

MIDNIGHT PLUS TWO

The Rio de Janeiro **Pact** to Prevent and Stop Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents

PREAMBLE

We, participants at the World Congress III against the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents, representing governments, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, human rights institutions, **ombudspersons**, the private sector, **law enforcement and legal community**, **religious leaders**, **parliamentarians**, **researchers and academics**, civil society and children and adolescents,¹ have gathered in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, (25-28 November 2008) to review developments and action taken in follow-up to the Stockholm Declaration and Agenda for Action 1996 and the Yokohama Global Commitment 2001, to identify lessons learned and key challenges, and to commit ourselves to the implementation of goals and targets of a Plan of Action to prevent, prohibit and stop sexual exploitation² of children and adolescents and provide the necessary support to children who have fallen victim to it.

- **We reiterate** that the sexual exploitation of children is a gross violation of their right to respect of their human dignity and physical and mental integrity and that it cannot be condoned under any circumstances.
- **We express** concern at the continuing high level of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in States in all regions, and at the increase in certain forms of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents, in particular through abuse of the Internet and new and developing technologies, and as a result of the increased mobility of perpetrators in travel and tourism.
- **We note** with deep concern the increased vulnerability of many children to sexual exploitation as a result of increasing poverty, social **and gender** inequality, exclusion, drug and alcohol abuse, ongoing demand for sex with children, environmental degradation, HIV/AIDS, displacement, **occupation**, armed conflict and other emergencies that create strains on the basic unit of the family responsible for the protection of children, as well as the persistent demand for sex with children in all regions and States underpinned by an environment of social tolerance, complicity and impunity.
- **We recall** the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) which calls on States Parties to take all appropriate measures to ensure that the child is protected from sexual exploitation, as well as the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, which require States Parties to prohibit, criminalize and prosecute these practices.
- **We recognize** the participation of children and adolescents at the World Congress III and the importance of the significant contribution they have made and will continue to make in preventing and stopping the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.
- **We welcome** the work of the Committee on the Rights of Child and other relevant international, regional and national human rights mechanisms in addressing the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.

¹ Throughout this document, **'child' and 'children and adolescents'** are used to denote all human beings below the age of 18 years.

² Throughout this document, **'sexual exploitation of children and adolescents'** is used to denote all forms of sexual abuse and exploitation of people under the age of 18 in all settings: in the home and family, in schools and educational settings, in care and justice institutions, in the community and in the workplace.

A. REVIEW OF PROGRESS AND OUTSTANDING CHALLENGES

We welcome the progress achieved in addressing the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents since the 2nd World Congress in Yokohama, Japan, in 2001:

- The entry into force of key international instruments such as the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (ratified by 129 States as at 15 November 2008), and the increase in ratifications of ILO Convention 182 (1999) on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour and of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (the Palermo Protocol), supplementing the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and the adoption of new regional instruments including the Council of Europe Conventions on Action against Trafficking of Human Beings, on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse and on Cybercrime.
- Adoption of legislative measures by more States to strengthen the protection of children from sexual exploitation in compliance with international obligations, including the enactment of legal provisions for the protection of child victims of sexual exploitation during the process of criminal investigations and trials against alleged perpetrators, taking into account the *United Nations Guidelines on justice in matters involving child victims and witnesses of crimes*.
- The development and implementation of national agendas, strategies or plans for the protection of children from sexual exploitation, increasingly within the context of broader, overarching national frameworks to create a World Fit for Children.
- The establishment of multi-sectoral initiatives to prevent and combat trafficking of children including for the purpose of sexual exploitation.
- The conclusion of bilateral and multilateral agreements between and among States with a view to establishing effective cooperation in efforts to prevent and combat cross-border trafficking and sexual exploitation of children and adolescents as well as for the detection, investigation, prosecution and punishment of those responsible
- Increased support of companies operating in tourism and travel by signing the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism.
- An increase in some countries both in training for professionals involved in prevention and protection of children from sexual exploitation and victim support, and in targeted awareness raising and education campaigns.
- The increased engagement of UN and UN-related organizations, national and international NGOs, **other civil society organizations**, human rights institutions and inter-governmental organizations in preventing and stopping the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.

