

**MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR
FOR THE “PREPARATION FORUM” AND
THE “WORLD CONGRESS III AGAINST
SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS”
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
23rd -28th November, 2008**

MINIMUM STANDARDS

The Minimum Standards for consulting with children and adolescents have been compiled for the “Preparation Forum” and the “World Congress III against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents” on 23rd – 28th November, 2008.

These are prepared in consultation with the Children and Adolescents Participation Commission based on existing documents produced by its members as well as on the East Asia Pacific Minimum Standards on Consulting with Children.

What are the Minimum Standards?

Minimum Standards are statements that describe the minimum expectations of the ways in which adults and children and adolescents should behave and conduct themselves during these events. These are guidelines which the adults, children and adolescents must adhere to in the process of preparing for and participating at these meetings.

Participation is a fundamental right of every child and adolescent. These standards are aimed at promoting participation that is meaningful and beneficial to children and adolescents.

Who are they for?

These Minimum Standards are for adults, children and adolescents.

For Adults: These standards are for sponsoring agencies that are supporting the participation of children and adolescents to these meetings. These are also for the Parents/Carers, Accompanying Adults, Translators, Facilitators, Child and Adolescent Participation Commission, Child Protection Focal Persons, Logistic Coordinators, the Central Organizing Committee (COC) and any other participating adults to these meetings.

For Children and Adolescents: Children and adolescents participating at these meetings.

The Minimum Standards have been put together for these meetings in order to facilitate active and substantive participation of children and adolescents based on the following principles:

1. An ethical approach: transparency, honesty and accountability

Everyone involved in the preparation and the facilitation of these meetings follow ethical, participatory process, putting children’s and adolescents best interest first.

2. A child and adolescents friendly environment

Everyone works towards creating a safe, welcoming, inclusive and encouraging environment that enables meaningful participation.

3. Equality of opportunity

All children and adolescents should have equal opportunity for participation regardless of their age, background, ethnicity, capabilities, class, caste or other factors. Encourage participation of those children and adolescents who meet the specific criteria for at risk or affected young participants.

4. Participation promotes safety and protection of children

Adults, children and adolescents follow Minimum Standards and corresponding guidelines and procedures that promote a safe and enabling environment for children and adolescents participation.

During the “Preparation Forum” and the “World Congress III against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents”, the Children and Adolescents Participation Commission and the Sponsoring Agencies are recommended to adhere to the following Minimum Standards before, during and after the meetings.

| Minimum Standards | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Before the Events | 1. Background and agenda for the meetings with clearly defined objectives for children and adolescent’s participation. |
| | 2. Preparation of a realistic budget. |
| | 3. A Child Protection Procedure and a Complaint Procedure to report concerns in confidence for the meetings. |
| | 4. Informed consent by the children and adolescents to attend and participate in the meetings. |
| | 5. All children and adolescents participating are sponsored by a national or international agency covering the costs of travel, accommodation, per diem, travel and medical insurance, for both the child and/or adolescent and the accompanying adult. |
| | 6. Sponsoring Agencies get the informed consent of Parent/Carer for the children and adolescents to travel and participate at this event. |
| | 7. All children and adolescents are accompanied to the meetings by a suitable adult who will take responsibility for their safety and welfare. |
| | 8. Facilitators are experienced in working effectively with children and adolescents and have adequate knowledge of the issues being covered in the meetings. |
| | 9. Travel Registration and Medical History Forms are completed. |
| | 10. All children/adolescents including the accompanying adults have proper travel documents (passports, confirmed returned air tickets, visas) and the necessary vaccinations with adequate money on them before their travel. |
| | 11. All children/adolescents and the accompanying adults have the hotel information for the destination city and have proper directions on how to get there. They also have information on the venue of the meeting and how /when to get there. |
| During the Events | 12. All children and adolescents keep a copy of the Emergency Information Card with them at all times. |
| | 13. Child Protection Focal Persons are present during the meetings and the children and adolescents and Accompanying Adults/Translators are briefed about the Child Protection Procedure. |
| | 14. The meetings are facilitated well and the children and adolescents get equal opportunity to participate. |
| | 15. The children and adolescents get a brief Media briefing and have to give consent to engage in Media activities. |
| After the Events | 16. Sponsoring agencies take the responsibility of the follow-up activities after the meeting. |

Protection from harmful information: Guidelines for adults (*Convention on the Rights of the Child Article 17e*)

Children and adolescents have the right to be protected from any information they do not need to know and for which they may not have the understanding and maturity to cope. This is especially true if the information deals with sexual matters. All adults at the World Congress have a duty to ensure that no child is harmed as a result of information from presentations and discussions whether in spoken, written or visual form or any other kind of communication.

This means:

- No shocking/offensive stories or case studies
- No shocking images
- No emotional personal testimony of abuse and exploitation
- No role play or drama depicting rape or other sexual or violent acts
- Sensitivity to other cultures
- No 'bad' (improper/offensive) language

All adults should be alert to such situations and are responsible for protecting all children and adolescents attending the WC III. Facilitators in particular must be prepared to stop discussions or presentations that are inappropriate and remind participants that;

- Child protection is mandatory
- Activities must remain within professional limits
- Time out may be necessary.

Anyone (child or adult) who feels uncomfortable or needs a break from a presentation or discussion can leave. There will be a quiet place for reflection available at the meeting venue with a supportive counsellor if needed.