

the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (2000), the ILO Convention 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), the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (2000), the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Air and Sea, (2000) and the Convention on Cyber-Crime. Council of Europe (opened for signature in Budapest on 23 November 2001); we also welcome the adoption by a Council of Europe Committee of experts of the draft Convention on Contact Concerning Children (2001);

- the important role of United Nations Agencies, the Council of Europe, the European Union and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe in placing the fight against sexual exploitation of children high on their agendas, in motivating and supporting all member States in reviewing, updating and enacting relevant legislation and policy instruments and in involving the private sector, such as the Internet service providers and the tourism industry, in formulating and adopting legal instruments for the protection of children from sexual exploitation;
- the encouraging development of national institutions for the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, such as Ombudspersons for children and Children's Commissioners;
- the participation of many countries of the Region in articulating a number of commitments to protect children from sexual exploitation, notably in Recommendation (2000) 11 on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation, (Council of Europe, May 2000), the two European Council Framework Decisions on combating trafficking in human beings and on combating sexual exploitation of children and child pornography (European Commission, December 2000), the Anti-Trafficking Declaration of South Eastern Europe, Stability Pact Task Force (Palermo, December 2000), the European follow-up Conference to the 1996 World Congress (Council of Europe, April 1998), the Berlin Commitment for Children of Europe and Central Asia (Berlin Conference on Children in Europe and Central Asia, May 2001), the Recommendations from the Vienna Conference of 1999 on Combating Child Pornography on the Internet, the Recommendations on Trafficking in Human Beings by the Office for Democratic

Institutions and Human Rights, ODIHR. (Warsaw, September 2001) and the Resolution on the contribution of civil society in finding missing or sexually exploited children (Council of EU, 2001);

- the active involvement of many countries of the Region in developing specific regional and sub-regional strategies, in establishing or building on existing co-ordination mechanisms and in carrying out plans of action and programmes aimed at implementing the Declaration and the Agenda for Action Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of the First World Congress;
- the emergence of new opportunities for direct participation of children and young people in the assessment of regional priorities and development of policies, such as the expression of young voices in the First Regional Opinion Survey supported by UNICEF in partnership with ODIHR in 2001 and the contributions of young people at the Berlin Conference on Children in Europe and Central Asia, May 2001;
- the development and implementation of national plans of action against sexual exploitation of children and greater recognition of the existence of such problems in the countries of Europe and Central Asia;
- the increasingly important role of civil society, including international and national non-governmental organisations in articulating and carrying out national and international initiatives against sexual exploitation of children and the enhancement of cross-sectoral collaboration;
- the noticeable commitment of some countries to the prosecution of those who sexually exploit children; the broadening of criminal offences to the various forms of sexual exploitation of children, including its international and trans-national aspects, by establishing extra-territorial responsibility, and recognising the relationship between organised crime and many forms of sexual exploitation of children;
- the increased efforts in adjusting legal instruments, judicial services and proceedings effectively to protect children against all form of sexual exploitation;
- the importance of establishing services for children to prevent and protect them against sexual exploitation and to ensure their recovery and re-integration;
- the growing development of measures, such as codes of conduct to protect children from sexual exploitation in the tourism industry, the media and through the Internet.

5. We welcome the convening of the 2nd World Congress and we support the preparatory process which provides for important steps towards effective protection of children from commercial sexual exploitation and we call on the Second World Congress to take into consideration the Europe and Central Asia Commitment and Plan of Action.
6. We acknowledge that, despite important achievements, the sexual exploitation of children is still occurring in every country of Europe and Central Asia, and is on the increase. Much needs still to be done to prevent children from being sexually exploited, to stop such exploitation and to ensure full rehabilitation, recovery and re-integration of child victims. In this context, we recognise that underlying factors such as poverty, economic disparities, social exclusion, drug addiction, armed conflict, family break-down, physical and mental disability, fear of AIDS, lack of meaningful education and employment opportunities, and –discrimination based on gender, ethnicity, religion and citizenship status significantly contribute to the vulnerability of children and young people to sexual exploitation. Within this regional context, we note with great concern that many countries in Europe and Central Asia have not yet developed national plans of action, nor identified national contact points or set aside sufficient resources for the implementation of national plans, as called for in the Stockholm Agenda for Action.

