



Every child has the right to be protected from all forms of violence



**The MENA Regional Consultation on Violence Against Children
for the United Nations Study on Violence Against Children**

**Outcome Document of the Regional Consultation
July 2005**

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Section 1: PREFACE

Acknowledgements

This report was prepared by the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood. Drafts of this report were reviewed by participating UN organizations, the World Bank and members of the steering committee and the report was revised in response to their comments.

The NCCM would like to thank in particular UNICEF, the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the UN Study on Violence Secretariat, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the World Bank, the NGO Coalition on Child Rights, the Arab Council for Childhood and Development and Save the Children for their support. This report also benefited from children and public comments received between March and June 2005 via an electronic discussion, a pre-consultation meeting with children representatives from (list countries) and the responses to questionnaires received from representative government authorities in the region. We would also like to acknowledge government, civil society, children and media representatives who actively participated in the regional consultations and provided feedback to the regional report on violence which was presented.

Acknowledgement is also due to drafting committee that was established in the course of the consultation meeting, the author of the regional report and the different teams that supported its production.

Annexes to this report include a detailed description of these different inputs and comments. This report and its annexes can be downloaded from the UN Study on Violence Secretariat website at <http://www.violencestudy.org/>, as well as the NCCM website: www.nccm.org.eg.

The recommendations and content expressed in this report are entirely those of the various entities that were represented throughout the regional consultation process which extended over the period from November 2004 – June 2005. They should not be attributed in any manner to any individual organization or the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood.

Section 2: Executive Summary

The MENA regional consultation was designed as a highly interactive and participatory process that involved a diverse range of stakeholders including government entities with policy making and executive responsibilities in the child rights sector, regional and national civil society representatives, opinion leaders, activists and media professionals. A prominent feature of the process was the participation of children from 9 different countries from the region (Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Tunisia, Yemen, Qatar, Bahrain, Algeria, and Sudan) representing different socio economic, cultural and education backgrounds, both in the preparation process and the actual consultation

The overall regional preparatory process was coordinated by the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood which is the highest national body responsible for policy making, coordinating and follow-up of the child rights agenda in Egypt. Chaired by H.E. Ambassador Moushira Khattab, Secretary General of the NCCM, the steering committee of the consultation included representatives from the following organizations (attached)

On the other hand, countries in the region established **national committees on violence** to facilitate dialogue raise awareness and mobilize participation of stakeholders including children in the national preparatory process. The national committees are intended as follow up mechanisms to coordinate the commitment to the Cairo Declaration emanating from the consultations at the national level and support regional initiatives on violence.

From October 2004 to May 2005, the regional steering committee held several meetings to discuss and finalize the agenda and arrangements for the consultation. The process was highly participatory and benefited from the diversity of experiences and insights that the various members brought.

During their final meeting, the steering committee reached consensus that the regional consultation should be a springboard to a regional movement against all forms of violence using the media, established national committees on violence and voices of children to enhance the visibility of the topic and eliminate the sensitivity and silence on many forms of violence across the region.

Violence in the region can be classified based on the setting where it takes place to 4 types:

- Violence in the home setting
- Violence in schools
- Violence in institutional settings
- Violence in the community and on the street

The **regional desktop review** presented an overview of the incidence and patterns of violence in each of these settings. The review was based on replies by the government to the questionnaire prepared by the UN secretariat for the study of Violence Against Children, committee observations on the SP reports submitted to the committee, and a compilation of literature on violence in the region. Nevertheless, the lack of sufficient of data on unreported

incidents of violence, such as school-based or home-based violence, violence in institutional settings or forms of violence that fall under cultural or traditional practices including, honor killings and FGM, still represented a challenge to a reliable assessment of the magnitude of the problem across the region.

According to the **review and discussions that took place at the regional consultation**, legislations across the region lacked adequate enforcement to provide the necessary protection for children against violence. The review and subsequent presentations made at the consultation also revealed a number of legislative gaps that needed to be addressed in terms of ensuring the conformity of national legislations with the provisions of the Convention of the Rights of the Child. **In terms of programs and policies**, the outcome of the regional consultation highlighted a number of good practices in different countries. However the challenge remains in scaling up these initiatives at the national and regional levels to extend the protection umbrella to all children particularly disadvantaged groups.

Finally, **in terms of awareness, advocacy, customs and traditions**, there was a clear consensus throughout the consultation process that much needs to be done in terms of clarifying that violence must not be used as a disciplinary and child upbringing intervention in all settings. A strong emphasis was made on the need for monitoring tools and mechanisms in the various settings to allow for violence reporting, counseling and other types of support services that can ultimately reverse these negative practices.

In terms of vulnerability of certain groups of children, the consultation revealed that children with disabilities, girls, working children, children in institutions and those living on streets were exposed to abuse and maltreatment and a higher risk of sexual exploitation and other forms of violence. There was a clear consensus in the consultation process that extensive efforts should be made toward the detection, reporting and criminalization of such forms of violence. Human resources, relevant experience and skills needed to deal effectively with managing, detecting and preventing the incidence of violence were cited as challenges across the region.

The Voices of the Children were clear and loud to express that violence in whatever form will and can no longer be tolerated. Children expressed their appreciation for being an active constituency in the consultations and commended the platform as a first and welcome step to eliminate the practice. Children delegates spoke elaborately of weak enforcement mechanisms and the need to develop the appropriate child-sensitive measures that would support reporting of violence by children to the respective authorities. Voices of the children stressed empowerment through knowledge and awareness-raising as a priority for children, families and caretakers in schools and institutions. Across the region, the societal reaction to violence against children -whether passive or that of acceptance- needs to be addressed through awareness raising and through the vital role of media channels. Children also focused on their roles in the implementation of some of the presented recommendations.

Overall, the **child-adult interaction** was an outstanding feature of the consultation. Children participated in all sessions and were given both space and time to express liberally their views. Reactions to the children's statements were very positive in terms of the level of

support their viewpoints and recommendations received and the reflection of their insights and experiences in the final outputs of the consultations.

The recommendations that evolved from the consultation focused on several principles, mainly:

Mobilizing the public opinion against all forms of violence and abuse against children, including physical, sexual and psychological violence, that could affect their growth or their human rights, and calling for the protection of children from discrimination and all forms of violence.

