



**Réunion technique
préparatoire de l'Afrique**

**pour le 3e Congrès mondial contre
l'exploitation sexuelle des enfants et des adolescents**

Dakar - 24-25 Septembre 2008

**Africa Technical
Preparatory Meeting**

**for the World Congress III against
Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents**

Africa Technical Preparatory Meeting for the 3rd World Congress against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents

Dakar
24 -25 September 2008

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Introduction

Sexual exploitation is one of the worst forms of child labour and particularly affects the most vulnerable children. Regarding sexual activity as a private area, local communities are reluctant to intervene into cases of sexual exploitation, increasing the vulnerability of children faced with this form of exploitation. According to numerous studies on this situation, it appears that sexual exploitation is both a cause and a consequence of other issues such as poverty, HIV/AIDS or the modification of traditional socialisation mechanisms.

Protecting children from sexual exploitation was mentioned as soon as 1989 as part of children's rights in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Indeed, Article 34 stipulates: "the right of the child to be protected against violence and sexual exploitation, including prostitution and participation in any pornographic production". In ratification of the Convention, governments undertook to then protect children against any forms of sexual exploitation and sexual violence, and to take any suitable measures to prevent the abduction, sale or trafficking of children. The Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, completes the Convention by asking the States to take specific measures to end sexual exploitation and sexual violence against children. It also forbids the sale of children for purposes other than sexual, for example, forced labour, illegal adoption and organ donations.

The first World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Stockholm in 1996 as well as the second World Congress in Yokohama in 2001, made it possible to become aware of the size of the situation which is based on three closely related main axes:

- **Sexual abuse**¹ is the act in which a child is used for sexual purposes. Sexual abuse is perpetuated by a person (adult or older child) who the child trusts (parent, sibling, member of extended family, teacher, tutor, etc.) or any other person in a position of power, authority and control over the child. Sexual abuse may be physical, verbal or psycho-emotional. The child cannot give its informed consent based on the constraint placed by the adult on whom the minor depends or feels dependant on:
- **Sexual violence**² characterises all sexual relations which are forced, constrained and made under threat or surprise.
- **Sexual exploitation** for commercial purposes³ includes the sexual abuse of any person less than 18 years of age for remuneration in kind or in cash given to the child or to one or several third parties. The child is treated as a sexual object and as a commercial object. Commercial sexual exploitation of children is a form of coercion and violence made against the child and regarded as forced labour and a modern form of slavery. In the region, it is still carried out in an informal context and may appear in three forms: prostitution, pornography and the sale of children.

Considering the taboo nature of the issue and the weakness of the declarations, few studies have been able to estimate the extent of the sexual exploitation of children situation. However, according to the International Labour Organisation⁴, out of the

¹ Convention on the Rights of the Child, Articles 34, 35

² Convention on the Rights of the Child, Articles 34, 35 ; WHO: "World report on violence and health" 2002

³ Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Article 2) ; Stockholm Declaration ; Convention 182 of the ILO ; Protocol relating to trafficking in persons.

⁴ UNICEF, Information on the protection of children file, "Commercial sexual exploitation", New York, 2006

12.3 million victims of forced labour, 1.39 million are victims of commercial sexual exploitation, of which 40 to 50% are children.

While the quantitative data remain limited, numerous studies carried out on the continent have made it possible to better understand the sexual exploitation of children situation, its forms and its evolving trends. All forms of sexual exploitation of children appear to be intensifying. There are many links between the sale for sexual purposes and for labour, child prostitution, sexual tourism and child pornography. Moreover, sexual abuse and violence in areas of conflict and post-conflict have evolved, the perpetrators being mainly civilians known to the victim. Sexual abuse, violence and exploitation in school environments remain worrying as well as the rate of early marriages in numerous countries of the region.

The international community came together to organise a World Congress against Commercial Exploitation of Children, the first of which was held in 1996 in Stockholm (Sweden), the second in Yokohama (Japan) in 2001 and the Third World Congress against the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents will be held in Rio in Brazil in November 2008.

For this third World Congress, the African states chose to send their own recommendations, taking into account the specificities of Africa. Indeed, Africa is undergoing serious economic crises; according to the World Bank in 2008, 34 Sub-Saharan African countries are eligible for debt reduction for Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC). Most of these countries are also faced with a HIV/AIDS pandemic. According to UNAIDS⁵, 39.5 million people live with HIV/AIDS, of which 24.7 million live in Sub-Saharan Africa (or 62.5%) which has resulted in a high number of orphans – 12 million in Africa according to UNICEF⁶. Furthermore, this continent has built itself while dealing with serious humanitarian and political crises. According to the WFP, 40 million people in Africa are suffering from hunger in 2008 and 4.3 million persons/refugees have been displaced in 2007 according to the UNHCR. This situation is partly a result of political conflict, in which 14 countries present armed conflict to varying degrees, 8 countries live with internal community conflicts and 4 countries live with violence between rival community groups or political parties⁷.

Children faced with sexual exploitation are also made more vulnerable from African social norms. Social norms, being society's code of conduct and behaviour models, are based on psycho-socio-cultural perceptions. Social norms direct the perception of the concept of childhood, the children's position in the community or the gender based social roles. Sexuality is still regarded as a taboo subject, even forbidden by tradition and religion. The persistence of certain practices which harm children are also to be taken into consideration, such as female genital circumcision or early marriage. The transformation of certain traditions such as the tradition of child migration, entrusting or vagrancy from Talibe children can expose children to the risk of sexual exploitation. Furthermore, Africa is undergoing a transformation in its traditional protection mechanisms for the protection and socialisation of children who have been inoperative due to persistent poverty, accelerated urbanisation, conflict, HIV/AIDS pandemic, population displacement, etc. Wider and community forms of solidarity and family protection measures have been reconsidered by the development of new and more individualist and contractual family models. As a consequence, the family does not systematically represent a place of reference and security for the child. However, while certain social norms influence the vulnerability of children at risk of sexual exploitation, this does not include the presence of child "protecting norms", including forms of protection and socialisation which have yet to be studied in depth.

⁵ UNAIDS, 2006 Aids epidemic update, maps, 2006

⁶ UNICEF, "Better targeted care, support and protection for children affected by AIDS", New York, 2006

⁷ Humanitarian Information Unit, "Conflict without border: sub national and transnational conflict-Affected area. January 2007 – August 2008", U.S Department of State, 2008

Part I: Context and object of Technical Preparatory Meeting

1.1 Historical context

The Preparatory Technical Meeting for Africa was held in Dakar on 24 and 25 of September 2008 in a context of international mobilisation against the sexual exploitation of children.

Stockholm August 1996: As part of a worldwide awareness of the situation of children victims of sexual exploitation, 122 countries gathered together in Stockholm in 1996 on the initiative of the NGO End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Child Trafficking for Sexual Purpose (ECPAT). Three main elements of sexual exploitation were selected for this first Congress – prostitution, trafficking and sale for sexual purposes and child pornography. The Congress aimed to define the extent of the situation, explore the underlying causes of the commercial sexual exploitation of children and the specific forms relating to the different countries and regions in the World. The 122 states signed a Declaration in Stockholm and adopted an agenda for action which offered an approach aiming to end the commercial sexual exploitation of children based around five main axes: Coordination, Prevention, Protection, Rehabilitation and Reinsertion and the Participation of Children and Youth. The other main recommendations made were to increase public awareness, attract international attention to this situation and to encourage the preparation of national action plans designed to fight against all forms of abuse of any nature in the specific contexts where they take place.

Rabat, October 2001: Following the recommendations and commitments made in Stockholm by the countries present, and in anticipation of the second World Congress, the African-Arab States met in Rabat. The conference's main objectives were, on the one hand, to make a report of the actions undertaken, and on the other hand, to identify the regional priorities and strategies in light of preventing and fighting against the sexual exploitation of children.

At the Conference, the States were able to identify the obstacles to overcome, particularly the fact that sexual exploitation remains a taboo subject in many of the region's countries, the lack of data and analysis and the deficit in human resources and structures adapted to victim children. The close connection between sexual exploitation and HIV/AIDS and STDs were also acknowledged.