To protect children in Europe and Central Asia from sexual exploitation and to ensure their rights to full and normal development, we commit ourselves to :

- Accord high priority and sufficient resources at national and international level for the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Stockholm Declaration and Agenda for Action and the Council of Europe Recommendation (2001) 16 on the protection of children against sexual exploitation. This should include, by an agreed date in 2003, the development of national plans of action and the designation of a national focal point in each country with a clear mandate, accountability and resources. In particular, ensure the setting-up where appropriate and necessary, of national-level structures, tasked with coordinating all authorities and agencies competent in matters pertaining to protection of children from sexual exploitation to reinforce a multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral approach;

- Adopt and promote the attitude of “zero-tolerance” for all forms of violence and exploitation of children. including through reinforced media and public awareness raising campaigns;
- Encourage early ratification and implementation of the relevant international instruments for child protection, including:

the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography,

the ILO Convention 182 Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour,

the UN Convention against Trans-national Organized Crime,

the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children,

the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Air and Sea,

the Convention on Cyber-Crime, Council of Europe,

the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,

the European Convention on the Exercise of Children’s Rights, Council of Europe;

- Criminalise all forms of sexual exploitation of children under 18, review accordingly laws, policies and programmes to eliminate sexual exploitation of children, and strengthen networks of cooperation between national and international law enforcement agencies;
- Promote the adoption of an international warrant, at regional level, for the arrest of traffickers of children;
- Urge each and every country to enhance or develop a comprehensive system of state funded child protection services, consistent with Article 19 of the CRC, where every

family at risk receives some health and social support. Those families at risk should receive targeted services in addition to universal support:

- Request the European Commission, in the context of the accession process and the need both to support candidate countries and continue to underpin the work of Member States, to consider including in appropriate programmes such as the Daphne and STOP Programmes projects to enhance the ability of countries in the region to fulfil their commitments under the Stockholm Agenda for Action and international instruments relating to the protection of children from sexual exploitation;
- Improve laws and related procedures concerning cases of sexual exploitation of children, policies and programmes, as well as institutional and professional capacities of personnel responsible for protecting and assisting children who are victims, in order to ensure that judicial procedures do not inflict further abuse on child victims;
- Reinforce the collaboration between all States, all major European institutions as well as all sectors of civil society in the development of co-ordinated policies and strategies for the elimination of all forms of sexual exploitation of children and ensure that all existing and future coordination mechanisms include specific expertise, programmes and resources to address particular problems of child protection;
- Provide at all levels opportunities for children to be involved in the development of strategies and measures, as well as in the implementation of all actions against sexual exploitation of children, without transferring responsibility for combating sexual exploitation to children themselves;
- Encourage, support and take into account views and ideas of children and young people and therefore acknowledge that their representation and participation should be transformed into action;
- Encourage and improve monitoring of the situation in the region in order to ensure effective implementation of plans of action at national, sub-regional and regional levels in the field of protection of children against sexual exploitation. In this regard, we request the Council of Europe to carry out the task of monitoring with support of relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;
- Within the framework of the Council of Europe, provide follow-up and support for the practical application of Recommendation (2001) 16 on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and, more generally, the present Regional Commitment

- and Plan of Action. Within the same framework, and where possible in the framework of joint programmes with the European Commission, assistance should be granted to States to fulfil their commitments, in particular through information, documentation on experiences, comparative law studies and model legislation, good practice, training, and expertise as well as by identifying problems especially those related to resource needs, and organizing monitoring meetings and other activities. In addition, a prevention strategy at European level should be promoted;
- Implement this Commitment and Plan of Action for Europe and Central Asia and meet again in 2003 to review progress and outstanding challenges.

2.3 The Yokohama Global Commitment 2001

I. Our Follow-Up:

1. We, representatives from governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and members of civil society from around the world, have gathered together in Yokohama, Japan, at the Second World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (17-20 December 2001) ("The Yokohama Congress"). Five years after the First World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children held in Stockholm, Sweden in 1996, we have reviewed developments as a follow-up process to strengthen our commitment to protect children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

2. We reaffirm, as our primary considerations, the protection and promotion of the interests and rights of the child to be protected from all forms of sexual exploitation, and we welcome the following developments, visible in a number of countries, since the First World Congress:

- the greater emphasis on the rights of the child and the call for more effective implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by State Parties to create an environment where children are able to enjoy their rights ;
- the increasing mobilization of governments, local authorities and the non-governmental sector, as well as the international community, to promote and protect the rights of the child and to empower children and their families to safeguard their future;
- the adoption of multi-faceted, inter-disciplinary measures , including policies, laws, programmes, mechanisms , resources and dissemination of the rights of the child, to ensure that children are able to grow up in safety and dignity;
- enhanced actions against child prostitution, child pornography and trafficking of children for sexual purposes, including national and international agendas, strategies or plans of action to protect children from sexual exploitation , and new laws to criminalize this phenomenon, including provisions with extra-territorial effect;
- the promotion of more effective implementation/enforcement of policies, laws and gender-sensitive programmes to prevent and address the phenomenon of sexual exploitation of children, including information campaigns to raise awareness, better