Providing studies and data on the types and the size of violence against children in all the different settings, and seeking to facilitate exchange of information among parties concerned at both national and regional levels;

Developing an integrated model (s) for identifying and monitoring incidents of violence, and to set up unified indicators for accurately following up children's protection;

Reviewing national laws to ensure conformity with the Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC), and tackling legal loopholes in conformity with an overall Rights' perspective and in the best interest of children;

Raising children's awareness of their rights, and spreading the culture of peace and dialogue, with the aim of changing negative concepts and erroneous beliefs in children's upbringing and education, and settling disputes peacefully, and dedicating a major role for government and private media in spreading such culture;

Capacity-building of those in charge of the upbringing and educational process of children, including parents, teachers, physicians, police officers, judiciary staff, social workers, psychiatrists and all those dealing with children in all sites;

Activating principles of community participation and responsibility among all governmental authorities concerned, NGOs, media, private sector, professional and other specialists, with the particular participation of children in phases of planning, implementation and follow-up;

Empowering children and raising their awareness of their rights and duties, and means of protecting themselves against any form of violence, while urging them to report of any abuse or violence, and providing the appropriate mechanisms for that;

Strengthening partnerships at the regional and national levels, in order to come up with a model for protecting children, based on prompt and early intervention for protecting children, who are subject to hazards, and enhancing them with the basic services that guarantee healthy growth and safe childhood.

Chapter 1: Introduction

Violence against children is a devastating and common issue throughout the MENA region, like other parts of the world, which takes different shapes and forms such as violence in the schools, homes and in the streets. There are many forms of violence affecting girls in the region: marginalization, early marriage, deprivation of education, female genital mutilation/cutting, and honour killings. Yet despite the variety and severity of the issues, violence against children or even adults is very often hidden and still too little discussed publicly. Systematic information in the region based on data from surveys and research is also very limited, but there is evidently an increased awareness on the issue amongst the different media channels.

The impact of armed conflict on children cannot be ignored as several countries in the region such as Sudan, Iraq, Occupied Palestinian Territories and Algeria, are at present affected by internal and/or cross border conflicts. Children in situations of armed conflict are in a vulnerable situation where in addition to the risk of being killed or disabled as a result of injury can be victims of sexual violence which is increasingly being used as a systematic policy of war.¹ Also a study conducted on Palestinian children found a correlation between conflict situation and the increase in violence within schools and homes.²

In light of the general objectives of the UN study on Violence and the particular characteristics of the MENA region, the regional consultation aimed at realizing the following objectives:

- The preparation of a comprehensive assessment that will provide an in-depth regional picture of the problem of violence against children, to be presented as part of the UN Study on Violence to the Commission on Human Rights at its sixty-second session and thereafter to the General Assembly.
- The development of a strategic framework and recommendations aimed at effectively preventing, combating and advocating against all forms of violence against children, outlining key steps to be taken at the regional level for effective prevention, protection, intervention, treatment, recovery and reintegration at the national level.
- The creation of dynamic and effective networks and partnerships directed at the elimination of violence against children, both at the regional and national levels.

Scope of the Regional Consultation

Due to the limited information available on violence against children in the MENA region, all forms of violence that children can and may be exposed to were considered within the scope

¹ The December 2003 report “Children in the Arab World: Understanding the Present, Shaping the Future”

² *ibid*

of the consultation process and its outputs. Different forms of violence were grouped per specific 'settings' where violence against children occurs as follows:

- Violence in the home and family
- Violence in schools
- Violence in other institutional settings and alternative care (orphanages, homes for disabled, detention, etc.)
- Violence in the community and on the streets, including violence by law enforcement officials and in the work place

The following cross cutting themes have also been identified, as priority cross cutting themes that would be taken into consideration:

- Linkages between violence and poverty/development
- Violence against children in armed conflicts
- Violence based on gender and other forms of discrimination (including those against indigenous groups)
- Violence through the internet

Outputs

The consultation process, over the course of its design and implementation, was intended to produce the following outputs:

- A regional report that includes a detailed description and an analytical overview of the incidence and patterns of violence in the different settings; taking into consideration socioeconomic, cultural and gender disparities.
- A declaration representing the commitment of all participating regional organizations and entities to continuing the work process on preventing and combating violence at the regional and national levels
- A regional network that will act as a platform for discussion, sharing and disseminating experiences and knowledge on violence against children.
- A demonstrated partnership with the private sector to become more effectively engaged in addressing violence against children through the internet
- A set of recommendations identifying areas of priorities that need to be tackled.

Chapter 2: Highlights of the Regional Consultation

In overall terms the consultations witnessed high and senior level participation. The UN Independent Expert on the Study Mr. Paul Pinheiro joined Ms. Rima Salah, UNICEF Deputy Executive Director and H.E. Ambassador Moushira Khattab in her capacity as Secretary

General of the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood, the hosting national entity and as a Vice chair for the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, in opening the regional consultation.

Statements made during the opening session stressed the level of commitment required from governments and societies across the region to address the issue of violence in all its forms and in all settings. Efforts by governments to draft legislations and their commitment to the CRC were commended yet it was also made clear that much more needs to be done in terms of general measures of implementation including law enforcement, dismantling cultural misperceptions, empowering children and setting up the appropriate structures and mechanisms that support their development and brings an end to any violent practice in the home, school, institution or community setting. In many ways, the region was seen as progressing in terms of advancing its child rights agenda across many sectors including health, education and social protection. Yet it was also clear that violence among other threats to child development needed to be addressed as a mainstream priority on sectoral agendas across the region.

A presentation of the regional report was made during the opening session focusing on gaps and challenges in current policies and legislations that need to be addressed.

The closing ceremony was chaired by H.E. Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak, Egypt's First Lady. The session was a vibrant seat for more than 300 participants from civil society, media and children representatives in addition to country delegates and senior government officials from the host country, Egypt. In her closing statement, Mrs. Mubarak called upon regional governments and civil society to address violence as an integral element on the child rights agenda and as a priority that needs to be urgently addressed. Egypt's First lady also announced the launch of a new hotline for children to report violence incidents promising to continue the regional dialogue on violence and to foster regional collaboration in this regard.

