

# The UN Study on Violence against Children: Overview of the global process, and progress in the East Asia Pacific region

Dominique Pierre Plateau, Save the Children Sweden SEAPRO, 6 March 2008



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# Background

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**The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended an in-depth global study on violence against children, based on the CRC General Discussions days in 2000/2001**

**The UN Study was requested by the UN Secretary General in 2002 and its implementation begun in 2003**

**In 2005, 9 regional consultations including one in SEAP were held, actively involving children and governments**

**The UN Study report was presented at the UN General Assembly in NYC on 11 October 2006. The World report was released in Geneva on 20 November 2006.**



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# Key Actors

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UNICEF, OHCHR and WHO on behalf of the UN system

The independent expert: Professor Paulo Pinheiro

The UN Study Secretariat (Geneva), led by Director Amaya Gillespie

The NGO Advisory Panel (Child Rights Organizations/Experts/Advocates who also represented different regions in the world)

The NGO Group for the CRC Sub Group on Children and Violence

Children and young people

Regional and national focal points

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# Key information sources

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UN Study webpage: [www.violencestudy.org](http://www.violencestudy.org)

CRIN violence: [www.crin.org/violence/](http://www.crin.org/violence/)

Global initiative: [www.endcorporalpunishment.org](http://www.endcorporalpunishment.org)



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# The NGO Advisory Council

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Its primary purpose is to encourage and maintain NGO involvement at national, regional and international levels in follow-up advocacy with governments, UN agencies and others for full implementation of the Study's recommendations.

## East Asia & Pacific:

Irene V. Fonacier-Fellizar,  
Center for the Promotion, Advocacy and Protection of the  
Rights of the Child Foundation, Inc.



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# Petition for a SRSG on Violence against children

## Key aspects of his/her mandate:

- 1. to enhance visibility and attention to all forms of violence against children and advocate for its elimination;
- 2. to support the implementation and monitoring of the Study's recommendations;
- 3. to identify and share good practices;
- 4. to ensure coordination and communication among all key actors.



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# The Independent Expert progress report

*'I have relentlessly stated that the efforts to develop such a comprehensive study would have no value if the destiny of the Study report would be the elegant shelves of international offices.*

*Since the beginning, it was clear that the report and its recommendations should represent a platform for action. The findings and recommendations detailed in the report should be studied and discussed by all relevant stakeholders at global, regional, national and local levels for a sense of ownership to be developed and concrete action to be taken to protect children from violence.'*

P.S. Pinheiro, 62 session General Assembly, 19 October 2007, New York



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# UNICEF's commitment

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*'my responsibilities coming into UNICEF focus on continuing this leadership role of UNICEF in the follow-up to the Study.'*

*The investment in the Study by so many organizations and partners has been significant, and the expectations are high for fulfilling the recommendations of the Study. It is very clear that we must work even harder in this follow-up process if we are to truly realize the investment in the Study process so far.'*

*Hilde F. Johnson, UNICEF Deputy Executive Director, 18 October 2007*



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# UN General Assembly Child Rights Resolution 2007

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49. *Urges* all States to exercise leadership to end all forms of violence against children and support advocacy in this regard at all levels, including at the local, national, regional and international levels, and by all sectors, especially by political, community and religious leaders, as well as the public and private sectors, the media and civil society;

58. *Requests* the Secretary-General to appoint for a period of three years a Special Representative on violence against children, at the highest possible level.



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# The Committee on the Rights of the Child

*‘The Committee believes that providing adequate institutional capacity to ensure follow-up to the recommendations of the report is essential in order to promote the study and advance implementation of the recommendations.*

*The Committee urges all United Nations member States to commit themselves to further supporting the Study.’*

Dr Yanghee Lee, Chair, CRC, 17 October 2007, New York



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# Save the Children's commitment

*'We reiterate our complete commitment to combating violence against children globally. We welcome UNICEF's commitment to developing and promoting protection for children and integrating this into a preventive framework linked with education, health and the MDGs. Save the Children looks forward to more joint efforts with UNICEF, particularly as we both concurrently strive to better address protection needs'*

Görel Bogärde, UN Representative, International Save the Children Alliance  
Statement for the UNICEF Executive Board First Regular Session 2008: January 29- February 1, 2008.



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# New resources that encourage action

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**UNICEF – IPU: Handbook ‘Eliminating Violence against children’**

**Global Initiative: Prohibiting corporal punishment of children – A guide to legal reform and other measures**

**NGO Group for the CRC: Guidelines for NGOs reporting violence against children to the CRC**



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# Human Rights Council

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**The proposal for the resolution on the rights of the child includes follow up to the UN Study.**

**Proposed thematic focus for 2008: corporal punishment and children's participation.**



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# Bangkok 14-16 June 2005

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The Consultation recognized that violence against children is a serious social problem in the East Asia and Pacific Region.

The recommendations issued by the Consultation reflect the urgency of fully implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in countries in the East Asia Pacific, so that children, as a minimum, are treated with the same respect as adults.

The Consultation stressed Governments' responsibility to deal with the problem, together with UN agencies, NGOs, civil society and communities.



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# National launches

## YES

Mongolia (November 2006)

Fiji (November 2006)

Korea (November 2006)

Indonesia (November 2006)

Papua New Guinea (November 2007)

Philippines (March 2008 with National Strategic Framework on Violence against Children)

## NO

Cambodia

Vietnam

Lao PDR

New Zealand

Thailand

Japan



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# Translation of the report/executive summary

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Bahasa Indonesia

Vietnamese

Korean

Mongolian

Thai

Mandarin Chinese



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# Government focal points

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Indonesia

Korea

Mongolia

Papua New Guinea

Philippines

Thailand

Vietnam



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# Gaps and limitations in law and policy

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Inadequate laws

Lack of national policies on child protection



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# Child Protection services and training

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Services not child-friendly and difficult to access

Limited training of professionals

Limited research to inform progress on child protection



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# Children's Participation in child protection

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Very limited involvement of children and young people

Limited structures/channels to facilitate their involvement

Lack of legislation to guarantee the right to participation



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# Overall

Protection = Assistance to the underprivileged

No focus on prevention

No understanding of a rights framework for child protection

Lack of multidisciplinary strategy for child protection

Few effective coordination mechanisms

Few independent mechanism on children's rights that include child protection



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Thank you for your attention



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