- educational access for children, social support measures for families and children to counter poverty, action against criminality and the demand for sexual exploitation of children, and prosecution of those who exploit children;
- the provision of child-sensitive facilities such as telephone helplines, shelters, and judicial and administrative procedures to prevent violations of the rights of the child and to provide effective remedies;
 - the comprehensive, systematic and sustained involvement of the private sector, such as workers' and employers' organizations, members of the travel and tourism industry, the communications industry, including Internet service providers, and other businesses, in enhancing child protection, including their adoption and implementation of corporate policies and Codes of Conduct to protect children from sexual exploitation ;
 - greater participation by children and young people in promoting and protecting their rights, notably through young people's networks and forums and the involvement of young people as peer communicators and counselors;
 - the development of international and regional standards to protect children from sexual exploitation through new instruments, including the following: the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000); and the Convention on Cybercrime (2001), while noting relevant provisions of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (1998);
 - the entry into force of the International Labour Organization (ILO)'s Convention No.182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (complemented by ILO Recommendation No.190) on 19 November 2000, and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography on 18 January 2002;
 - the progress made in the preparations for the forthcoming Special Session of the General Assembly on Children, including its outcome document;
 - the emergence of a broader partnership among and between local and national governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, regional/sub-regional and international organizations, communities, and other key

actors, and closer linkage between the United Nations and other monitoring mechanisms on the issue, especially the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography of the Commission on Human Rights under the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

3. We take into account with appreciation the regional consultations held in Bangkok, Thailand; Rabat, Morocco; Dhaka, Bangladesh; Montevideo, Uruguay; Budapest, Hungary; and Philadelphia, United States of America (see Annex); and various national seminars leading up to the Yokohama Congress, and related activities, including those with young people's participation, and their conclusions and recommendations enriching the content of our follow-up action, and we encourage their effective implementation by governments that have participated in them in partnership with all stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations, intergovernmental organizations, and young people.

4. We recognize that much more needs to be done to protect children globally and express our concerns at the delays in the adoption of needed measures in various parts of the world.

II. Our Global Commitment:

5. We have come together to:

- reiterate the importance and the call for more effective implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by State parties and related instruments, and underline our belief in the rights of children to be protected from commercial sexual exploitation in the form of child prostitution, child pornography and trafficking of children for sexual purposes;
- encourage early ratification of the relevant international instruments, in particular, ILO Convention No.182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography;
- reaffirm our commitment to build a culture of respect for all persons based upon the principle of non-discrimination and to eliminate commercial sexual exploitation of children, in particular by sharing the lessons learnt since the First World Congress, and by improving cooperation in this regard;

- recommit to the Declaration and Agenda for Action of the First World Congress ("The Stockholm Declaration and Agenda for Action"), and in particular to developing national agendas, strategies or plans of action, designated focal points and comprehensive gender-disaggregated data collection, and effective implementation of measures, including child-rights based laws and law enforcement;
- reinforce our efforts against commercial sexual exploitation of children, in particular by addressing root causes that put children at risk of exploitation, such as poverty, inequality, discrimination, persecution, violence, armed conflicts, HIV/AIDS, dysfunctioning families, the demand factor, criminality, and violations of the rights of the child, through comprehensive measures, including improved educational access for children, especially girls, anti-poverty programmes, social support measures, public awareness-raising, physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration of child victims, and action to criminalize the commercial sexual exploitation of children in all its forms and in accordance with the relevant international instruments, while not criminalizing or penalizing the child victims;
- emphasize that the way forward is to promote closer networking among key actors to combat the commercial sexual exploitation of children at the international, inter-regional, regional/sub-regional, bilateral, national and local levels, in particular, among communities and the judicial, immigration and police authorities, as well as through initiatives interlinking the young people themselves;
- ensure adequate resource allocation to counter commercial sexual exploitation of children, and to promote education and information to protect children from sexual exploitation, including educational and training programmes on the rights of the child addressed to children, parents, law enforcers, service providers and other key actors;
- reiterate that an essential way of sustaining global action is through regional/sub-regional and national agendas, strategies or plans of action that build on regional/sub-regional and national monitoring mechanisms and through strengthening and reviewing existing international mechanisms with a monitoring process, to improve their effectiveness as well as the follow-up of their recommendations, and to identify any reforms that may be required;
- take adequate measures to address negative aspects of new technologies, in particular, child pornography on the Internet, while recognizing the potential of new technologies

for the protection of children from the commercial sexual exploitation, through dissemination and exchange of information and networking among partners:

- reaffirm the importance of the family and strengthen social protection of children, young people and families through awareness-raising campaigns and community-based surveillance/monitoring of commercial sexual exploitation of children;
- commit ourselves to promoting cooperation at all levels and to combining efforts to eliminate all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children worldwide;
- declare that the sexual exploitation of children must not be tolerated and pledge to act accordingly.