While acknowledging the progress, we note particular challenges and concerns:

- There remain significant gaps in knowledge and understanding of how to address and respond to emerging manifestations, trends and the increasingly complex nature of the different forms of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents, **including the increasing challenge of children on the move**;
- In many States, laws do not adequately define and criminalize the various forms of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in accordance with applicable international standards, therefore hindering the effective protection of children as well as the prosecution of these crimes.

- Consistent law enforcement and the ending of impunity is too often hampered by the lack of adequate resources, structures for implementation and a lack of appropriate training of those involved.
- Impunity for perpetrators of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents is **often** perpetuated by the lack of investigation and prosecution of offenders in the country where the crime takes place, **and the lack** of consistent and effective extraterritorial jurisdiction, often hindered by a ‘dual criminality’ requirement, and the lack of necessary extradition regulations and mutual legal assistance agreements and practices.
- There is an insufficient focus on measures to reduce and eliminate the demand for sex with children and adolescents, and in some States inadequate sanctions against sexual abusers of children.
- Children’s right to express their views and have those views given due weight in all matters affecting their lives, including in all administrative and judicial proceedings, is not consistently incorporated in national legislation and practice; and in particular child victims of sexual exploitation experience further trauma because of the lack of effective opportunities to exercise that right and of child-sensitive victim and witness procedures.
- **Protection for children’s sexual development, in accordance with their age, empowers them against sexual exploitation of children and adolescents but is not sufficiently recognized.**
- Insufficient resources are made available, including where appropriate through international cooperation, to ensuring free, accessible, safe and high quality education for all children as a component of primary prevention against the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.
- Laws and programmes addressing trafficking in human beings, including for the purpose of sexual exploitation, too often do not recognize the special status of child victims and their right to special protection, including through repatriation procedures that guarantee the child’s safety in case of return to their place of origin and support for full restitution of their rights.
- Many States have not taken all feasible measures with the aim of ensuring all appropriate assistance to child victims of sexual exploitation, including their full social reintegration and their full physical and psychological recovery; and assistance is often compromised by a lack of effective coordination among the necessary partners (including law enforcement, immigration, social workers, mental and physical health professionals, housing and education services).
- **The links between sexual exploitation of children and adolescents and family violence are not sufficiently acknowledged in policies and programmes.**
- There continues to be a lack of reliable, disaggregated data on the prevalence and nature of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents and on children at risk, and inadequate evaluation of the impact of legislative, social and other measures to prevent and stop the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents and to support those who have fallen victim to it.
- Information continues to circulate that is not based on updated knowledge and the wealth of field-based experience in the areas of prevention and protection of children, law enforcement and victim support; and there is insufficient proactive sharing of experiences and lessons learned.

B. DECLARATION

We, participants at the World Congress III against the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents, representing governments, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, human rights institutions, ombudspersons, the private sector, law enforcement and legal community, religious leaders, parliamentarians, researchers and academics, civil society and children and adolescents, pledge ourselves to undertake as a matter of priority the necessary measures to prevent and stop the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.

