jointly organized by ECPAT, UNICEF, ESCAP, and ILO-IPEC and attended by 120 representatives of governments, NGOs, INGOs, UN agencies, donors, activists, police, resource persons, and the media from 14 Asia-Pacific nations. The agenda included a regional and international overview of CSEC, and presentations on three basic themes: child prostitution, trafficking and migration, and pornography. The group reviewed and commented on the draft Declaration and the Agenda for Action and issued a Consensus Statement that expressed critical concerns regarding certain points in the document.

(2) Brasilia, Brazil

The Seminar Against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents in the Americas was held in Brasilia from April 16 to 20, 1996. It was organized by the Brazilian NGO CECRIA, with the support of ICCB and UNICEF. There were over 470 participants from 25 countries in the Americas and Europe, representing governments, NGOs, UN agencies, INGOs, police, and universities. The consultation was structured in a format that mirrored that of the First World Congress and included panel discussions, workshops, and informal sharing sessions among the various countries and organizations. The outcome of the Consultation was the Letter of Brasilia, a document reflecting the position of the participants regarding CSEC. The document was officially presented to the Swedish Government representatives attending the meeting.

(3) Larnaca, Cyprus

The Middle East and North Africa Regional Consultation on CSEC was held in Larnaca from April 24 to 26, 1996. The Consultation was facilitated by UNICEF's Regional Office for MENA and attended by 23 participants from 10 countries in the region, representing diverse backgrounds in governments, NGOs, UN agencies, and universities. The Consultation provided an opportunity to share information on CSEC and contributed to an awakening and realization that, although the problem was more limited than in other regions, there were a number of related problems that needed attention. The group reviewed and commented on the draft Declaration and Agenda for Action and issued a Statement outlining concerns and suggesting future courses of action.

(4) Strasbourg, France

The European Regional Consultation in preparation for the First World Congress against CSEC was held in Strasbourg from April 25 to 26, 1996. It was co-hosted by the Council of Europe and UNICEF, Geneva, organized in collaboration with ECPAT, Interpol, and NGO-CRC, and attended by 107 representatives of 24 European Governments, UN organizations, national and international NGOs from 32 countries, Interpol, experts, and media representatives. The Statement issued included recommendations to identify follow-up mechanisms and develop an implementation framework for the Agenda for Action to be adopted in Stockholm. Recognizing the gravity and importance of the issue, the Statement also strongly encouraged governments to send high-level delegations to the Congress.

(5) Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire

No information was found on the Abidjan Consultation.

(6) Pretoria, South Africa

No information was found on the Pretoria Consultation.



5. Specialist Consultations

As preparation for the Congress documentation three specialist consultations were held to prepare the background documentation. Interpol and ECPAT jointly organised a conference on law enforcement January 1996 and followed this with the first international meeting dealing with child pornography in cyberspace held in Lyon. A meeting between the World Tourism Organisation and ECPAT held in Germany considered the tourism paper

6. The Stockholm Congress

The First World Congress against CSEC was held in Stockholm, Sweden from August 27 to 31, 1996. The Congress was initiated by ECPAT based on the recommendation of consultations held in Bangkok in 1994. Hosted by the Government of Sweden, the Congress was organized jointly by ECPAT, UNICEF, and NGO-CRC in cooperation with governments, NGOs, UN agencies, and a wide range of stakeholders from around the globe. The First World Congress was unique at the time for breaking away from the standard structure of parallel or side meetings for NGOs. Rather, it brought together in an international meeting, on an equal footing, governments, international and UN organizations, NGOs, civil society groups, law enforcement, tourism authorities, trade unions and the media which had been working to combat CSEC. In addition, it included the participation of children and young people which added to the groundbreaking nature of the Congress.

(1) Purpose/Aims

The purpose of the Congress was to draw international attention to the problem of CSEC, put the issue on the international public agenda, and, as a result, pave the way to concerted action to end it.

The aims of the Congress included:

- To define the scope of the problem, addressing the underlying causes and the different forms and geographic concentration of CSEC;
- To highlight relevant issues such as the role of law and law enforcement, psycho-social rehabilitation, health and education, the importance of social values, sex tourism, and the role of the media;
- To provide an open forum for discussion, through workshops and the presentation of case studies, to facilitate the exchange of experiences and highlight best practice;
- To identify ways to raise public awareness of the extent and nature of the problem and its social and political implications on a local, national, and international level;
- To adopt a Declaration and develop a strategic Agenda for Action against CSEC and to protect children's rights.