Participants Profile

High level participation was maintained throughout the 3-days. The diversity of participants groups reflected an understanding of the cross-cutting nature and complexity of the problem. The consultations attracted individuals, institutes, organizations and entities representing a mix of skills, experiences and interests ranging from anthropology, to medicine, justice, law enforcement, child development, human rights, education, religion, media, business, IT, among others. Over 600 people throughout the 3 days participated in the consultation, including government officials, ministers, civil society, independent experts, and others.

The mobility of participants between parallel sessions reflected a high degree of interest in the topics addressed on the consultation agenda. The sessions included sufficient time for Q & A which was a good opportunity for a regional exchange of knowledge and practices. Networking amongst participating NGOs was a prominent feature of the consultation. Through out the consultation children participated equally and were given priority to speak. The children held a pre-consultation event which contributed to their participation in the consultation.

Agenda Design

The 3-day consultation was a highly interactive platform for discussing issues using different tools. Children voices were an integral feature of the consultation. More than 27 children (14 girls and 13 boys) participated in all the sessions. Discussions following presentations were characterized by a high degree of candidacy that was encouraged by the chairmen and rapporteurs of the different sessions.

The plenary sessions that were organized every day for all participants were also a forum for a lively debate on violence in the region addressing its various aspects. While consensus was unanimous on the need to advocate against the practice of violence under any circumstance and/or for any reason, the discussions and debates revealed a high demand for knowledge, practices and experiences to effectively address the problem. Particularly in settings where the practice of violence may be invisible to the public as in the case of home settings, or where violence is met with a passive public reaction as in the school setting or where violence becomes a common practice to discipline children in institutional settings.

Thematic Selection

The discussions in these sessions were divided between policies and legislation sessions and customs, advocacy, awareness and monitoring sessions. Both sessions received equal attention from the participants. While the policies and legislations sessions focused on the gaps and inconsistencies in different laws and policies that needed to be addressed as well as the weaknesses in enforcement mechanisms, there was clearly a huge gap in experience available across the region on how to address barriers of customs, traditions, awareness and advocacy. Monitoring mechanisms were perceived as a priority by all and a few good practices were cited mainly in the form of hotlines, and committees for the detection of violence.

Special Sessions relevant to the MENA context

The agenda of the consultations included 3 sessions that were designed on the basis of their particular relevance to the incidence of violence in the region as well as to cope with emerging realities in the globalized world. These were:

- Violence against Children in Armed Conflict
- Violence through the Internet
- Violence and the Media.

The recommendations of the first two sessions are attached separately as annexes to this report. The panel on children in armed conflict reinforced the messages put forth in the Graca Machel study, and also highlighted the nature of conflicts today – where the direct impact on civilians is felt much stronger. There is a need for holistic, multidisciplinary and prevention based approaches. It is worth noting that the participation of the private sector in sponsoring the session on "Violence through the Internet" was one of the consultation's special features that brought a different tone of dynamism to the event, further reinforced by the speech delivered by the SG of Egypt's NCCM on "child safety on the net", which highlighted the importance of this issue and the necessary collaboration with private sectors and NGOs.

The presentation and discussions that followed during the session triggered many questions and revealed many of the risks that children can be exposed to. More importantly however, it was a good opportunity for the private sector to demonstrate its social responsibility toward children as part of its corporate mandate. The final statement made by the regional Microsoft representative in the closing ceremony reflected a clear commitment to working with the industry toward reducing the risk of violence through the internet.

In the third session, participants agreed on the significance of the role that media plays in promoting certain patterns of violence and also in facilitating the relationship between the children and other social actors. The need to promote dialogue between children and other groups within society was seen as one way of addressing barriers currently encountered in addressing social reaction to violence.

Note: Though the original agenda did not require a presentation by children on these special sessions, children were fast to react and to provide valuable input into these sessions.

Speakers Profiles

The steering committee of the consultation spent a considerable amount of time to first develop selection criteria for speakers and then to finalize and confirm the selection process. Among the criteria was the need to ensure the balance between regional representation and diversity of experiences required to enhance the quality of the consultation and address all aspects of violence, its incidence and the various elements of the prevention, management and monitoring agenda.

As such, legal, institutional, monitoring, prevention, awareness and social protection aspects of the violence agenda were covered among others. A number of country/case experiences were also presented where the incidence/magnitude of violence was highlighted using visual illustrations as a tool to break the silence and address the passive societal reaction to the magnitude of the problem.

Children's Participation and Voices

Children's participation accounted for the spirit of the consultations where intergenerational barriers collapsed as the participating children expressed themselves with impressive voices reflecting confidence, competence, and a sense of determination and commitment to share the responsibility of preventing and combating violence.

From an empowerment standpoint, the consultations platform offered children the opportunity to break the silence on many issues relating to violence in the region. Children spoke rather liberally and coherently on the use of violence in schools and in home settings. Children also reflected a very clear understanding of the magnitude and impact of violence particularly on disadvantaged groups including disabled children, working children, street children and children in institutional settings. Speaking candidly but also proactively, children expressed different types of actions that are required at different levels, whether policy, legislations, monitoring, advocacy and awareness-raising.

The agenda of the consultation offered -through a variety of interactive sessions-the opportunity for children to deliver statements presenting recommendations to stakeholders as well as to other children, address and respond to questions as well as to join debates with representatives of government, civil society and religious leaders on the question of the use of violence as a disciplinary measure and the impact on children of not recognizing their full rights as spelled out in the Convention of the Rights of the Child. For the participating children group, it was evident that the CRC represented a framework not only for national legislations but for policies, strategies, decisions, actions and initiatives that were the responsibility for many entities. Children's delegates from the various countries expressed a very high level of understanding of national legislations and spoke of gaps in enforcement as a result of negative traditions, passive parents' attitudes and lack of monitoring mechanisms.

Media Coverage

The media plan that was designed for the regional consultation aimed at enhancing the visibility of the event while seizing the opportunity to unveil many hidden truths about all forms of violence against children. The plan was based on mobilizing printed and broadcast national, regional and international media and triggering their interest in the regional consultation using a variety of tools. These included:

- Since the inception of the Steering Committee, systematic media announcements of the regional consultations, its objectives and agenda were communicated to the press and media to brief them on the consultation and the process of its preparation
- A press conference that was organized prior to the event where local and international media representatives participated. The press conference was co-chaired by the Secretary General of the NCCM, the Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF, and the Secretary General of ACCD.
- A special session on violence in the media was organized. The session focused on a number of presentations including that of a TV program where children exposed to violence communicated their experiences.
- Press kits including papers and presentations made during the conference were available in a press corner
- A press station was set up in the consultation venue for journalists and media personnel to communicate with their teams and report live and daily briefs on the proceedings of the consultations.