Upon conclusion of the Conference, the present States reconfirmed their commitment to apply the Convention Relating to the Rights of the Child, the Stockholm Declaration and the agenda of action as well as the drafted action plan in their fight against the sexual exploitation of children.

Yokohama December 2001: The objective the second World Congress against commercial sexual exploitation of children gave itself was to update information, make a report of the activities carried out since the Congress in Stockholm in 1996, learn from these experiences and improved the actions thanks to a better understanding of the problem, to new partners and to a more resolved commitment from the States.

Since the first Congress in 1996 measures were taken to provide care for children victims of sexual exploitation in light of their social reinsertion into the community. Awareness campaigns reached out to public opinion and targeted specific groups. Projects were carried out to protect children who are particularly vulnerable to sexual exploitation and research makes it possible to better understand the situation, the exploiters, mechanisms and obstacles to overcome. New international instruments were also developed, particularly the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the sale

of children, child prostitution and child pornography of May 2000; the ILO's Convention No. 182 on the worst forms of child labour of June 1999 and the Additional Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking of persons, especially women and children of November 2000. National legislation was revised and reinforced, and so 21 countries may now apply the extraterritorial criminal laws which make it possible to peruse nationals who committed crimes against children overseas. 34 countries adopted national plans of action against the commercial sexual exploitation of children and this process is underway in 26 other countries. However, much effort is yet to be made to fight effectively against commercial sexual exploitation. Therefore, at the end of the second World Congress, the States undertook especially to intensify repression, to set up children adapted services, to promote wider participation from children and better cooperation/partnership between countries and between NGOs, IOs, local communicates and public authorities.

Rabat December 2004: The second African-Arab Conference against sexual exploitation, violence and abuse gathered again together 45 States from three regions (Middle East and North Africa, Eastern and Southern Africa and Western and Central Africa).

Three years after the second World Congress, the African-Arab States wanted to evaluate the progress made and renew their commitment to the fight against sexual exploitation of children.

Therefore, the evaluation of progress made revealed the signing or ratification of international conventions by numerous countries; appointment of a focal point department responsible for coordinating the actions; development of a plan of action in some countries, efforts towards the harmonisation of national legislation with international legal instruments; existence in certain countries of specific legislation (Child and Family Code) and in some cases law enforcement measures.

To consolidate gains made in the fight against sexual exploitation, the States undertook to document situations of sexual exploitation, violence, mistreatment and abuse, to bring ratifications into general use and harmonise legislation, develop a national plan of action, increase children's awareness, reinforce capacity and resources and widen and consolidate partnerships.

Dakar September 2008: In anticipation of the Third World Congress against the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in Rio, the Western and Central African and Eastern and Southern African States met in Dakar for two days to evaluate the progress made since the African-Arab Conference in Rabat in 2004 and to draw up a common message representing Africa's concerns presented in Rio de Janeiro.

Rio de Janeiro November 2008: The third Congress against sexual exploitation of children and adolescents will be held in Rio de Janeiro from 25 to 28 November 2008, where more than 3000 people, including 300 adolescents, from the five continents are expected to attend.

1.2 Technical Preparatory Meeting Objectives

The Objectives

- Identify effective approaches to fight against sexual exploitation of children in Africa;
- Increase basic knowledge and information of the forms and causes of the sexual exploitation of children;
- Improve understanding of social norms on sexuality, gender and their impact on sexual exploitation and the mistreatment of children in Africa;

- Discuss and identify possible mechanisms to document and share effective cross-sector approaches to provide a solution to the sexual abuse and exploitation of children – including in conflict and post-conflict situations.
- Support the active participation of a large number of African children and adolescents at the African Preparatory Technical Meeting and when preparing the 3rd World Congress.

Expected results

- Effective approaches and promising practices in the fight against the sexual exploitation and mistreatment of children are identified for the various African regions as well as the mechanisms used to facilitate the exchange of experiences across the continent.
- Key fields are identified for follow up in Africa with regard to themes discussed during the meeting.
- Based on the meeting's results, deadline related recommendations are drawn up **so that a “specifically African message” is presented and defended at the Congress in Brazil.**

1.3 Agenda and participation

Day 1: 24 September 2008

8:00 – 9:00 Participant registration

9:00 – 9:30 Official opening of the meeting by Mrs Awa NDIAYE, Minister of Family, National Solidarity, Women Entrepreneurship and Micro Finance.

9:30 – 11:00 **Opening speeches:**

Sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in Africa (priority questions, causes, effective approaches), Najat M’Jid, international consultant.

Context and regional overview for the Brazil Congress, Mark Capaldi, Deputy Director, ECPAT International

	THEMATIC DISCUSSIONS – parallel sessions :	
11:30-12:30 13:30-14:30	Theme 3a. <u>Cross-sector cooperation. Exploitation in and around schools in Africa.</u> Facilitator: Wambui Njuguna, Africa-wide Movement for Children President	Theme 1a. Forms and underlying causes of the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents. <u>Social norms</u> Facilitator: Olivier Feneyrol, Regional advisor, Terre des Hommes, Western Africa
15:00-17:00	Theme 1b. Forms and underlying causes of the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents: <u>Economic factors and sexual exploitation of children</u> Facilitator: Margie de Monchy, Regional advisor, child protection, UNICEF Eastern and Southern Africa	Theme 3b. Cross-sector cooperation: <u>Sexual violence based on gender in conflict and post-conflict situations.</u> Facilitator: Sarah Norton-Staal, in charge of the protection of children in emergencies and gender focal point, Eastern and Southern Africa UNICEF

Day 2: 25 September 2008

	THEMATIC DISCUSSIONS – parallel sessions :	
8:30-10:30	Theme 2. <u>Application of laws and legal frameworks:</u> Facilitator: David Mugawe, Deputy Executive Officer, African Child Policy Forum	Theme 3d. <u>Cross-sector cooperation. Strengthening children’s capacity to protect themselves against sexual exploitation and abuse</u> Facilitator: session chaired by children and facilitated by Elkane Mooh, children protection advisor, Save the Children Sweden, West Africa Office
11:00-13:00	Theme 3c. <u>Cross-sector cooperation. Prevention and response services including community child protection systems</u> Facilitator: Margie de Monchy, Regional advisor, child protection, UNICEF Eastern and Southern Africa	Theme 4. <u>Round table on company’s social responsibility</u> Facilitator: Mark Capaldi, Deputy Director, ECPAT International
PLENARY SESSION		
14:00-15:00	Presentations of main results and recommendations from thematic discussions Facilitator: Victorine Kemonou Djitrinou, in charge of International Advocacy and Coordinator of the Action Aid International Education campaign Children’s declaration presented by Yassin Faal Plenary debate Facilitator: Dr Abiola Tilley-Gyado, in charge of Pan-African relations, International Level	
15:30-16:00	Summary and closing Declarations Diakhate Seynabou Ndiaye, President of the Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child Esther Guluma, UNICEF regional director for Western and Central Africa	
18:00-19:00	Press conference	

Participants

The Preparatory Technical Meeting for the third World Congress against sexual exploitation of children and adolescents gathered 180 participants from 33 African countries, government representatives, NGOs (Non Governmental Organisations), IOs (International Organisations), communities and the private sector.

The States of South Africa, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Equatorial

Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Morocco, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Sao Tome & Principe, Senegal, Tanzania, Chad, Togo, Uganda and Zambia were represented.

Moreover, 24 children from 12 countries and 8 adolescents from Speak Africa from 7 countries were also present.

Part II. General analysis of the situation

A study was carried out by the international consultant Najat M'Jid on the development of sexual exploitation and abuse in Western and Central Africa since the Yokohama Congress in 2001 and the Rabat Conference in 2004.

The first part of this study assesses the size of the situation, its forms and trends and reveals determining factors. In the second part, the progress achieved as well as the inherent challenges and constraints was developed.

2.1 Knowledge and understanding of the situation

Importance, shapes and trends: Numerous studies were conducted on the subject, allowing a better knowledge of sexual exploitation of the children, thanks to sectoral data. The real importance of the situation couldn't be established because of the lack of centralised information system and the poor declarations.