- **We will be guided** by international **human rights** standards in fulfilment of States' obligations to protect children from all forms of abuse and exploitation.
- **We recognize** that our efforts to prevent and end the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents must address the root causes of these serious violations of the rights of the child by mainstreaming strategies within broader policy frameworks. We thus recommit ourselves to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, particularly to halve the proportion of people living in extreme poverty, ensure that all children complete a full course of primary schooling and halt and reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS.
- **We recognize** the important role that parents and the (extended) family can play in preventing and protecting children from sexual exploitation, and the need to provide them and other caregivers with adequate support.
- **We welcome** the recommendations of the UN Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children and commit ourselves to follow-up and to supporting with financial, human and other resources, and facilitating the work of the (still to be appointed) Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children as well as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict, and relevant Special Procedures, particularly the Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography and the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking,.
- **We recognize** that a comprehensive response to the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents should include a focus on fighting all forms of the child labour, and **we welcome** the endorsement in 2006 of the ILO's Global Action Plan against the Worst Forms of Child Labour, by which all 182 member States have committed themselves to eliminating all these forms – including the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents – by 2018.
- **We will cooperate** with and support international, regional and national human rights bodies in efforts to promote and review reports on the implementation of measures against the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.
- **We will support** measures and structures to institutionalize meaningful child participation in a sustainable way at all levels, including for child victims of or at risk of sexual exploitation, for example through adequately resourced child and youth advisory committees, community-based programmes and peer-to-peer initiatives.
- **We will strengthen** our efforts to address through targeted, gender-sensitive information, communication and education, training and community mobilization, any denial of the seriousness of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents and of its negative consequences, in particular the beliefs and values that condone and sustain sexual exploitation of children and adolescents and perceptions and treatment of the child as a sexual object or commodity.
- **We will initiate, fund and share the outcomes** of research on all forms of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents, *inter alia* on the nature and scope of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents; new manifestations including changing modalities, actors, mechanisms and locations used; sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in schools and care and justice institutions; the implementation and impact of legislative, social

and other measures taken to prevent, stop and respond to sexual exploitation of children and adolescents; the demand that perpetuates sexual exploitation of children and adolescents; those involved in facilitating and perpetrating sexual crimes against children; the sexual exploitation of boys; vulnerability and resilience of children in relation to sexual exploitation; the nature and impact of virtual social interaction among children and its potential in preventing and protecting the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in different social and cultural contexts; the impact and effect of global consumer culture on social values and behaviours, in particular on the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents; patterns of offending, with a view to ensuring that interventions are appropriate and effective.

- **We undertake** to further develop specific indicators of performance and progress to measure the impact on children of all policies and programmes that we develop or implement in the area of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents, with a view to ensuring that all actions taken are in the best interests of the child and do no harm; and to share lessons learned – both positive and negative -- in order to contribute to better understanding and action in the future and to ensure that as far as possible evidence-based information is used for the development and implementation of effective policies and programmes to prevent and protect children from sexual exploitation and support those who have been victimized by it.

NOTE

The Plan of Action that is an integral part of this document will be open for 30 days from 28 November 2008 for participants to provide input that reflects the richness of their experiences during the World Congress III against the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents.

C PLAN OF ACTION

C.1. General

a. We call on all States to:

- Continue working towards ratification of relevant international instruments, including as appropriate the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, ILO Convention 182 (1999) on the Worst forms of Child Labour, the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;
- Continue working towards ratification of relevant international instruments, including as appropriate the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of Children, the ASEAN Charter, the Inter-American Human Rights Conventions on International Traffic of Minors and on Violence against Women, the SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution, and the Council of Europe Conventions on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, on Cybercrime and on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, conventions which can be ratified by States non-members of the Council of Europe;
- Define, prohibit and criminalize, in accordance with existing international standards, all acts of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in their jurisdiction, irrespective of any set age of consent or marriage;
- Establish effective extraterritorial jurisdiction, abolishing the requirement of double criminality for offences of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents, and facilitate effective extradition and mutual legal assistance, in order to achieve effective prosecution of perpetrators and appropriate sanctions;
- Designate a lead law enforcement agency, where appropriate to national circumstances, to proactively enforce extraterritorial laws related to sexual exploitation of children and adolescents;
- Ensure that child victims of sexual exploitation are not criminalized or punished for crimes committed in the course of their exploitation, but are given the status of victim in law and are treated accordingly;
- Promote and defend the privacy of child victims and child perpetrators of sexual exploitation, taking into account relevant national laws and procedures, to protect their identity in investigatory or court proceedings or from disclosure by the media;
- Establish and implement international, regional and national legal mechanisms and programmes for addressing sex offender behaviour and preventing recidivism, including through risk assessment and offender management programmes, the provision of voluntary extended and comprehensive rehabilitation services (in addition to but not in lieu of criminal sanctions as appropriate), safe reintegration of convicted offenders and the collection and sharing of good practices in this regard and for this purpose establish where appropriate sex offender registers and cross-border sex offender management systems;
- Ensure that children and adolescents exhibiting sexually harmful behaviour receive appropriate care and attention as a first option through appropriate gender-sensitive and child-focused measures and programmes that will not criminalize them but will balance their best interest with due regard for the safety of others, and ensure compliance with the principle that

depriving children of liberty should be pursued only as a measure of last resort, and ensure that those responsible for the care of such children are equipped with relevant training and skills;

