

## World Congress III Updates

### 1. Progress of preparations:

Several national and thematic preparatory events have taken place in the last four months.

In April 21-22, 2008, an Expert Consultation Meeting was held in Florence, Italy, to discuss Theme 1 of the Congress: Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Emerging Challenges. In June, Germany held its National Consultation on Commercial Sexual Exploitation. Also in June, Nin@sur Working Group for Human Rights Authorities held a meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina, with Mercosur and Associate countries to discuss Theme 5: International Cooperation Strategies. Additionally, Mexico hosted a thematic meeting with the support of ECPAT International and UNICEF on Engaging Men and Boys in Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Violence (5-7 August).

The planning of other preparatory expert and regional consultations is progressing with active participation of governments and other actors. These consultations are scheduled to take place in various parts of the world in the next three months, providing important inputs and recommendations for the Congress. Writers of background papers for each theme have been identified and the first outlines have been annotated.

The composition of the Expert Reference Group, who will provide comments to the thematic papers, has also been finalized. Additionally, a meeting to draft a proposal of the Congress's key messages was held at UNICEF Headquarters in New York on July 24-25, and resulted in a preliminary list of key communication messages.

### 2. Update on country situations

A compilation of national measures to prevent and combat sexual exploitation of children and adolescents since the World Congress II in Yokohama (2001) is being prepared for each country by UNICEF's Research Centre in Florence, Italy. The report is based on official sources, such as the latest findings from the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, official responses provided by Governments to the questionnaire prepared for the United Nations Study on Violence against Children, and official reports from the five year review of the United Nations Special Session on the Child (December 2007).

Governments are asked to review this report and return it – in addition to the form provided for information updates – to Professor Jaap Doek, General Rapporteur of the World Congress III, by August 31. (Email: lcerovic@unicef.org)

### 3. Event Format

The Congress will be structured around five key themes: Theme 1: New Dimensions of Sexual Exploitation; Theme 2: Legal Frameworks and Enforcement; Theme 3: Integrated Inter-Sectoral Policies; Theme 4: Role of the Private Sector and Corporate Social Responsibility; and Theme 5: Strategies for International Cooperation.

Each Congress theme will be addressed in a Plenary Session, consisting of an overview presentation of the topic followed by presentations made by invited panelists.



Following each panel, simultaneous Workshops will be held to allow Congress participants to further discuss specific topics. Additionally, "Dialogue Sessions" will also be conducted to allow deeper exchanges among Governments, Parliamentarians, the private sector, faith based organizations, etc.

### 4. Government participation:

In April, the Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations sent invitations to the World Congress III to all UN Member States. In July, the Department of Human Rights of the Ministry of Foreign Relations issued an official note to Brazilian Embassies around the world to reemphasize the invitation. The Brazilian government will soon provide detailed information regarding the participation of governments during the Congress and will also organize a meeting for all of the embassies present in Brasilia. In partnership with UNICEF, information and mobilization sessions will also take place in New York and Geneva.

Government representatives participating at the Congress will have the opportunity to share national policies, programs, initiatives, lessons learned and innovative experiences during special *Intergovernmental Dialogue Sessions*. Governments will be invited to provide to the Executive Secretariat of the Congress, a registration to these Sessions, indicating the theme of interest and the name of the high level delegate who will be presenting. The deadline for registration is to be determined by the Central Organizing Committee.

### 5. Adolescent participation:

#### *a. Participation in the Congress:*

The Central Organizing Committee is in the final stages of defining the selection criteria for the participation of adolescents and the role they will play during the Congress. Meetings are currently being held around the world to raise awareness and mobilize young people and civil society against sexual exploitation

#### *b. Adolescent/Youth Media Project:*

UNICEF Brazil, in partnership with Viração Magazine, has created a child-friendly blog to mobilize adolescents around the Congress themes. The articles and reports published in the blog are written by specialists, Congress organizers, and especially, adolescents themselves. The journalistic materials produced for the blog (video, audio, photos, etc) will be developed in accordance with monthly subjects related to the Congress.



## Welcome World Congress III Participants



Update, August 2008

*The Special Secretariat for Human Rights is honoured to have been appointed by the Brazilian Government as the institution responsible for organizing the III World Congress Against the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents.*

*This assignment in accordance with the role of the SEDH in articulating the actions of the Federal Government in the promotion, guarantee and defence of the rights of children and adolescents.*

*Brazil welcomes all participants to the III World Congress and is proud to host this important event which will address an issue that has significantly prevented the realization of the rights of children all over the world.*

*The sexual exploitation of children and adolescents is a violation of human rights and must be combated by all. Families, governments, civil society, the private sector, international organizations – all have responsibilities and contributions to make.*

*The agenda for this World Congress III, under preparation, will attempt to give a voice to all, and assume important responsibilities to protect the rights of children.*

*In this note, you will find updated information about the preparatory process and opportunities about the way to participate.*

*Paulo Vannuchi, Minister of the Special Secretariat of Human Rights  
Brazil*