As a result, the regional consultation received extensive media coverage through television and the press. The key messages were focused on the active participation of children and the clear call by government delegates and the representatives of civil society to bring an end to all forms of violence. The event was a media breakthrough given the traditional sensitivity of the issue across the region and the cultural perception of adult-child relationship which usually does not offer the opportunity for interaction that the consultation platform provided space for.

In many ways, the objectives set by the media plan were met in terms of scope and quality of coverage the consultation received. Media paid particular attention to the recommendations

that emanated from the sessions particularly those relating to monitoring and policies. This particular feature of the consultation should be followed up in order not to lose the momentum generated nor the public awareness that has been triggered. Finally, it should be noted that the regional consultation have paved the way for a public debate that needs to be followed up at the regional and national level whereby some inconsistencies on the use and forms of violence expressed by different groups should be addressed.

Drafting Committee for the Cairo Declaration

For many participants and delegates, the regional consultation was an opportunity that could not be missed to speak on any type of violence without any sensitivity or cultural barrier. As such, the spirit of the event was an inspiration for delegates to form from within themselves a group that they referred to as the drafting committee. The output of the group was the Cairo Declaration which expressed a commitment to combat violence as a right for every child beyond the consultations. All parties represented at the consultation were provided with a draft of the declaration for their views and inputs before the final version was announced.

The impact of the declaration was profound in terms of bringing alive a sense of responsibility that was shared by all to break the wall of silence and initiate plans to bring an end to forms of violence practiced in the region. Indeed the declaration provided a basis for the commitment made by all participating governments to produce national plans of action addressing violence at the sectoral levels and as a prominent feature of child rights programs and policies. It was also agreed that all parties will convene within 6 months – 1 year to review the status of these national plans. See Annex 9 for the full text of the Cairo Declaration.

Chapter 3: Recommendations and Follow Up

Recommendations:

The following section presents the recommendations in two parts. The first part is a summary of all recommendations made throughout the consultation workshop whether by children, government and non-governmental institutions and/or professional experts as well as the private sector representatives. The second part is the detailed set of recommendations emanating from the various sessions.

Part One: Summary of All Recommendations

The presentation of these recommendations **addresses violence against children, as a negative/criminal behavior that should, without exception, be recognized as a violation of children rights and subsequently managed effectively to alleviate both its impact and causes, and to take effective measures in order to eliminate all forms of violence against children at the national levels.**

The following set of recommendations also addresses the **prevention and monitoring of violence through promoting a conducive and proactive social environment that promotes meaningful child empowerment and participation as well as facilitates the**

behavioral changes required by parents, families, and care takers in institutions who practice/tolerate violence as an accepted social behavior.

As such, this summary of recommendations will not draw the distinction between the practice of violence in the various settings as has been the case in earlier sections of the report. Rather, recommendations are being presented in relevance to the overall goal/purpose they are intended to achieve.

Goal (1): To recognize all forms of violence as negative/criminal behavior and a violation of children rights:

- Review domestic laws and regulations in order to ensure their full conformity with the principles and provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Address the legal and enforcement needs to effectively implement the provisions of the CRC.
- Set up family courts and adoption of friendly rules in the investigations so that they are protected from familial violence.
- Amend existing laws, as a priority, to incriminate the practice of female genital mutilation, imposing harsh punishments on crimes of honor, while ensuring that the appropriate enforcement mechanisms are put in place and operational.
- Enforce relevant legislations and address gaps in laws in order to effectively penalize those who commit violence in any form, including sexual and economic exploitation
- Prohibit forced child labor in institutions.
- Abolish imposition of capital punishment on all persons under 18 years of age and the use of cruel punishments, including corporal punishment on children, in all institutions and settings.
- Enforce relevant legislations, investigate and prosecute the perpetrators, ensuring that the child is not victimized in proceedings and that his/her privacy is respected, with special attention to child witnesses or victims of crime.
- Set-up child-sensitive mechanisms to receive investigate and prosecute complaints against law enforcement officials regarding ill-treatment during arrest, questioning and police custody and in detention centers.

Goal (2) To promote a conducive and proactive social environment that advocates against violence and promotes effective behavioral changes.

Children's participation

- Recognize children's rights to express their views.
- Facilitate children's involvement in the legal proceedings by adopting and implementing child-sensitive special measures, such as videotaped testimonies.
- Set up children's parliaments, councils of children, NGOs, etc.
- Take measures to establish, in collaboration with children, peer support mechanisms for children, e.g. websites and on-line chat for children.
- Involve children in setting standards for accountability, monitoring, reporting and promoting awareness against all forms of violence in all settings.

Parents, families and caretakers

- Parental training and skill enhancement on sound upbringing, using alternative means of sound upbringing and establishing dialogue with their children.

Child Care Institutions

- Standard Setting for protection against violence in all child care institutions (schools, shelters, correctional facilities, home institutions among others).
- Promote alternative, non-violent practices, including non-violent disciplinary measures and awareness on violence in institutions by publishing informative material on it.

Coordination, Sharing, Disseminating Knowledge and Best Practices

- Establish a mechanism for disseminating research on violence against children in the region.
- Set up a regional inventory for data and studies including published and unpublished material.
- Enhance the role of the Arab League as a regional platform for sharing experiences and advocacy against violence.
- Form a coordination committee from Arab/MENA NGOs to serve as a follow-up mechanism on the role of civil society.

Developing Research Skills and Capacity

- Conduct a regional study on sexual violence.
- Compile data and intensify studies on violence against children as well as publishing the results.
- The state should make available a tool for data collection on cases of violence against children that are being reported in collaboration with civil society organizations, professional syndicates, and international organizations.
- Conduct a comparative regional study on the mechanisms for reporting.

Community and Corporate Social Responsibility

- Engage in partnerships with the private sector and civil society to address children rights on a priority driven basis to enhance the visibility of negative behavior such as violence.
- Recognize private sector and civil society representatives for scaling up best practices.
- Make available the necessary access, data and information to support the resources of private sector and civil society in addressing violence in the various settings.
- Extend the necessary support to community and corporate resources to enhance monitoring and reporting of violence in the various settings.