(2) Structure

The focus of the Congress was the three main elements of CSEC: child prostitution, the trafficking and sale of children for sexual purposes, and child pornography.

The Congress was comprised of plenary sessions with keynote speakers on the first two days. Keynote addresses were given by HM the Queen of Sweden, the Prime Minister of Sweden, the Executive Director of UNICEF, the Executive Director of ECPAT, the Representative of NGO-CRC, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Executive Director of UNAIDS, and an EC Commissioner. Their presentations led up to the adoption of the Declaration and Agenda for Action by acclamation on August 28.

The three subsequent days were spent on parallel panels and workshops on nine themes: Five themes were prepared by ECPAT: The Sex Exploiter, Law Reform and Enforcement, Children and Pornography, Tourism and Child Prostitution, and Human Values and the other four by specialist groups: Prevention and Psycho-social Rehabilitation, Health, The Role of the Media, Education,

In addition, there were a number of informal gatherings, exhibitions, displays and optional site visits to a range of organizations in Stockholm dealing with CSEC.

A copy of the programme can be found in the ECPAT Resource Centre.

(3) Participants

The Congress was attended by a diverse group of participants: national and international leaders, professionals and activists, representatives of governments, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, law enforcement agencies, academic institutions, health professionals and members of the media. Altogether there were 1,879 participants from 130 countries. There were 718 representatives of 122 governments. High-ranking diplomats, including Ministers, Secretaries of State, Permanent Secretaries, and Ambassadors, led most government delegations. There were 471 international and national NGO representatives, 17 children and youth delegates from eight countries, and 538 members of the press and the international media.

A copy of the participants list can be found in the ECPAT Resource Centre.

(4) Children and Youth

The Stockholm World Congress marked the first time that young people participated in this type of global meeting together with governments, UN agencies, and NGOs. In preparation for the Congress, regional/national workshops took place in various countries. At the Congress itself, a preparatory workshop was organized for the young delegates to prepare them for the Youth Panel, the main event for them in the Congress. Notably, a section on Child Participation was included in the final Congress Declaration and the Agenda for Action as a specific point of action.

7. The Stockholm Declaration and Agenda for Action

Adopted unanimously, the Stockholm Declaration and the Agenda for Action commits the participants – governments, NGOs, UN agencies, and concerned organizations worldwide to work together in a global partnership against CSEC. It obliges action from States, all sectors of society, and national, regional, and international organizations, against CSEC. In particular, it calls for action to be undertaken in cooperation and coordination, prevention, protection, recovery and reintegration, and youth participation. Although the document was written in terms mild enough to be accepted by all, it does contain specific milestones to be achieved by the year 2000.

The Agenda for Action proposed a five-pronged approach to the eradication of commercial sexual exploitation of children:

- The coordination of actions at local, national, regional, and international levels;
- The taking of preventative measures through the formal and informal education sector, sensitising relevant target groups to their rights and to the issue;
- The protection of children already caught in the horror of the sex trade through the strengthening or development of relevant laws and policies and the strengthening of law enforcement programmes and international cooperation;
- The recovery and reintegration of children into society through non-punitive, gender-sensitive support systems;
- The promotion of the participation of children, including child victims and their families, so that they are able to express their views to take action to protect children from commercial sexual exploitation.

Unfortunately, the Congress failed to put in place any mechanisms to follow up or monitor progress towards the implementation of the Agenda for Action. Some attempts were made to establish a joint government-NGO monitoring committee or assign the responsibility to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. These endeavours were thwarted, and, as a result, there was little concrete action directly after the Congress.

2. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

In October 1996, ECPAT took the initiative to propose to UNICEF and NGO-CRC that they meet to reflect on the Congress and consider next steps. On December 12 and 13, 1996, a meeting of these three bodies took place at UNICEF headquarters in New York. The meeting considered the need for follow-up to the Congress and agreed on two specific actions:

- An Advisory Group would be established with special responsibility to make recommendations to UN bodies on the commercial sexual exploitation of children; NGO-CRC agreed to coordinate the functioning of this Advisory Group, convening the first meeting in October 1997. This group became the Focal Point on the Sexual Exploitation of Children, a sub-group of the NGO-CRC.
- ECPAT would establish a major information database to store and share information on developments in all of the countries concerned with CSEC, providing ideas and background so that countries and organizations seeking to take action will have a central bank of data immediately available for their use. The information would also be shared through a regular update to Governments and NGOs reporting briefly on initiatives taken and indicating any additional information available.