Forms of sexual abuse and exploitation in Western and Central Africa

- a) Commercial sexual exploitation of children
 - Trafficking of children for sexual purpose within the region and towards Europe
 - Sexual tourism
 - Child pornography and heavy exposure of children in cyber cafés and video clubs
 - Child prostitution and high risk of HIV/AIDS for children victims of commercial sexual exploitation
- b) Sexual exploitation and abuse in school environments
 - Seduction of girls by teachers
 - Blackmail for marks
 - Verbal harassment
- c) Sexual violence and abuse in conflict and post-conflict areas
 - Rape as a weapon
 - Aggression by civilians in post-conflict situations
- d) Domestic sexual exploitation and abuse of girls
- e) Early and/or forced marriage

Determining factors

- a) Social norms due to unclear limits between certain traditions and exploitation; persistence of certain practices, modification of traditional child protection and socialisation mechanisms; increasing consumerism and the vicious cycle between HIV/AIDS and the sexual abuse and exploitation of children.
- b) The socioeconomic factors are related to poverty, cholera epidemic, malaria but also to low alphabetisation rates and birth registrations and difficult access to school and health care.

- c) Humanitarian crises, namely conflicts and natural disasters
- d) The sex industry which is a very lucrative market

2.2 Progress achieved and challenges

National plans of action: Out of the region's 24 countries, 13 have drawn up a plan of action or are currently doing so.

However, certain plans of action have not been put into place, they lack the indicators and institutional capacity, budget and information system and follow-up/evaluation is poor.

Legislative capacity: Many countries have ratified existing international instruments, effort to harmonise national legislation have been made and codes and laws have been drafted and published. It is also worth noting the intensification of sanctions, training development and reinforcement of some infrastructures.

However, the legal system remains poor, confidentiality is not withheld, the cost, slow pace, impunity, fear of retaliation and stigmatisation, lack of knowledge of the law and regulations of tradition related conflicts constitute significant obstacles.

Prevention: Awareness campaigns, media and children involvement have made it possible to inform the public of this situation. Setting up of Codes of conduct in schools and the tourism sector aim to protect children from sexual exploitation and abuse, the birth registrations and schooling of children in rural areas are also contributing factors.

Yet, the geographic coverage of these actions is reduced and leads to problems in terms of durability and impact on the populations. The lack of resources and monitoring measures is felt, especially in application of the codes and approval from the community. Social inequalities, poverty and vulnerability remain the challenges to overcome.

Detection, care, reinsertion, follow-up: Drop-in centres, listening centres, protection and legal assistance units were set up as well as toll-free telephones improving the detection and child care systems.

Once again, the poor international capacity and geographical coverage were major restraints. There are few valid reinsertion alternatives for children and a lack of follow-up. The absence of care standards and insufficient monitoring of drop-in structures were also obstacles against effective care for victim children.

Child participation: The child participation bodies have been developed, especially in parliaments, clubs, committees, associations, movements, etc. However, these organisations are suffering from a lack of representation, consultation and taking into account the children's opinions.

Intra, cross and multi-sectored cooperation: Focal point departments, coordination bodies, reinforcement of the cooperation between the State and NGOs and on a regional level contributed to a more efficient coordination with the setting up of coordination mechanisms and follow-up of bilateral and regional agreements.

However, a lack of intra and cross-sector coordination still exists, capacity remains poor, partnerships are little formalised and rarely subject to regular evaluations.

To conclude, this study reveals the need to set up a multi-sectored protection chain in which each action builds on the last and participants relay each other in order to develop a sustainable protective environment for children. Each protection chain includes prevention, legislation, detection, care, reinsertion, child follow-up sections

and empowerment of behaviour and attitudes protecting children in a coherent protection system.

Part III: Thematic workshops, debate issues

3.1 Theme 1a): Forms and underlying causes of the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents. Social norms: gender, sexuality, violence, HIV/AIDS, traditional practices.

Workshop 1a) facilitated by Olivier Feneyrol, regional advisor for Western African Terre des Hommes, was the occasion to observe the impacts of social norms in Africa on the sexual exploitation of children as well as the different approaches used by development actors. Social norms are defined as the collection of ideas, beliefs, perceptions or referential practices which contribute to setting the limits between what is “normal”, ideal, acceptable, suitable, desirable, etc. and what is not. Norms dictate conduct and behaviour to individuals.

Therefore, two approaches were developed and analysed during this workshop. A first approach was aimed at identifying the norms which negatively influence the rights of the child and analysing the way they work in order to act on the said norms by reducing, transforming or eradicating them. A second approach tended to consider norms as integrated elements of a complex system of beliefs, perceptions and meaning and not as a pre-identified cause of abuse and violence. Therefore it is set to identify, analyse and promote social norms which have a positive impact on the protection of children in collaboration with their on-field participants.

Objectives

- Identify the changing specificities and trends of the different forms of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.
- Identify/analyse the causes and determining socio-cultural factors (social norms) of the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.
- Suggest strategies and methodologies for better understanding and preventing of this situation as well as improving protection of victim children.

Presentations

The facilitator’s two approaches were illustrated in two presentations.

Presentation 1: Examine the connection between norms related to HIV/AIDS and the various forms of commercial sexual exploitation of children in Africa presented by Hindowa Lebbie, Regional administrator, ECPAT International

The presentation is based on a study covering 6 African countries identifying the relations between HIV/AIDS and commercial sexual exploitation in 2007. Certain myths/beliefs, traditional practices and social norms (Ex: forced/early marriage, female genital excision/mutilations, genders disparity, sexual violence in school) make children more vulnerable and expose them to sexual exploitation. The study also highlighted the increase in the number of children under 15 years of age victims of sexual exploitation.

Conclusions

- Health and HIV/AIDS education must include messages on sexual exploitation and target high risk children or those involved in prostitution.

- Prevention, protection and care must also be addressed to children living in difficult situations, such as street children.
- Document and analyse exploiters motivations. Sexual exploitation is a crime and children do not have sufficient protection.
- Intervention with community representatives and among orphans and children at risk of HIV/AIDS who are especially exposed to the risk of sexual exploitation. It was observed that more often than not, these children have the opportunity, if identified in time, of being assisted in preventing sexual exploitation. Schooling and access to means of subsistence are both social safety nets.

Presentation 2: Act on the socio-cultural norms to better protect children: the flight against excision in Togo: presented by Cyrille Komlan, president of EZO Stratégies

The parental curse, social rejection, vulnerability in an environment of polygamy and fear of witchcraft are at the heart of the decision to excise children.

Classic approaches focus on the abolition of excision forgetting its value. In this approach, the objective is to have the tradition evolve based on propositions made by communities in facilitation with NGOs.

Phase 1: Analysis of grounds for resistance

Phase 2: Negotiation with practitioner and traditional chiefs in looking for solutions

Phase 3: Proposition of substitute practices in harmony with tradition and law

Phase 4: Adoption of substitute practices by dignitaries

Examples of substitute practices suggested by Togo dignitaries: purchase of the ceremony, simulation of the ceremony, substitution of excision candidate by an object.

Conclusions

Through this approach, the idea is to have the tradition evolve so that it is accepted by the population and more respectful of the rights of the child.

Problems related to sexual exploitation and abuse of children

- The values and representations which are central for the populations concerned by the phenomena of sexual exploitation of children are generally not taken into account nor integrated in the so-called community intervention approaches and methods. These values and representations are often perceived as being traditional legacies which are not compatible with the development and culture of the rights of the child. The confrontation between positive and negative norms obstructs dialogue between social actors and institutional actors and restricts the implementation of a coherent protection chain.
- The interrelations between the different categories of child victims of violations of their rights are numerous while the classic approaches based their programmes on the targets/specific problematic. (Trafficking, HIV/AIDS, sexual exploitation of children, female genital excision/mutilations, AIDS orphans, etc.).
- The duration of programmes which are too short. Dynamics of social and cultural change are more or less slow, these are programmes which require a mid and long term commitment.
- Lack of intergenerational dialogue, children are not heard by adults and are afraid to speak up.

Solutions based on examples of successful practices

- Look to identify not only the harmful effects of certain norms but also the endogenous basis of a protection, auto-standardisation and personal

development of children designed and put into place by the actors of these environments. Dialogue can be established between the social actors, with the mediation of external participants, to help them examine existing norms. Therefore, work at empowering and giving social actors responsibility could be used in relation to children protection issues and values. This work could lead to the modification or desertion of certain norms and, at the same time, contribute in reinforcing and promoting other norms which contribute to the protection of the rights of the child.