Public Awareness Initiatives to bring about behavioral change

- Organize an annual children's march throughout Arab Nations to curb the practice of all forms of violence in all settings.
- Recognize proactive leadership in advocating and acting against violence amongst children, adults, and institutions.
- Use “non-formal education” as a good and effective tool to convey messages on violence (including through art, theatre, etc.).
- Organize communication campaigns.

Elimination of Violence in Ongoing Children, Family and Social Support programmes

- Mainstream children’s rights -including protection against violence- in planned/ongoing poverty reduction strategies, programs and interventions.
- Mainstream the children rights agenda in policies, programs and/or interventions targeting the family.
- Mainstream activities on violence against children in planned/ongoing children’s programs/initiatives.
- Promote the protection of the physical integrity of the child in health and social care programs.
- Render education compulsory and free for all children including special groups listed below, with the aim of developing mental and spiritual values and moral ethics.
- Introduce alternative pedagogic and educational methodologies, such as socio-psychological intervention in upbringing and education.
- Set up violence detection, monitoring and counseling facilities in communities, schools and institutions that are equipped with trained personnel and ensure a child’s right to privacy and protection.

Goal (3): To address the needs of Special Groups of Children

This group includes children who are slow learners and others experiencing learning difficulties, high risk children including street children, working children, abandoned children and orphans, child refugee and asylum seekers, and those suffering single or multiple disability. The most vulnerable among those are girls and children under 5. This group also includes children who have been actually exposed to violence. Recommendations are:

- Establish specialized centers or multidisciplinary institutions to provide all children, and particularly child victims of violence, with adequate counseling and recovery services. Appoint social workers to assist children with this respect.
- Make the children more aware of their rights and how they can be enforced.
- Ensure that the child care giver is aware of children rights and the mechanisms available for detection and management of any violation.
- Promote support from other children and community members to those special groups.

Part Two: Detailed set of recommendations from the various sessions

Violence in the Home Key recommendations

& Family

General Plenary recommendation:

- Breaking the silence and opening up channels and mechanisms for reporting and monitoring violence incidences, which assaulted children or those witnessing incidents of violence could have access to, while providing the necessary protection for them.
- Parental training and skill enhancement on sound upbringing, using alternative means of sound upbringing and establishing dialogue with their children.
- Amending existing laws, as a priority, to incriminate the practice of female genital mutilation, imposing harsh punishments on crimes of honor, while ensuring that the appropriate enforcement mechanisms are put in place and operational.

Recommendations by the Children

- Organize awareness raising sessions/seminars to advocate for the importance of child care
- Enact laws protecting children from violence at homes especially beating
- Activate the positive role of the media (audio-visual-print), and dedicate them for education and changing false ideas
- Improve the family's social and living standards and take care of the needy because poor economic conditions play a role in creating violent mentalities and psychologies
- Establish special child courts that decide in cases of violence in the family in the presence of officials to protect the complainer and give the rights of the child subject of violence
- Separate the abuser/ party responsible for the act of violence from the family and provide him/her with psychological treatment forcing him/her to provide income for the family during that period - if he/she were the family provider. Provide treatment for the abused (victim) at the same time without separation from the family.
- Treat addicts in specialized centers by doctors and specialists with the purpose of rehabilitation.
- Family planning and distanced birth expectancy to ensure more effective upbringing and the preservation of the pregnant mother's health.
- Organize visits to families by social and psychological specialists to oversee families suffering from regular violence
- Establish a specialized center accessible for the child exposed to psychological, corporal, social or sexual violence.
- Set up an ad hoc committee to identify problems related to children subject to domestic violence and their recording on video tapes to use them as a testimony of those children before court without having to repeat demonstration of this problem or giving this testimony more than once, so as to minimize child embarrassment and help soothe his psychological disturbances
- Appoint a representative for child protection at the local level to be in receipt of the complaints of children and attempt to find solutions.

CHILDREN'S ROLE

- Replace violence by more effective and useful means through resort to cooperation, candidacy and credibility
 - Reaching out to families and raising their awareness
 - Instill and disseminate the culture of dialogue and respect for the views of others.
 - Establish websites for the exchange of problems and to try to solve them through participation in chatting
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Recommendations from parallel sessions

Legal Framework

- Review domestic laws and regulations in order to ensure their full conformity with the principles and provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- With respect to provisions of domestic penal codes, criminalize violence against children and end impunity by bringing perpetrators into justice.
- Facilitate children's involvement in the legal proceedings by adopting and implementing child-sensitive special measures, such as videotaped testimonies.
- Amending the criminal law to stop the practice of female genital mutilation and apply penalties on crimes of honor and ensure its enforcement
- Setting up family courts and adoption of friendly rules in the investigations so that they are protected from familial violence.

Institutional Framework and Resources

- Establish effective intervention, monitoring and reporting mechanisms and improve the existing mechanisms in order to identify and to respond to all forms of violence.
- Encourage professionals working with and for children, such as health personnel, to report on child abuse and violence.
- Building the capacity of professionals working with children e.g. teachers, pediatricians, police officers on the means to deal with children from different age groups, including victims of violence.
- Define a unified/consistent means for follow up between the different agencies and including a unified set of indicators based upon which child protection in various settings is measured and monitored.
- Develop the capacity of agencies working in the field of child protection e.g. supporting networks between different entities, introducing counseling, and community-based rehabilitation services.
- Accredited social work and accreditation of specialized centers for the capacity building of all involved in child protection programs.