As part of this monitoring process, every year since 1997, ECPAT International has published a report tracing the progress made in implementing the actions called for in the Stockholm Agenda for Action. The information provided in these reports is collected from implementing organizations including governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations throughout the world.

3. PROGRESS: 1997 – 2000

According to the 1996 Stockholm Agenda for Action, each of 122 participating countries were to prepare national plans of action against CSEC with indicators of progress, and set goals and a timeframe for implementation by the year 2000. Unfortunately, progress towards that goal was limited with only 50 countries having developed their action plans by the time of the Yokohama Congress.

Significant achievements were made in terms of new international legislation, some national legislation, and research and interventions by governments, NGOs and the private sector. At the international level, the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography (OPSC) has been adopted and opened for signature. In 1999, the International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 182 on the worst forms of child labour was adopted. A Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, which supplements the United Nations (UN) Convention against Trans-national Organized Crime was also adopted and opened for signature.

In 1997, ECPAT began working to develop a network of young people's groups in several countries. Training modules on children's participation – both theory and practice were developed and young people were trained in leadership and organizational skills in promoting youth contributions towards implementing the A4A. These activities have developed into ECPAT's Children and Youth Participation Programme.

4. SECOND WORLD CONGRESS

1. The Beginning

The active participation of H.E. Queen Silvia in an anti-CSEC seminar organized by the Swedish Embassy and ECPAT built the foundation for Japanese anti-CSEC legislation and encouraged

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H.I.H. Princess Takamado to take an interest in the issue. This international cooperation laid the groundwork for the SWC.

In April 2000, the Government of Japan announced its intention to host a second world congress against CSEC, and to repeat the innovative partnership of the First World Congress in Stockholm. The Focal Point on Sexual Exploitation of Children organized a meeting of its core group on June 15, 2000 in Geneva. The meeting covered suggestions of the core group members on preparation of the Stockholm+5, the Second World Congress on CSEC.

2. International Planning Committee

ECPAT, UNICEF, and NGO-CRC, along with the government of Japan formed the International Planning Committee for the Second World Congress. Governments, inter-governmental agencies and NGOs were to be invited to attend the Congress. In July 2000, the Committee met in Tokyo to discuss details of the proposed Congress with the Government of Japan. The Pacific Convention Plaza in Yokohama was selected as the venue; December 17 to 20, 2001 were chosen as the dates of the Congress. Six main themes were identified for background papers and allocated as follows:

- **UNICEF:** Trafficking in Children
Legislation and Law Enforcement
- **NGO-CRC** Prevention, Protection, and Recovery of children from CSEC
Profile of the Sex Exploiter
- **ECPAT** Child Pornography
Role and Responsibility of the Private Sector

Procedures for participation and/or involvement in the preparatory process were established. The Government of Japan took responsibility for inviting the participation of governments; UNICEF took responsibility for inviting the participation of inter-governmental and UN agencies; NGO-CRC and ECPAT handled NGO and youth participation in the Congress.

Subsequently, a meeting of the International Planning Committee was held in Geneva from the 23 to 24 of October 2000. At this meeting, a Programme Committee was established, made up of one representative from each of the IPC members. It was agreed that ECPAT and NGO-CRC would coordinate the selection of NGOs, based on established criteria, to participate in the Congress. In addition, a target number of 100 was established for children and youth participants to be shared among Japanese NGOs, ECPAT, and the NGO-CRC. At the same meeting, UNICEF presented a draft information strategy, and announced the appointment of a Media Officer early in 2001. A Media Committee made up of representatives of all co-organizers was also established.

3. Regional Consultations

(1) Bangkok, Thailand

Delegates of 25 governments, in cooperation with United Nations agencies, international organizations, NGOs, representatives of young people, other entities and observers - altogether 250 representatives, met at the East Asia and Pacific Regional Consultation from 16 to 18 October 2001 in Bangkok. The participants in the Consultation took the opportunity to review the progress of the work against CSEC during the five years after the First World Congress, to consolidate partnerships, together with members of civil society, including young people, and to reaffirm the spirit of the Stockholm Declaration and Agenda for Action. They noted the seriousness of the problem of CSEC and emphasized that strong government commitment and support, in cooperation with civil society, are imperative for viable and lasting solutions to the problem of CSEC. It is crucial to recognize in these responses, the importance of the cultural wisdom and ethical values of the peoples of the region. In addition, the participants in the Consultation recognized the achievements, wisdom and efforts of children/young people in the fight against CSEC, and pledged to continue to support their meaningful participation. The outcome of the



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Consultation was the *Regional Commitment and Action Plan of the East Asia and Pacific Region against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children*.