- Increase awareness of new categories of children (Internet users, street children, etc.) and inform children who are recognised as vulnerable as soon as they are identified to limit the risks of sexual exploitation.
- Listen to children who dare to speak up and allow them to speak freely. They are also actors in the fight against the sexual exploitation of children.

3.2. Theme 1b) Forms and underlying causes of the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents. Economic factors.

Workshop 1b), facilitated by Margie de Monchy, regional advisor for child protection, UNICEF Eastern and Southern Africa, identified the relations between economic factors and sexual exploitation as well as the influence of social child protection systems in the fight against poverty. Numerous studies identified poverty as one of the determining factors in sexual exploitation of children, especially in Africa where children are among the most vulnerable in the world due to a combination of factors (poverty, conflict, HIV/AIDS, etc.) which favours the breakdown of informal family and community protection mechanisms. In this context, priority was given to the development and reinforcement of social protection systems to fight against poverty and vulnerability. The social protection transformation model includes programmes on protection, prevention and promotion to strengthen achievements and interventions based on the fight against social exclusion.

Objectives

- Identify social protection initiatives which can influence the underlying causes of the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.
- Identify the good practices of child protection actors involved in the development and implementation of protection strategies and policies which contribute in decreasing sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.
- Identify the types of services required which complete financial compensation programmes (cash transfer) for families in order to fight more efficiently against sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.
- Implement social protection initiatives such as financial compensation systems, which contribute in decreasing the sexual exploitation of children.

Presentations

After a brief introduction by Dr. Abiola Tilley-Gyado, (Pan African Relationships Manager, Plan International), the workshop continued with a general presentation of the subject and three presentations illustrating the different social protection models.

Presentation 1: Social protection strategies and UNICEF regional strategy for Eastern and Southern Africa, Margie de Monchy, regional advisor for child protection, UNICEF Eastern and Southern Africa

Social protection of children principles

- Supply a coherent legal framework to protect women and children
- Take into account specific vulnerabilities related to age and gender

- Develop programmes which are not harmful to children
- Set up specific provisions to reach the most at risk
- Contribute in the application of rights
- Strengthen families and communities
- Intervene as soon as possible to protect children

UNICEF regional strategies for Eastern and Southern Africa

- Reform political/legal and judicial system
- Target families which benefit from financial contribution programmes to fight poverty
- Implement child protection and care services and for the most vulnerable children
- Development of youth and adolescents

Transversal strategies

- Implement follow-up and policy monitoring mechanisms
- Research and information
- Policy and strategy development
- Implementation of pilot programmes
- Integration of protection systems into national development and poverty reduction programmes

Presentation 2: Kenyan Government: financial contribution programmes for orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), Elizabeth Mugwanga Mbuka, main administrator, Childhood services department, Department of gender, children and social development.

Objectives of financial contribution programme

- Make a social protection system available through regular financial contributions to families who take care of OVCs.
- Encourage host families and maintain OVCs within families and communities
- Promote the development of OVCs human capital

Results to be evaluated (evaluation of impact in 2009)

- Economic impact and impact on wellbeing of beneficiary children (school children, working children, birth registrations, etc.)
- Efficiency of programme including evaluation of costs
- Target effectiveness of programmes

However, some challenges remain...

- Lack of protection of children victims of sexual abuse and exploitation within families, the community and schools
- Need to set up community based mechanisms to follow-up children in families
- Need to reinforce formal social protection system (follow-up and case management)
- Introduction of supplementary programmes for targeted household

Presentation 3: forms and underlying causes of sexual exploitation and abuse – 4 African case studies

Vera Lucia Paquete-Perdigão, Senior Child Labour Specialist Dakar, Senegal and Grace Banyar, technical advisor, ILO-IPEC, Kenya

Case study: Zambia, Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya

- Prevention:
 - Advocate for a policy which contributes to the creation of a favourable environment, integrating the issue of child labour into policies and legislation
 - Awareness and social mobilisation targeting leaders and community structures, media, etc.
- Direct action involving the mobilisation of the community for the empowerment and identification of children.
- Rehabilitation and reintegration

Problems related to the sexual exploitation of children

- Poverty affects the risk of sexual exploitation of children. How to break the poverty cycle, especially among women and children and giving them a protective environment.
- Cross-sector collaboration, connections to education, health, legal issues and protection (ex: child labour)
- Insufficiency in community based mechanisms, awareness campaigns and social mobilisation integrating children and adolescents
- Insufficiency in resources (financial, human, etc.) allocated to the prevention and management of sexual exploitation of children.

Solutions based on examples of successful practices

- Increase resources allocated to child protection measures on all levels
- Insure the government's political willingness to allocate resources for the implantation of a child protection strategy and to explain and translate the Convention on the Rights of the Child in concrete actions on the ground in each country.
- Make parliaments responsible when implementing the relevant aspects of the African Union Call for Action. Examples: implementation of a social protection framework on a national level, integration of the sexual exploitation of children and peer review mechanisms in Africa (Africa Peer Review Mechanisms).
- Build on regional and sub-regional mechanisms in order to harmonise childhood protection policies and share good practise and lessons learnt.
- Insure that child related issues are considered to be a national priority by the government in their development plans and that a certain percentage of the national budget is allocated to activities related to children.
- Guarantee free quality education for all children
- Strengthen relations between child protection and child protection systems
- Government budgeting for child related activities and mobilisation of funds for implementing these activities
- Develop partnerships with the private sector in the prevention and care of child victims of sexual exploitation

3.3. Theme 2: Application of laws and legal frameworks

The reinforcement of the legal and legislative framework was addressed in Workshop 2, facilitated by David Mugawe, Deputy Executive Director, African Child Policy Forum. This workshop was the occasion to learn from the lessons drawn from the initiatives in the reinforcement of the legislative framework, to address the question of the harmonisation of international standards and national legislation and the

improvement of the treatment of victims of sexual exploitation in the law and the reinforcement of the legislative framework.

Objectives

- Examine national laws, policies and practices related to the commercial exploitation of children in Africa, including identification of any gaps.
- Identify good legislative practices in the different regions and communication channels which may facilitate an exchange of experiences.
- Identify priority recommendations concerning commercial sexual exploitation to be submitted to the third World Congress in Rio.

Presentations

After an introductory presentation of the theme by the facilitator, three presentations were given, illustrating the experiences carried out in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda.

Presentation 1: Improvement of the treatment of child victims of sexual abuse and exploitation in the legal sectors and reinforcement of laws in compliance with international standards. Daniel Meseret, Street children forum, Ethiopia

Actions undertaken:

- Implementation of a child protection unit and drop-in centres for victims of sexual abuse and exploitation and trafficking.
- Training of officers, police, judges and prosecutors on the rights of the child.
- Implementation of courts welcoming children and private video recording systems for victims.
- Training and use of intermediaries
- Coalition initiative between NGOs and the appropriate governmental organisations to form a systematic reference structure.

Presentation 2: Kenyan Case Study. Japheth Kasimbu, ANPPCAN Kenya

The example of Kenya reveals that numerous policies and laws relating to child protection were issued and yet the following was observed:

- Weakness of mechanism to apply laws and policies put into place
- Population's limited knowledge of laws and policies.
- Urgent need to push for the ratification and integration of international instruments in national legislation.

Presentation 3: Reports on the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. Experiences and lessons learnt. Stella Ayo Odongo, national programme coordinator. Uganda Child Rights Network

The objective of this presentation is to share the Ugandan experience in the participation of the country with the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child for the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography:

- Production of timely reports enables organisations to stay informed of national, regional and global trends.
- The production of reports for the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child is a process and not an event.
- Support the actions of civil society organisations for good results.

Problems related to the sexual exploitation of children

- Few declarations of cases of sexual abuse or exploitation by children in Africa.
- Corruption which limits children's confidence in the justice system
- Slow legal procedures
- Children are exposed to repeated interviews
- Weakness of mechanism to apply laws and policies put into place
- Population's limited knowledge of laws and policies.
- Lack of orientation and care procedures for victim children.
- Out of 52 countries, only 27 ratified the African Charter of the Rights and Welfare of the Child, need to push for the ratification and integration of international instruments on the rights of the child.