Policies, strategies and programs

- Pay particular attention to children in poverty reduction programs.
 - Pay special attention to programs for slow learners and learning difficulties as well as programs for psychological well-being of children
 - Develop and implement comprehensive national strategies based on human rights to protect children from all forms of violence. All strategies and action plans on violence against children should be fully integrated in the work with and for children.
 - Take effective measures to prevent discrimination against children and address the situation of children facing multiple forms of discrimination, such as girls with disabilities.
 - Establish specialized centers for domestic violence related issues. Establish specialized centers or multidisciplinary institutions to provide all children, and particularly child victims of violence, with adequate counseling and recovery services. Appoint social workers to assist children with this respect.
 - Intervention mechanisms should promote dialogue within the family.
 - Design programs for interacting with abandoned children and those born out of wedlock and disabled children.
 - Combating violence should be a prominent feature of programs
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	<p>targeting the family as a social unit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement initiatives to remove social and cultural barriers that prevent those children exposed to violence from seeking help.
The role of civil society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote social responsibility of all adults as well as public and private entities, to prevent and respond to violence against children by integrating/coordinating different intervention and monitoring mechanisms to scale up the impact and trigger the appropriate social reaction.
Data collection, analysis and research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form a permanent committee in schools to supervise teachers and tutors, collect information and data on teachers applying violence, adopt decisions to stop them and render them accountable, and ensure proper liaison between teachers and pupils to prohibit the use of violence. • Conduct a regional study on sexual violence. • Compile data and intensify studies on violence against children as well as publishing its results • Conduct a comparative regional study on the mechanisms for reporting • The state should make available a tool for data collection on cases of violence against children that are being reported in collaboration with civil society organizations, professional syndicates, and international organization • Set up a regional inventory for data and studies including published and unpublished material and ensuring its dissemination and accessibility to the public.
Awareness, advocacy, monitoring and training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness on violence against children, inter alia, by organizing awareness raising seminars, by training parents, guardians and professionals working with and for children on the rights of the child, and by activating the role of the media. • Promote child's right to physical integrity. • Take measures to establish, in collaboration with children, peer support mechanisms for children, e.g. websites and on-line chat for children. • Scale up successful pilots and demonstrations in the field of child protection and their documentation and dissemination on a large scale across the region • Invest in a community culture that pays respect to a comprehensive rights-based approach for all children while including the religious and spiritual aspects in counseling and guidance. • Set up an independent national monitoring body for enforcement of legislations to protect the child to include violence prevention lines aimed at protecting the child. • Launch mechanisms and channels for reporting at multiple sites to provide access for children exposed to violence and give them the necessary protection. These include for example: hotline, private shelter centers, units for family protection and facilities for rehabilitation and cure of victims of violence. • Identify and publicize institutions for the reception and follow up of cases of violence against children taking into consideration the variations in age groups. • Set up clear procedures by government for receiving complaints in a way fit for the child's age. • Develop a reporting system for cases of violence taking place in the home setting. The system should be respectful of child rights and the right to privacy. Training should be provided to all those

involved in the system.

- Implement capacity building programs to address various aspects of violence, violence prevention and its effective management.
- Design tools for psychological assessment to identify violence, assess hazardous influences in Arabic and in a way that fits with the regional specificities.
- Conduct awareness campaigns on the impact of violence and promoting alternatives to non-violent disciplinary tools.
- Implement a program that relies on the use of media and outreach channels including local, religious leaders and academics. Identifying media programs on the local level and promoting children's participation in those programs.
- Include education programs on the rights of the children and human rights in the school curricula.
- Programs and educational approaches on non-violent solutions to conflict resolutions.
- Programs to empower children particularly disabled groups and educate them on means of protection against sexual violence
- Awareness campaigns on the practice of female genital mutilation mobilizing religious, youth and community leaders to support advocacy against FGM
- Experience exchange across the region on how to implement successful awareness campaigns

Best Practice/Proactive Model:

Development of a model for the protection of the Middle East and North Africa child that relies on the partnership of the different institutions relying on rapid and early intervention for the rescue and prevention of children who are most vulnerable to violence. In addition the model should seek the mobilization of resources, services and capacity in order to support the protection of children and their families. This model will adopt a phased approach to raise the awareness of all segments of the society as well as assigning a developmental role to the media and its messages.

Best Practices:

Tunisia: Mechanism for reporting to the child protection representative
Algeria: Relying on local media channels to mobilize children participation
Egypt: Public Awareness Campaign supporting advocacy against FGM practice
Lebanon: Rehabilitation of girls who have been exposed to sexual violence

Violence in Schools Key recommendations

**General Plenary
Recommendations:**

- Introduce alternative pedagogic and educational methodologies, such as socio-psychological intervention in upbringing and education
- Develop the capacities of teachers on sound pedagogic approaches, away from violence; training teachers on the CRC
- Set up a reference system for psychiatrists and social workers; rehabilitating and integrating children, who are victims of violence
- Establish a system for protecting children that runs in parallel with the judiciary system adopted by the state, organizing the relation between teachers and pupils
- Set up mechanisms for social monitoring in schools; paying heed to the economic status of teachers and improving their working, professional and environmental conditions.

**Recommendation made
by children**

- Hold meetings in schools with the participation of pupils and teachers to choose teachers that can participate in solving their problems.
 - Train teachers and rehabilitating them pedagogically and culturally
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to become more efficient in treating pupils

- Set up web sites and use media channels (radio, awareness campaigns) to allow children to communicate their problems and seek appropriate solutions protecting children from violence and raising their problems and seeking solutions as well as raising awareness of children on the consequences and dangers of violence.
- Raise awareness through objective media, especially by children and teachers, that does not involve subjective ideas, and seek to spread a culture of peace;
- Prepare a list of alternative non-violent disciplinary measures that is scientifically more positive and effective in punishing or penalizing everyone who uses violence against children
- Enacting deterrent laws that are capable of abolishing violations committed against pupils
- Materializing the principle of education through objective games, known as active education;
- Organize objective artistic works that renounce violence and that are spontaneously assimilated by school children;
- Combat all uncivilized and violent behavior, such as discrimination and alienation
- Carry out continuous and unannounced visits on behalf of the Ministry of Education by a group of specialists, in order to monitor violence incidents
- Designate an exploration class for discussing causes, harms and consequences of violence with pupils and distribute booklets highlighting the causes and harmful consequences of violence in all schools.
- Supervision and continuous monitoring of students in schools.
- Produce plays on CDs and distributing them to all schools to raise the awareness of teachers and pupils on the harms of violence, as well as its moral and physical impact on children.