(2) Rabat, Morocco

The Arab-African Forum Against the Sexual Exploitation of Children was held in Rabat, from 24 to 26 October 2001, under the Honorary Presidency of Her Royal Highness Princess Lalla Meryem, with the aim of preparing for the effective participation of the Arab African region at the Second World Congress against CSEC. The Consultation brought together representatives of the Middle East, North Africa, and West and Central Africa regions. Altogether, government and non-government representatives of 65 countries in the three regions participated in the Consultation. The Rabat Meeting set as its principal objectives: the reaffirmation of the political commitment of the states, the revision of progress since the First World Congress, and the development of intervention strategies that reflect regional specificity and priorities for the effective and efficient combating of sexual exploitation of children. The culmination of the consultation was the adoption of the *Declaration of the Arab-African Forum against the Sexual Exploitation of Children* which recommitments delegates, including the governments not represented in the first World Congress to the Stockholm Agenda for Action.

(3) Dhaka, Bangladesh

The Dhaka Consultation was held from November 4 to 6, 2001 with the purpose of developing a Regional Strategy to be presented at the Second World Congress against CSEC in Yokohama. Over 140 participants took part in the Consultation, comprising representatives of the Governments of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. In addition, 25 children and young adults, and representatives of international agencies and international and national non-governmental organisations participated in the Consultation. The *South Asia Strategy* was adopted at the South Asia Consultation. This Strategy represented an expression of those gathered, of their commitment, and a call for action in South Asia to combat commercial sexual exploitation of children and child sexual abuse.

(4) Montevideo, Uruguay

The Inter American Institute of the Child and UNICEF organized the regional consultation for Latin American and Caribbean countries in Montevideo from November 7 to 9, 2001. Essentially, it was a government conference to which NGOs were invited. Unlike other regional consultations, it consisted only of plenary sessions with presentations made by governments, some selected NGOs and international organizations and reports by consultants. There were no small group discussions and young people did not play any role in the conference, neither through their attendance nor through presentations on youth participation. The outcome document, *Commitment to A Strategy Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation and other Forms of Sexual Violence against Children and Adolescents in the Latin America-Caribbean Region*, was drafted by a commission and approved by the plenary session. Unfortunately, local grassroots NGOs were not included in the drafting process.

(5) Budapest, Hungary

From November 21 to 22, 2001, representatives of 42 governments, international and UN agencies, NGOs, academics, young people, and other stakeholders met in Budapest to review and analyse progress made in the region in the field of protection of children against commercial sexual exploitation following the First World Congress to consolidate partnerships in the fight against all forms of sexual exploitation of children, and reaffirm commitment to the Declaration and Agenda for Action, adopted at the First World Congress, recognizing government commitments and actions, the co-operation of civil society, and international support as imperative for effective protection of children from sexual exploitation. *The Commitment and Plan of Action for Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Europe and Central Asia* was adopted at the Consultation.

(6) Philadelphia, USA

ECPAT-USA, NGO-CRC Group, UNICEF, and the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Work convened a Regional Consultation on CSEC in Canada, Mexico, and the United States,



December 2 to 3, 2001. Delegates from the US, Canadian and Mexican governments attended the meeting. Other participants included NGOs, academic institutions, police, and Internet service providers. Five plenary sessions and nineteen small group discussions on specific topics were held throughout the Consultation. Separate meetings were held for participants of each of the three countries in which they could discuss national priorities and agree on future actions. The goals of the Consultation were to identify the nature and extent of CSEC in Canada, Mexico, and the USA; identify regional aspects of CSEC, particularly intra-regional patterns of traffickers (for both source and destination countries), develop a framework for national and regional strategies to combat CSEC and gather contributions for the Second World Congress against CSEC. The outcome of the meeting was the *Consultation Report from North American Regional Consultation on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children*.

4. The Yokohama Congress

The Second World Congress against CSEC, hosted by the Japanese Government in association with the Prefecture of Yokohama, took place in Yokohama from December 17 to 20 2001. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, ECPAT International, UNICEF, and NGO-CRC were the organizing partners, echoing the partnership format of the First Congress.