Solutions based on examples of successful practices

- Adopt a cross-sector approach for intervening on all levels of the chain, from the legal statement to action in court, passing by psycho-social care.
- Implementation of a child protection unit and drop-in centres for victims of sexual abuse and exploitation and trafficking.
- Training of officers, police, judges and prosecutors on the rights of the child.

3.4. Theme 3a): Cross-sector cooperation: Exploitation in and around schools in Africa.

Sexual exploitation in schools is perpetuated by teachers and other staff but also by students and on the way to school. In numerous cases the use of violence is justified as a "natural" form of maintaining discipline and hierarchy in teacher-student relations and between girls and boys. The inequality between sexes and certain cultural beliefs and attitudes on the roles and sexuality of men and women contribute to sexual abuse and exploitation in schools. The fact that teachers are often underpaid or not paid and that they often live in difficult conditions can lead to them seeing sexual favours from students as a form of compensation.

In order to best address the various aspects of this situation, the participants were divided into three groups to work on the causes of sexual exploitation in schools, good practices and recommendations. They were mediated by Wambui Njuguna, President of the Africa-wide Movement for Children.

Objectives

- Identify and detail the causes of sexual exploitation in schools
- Explore and replicate good practices on a large scale
- Formulate recommendations in relation to those of the Rabat Conference and Yokohama Congress.

Presentations

The facilitator introduced the workshop with a general presentation of the issue before the different groups assembled.

Introduction presentation: cross-sector cooperation: Sexual exploitation in and around schools in Africa, Wambui Njuguna, President of Africa-wide Movement for Children.

Answers to gender related violence: Kenyan example

- Application of policies on gender based violence at all levels of education
- Implementation of the management of gender based sexual violence including sexual harassment.
- Development of a coordination framework for all actors involved in the implementation of a learning and safe teaching environment.
- Development and implementation of a clear policy against sexual harassment and gender based violence in all levels of the Department of Education and schooling institutions.
- However, challenges still remain due to the non-application of good intentions.

Recommended policies and action programmes in the fight against sexual exploitation in schools.

- Awareness and information exchange: spread of message to influence behaviour, teacher training and strengthening of youth associations.
- Implication of various actors on a national level (community authorities, parents, departments of education, teaching unions and media).
- Make specific gender related services available to take into account the gender dimension of the development of schooling infrastructure.
- Provide services for the care of the impact of long term sexual abuse (example: psychological trauma and treatment of sexual transmitted diseases).
- Elicit stronger political input: motivation and training of members of parliament on child protection, political support in the improvement of data collection systems, education quality and psychosocial support to victims.
- Improve legal mechanisms: periodical reports, compliance with international standards and more detailed national legislation.
- Promote self-protection life skills in children (self defence training, sexuality and health rights).
- Communication and popularisation: media campaigns, incentive through good practice, accessible legal documentation.
- Provide protection and care services: preschool programmes, equipment for children.
- Follow-up and evaluation: revision of laws, follow-up of good practices and high risk behaviour.

Problems related to the sexual exploitation of children

Society

- Development of a multimedia culture through Internet Cafés, video clubs, cell phones where children have easy access to pornographic images.
- Failures in terms of parental responsibility and response (lack of communication between generations and information on sexuality remains taboo in many African cultures).
- Violence widespread in the society: victim feels guilty and perpetrator not aware of the violent character of his actions.
- Fast and unplanned urbanisation contributed to the breakdown of values and social insertion mechanisms in African societies (example: positive aspects of initiation rituals).

Education system

- Lack of qualified and trained teachers
- Lack of maturity and responsibility of teachers due to high recruitment of non professional teachers.

- Reduced age difference between children and teachers, especially in rural areas where children start school older, which influences power relationships between child and teacher.
- Lack of resources allocated to education which is no longer a priority, which contributes to the made quality of the national education service.
- Lack of schools nearby and displacement of children.

State control

- Chronic lack of State control of schools.
- Corporal punishment.
- Opening of non-controlled private and boarding schools.
- Impunity of perpetrators of violence and sexual abuse.
- Lack of women teachers in schools.

Solutions based on examples of successful practices

- FAWE (centre of excellence, TUSEME club, etc.)
- Forum and clubs for young girls
- Creation of cultural spaces
- Psychosocial care for reinsertion and rehabilitation of victims
- Education and popularisation of life skills (civil education, education on human rights, education of parents).
- Adopt a multi-sector approach and clarify the roles of different education actors or justice and supervisors.
- Implication of education executives in childhood protection forums
- Exchange and sharing of documentation and good practices
- Approach aimed to strengthen the entire community's capacities in order to apply community child care mechanisms especially with information for parents on the issue.

3.5. Theme 3b). Cross-sector cooperation. Sexual violence based on gender in conflict and post-conflict situations

Sexual exploitation and abuse are forms of gender based violence (GBV) including early marriage, female genital excision/mutilations and sexual violence. In a wider sense, the GBV issue resides in power and gender inequality. While GBV and sexual exploitation are prevalent in all the countries and at all levels of development, the situation is worse in countries in war and in a period of human crisis. In this context, humanitarian aid provides an opportunity to set up protection and coordination mechanisms related to GBV.

Following a presentation by the panel⁸ and under the supervision of Sarah Norton-Staal⁹, workshop facilitator, participants were invited to work in two groups, one Francophone and the other Anglophone, on the recommendations of different actors (civil society, government, humanitarian community and donators).

Objectives

⁸ The session panel included Rufus Kaine, the Honorable Deputy Minister of Liberia, Andrea James, Regional Emergency Specialist UNICEF WCARO Dakar, Massimo Zucca, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF New York.

⁹ Emergency Child Protection Manager and Gender Focal Point, UNICEF, Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office.

- Identify and promote good practice in the fight against GBV, especially thanks to international instruments and coordination mechanisms related to situations of conflict.
- Draw up recommendations specific to Africa in anticipation of the 3rd World Congress in Rio.

Presentations

Introduction presentation: Gender based violence in conflict and post-conflict situations

Sarah Norton-Staal of the child protection in emergency situations, UNICEF Western and Southern Africa and Massimo Zucca, UNICEF New York

General advocacy of and prevention policy for GBV

- United Nations Secretary General Campaign on violence against women and girls
- IASC (Inter Agency Standing Committee) guidelines on GBV, HIV/AIDS and gender
- United Nations Action for the end of sexual violence in conflict situations “Stop Rape Now”
- Humanitarian reform: IASC cluster and GBV sub-cluster
- Security Council resolutions 1612, 1820
 - SC Res. 1612: Monitoring and Reporting on child rights violations in situations of armed conflict.
 - SC Res. 1820: Call for the prevention of violence, measures against perpetrators of rape, prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation carried out by peace-keepers and humanitarian workers, review of the frequency of GBV and trends.

Example of a GBV projects in Africa

- Integration of HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care in GBV programmes
- Psychosocial support, strengthening of partners’ capacity and advocacy
- “Rainbow” Centres in Sierra Leone, medical, legal, psychosocial support and care to victims and families
- Development of national GBV strategies and policies
- “One-stop” Centres in South Africa and Ethiopia for rape victims
- Promotion of effective legislation on GBV
- Legal protection, protective environment for women and children against GBV in schools and communities.

Problems related to the sexual exploitation of children

- Deeply rooted inequality between genders
- Poor knowledge and capacity in the reinforcement of existing laws
- Traditional beliefs and harmful practices
- In conflict situations
- General insecurity and violence
- Inaccessibility of basic services
- Destruction of infrastructure and communication systems

Solutions based on examples of successful practices

Coordination

- Install multi-sector teams to better coordinate actors of different sectors
- Cluster approach makes it possible to apply the community level resolutions (encourage government leadership of clusters according to capacity and nature of conflict).
- Compile cartography of actors and activities in the approach per cluster (example for Mano River countries).
- Need to work in tandem and implement coordination mechanisms for GBV.
- Government must direct coordination efforts and support multi-sector approach.