- Support and contribute to the Interpol international child abuse images database and nominate a responsible national focal point person or unit to collect national data on sexual exploitation of children and adolescents, and systematically share this information with Interpol in order to support cross-border (international) law enforcement action and strengthen its effectiveness, and adopt multilateral agreements especially for police investigation work;
- Establish special units/children's desks within police forces to address sexual crimes against children, and provide specialized training to judicial and law enforcement personnel;
- Address corruption in law enforcement and the judiciary, as well as other authorities with a duty of care to children, recognizing corruption as a major obstacle to effective law enforcement and protection for children;
- Establish by 2013 concrete mechanisms and/or processes to facilitate coordination at national, regional and international levels for enhanced cooperation among government ministries, funding bodies UN agencies, NGOs, the private sector, workers' and employers' organizations, the media, children's organisations and other representatives of civil society with a view to enabling and supporting concrete action to prevent and stop the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents;
- Increase efforts to address the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents through the development of holistic national child protection systems that aim to protect children from all forms of violence and abuse;
- Emphasize prevention of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents, while reinforcing or establishing multi-sectoral referral mechanisms to provide comprehensive support and services to children who have been victimized in sexual exploitation;
- Develop National Plans of Action on the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents, or include these in existing relevant planning frameworks, such blueprints to include gender-sensitive strategies and operational plans, targeted resources and designated responsible actors for implementation of initiatives to prevent and stop the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents and provide support for child victims of sexual exploitation;
- Initiate and support the collection and sharing of reliable information and cross-border cooperation, and contribute to databases on victims and perpetrators, to enhance assistance to children and address the demand sex with children, in accordance with applicable laws;
- Develop, where appropriate with the support of UN agencies, NGOs, civil society organizations and the private sector, workers' and employers' organizations, policies and programmes to promote and support corporate social responsibility of enterprises operating *inter alia* in tourism, travel, transport and financial services, and of communication, media, Internet services, advertising and entertainment sectors; in this regard ensure that child-rights focused policies, standards and codes of conduct are implemented throughout the supply chain and include an independent monitoring mechanism;
- Promote and support policies and programmes, including community-based programmes, to address phenomena that contribute to the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents including, for example, discrimination (including on the basis of sex), harmful traditional practices, child marriage and social norms that condone sexual exploitation of children and adolescents;
- Ensure that all children born on their territory are registered immediately after birth;