(1) Objectives

The objectives of the Congress, established by the International Planning Committee were as follows:

- To enhance the political commitment to the implementation of the Agenda for Action
- To review progress in the implementation of the Agenda for Action
- To share expertise and good practices as well as identify main problem areas and /or gaps in the fight against CSEC
- To strengthen the follow-up process of the World Congress

(2) Structure

The focus of the Second World Congress mirrored that of the Stockholm Congress i.e. the three main elements of CSEC: child prostitution, the trafficking and sale of children for sexual purposes, and child pornography.

The Prime Minister of Japan opened the Congress followed by speeches by H.I.H. Princess Takamado of Japan, H.M. Queen Sylvia of Sweden, and the Mayor of Yokohama. Keynote addresses were given by Japan's Minister of Justice, the Executive Director of UNICEF, the Chairperson of ECPAT International, the Representative of NGO-CRC, and a children's representative.

There were three discussion panels covering the six themes of the Congress, namely: 1) Trafficking in Children; 2) Legislation and Law Enforcement; 3) Prevention, Protection, and Recovery of children from CSEC; 4) Profile of the Sex Exploiter; 5) Child Pornography; and 6) Role and Responsibility of the Private Sector. The themes were analysed from the point of view of lessons learned, challenges, and gaps. There were more than 100 workshops run by NGOs, international organizations and governments.

In addition, there were a number of informal gatherings, exhibitions, displays and optional site visits to a range of organizations in Yokohama dealing with CSEC.

A copy of the full programme can be found in the ECPAT Resource Centre.

(3) Participants

Participants in the Congress represented a wide range of groups including representatives of governments, NGOs, international and UN agencies such as the EU, Interpol, IOM, WHO, ILO, UNIFEM, UNESCO, etc., private sector organizations such as the airline and tourism industries,

and internet service providers, civil society groups, children, young people, and members of the media. Altogether there were 3,050 participants: delegates from 136 Governments, (including 35 states which did not participate in the First World Congress), representatives from 135 Japanese NGOs and 148 local and international NGOs from other regions, and 95 children representing 35 countries around the world. High-ranking diplomats, Ministers, Secretaries of State, Permanent Secretaries, and Ambassadors led most government delegations. **A copy of the participants list can be found in the ECPAT Resource Centre.**

(4) Children and Youth

The participation of children and youth in the Yokohama Congress significantly increased in numbers and improved in terms of preparation and planning over the First World Congress¹. Before the Congress, ECPAT organized a number of projects that incorporated young people in the planning and implementation of the Congress. These included:

- An art campaign sponsored by the ECPAT Secretariat
- A letter writing campaign run by the ECPAT Secretariat
- Pre-congress regional meetings
- 3-day preparation programme in Kawasaki, Japan from December 13 to 16

Children and youth participated in all Congress events as follows:

- As keynote speakers, panellists, and moderator
- A ten-minute presentation entitled *The Children and Young People's Voice on Moving Forward*
- Every panel had a youth participant
- Young people managed a number of Round Table discussions with journalists
- And adult experts
- Several workshops were designed with the interests of young people in mind
- There were workshops with young people as presenters and facilitators
- Several young representatives gave interviews to the media
- Several young people joined the press conference at the end of the Congress
- A separate room was made available for the young people at the Congress
- A workshop on peer counselling and youth strategies was held

5. The Yokohama Global Commitment

The outcome document of the Congress, entitled the Yokohama Global Commitment, was negotiated among governments during the week and adopted by consensus by the assembly. It calls on the international community to promote further their actions towards the eradication of the child prostitution, child pornography and trafficking in children for the purpose of sexual exploitation. The Global Commitment serves as a guide for actions to fight against commercial sexual exploitation of children.

The documents produced at the regional consultations were submitted to the Chair at the Congress and are annexed to the document. A number of delegations chose to add explanatory statements to the document, and while these additions develop certain viewpoints of countries and regions, they all endorse the Yokohama Commitment.

The Yokohama Global Commitment demonstrates a reaffirmation of the Stockholm Agenda for Action enhancing its text by:

- Reinforcing the partnerships among various actors through the language of ownership used in the document, which refers to "Our Global Commitment";

¹ A critical analysis of young people's participation is available in the [July 2002 ECPAT newsletter](#). In this article, three British youth participants at Yokohama assessed the participation of young people at the Congress and highlighted some of the lessons that should be learnt for future forums. For additional commentary on children's participation at the Congress, see [January 2001 ECPAT newsletter](#).