Documentation and evaluation

- Need to compile a summary of programmes (example from DRC) to make concrete propositions
- Evaluation ((example from research done by Columbia University in northern Uganda)
- Gathering of data on sexual violence in all countries on a common basis, follow-up and documentation/report such as the 1612 mechanism which can be replicated.
- Governments and partners must encourage community participation and reinforce local capacity
- Rigorous academic research and data collection on GBV
- Documentation of GBV testimonials, awareness and advocacy
- Pay more attention to sexual violence in 1612 documentation/report mechanism.

Strengthening of capacity

- Develop local capacity to guarantee the durability of the actions
- Encourage community participation, need to identify and support communities
- Support traditional mechanisms
- Support public service administrations in the advocacy for the application and reinforcement of laws.

3.6. Theme 3c) Cross-sector cooperation. Prevention and response service including community child protection systems.

Prevention and protection mechanism for sexual violence and gender based violence against children and adolescents are most often inadequate, inefficient, not available and not adapted to children. There are prevention opportunities and early interventions on a community level. Documentation/report mechanisms, follow-up plans and care are used in awareness campaigns and for the promotion of an increase in demand in terms of services. While the good practices which strengthen community protection capacity and mechanisms are documented across the continent, cooperation and relations with governmental systems are not always well established or coordinated.

Facilitated by Margie de Monchy, regional adviser for child protection, UNICEF Eastern and Southern Africa, this workshop addressed the multi-sector coordination prevention mechanisms integrating government.

Objectives

- Analyse challenges faced in strengthening cross-sector cooperation for the prevention and care of children and adolescents victims of sexual violence.
- Identify mechanisms to strengthen cross-sector prevention and protection systems
- Priorities actions needed for the follow-up and adequate evaluation of cross-sector systems
- Identify mechanisms to strengthen coordination between governments and civil society in the prevention and care of children and adolescents victims of sexual violence.
- Analyse possibilities of developing the resources required to implement an adequate prevention and protection system.

Presentations

After the introduction presentation by Margie de Monchy, four presentations were given which illustrated the different coordination experiences in child protection.

Presentation 1: Cross-sector response from the government: Support of women and children victims of sexual abuse and exploitation in accessing justice

Thoko Majokweni, Special director of public legal proceedings, National Authority of legal proceedings, Sexual abuse and community affairs unit, Department of Justice, South Africa

Coordination

- Interdepartmental team: government services, coordination team for the National Action Plan, trafficking of people work group
- Implementation of structured mechanisms of cross-sector coordination with political leadership and resources

Prevention of cross-sector sexual violence by type

- Respective governmental services must become committed to the physical build-up of communicates in order to minimise risk factors.
- Criminal justice system must address its flaws and develop human resources and skills capable of efficiently, effectively and quickly responding to sexual exploitation.
- Rape prevention must be integrated into a crime fighting strategy (Government and Civil Society).
- Rehabilitation programmes for perpetrators of sexual violence must contribute to the prevention of rape.

Research on prevention: main results and recommendations

- Integrate rape prevention as a government development objective within global operational and strategic plans of respective departments.
- Conduct research required, follow-up and evaluation programmes to optimise impact on prevention and care.
- Develop indicator databases within various State departments to promote measurable security procedures against rape.

Presentation 2: Community based model: cross-section cooperation for prevention and protection in Kenya, Dr. Philista Onyango, Director, ANPPCAN (African Network for Prevention and Protection of Child Abuse and Neglect)

Results

- Emergence of viable economic structures and activities
- Prevention and protection services directed at children
- Child participation
- Influence the compilation of policies and legislative reforms
- Improvement of networks and coordination
- Open dialogue and empowerment
- Identification of other important issues
- Improvement of children's environment

Lessons learnt

- Working together stimulates synergies
- Influential actors have an under-used potential for intervention
- Communities having acquired knowledge, skills and some income are able to protect children
- Child protection can not be treated in isolation
- Governments tend to give too much credit to good practice

Presentation 3: Model response to the psychosocial needs of severely affected children. Itinerant Psychosocial Support Facility Alice Behrendt, Project Manager, Western Africa Plan

In collaboration with social health services, children are taken into care according to the following stages:

- Identification and geographical distribution of children in the facility
- Evaluation of needs case by case: identification of psychosocial needs in collaboration with social affairs services and school and professional institutions.
- Psychosocial support and emergency medical treatment: suicide prevention, treatment of diseases/infections and infant care (malnutrition).
- Response to social and other needs: family medication, financing of school or apprenticeship, traditional rituals, etc.
- Evaluation: workshop and data comparison
- Child follow-up

Recommendations

- Integrate mental health component into public health programmes and national agendas
- Reinforce capacity of appropriate departments and NGOs for the development and implementation of psychosocial support programmes to children victims of sexual abuse and exploitation.
- Set up a permanent psychosocial support facility
- Develop educational programmes for parents
- Rehabilitate positive cultural practices in terms of protection

Presentation 4: Element of a National Protection System. Elkane Mooh, Regional Advisor, Save the Children

Main issues

National policies/strategies must be based on:

- The principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Protection, reconstruction and rehabilitation
- The right to remain in a family – child's best interests
- Knowledge on the rights of the child

Main interconnected and shared elements

- Legal and political development reforms
- Multi-sector cooperation between departments and civil society organisations
- Development of an informed and enlightened public
- Continuous research programme

Problems related to the sexual exploitation of children

- Accessibility of care services for victims of sexual abuse and exploitation at all levels – urban, rural, community, etc.
- Management of cases of sexual exploitation within families which are often not reported on a community level.
- Mobilisation of resources for a psychosocial support to children victims of sexual abuse and exploitation.

Solutions based on examples of successful practices

- Reinforce child protection system on a community level – implication of the community is vital
- Integration of child protection systems within the State system and structure
- Recognise the role played by religious organisations in sexual abuse and exploitation prevention education and awareness
- Implementation of a multi-sector reference system for information management on sexual abuse and exploitation – identification of short, mid and long term solutions for victims.

3.7. Theme 3d) Cross-sector cooperation: Strengthen children’s capacity to protect themselves against sexual exploitation and abuse

Two days before the Preparatory Technical Meeting (on 22 and 23 September 2008), children from all over Africa gathered together for a forum organised by Save the Children where they were able to debate the issue of sexual exploitation and child protection in general by identifying the actors and roles of everyone involved, including those of the children themselves. In keeping with these two preliminary days, a workshop was dedicated to children, aiming to promote and develop their capacities for self-protection against sexual exploitation and abuse, facilitated by Elkane Mooh, Regional Advisor, Save the Children. The children were divided into six work groups in order to identify each type of actor’s own activities and strategies.

Objectives

- Identify bodies (actors, organisations, services) which may help children protect themselves
- Identify the strategies and activities which make it possible to strengthen children’s capacity to protect themselves

Problems related to the sexual exploitation of children

- Poverty and unemployment
- Materialism, imitation and tagging-along
- Lack of information
- Parents are analphabetic
- Ethnic and armed conflict, violence of society
- Separated children, victims of trafficking, disabled children are particularly vulnerable
- Impunity, corruption and amicable settlement of abuse
- Non-denunciation of perpetrators due to fear/apprehension
- Sexual desire of abuses and abundance of pornographic websites
- Misuse of new technologies, media influence
- Traditional/religious practices
- Drug/alcohol abuse
- Insufficiency of family planning and consequently families are too large
- Indecent clothing of girls and boys
- Insufficient reinforcement of the child protection capabilities of families, communities and state services
- Insufficient child protection systems
- Young age of teachers

Solutions based on examples of successful practices

Activities and strategies

Child and youth organisations

- Organise debates on the theme, especially during radio programmes aimed at children
- Use theatres and forums as communication channels or traditional circuits
- Strengthen children's capacity, teach them to know how to say no and help them have confidence in themselves
- Speak to children about education, break the culture of silence by developing a relationship built on trust between children and peer educators and/or parents
- Exchange experiences
- Reinforce communities capacities, training peer educators on legislation
- Use the individual or personal approach (relationship between peers)
- Integrate children into evaluation programmes in order to push for the fulfilment of commitments

Government

- Make children responsible, train them on their rights
- Awareness campaigns through radio and television programme animated by children and with adults
- Create committees to increase children's awareness
- Create children parliaments to advocate in all countries
- Created youth centres where children feel safe, drop-in and reinsertion centres for victim children and a toll-free telephone number
- Develop means of communication and infrastructure to facilitate communication with authorities
- Fight against corruption by increasing the salary of police officers and judges and punishing them should they not apply the law

