INTRODUCTION
Since December 2004, Voices of Youth has undertaken a series of ongoing and event driven initiatives to support the input of children and adolescents into the Secretary General’s Study on Violence Against Children.

Following is a brief overview of already undertaken initiatives at both global and regional levels. We hope that this overview will also act as a roadmap for possible Voices of Youth support to future consultations.

GLOBAL
Global online discussion event: “Enough silence! Make your voice heard about violence against children”
From 13 December 2004 – 14 January 2005, children and adolescents from every region of the world contributed more than 100 messages to an online VOY discussion on violence. Participants were asked to give their definition of violence and to provide suggestions and recommendations for ways to stop violence against children.

The discussion was moderated by a member of the Study Secretariat and was conducted exclusively in English.

To view the discussion: http://www.unicef.org/voy/discussions/forumdisplay.php?f=67

Newsletter
Voices of Youth dedicated the February 2005 issue of its bimonthly newsletter, “What Young People Are Saying”, to violence against children. The content of the newsletter was largely based on the global online discussion and served as an additional means of presenting the views of young people to decision and policy makers globally. The newsletter has a global circulation of approximately 13,000, including adults and children. Approximately 3,000 people downloaded a copy of the February newsletter.

To view the newsletter: http://www.unicef.org/voy/speakout/speakout_1772.html

Ongoing discussion
In early March 2005, Voices of Youth members requested that a permanent forum dedicated exclusively to violence against children be established. This area was opened the first week of March and is moderated by two Voices of Youth members, a girl from Brazil and a boy from India. Since opening, over 3,000 young people have read and / or posted messages in the forum, and over 150 individual posts have been contributed.

This forum will remain available permanently, and offers a continuous means of gathering inputs from young people.

To visit the forum: http://www.unicef.org/voy/discussions/forumdisplay.php?f=72
REGIONAL

Caribbean consultation
In March 2005, UNICEF hosted a regional consultation on violence in the Caribbean. Voices of Youth contributed to this consultation by setting up a private message board for young people from the Caribbean to post their reflections on violence. The discussion was moderated by a young person in the Caribbean.

At the end of the 2 week long online discussion, the young moderator drafted a summary of the discussion that was presented at the regional consultation. That summary was also uploaded onto Voices of Youth for ongoing reference.

To view the discussion: http://www.unicef.org/voy/discussions/forumdisplay.php?f=69

Tunis Colloquium on Violence in Schools
14 – 16 April 2005, the UNICEF Tunis office is hosting an international colloquium on violence in schools. As a contribution to this Colloquium, Voices of Youth hosted two events: A live chat and an online discussion event.

The live chat, conducted in Arabic, was held on 11 April and children from five out of the seven invited countries participated (Djibouti, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia and Yemen). The three Tunisian youth delegates, who will also be presenting at the actual colloquium, participated in the chat, with one of the Tunisian participants co-moderating the discussion with a UNICEF staff member. The Tunisian youth delegates will compile a final summary of the discussion that will be presented at the colloquium.

The online discussion solicitated the inputs of children and adolescents globally on violence in schools. Over two weeks, approximately 250 young people read and / or posted in the online discussion space, and participants from four regions (CEE/CIS, EAPRO, ROSA, WCARO and Industrialized countries) posted messages. The summary of this discussion will be circulated at the Colloquium and will be presented by a senior UNICEF staff member as well as by the Tunisian youth delegates.

To view the discussion: http://www.unicef.org/voy/discussions/showthread.php?t=1886