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- Underscoring closer linkages between other child rights monitoring mechanisms such as the Committee on the CRC and the Special Rapporteur;
- Identifying the Second World Congress as a follow up initiative and thus recognizing the effort to combat CSEC as a continuous and structured process;
- Recognizing the results of the pre-Congress regional consultations and encouraging the effective implementation of their conclusions and recommendations to enrich the content of the follow up action of Congress.

6. Final Appeal of Children and Young People

In the Congress, children and youth organized a Round Table to exchange their views with the participants from international organizations, governments, members of parliament, and NGOs. The result of their discussions and opinions were presented at the plenary of the closing session, in the form of a performance of drama, music and poetry and the document entitled *Final Appeal of Children and Young People*.

The Appeal called for, among other things:

- Education to help prevent young people being caught up in the sex trade;
- Developing life skills;
- Raising awareness of CSEC worldwide through an international day to celebrate survivors and draw attention to the issue;
- Better cooperation among governments, international organizations, and NGOs;
- Advocacy about the Committee on the Rights of the Child and CSEC for all sexes and age groups;
- Addressing gender issues related to CSEC;
- Fighting corruption as one of the factors contributing to growth of CSEC;
- Punishment of offenders and not children who are the victims of CSEC.

The young people committed themselves to building a network of children and young people across the world, and called on governments to initiate a CSEC Fund for Youth that would make financial means available for young people to carry out activities to combat CSEC worldwide.

5. MID-TERM REVIEWS

As a follow-up to the Yokohama Congress, a series of Mid-Term Reviews have been carried out in the various ECPAT regions around the world.

1. South Asia

The South Asian Mid-Term Review was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from September 29 to October 1, 2004. The event was hosted by the government of Sri Lanka, UN agencies, ECPAT International, Save the Children and other members of the South Asia Coordinating group for CSEC. The meeting provided an opportunity to reflect, exchange experiences, share lessons learned, and identify gaps and priorities. A consultation was held from September 27 to 28 for children of South Asia to come up with recommendations for the governments of South Asian countries.

2. East Asia and the Pacific

The East Asia and Pacific Mid-Term Review was held in Bangkok from November 8 to 10, 2004. Representatives from more than 20 countries discussed their governments' progress toward commitments made at the 2001 East Asia and Pacific Regional Consultation against CSEC. Delegates from governments and civil society as well as young people reported on a raft of new measures and improvements to existing interventions designed to protect children from CSEC, assist victims, and punish exploiters. The meeting was organized by an Inter-Agency Group comprised of ECPAT, UNESCAP, and UNICEF in cooperation with the governments of Italy,



Japan and Thailand and the NGO Group on the Convention for the Rights of the Child, represented by the Save the Children Alliance.

3. Africa and the Middle East

In December 2004, the Mid-Term Review for Africa and the Middle East took place in Rabat, Morocco. The meeting, which brought together representatives of governments and NGOs, provided an opportunity for networking. As a result of the meeting, two governments (Lebanon and Egypt) offered formal expressions of interest in developing National Plans of Action, and in initiating capacity building activities for law enforcement personnel.

4. Canada

The Canadian Mid-Term Review of the 2001 Yokohama Commitment against CSEC, organised by Beyond Borders and ECPAT International, in cooperation with the University of Windsor's Faculty of Law and the NGO Group on the Convention of the Rights of the Child, was held at the University of Windsor in Ontario, Canada from May 5 to 6, 2005. Participants included representatives of civil society organisations, law enforcement, municipal and provincial governments and youth. Notably absent from the event was the federal government despite the fact that many relevant actors from this key sector were invited to attend. The Canadian MTR is the only Yokohama MTR that was not been hosted by a national government.

5. Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States

The Mid-Term Review for Europe and the CIS was convened in Ljubljana, Slovenia July 8 to 9, 2005. The review involved not only members from ECPAT European groups, government officials and representatives of post-Soviet republics, but also included the participation of 11 young delegates from regional groups. The delegates reaffirmed their 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.

6. United States of America

The Mid-Term Review for the USA was held in Washington, D.C in April 3 to 4, 2006. Following a period of sustained lobbying, the United States Government agreed to support the meeting. Shared Hope International, ECPAT-USA, and The Protection Project of the Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies organized the meeting. Participants included United States government agencies, service providers, academics, policy analysts, criminal justice agents, and victim advocates. The meeting focused on national level experience exchange in the fight against CSEC and highlighted gaps in existing substantial information and a lack of training for those providing care and protection to victims of CSEC.

ECPAT International and the 1st and 2nd World Congresses against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children -
Background Information

APPENDIX A: WORLD CONGRESS TIMELINE