Schools/traditional chiefs

- Advocate for the insertion of a training module on the sexual exploitation of children, increase awareness in schools through campaigns
- Inform children of the risks of early sexuality
- Create clubs and back them up with equipment
- Organise extra-curriculum activities
- Reinforce their capacities in light of being better reintegrated in their communities
- Encourage traditional chiefs to adhere to the fight against sexual exploitation

Police of minors

- Police must be trained to better communicate with children and better understand them
- Installation of a special child's unit and a welcoming space for children which protects their interest
- Police must protect victims so that they may live freely
- Police must have a community based programme (example: playgrounds, schools, youth clubs) and speak about sexual exploitation

Families/communities

- Encourage intergenerational dialogue especially on sexuality (children must also speak to their parents)
- Promote equality of opportunity between girls and boys with regard to access to school where they may access information and learn to protect themselves.
- Access to sources of information (magazines, films, etc.), parents must cooperate and monitor.
- Parents must be a source of inspiration and serve as a model to their children, watch over their education, encourage them and support them
- Teachers must address children related issues in class (example: sexuality, means of protection, etc.)

NGOs, information centres

- Implementation of centres where children will have access to information enabling them to defend themselves against sexual abuse and exploitation. These centres must be decentralised to reach children within their community.
- Centres must be managed by young people
- Public libraries must be decentralised in communities and provide access to appropriate sources with information on sexuality
- Information centres must communicate and provide information on HIV/AIDS and sexuality and be places for discussion, debates and sharing of information
- NGOs must be the link with police when dealing with individual cases
- Train girls to defend themselves
- Develop tools to favour children participation and facilitate their access to services and support

3.8. Theme 4: Round table. The private sector and collaboration strategies for the protection of children in Africa

The convergence of making companies socially responsible (Corporate Social Responsibility) and the activism for Human Rights created new opportunities for NGOs to work on an international level with the private sector in preventing exploitation of children. Corporate Social Responsibility is a concept in which

companies, on a voluntary basis, integrate social and environmental considerations into their operations and interactions with their collaborators. Thanks to this concept, companies of all sizes, in cooperation with all participating parties, are able to fuse economic, social and environmental ambitions.

Facilitated by Mr Mark Capaldi, Deputy Director of ECPAT International, this workshop was the opportunity to identify successful corporate social responsibility experiences and development strategies for this approach.

Objectives

- Analyse the current state and nature of the region's private sector's strategies and objectives regarding child protection
- Identify good practices implemented by the private sector which are proving to be promising
- Priorities strategies which make it possible to commit the private sector, governments and civil society in a collaborative effort aimed at fighting against the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.
- Identify key-actors of the African private sector whose intervention will have a determining impact
- Draw up key recommendations (specific objectives) and corresponding key-actions required to reinforce strategies and objectives aimed at insuring the local impact of the private sector's initiatives
- Identify the signs (indicators) of progress which show an increase in corporate social responsibility in the African region.

Presentations

Presentation 1: Body Shop, Mr Christopher Davis, World Campaigns Director, The Body Shop International

What needs to be taken into consideration for corporate social responsibility

- Partnerships are not wealthy
- Partnerships can make a difference
- Social responsibility is a standard

Body Shop Proposals

- Encourage the private sector which commits to social responsibility
- Encourage the use of labels which have an impact of social responsibility objectives
- Encourage certain companies to address the child protection issue
- In certain cases, confidence is a more important label than that of the government or from media
- Innovative companies in the travel and hospitality sector have already committed
- There are opportunities for the private sector to do more
- Creation of a platform to exchange experiences

Presentation 2: Social responsibility and collaboration, put into place principles of responsible tourism, Mr, Adama Bah, Manager, The Bungalow Beach Hotel, The Gambia and Tourism Consultant

Principles of responsible tourism

- Social responsibility is based on the exchange of values, this is not philanthropy but is part of business
- Establish policy on responsible tourism

- Tourism is a product, it sells a service and “dreams”
- Install ethical principles of tourism on a large scale
- Commitment to ethical principles is important
- Commitment to increasing consumer awareness
- Availability of resources for implementing the projects
- Staff training

Gambia experience, implementing responsible tourism policy

- Advocacy and numerous awareness campaigns through “young voices”, children led to advocate and campaign for the promotion of children’s rights
- Commitment from the industry, voluntary signing of a code of conduct
- Exchange of good practices with other countries

Presentation 3: UBS Optimus Foundation Dr Sheila Mokoboto-Zwane, Head: UBS Optimus Foundation - Southern Africa

Reasons for corporate social responsibility

- For economic, social and environmental reasons
- Tax reductions
- Community pressure
- Staff development
- Improvement of relations with community and public image

Reticence towards taking into account sexual abuse issues

- Lack of understanding of the size of the problem and sexual abuse perpetrators
- Inconsistency of legal sentences
- Absence of a coordination political framework
- Fear of being misunderstood by the public

Lessons learnt

- Marketing and increasing awareness are effective tools in mobilising the community
- This makes it possible to build good relationships with governments and departments
- Impact on the training and development of a work team which contributes to increasing staff productivity

Problems related to the sexual exploitation of children

- Companies can have hidden political agendas
- Non respect of ethics, poor management practices and abuse of children within companies
- Poor distribution of resources and inefficiency of programmes
- Reorientation of tourist destinations where child protection against sexual exploitation is less constraining
- Absence of child protection laws in opposition to the code of conduct developed by operators

Solutions based on examples of successful practices

- Place child protection at the heart of business
- Work in partnerships

- The label holds power, influence which can have more impact than a government or media campaign
- Implementation of an alliance with the private sector to encourage, inform, exchange and associate talent and resources
- Work in collaboration with the Chamber of Trade to identify companies
- The private sector needs innovation and precise propositions in a simple language without using acronyms.

Part IV: Summary and recommendations

4.1 Summary of difficulties encountered in Africa

Since the first World Congress of Yokohama in 2001, significant improvements have been achieved in most African countries in specific fields including: a) an increase of awareness on the existence and complex nature of the different forms of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents; b) revisions and reform of legislation for a better child protection in connection with African and international standards; c) the implementation of appropriate pilot models for the care of children victims of sexual exploitation throughout the continent; d) and the existence of good practices which can be reproduced on a larger scale.

However, major challenges were noted which have yet to be overcome in order to eradicate the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents and insure there is adequate response to victim children, taking into account emerging trends and increasingly complex nuances surrounding the different forms of sexual exploitation of children:

- Although the legal framework has been reinforced, victim children's access to justice remains limited.
- Law application mechanisms are poor and are often not favourable to children
- Poverty has not been significantly reduced and many children are at risk of or forced into sexual exploitation due to their needs to survive or to those of their family.
- Both governmental and civil society child protection systems are often solicited and poor and are not provided on a large scale, which means many children do not have access to services.
- Both financial and human resources remain extremely limited in child protection services
- There is a serious lack of information on the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in Africa which has a major impact on the planning, follow-up and budgeting process.
- Considering that the situation of sexual exploitation of children is constantly evolving, new manifestations require further information and intervention. For example: (i) the use of information and communication technologies in Africa exposes children to certain risks of sexual exploitation; (ii) the recent significant increase in tourism on the continent has unfortunately led to increased risk of child sexual tourism and child pornography.
- Relations with other child protection issues also need to be taken into account, namely the vulnerability of AIDS orphans who can lead them to

sexual exploitation and the risk of children victims of sexual exploitation of contracting HIV.

- Coordination of activities and interventions remains a challenge.

It has been acknowledged that for the acceleration of actions for the implementation of an Africa worthy of children (2008-2012), the African Union Call for Action provides a framework for the fight against sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in Africa. Globally, this call for action aims to reinforce the legislative and political framework, the institutional framework and to mobilise and raise funds. More specifically, with an objective to improve child protection, it is a call for action to all members to:

a) promote and implement strategies integrated on a national level including zero tolerance, accompanying by approved amendments for the integration of criminal codes, reinforcement of adapted legislation and increase in awareness for the abandon of traditional practices such as female genital mutilations or early marriage;

b) promote and implement multi-sector programmes to end violence against children including the negligence, abuse, sexual exploitation, work and trafficking of children guided by research and recommendations from the United Nations study on violence against children as well as by support activities such as toll-free telephones and safe shelters for the rehabilitation and reinsertion of children victims of abuse, sexual exploitation, rape or trafficking.

