



On the 25-28 of November 2008, the **World Congress III against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents** took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The Congress, which was organized by the Brazilian Government, UNICEF, ECPAT International and the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child, gathered more than 3,000 participants from 137 governments, civil society, the private sector, academic institutions and 300 adolescents and youth.

Throughout the three-day event, workshops and discussions centered around five key areas:

- Forms of sexual exploitation and its new scenarios
- Legal framework and accountability
- Integrated cross-sector policies
- Initiatives of corporate social responsibility
- Strategies for international cooperation

The Congress provided an opportunity to renew global commitments and to galvanize international will and support to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation of children and adolescents. It presented an important platform for exchange of effective approaches in programming and for strengthening international cooperation against sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.

The outcome document, the “*Rio de Janeiro Declaration and Call for Action to Prevent and Stop Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents*”, calls on States to continue to ratify and implement international human and child rights instruments; define, prohibit and criminalize all acts of sexual exploitation of children in their justification, and establish effective extraterritorial jurisdiction. It also calls on States to increase efforts to address the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents through the development of holistic national protection systems that aim to protect children from all forms of violence and exploitation, emphasizing prevention and reinforcing or establishing multi-sectoral referral mechanisms to provide comprehensive support and services to children victims. It also recognizes the importance of addressing social norms that are harmful to children and contribute to sexual exploitation of children such as gender discrimination and stereotypes.

The Congress was preceded by a global preparatory process, involving regional and thematic consultations, development of background papers and review of national efforts.