CHILDREN'S ROLE

- Form a small-scale committee for each scholastic year, to be presided by the children, in order to detect causes of violence from pupils and teachers. At the end of each month, all school children are to convene and formulate these causes, in order to submit them to the competent official and try to find the appropriate solutions
- Involve children in seminars held on violence against children, in order to raise their awareness of its causes and harms
- Hold discussions during school days and launch awareness campaigns, in order to detect causes and find solutions;
- Set up complaint boxes in schools, associations and clubs to receive children's complaints and submit them to officials for finding appropriate responses
- Set up a statute that awards distinguished pupils encouraging prizes
- Organize a unified children's march throughout the Arab Nation to ministries of education to curb the phenomenon of violence in schools
- Establish a permanent committee in the school to monitor the teachers and to gather information and data on the teachers that practice violence and take decisions to prohibit them by holding them accountable and improve the communication between the teacher and pupil to stop the violence.

Legal Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforce relevant legislations to ban the use of violence in schools, investigate and prosecute the perpetrators, ensuring that the child is not victimized in proceedings and that his/her privacy is respected
Institutional Framework and Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set-up mechanisms in the schools, including child committees and parents boards to address the issue of child rights and violence in schools together • Establish accountability standards in the recruitment and performance review of teachers and consult children in this process • Ministries of education should assume an active role in investigating and monitoring violence against children in schools, including unscheduled inspection visits to schools • Reward teachers who promote alternative methods of discipline and child-participatory teaching methods • Promote a school environment that promotes dialogue and respect between teachers and students, and allows children to express themselves on the issue of violence
Policies and Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish effective, child-sensitive procedures and mechanisms to receive, monitor and investigate complaints, including intervening where necessary • Develop guidelines for the early identification of cases of violence at school • Protect children who bring complaints from retaliation
The role of civil society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish anonymous complaint boxes • Public initiatives to address discrimination and the overall level of violence in society at large
Data collection, analysis and research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out comprehensive studies on violence in schools to better understand the problem and develop programmes, to address and monitor the issue • Establish a mechanism for disseminating research on violence against children in the region
Awareness, advocacy, monitoring and training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create information centers and a hotlines dealing with violence in schools • Train teachers on alternative methods of discipline, detection, reporting and rehabilitation of violence case. • Good practices should be documented and disseminated widely at the national level and throughout the region • Preventive actions to resolve conflict in a non-violent way should be developed and encouraged • Raise awareness of children about their rights so that they can break the silence • School curricula should include sexual education • Advocate for alternative methods of discipline • Develop programs of participatory learning and child-friendly materials to promote awareness on violence • Promote discussion about violence in the classroom • Raise awareness of the negative impact of corporal punishment among parents, teachers and other professionals working in schools, and provide capacity building on positive discipline or other alternative methods of resolving conflict peacefully • Encourage media to create space for meaningful child participation
Best Practices:	
Egypt:	Hotline on violence launched during the consultation by H.E. Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak, Egypt's First Lady

Tunisia: Schools have student councils with deputies in each class and children are able to express their views and play the role of lawyers for children who have been exposed to violence.

Violence in other institutional settings and alternative care

Key Recommendations

General Plenary recommendation:

- Promote quality assurance standards in child care institutions and training service providers in these institutions on means and ways of protecting, rehabilitating and devoting care to children, while enhancing the role of civil society organizations and entities concerned in detecting and monitoring the protection of children in institutions and encouraging family- and foster care systems.
- Correctional facilities for juvenile delinquents must be free from violent practices and torture and an observatory must be founded to monitor the welfare and protection of children under detention or while questioning and interrogation to guarantee that their integrity and rights are secured.

Recommendations by children

- Appoint observers, who would carry unannounced visits and administer strict surveillance on officials within institutions, forcing harsh punishments on violators
- Render education in institutions compulsory, with the aim of developing mental and spiritual values and moral ethics
- Enact national and international laws that totally prohibit violence in institutions and appointing institutions/organizations to follow up on the implementation of laws
- Prohibit the working of children in institutions and provide all the needed services for them to live a normal life.
- Supervisors and teachers in institutions should be adequately qualified to deal with children
- Commit institutions to keep a file for each child, in order to follow his/her case, while involving the child in compiling this file by conducting direct interviews with him/her for detection of any maltreatment incidents
- Appoint a multi-disciplinary team (medical, psychological, social) in institutions, and activating its role
- Carry out artistic and press works (publications, plays, ...) that raise awareness and reveal the importance of offering help and assistance to children in institutions
- Organize frequent visits on behalf of specialists and respective government officials.

CHILDREN'S ROLE

- Organize excursions for children in institutions.
 - Collect charitable contributions and give gifts to children.
 - Raise the issue of violence in institutions in the children's parliament/children's organizations/children's clubs and hold discussion sessions with members of government.
 - Make a complaint box for children in institutions and designate people for its supervision.
 - Make a permanent committee of children in institutions to help each other (inclusive of children in institutions and
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	others).
Recommendations from parallel sessions	
Legal Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abolish imposition of capital punishment on all persons under 18 years of age and the use of cruel punishments, including corporal punishment on children, in all institutions. • Establish effective monitoring and reporting mechanism to respond to violence against children in institutions. • Conduct assessments of children before their institutionalization and while living in the institution. • Establish an effective complaint mechanism for children living in institutions, follow-up filed complaints and cases and establish a help line for children. • Prohibit forced child labor in institutions. • Provide children living in institutions with basic services and provide child victims and their families with adequate recovery and reintegration services. • Provide professionals working with children in institutions with training and ensure that institutions have adequate resources with this respect.
Institutional Framework and Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop, adopt and implement standards for services in institutions. • Promote transparency regarding administration of institutions.
Institutional Framework and Resources (contd.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen coordination between different ministries responsible for issues related to children in institutions. • Institutions should seek to build and maintain relationships with the communities to which the children will return whenever possible • Set-up child-sensitive mechanisms to receive, investigate and prosecute complaints against law enforcement officials regarding ill-treatment during arrest, questioning and police custody and in detention centers
Policies and Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish programs to support integration of children in their communities in cooperation with their parents • Pay full attention to the victims of torture, inhuman and degrading treatment and punishment and provide them with adequate compensation, recovery and social reintegration • Promote basic education in institutions • Establish programs for de-institutionalization and the use of alternative care for children without primary caregivers
The role of civil society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil society should play an active role in the promotion and protection of the rights of the children in institutions. • Strengthen role of NGOs in monitoring and advocacy • Ensure that civil society and volunteers and play an active role to participate in the leadership of the institution • Provide assistance to enable children and their families to be in regular contact when such contact is in the child's best interest
Data collection, analysis and research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out studies and research on violence in institutional settings
Awareness, advocacy, monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote alternative, non-violent practices, including non-

and training

violent disciplinary measures and awareness on violence in institutions by publishing informative material on it.