4.2 Recommendations

The participants agreed in principle to 30 recommendations relating to specific issues in light of improving the prevention and protection of children and adolescents victims of sexual exploitation in Africa. The recommendations arose from the discussions of the eight workshops focused around eight main themes, 1) the underlying forms and causes; 2) legal framework and application of laws; 3) cross-sector cooperation; 4) corporate social responsibility.

Based on the recommendations from the thematic workshops, emphasis was put on documentation and the exchange of good practices; increasing knowledge through research and evaluations; the implementation of information management systems (IMS); the reinforcement of the capacities of service providers; and advocacy for an increase of allocated resources.

Theme 1a: Social norms

- Identify and document social norms and traditional practices which encourage positive attitudes or behaviours with regard to children;
- Reinforce and adapt innovative approaches based on the promotion of “positive” social norms with regard to child; integrate traditional practices in institutional systems;
- On the basis of the facts shown, advocate with donators for the grant of long term funding, development of social norms being slow in essence.

Theme 1b: Economic factors

- Document and share good practices and lessons learnt relating to the positive impact of social protection programmes on the issue of sexual exploitation of children in Africa;
- Insure that national protection strategies appropriately take into account resources issues related to gender and childhood on one hand, and on the other hand that they are sufficiently equipped with resources to meet the needs of groups of the most vulnerable children and their families;

- Advocate and work in partnership with governments and members of parliament to insure that the importance of poverty reducing and social protection strategies for the prevention of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents are taken in to account.

Theme 2: Application of the law and legal frameworks

- Ratify the main international and regional conventions relating to the sexual exploitation of children and insure that by 2010 for all state members of the African Union, national nominative frameworks are harmonised with the African Charter of the Rights and Welfare of the Child of the one hand, and with the CRC on the other hand.
- Document and exchange good practices in Africa in terms of legal reform and the harmonisation of laws relating to the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.
- Set up a unit for legal training and mechanisms for the popularisation of legislation relating to children for members of parliament and government, service providers, the private sector and civil society on all levels including that of the child.
- Remove the main obstacles blocking the application of the law through, for example, the implementation of proceedings which favour children victims of sexual exploitation, birth registration and insuring an adequate distribution of resources.

Theme 3a: Sexual exploitation in and around school

- Implement surveillance, follow-up and reference mechanisms for cases of sexual abuse to children in schools and their surroundings to guarantee a safe and favourable environment for children.
- Promote and support the involvement and active collaboration of social structures (teaching unions, parent associations and student councils) for the protection and implementation of answers to the situation of sexual abuse and exploitation made against children, especially girls;
- Increase awareness and strengthen the capacities of teachers, staff employed in the schools and their surroundings, parents and community representatives on the rights of the child, legalisation and existing child protection services.

Theme 3b: Sex-specific violence in situations of conflict and post-conflict

- Strengthen the coordination of the humanitarian response to sex-specific violence: cluster approaches, government leadership, cartography of interventions, etc.
- Carry out rigorous large-scale evaluation programmes in the fight against sex-specific violence in situations of conflict and post-conflict; spread the lessons learnt in order to promote the most promising approaches;
- Improve quality of data (broken down by age and gender) in situations of conflict and post-conflict (by using surveillance mechanisms, such as Security Council Resolution 1612);
- Support and reinforce local protection systems on a community level, especially in countries where institutional protection mechanisms are not operational during periods of conflict.

Theme 3c: Prevention and care services, including community based childhood protection systems

- Draw up cartographies on a national level of cross-sector services for the prevention and response to the situation of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents; analyse the main weakness and evaluate costs thereof;

- Document and exchange good practices in terms of the cross-sector prevention and response in Africa with the aim to be implemented all throughout the continent;
- Promote and support the implementation of global information management systems (IMS) to measure and evaluate both the impact of sexual violence made against children and the effectiveness of the services which aim to limit this impact. Use this data to supply arguments for the grant of sufficient resources for the intensification of more promising actions.

Theme 3d: Strengthen children’s capacity to protect themselves against sexual exploitation and abuse

- Advocate for the integration of sexual education, especially with regard to the sexual exploitation of children, in the school curriculum.
- Encourage involvement of traditional chiefs in the fight against sexual exploitation of children
- Allocate children broadcast time so that they can organise and participate in radio and television programmes
- Allow children to have access to documents on sexual exploitation in libraries
- Teach children how to say no to sexual exploitation and break the culture of silence surrounding sexual abuse.

Theme 4: Corporate social responsibility

- Create an alliance with the private sector and a “fund” managed by the private sector for activities related to corporate social responsibility and the exchange of lessons learnt;
- Promote the use of secured internet as well as parent control through the reinforcement of relations between media and the information industry
- Spread the “code of conduct” initiative to the entire travel and tourism sector in Africa
- Strengthen collaboration mechanisms with the private sector, civil society and government within the framework of the National Action Plans.
- Document and exchange existing good practices and the lessons learnt to be able to reproduce them.

Annex: The preparatory children's forum (September 22'23)

Under the aegis of ECPAT, Plan International, Save the Children Sweden and World Vision twenty two (22) children representatives from Central, East, Southern and West Africa met together on the 22nd and 23rd of September 2008 in Dakar for a preparatory session to the African technical meeting. These children were chosen by their peers during national consultations held in their countries

After a review of the situation of sexual exploitation and sexual violence against children in their respective countries and based on the themes of the technical meeting, children were able to give their inputs to the thematic discussions and the following observations and recommendations were made:

1. Sexual violence is becoming widespread in families, at school and in institutions as well as on the streets. Incest, paedophilia and child prostitution are taking on worrying proportions in the face of general indifference,
2. Some categories of children such as girls, handicapped children, children affected by HIV AIDS are subject to discrimination and exclusion, which makes them even more vulnerable
3. Some religious and traditional practices such as female genital mutilation (FGM), early marriage, placement to repay debt, exploitation of children by the worst forms of work which constitute serious violations of the rights of the child are becoming more and more widespread,
4. The consequences of violence are serious and dramatic for children. They range from trauma to loss of human life and also include injuries, physical handicap, psychological after-effects, with reproduction of violence by the child victims, dropping out and failing at school, family and social break down, juvenile delinquency, health problems and even suicide.

This violence against children is therefore prejudicial to their health, their development, their growth and their well being.

After analysing the different themes, exchanging experiences, discussions as well as working in groups and plenary sessions, the children delegates drew the following conclusions and recommendations:

For the governments:

- Draft and apply laws that tackle violence against children punish the perpetrators and witnesses who keep silent and increase the sentences
- Promote good governance to avoid corruption and impunity and peace initiatives to avoid civil war and political conflict
- Promote literacy classes for parents and access to education for all children
- Create and promote access to health and psychosocial support and counselling centres for children victim of sexual exploitation
- Support children's' organisations in their initiatives to fight against sexual exploitation of children

For NGO, UN Agencies and civil society:

- Raise awareness of the population on the consequences of sexual exploitation of children and break the culture of silence
- Advocate for the establishment of efficient and decentralise national child protection systems
- Support children's' organisations in their initiatives to fight against sexual exploitation of children

- Support counselling and psychosocial centres for children victim of sexual exploitation

For families and communities:

- Create and promote intergenerational dialog between children and their parents of all matters concerning them including sexual education
- Occupy children's free time with healthy activities and participate to schools activities to know what is going on your children's schools
- Parents should accompany their children to school and safeguard their protection and create dialog with teachers
- Parents and communities should not send their children to work fro their own benefit.

For children

- Denounce the perpetrators, refuse all suspicious propositions and behave responsibly
- Initiate awareness raising campaigns of their peers and parents on the consequences of sexual violence.
- Initiative mutual support activities including helping friend to denounce the perpetrators and to get in dialog with their parents.
- Advocate their governments to punish the perpetrators and witnesses who keep silent and to increase the sentences