- Organize fund raising events for children living in institutions in order to provide them with adequate services.
 - Establish effective, child-sensitive procedures and mechanisms to receive, monitor, and investigate complaints, including intervening when necessary
 - Train teachers, law enforcement officials, care workers, judges and health professionals in the identification, reporting and management of ill-treatment cases
 - Establish accessible monitoring mechanisms and networks
 - Ensure effective protections from retaliation for those who report abuses
 - Establish a panel of observers who monitor violence against children in institutions
 - Train staff in institutions on child rights and on how to follow-up on child abuse cases
 - Monitor the institutions' administrative procedures and measures
 - Disseminate publications which underline the need for appropriate services
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Violence in the Community & the Street**Key recommendations**

General Plenary recommendation:

- Early detection of vulnerable children before they seek the streets or engage in labor; especially worst forms of labor and providing support services targeting the child and the family
 - Seeking other means of care for children deprived of family care, such as specialized social support centers and others
 - Addressing social and economic problems through government and civil society programs that take into account the rehabilitation of children with difficult circumstances (street children, working children, victims of sexual abuse and exploitation)
 - Developing the role of enforcement officers to assume a more effective social role in the community and in particular in dealing with children.
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Recommendation by children

- Raising awareness through audio-visual media and read material;
 - Developing children's potentials and talents in centers, associations, ... etc. and in order to prohibit child labor;
 - Providing free schooling and rendering children's education compulsory, while earmarking a portion of the state money for homeless children;
 - Enacting a law that prohibits employers from exploiting minor children, while intensifying control thereon;
 - Applying strict and deterrent laws against those exploiting children in any way (sexually, physically, economically),
 - Seeking to implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child that has been fully ratified by you;
 - Improving relations between Arab and other governments, in order to improve childhood conditions;
 - Prohibit wars and spreading peace in the MENA region.
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- Setting up shelters for homeless children, and rehabilitating them;
- Setting up special centers for handing out assistance, and preparing programmes for sponsoring orphans and street children, while allowing them to help in running them.

CHILDREN'S ROLE

- Preparing reports by children and specialists and submitting them to officials,
- Carrying studies and researches on childhood conditions;
- Placing complaint boxes under surveillance and dispatching complaints to specialized and concerned authorities;
- Raising all kinds of awareness;
- Solidarity among Arab children in exchanging expertise and experience, and seeking to materialize all that in their countries.

Recommendations from parallel sessions

Legal Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforce relevant legislations and address gaps in laws in order to effectively penalize those who perform sexual and economic exploitation • Address the legal and enforcement needs to effectively implement CRC
Institutional Framework and Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victim support systems should be created • Build shelters for children • Promote free basic education for all
Policies and Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish programs for special care, psychological rehabilitation, and empowerment of street children • Allocate funds for street children and other disadvantaged groups
The role of civil society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil society should be encouraged & trained to participate in research • Strengthen role of civil society to provide protection for children and provide treatment and rehabilitation • Enhance the participation of children as a civil society group • Regional NGOs should play role in enhancing networking and the exchange of experiences between NGOs in the region • Civil society should support education for safety and security
Data collection, analysis and research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect data (disaggregated according to gender; age; geographic location, etc.) and undertake research and studies on violence against children in the community
Awareness, advocacy and training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance advocacy and raise awareness through audio-visual means • Establish websites on violence • Set up an Arab network, support system, and hotline for emergency interventions. • Provide awareness raising for street children in order for them to know their rights • Children's role in monitoring: reports should be submitted by children and social workers • Establish complaints mechanisms for children • Set-up monitoring boxes • Set up children parliaments, councils of children, NGOs, etc... • Train professionals, teachers, social workers and other groups involved with the child rights agenda • Train police to intervene in cases where children are subjected to violence • Use "non-formal education" as a good and effective tool to convey messages on violence (including through art, theatre, etc...)

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- Carry out awareness campaigns through the media & break the silence
 - Establish a global alliance to deal with road traffic accidents (there was a difference of views in the session as to whether or not traffic accidents are/should be part of the Study or not)
 - Enhance the role of the Arab League as a regional platform for sharing experiences and advocacy against violence.
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Annex 10: Recommendations from Panel/Symposium on Violence against Children in Armed Conflict, and Violence through the Internet

Violence against Children in Armed Conflict

ENGLISH – to be inserted

Symposium on Children's Computing Safety

- 1) Recommendation # 1: Include the issue of children's computing safety as an official chapter in the UN Study on Violence Against Children.
- 2) Recommendation # 2; Include the issue of children's computing safety as one of the thematic areas in the country reports.
- 3) Recommendation # 3: Creation of a high level Regional consortium to develop strategic initiatives on children's computing safety issues.
- 4) Recommendation # 4: Participation, in the national committee for child protection, of a team that comprised of a cross-group of impacted stakeholders to address the issues of computing safety for children, such as: government; law enforcement; teachers; parents; NGOs, media and corporate partners.
- 5) Recommendation # 5: Governments should review their current laws as they pertain to penalties for crimes against children, and work to pass legislation to increase penalties for such crimes, in recognition of the seriousness of the crime. There should be Issuance of laws and legislation on the cyber laws and child protection on the net, where no laws currently exist.
- 6) Recommendation # 6: Development of education and public awareness programs for children, parents, families, teachers and other groups who work with children and technology, with media, NGOs, industry and others collaborating on developing information on both the benefits and potential risks of using the Internet. Ministries of Education and Information should enforce standards and training for educators and require that education solutions regarding computer use include education on computing safety and child protection. Additionally, Ministry of Information should develop programs and PSA addressing violence against children on the net, promoting creating a safe technological environment for child to ensure that maximization of benefits for children.
- 7) Recommendation # 7: Industry organizations should work with their local law enforcement to support investigations of crimes against children that are impacted by Internet use.
- 8) Recommendation # 8: Industry, in collaboration with government and other stakeholders, should provide and abide by the standards for child protection.

Industry should be encouraged to provide educational awareness in addition to technology solutions.

- 9) Recommendation #9: Form a high level committee chaired by Egypt's First Lady Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak to lead a regional movement of helping to protect children in the cyber world.