- Engage children in meaningful and critical examination of changing contemporary values and norms and their potential to increase vulnerability to sexual exploitation; and promote education to enhance children's understanding of these issues in relation to sexual exploitation;
 - Establish by 2013 an effective and accessible system for reporting, follow up and support for child victims of suspected or actual incidents of sexual exploitation, for example by instituting mandatory reporting for people in positions of responsibility for the welfare of children;
 - Develop or enhance accessibility of existing telephone or web-based helplines, in particular for children in care and justice institutions, to encourage children and carers to confidentially report sexual exploitation and seek referral to appropriate services, and ensure that the operators of such reporting mechanisms are adequately trained and supervised;
 - Establish by 2013 independent children's rights institutions such as children's ombudspersons or equivalents or focal points on children's rights in national human rights institutions or general ombudsperson offices, highlighting the importance for States Parties to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child of General Comment No 2 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child; these bodies should play a key role in the independent monitoring of actions taken for the prevention of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents, protection of children from such exploitation and the restoration of the rights of sexually exploited children, in advocating for effective legal frameworks and enforcement and in ensuring, where necessary, that child victims have effective remedies and redress, including the possibility of filing complaints before these institutions;
 - Strengthen existing national child protection services or establish new ones in order to provide all child victims of sexual exploitation, without discrimination, with the necessary economic and psycho-social support for their full physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration; such services to be provided by well trained multi-disciplinary teams of professionals;
 - Ensure that these services are accessible, appropriately resourced, comprehensive, child- and gender-sensitive, and reach all children including children with special needs, from ethnic minorities, indigenous or Aboriginal children, refugee or asylum-seeking and hard-to-reach children such as those in domestic service or living on the streets and others with specific vulnerabilities;
 - Establish by 2013 regional mechanisms for exchange, coordination and monitoring of progress on child protection including against sexual exploitation in order to review progress and strengthen follow-up on the implementation of the recommendations made;
 - Take all necessary steps to strengthen international cooperation by multilateral, regional and bilateral arrangements for the prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution and punishment of those responsible for acts of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents; and for the assistance of child victims in their physical and psychological recovery, social reintegration and, as appropriate, repatriation;
 - Provide, when in a position to do so, financial, technical and other assistance through existing multilateral, regional, bilateral and other programmes for addressing the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents; and explore the potential of a fund for child and youth initiatives in this area.
- b. We encourage the Committee on the Rights of the Child to:
- Persevere with monitoring progress of States Parties' fulfilment of their obligations to uphold the right of children to protection from sexual exploitation and pay special attention to the recommendations in the Rio Plan of Action in its examination of reports under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols;

- Adopt as a matter of priority a General Comment on the right of the child to protection from sexual exploitation, trafficking for sexual purposes, and the abduction and sale of children, including detailed guidance to States on the development, implementation and enforcement of national legislation and policies in this regard;
 - Continue to work with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in protecting child rights, and raising awareness of relevant international and regional human rights mechanisms.
- c. We encourage other United Nations human rights treaty bodies, special procedures of the Human Rights Council and special representatives of the United Nations Secretary-General, as well as regional human rights mechanisms, to:
- Pay particular attention to combating the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents, within their respective mandates and during their examination of States' reports country visits, in their thematic work and/or other activities.
- d. We urge the Human Rights Council to:
- Ensure that the Universal Periodic Review process includes rigorous examination of States' fulfilment of their obligations to children, including preventing and stopping the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents and to respect fully the rights of child victims of such exploitation.
- e. We urge the yet-to-be-appointed Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict, the Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography and the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking, together with other appropriate mandate holders and in collaboration with the Committee on the Rights of the Child, to:
- Work together to avoid duplication and to maximise their impact in preventing and stopping the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.
- f. We encourage UN agencies, NGOs and human rights institutions to:
- Support and provide information on the extent of and responses to sexual exploitation of children and adolescents to these bodies;
 - Work with the media to enhance their role in education and empowerment, and in protecting children from sexual exploitation, and to mitigate the harmful potential of the media, including through the sexualization of children in advertising.
- g. We call on international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the International Money Fund to:
- Review current macro-economic and poverty reduction strategies with a view to counteracting any negative social impact on children and their families and minimizing the risk for children to sexual exploitation.
- h. We call on religious communities to:
- Reject, in the light of their consensus about the inherent dignity of every person, including children, all forms of violence against children including sexual exploitation of children and adolescents and establish in that regard multi-religious cooperation and partnership with other key stakeholders such as governments, children's organizations, UN agencies, NGOs, media and the private sector.

C.2. Child pornography/child abuse images³

In addition to the actions mentioned above, we call on States, UN agencies, NGOs, the private sector, academia, children and young people and other relevant actors to:

- Adopt a clear definition of child pornography in accordance with international standards.
- Criminalize the production, distribution, receipt and possession of child pornography, including virtual images and the sexually exploitative representation of children, as well as the consumption, access and viewing of such materials where there has been no physical contact, extending legal liability to entities such as corporations and companies in case of responsibility for or involvement in the production and/or dissemination of such materials.
- Undertake specific and targeted actions to prevent and stop child pornography and the use of the Internet and new technologies for the grooming of children into online and off-line abuse and for the production and dissemination of child pornography and other materials. Victim identification and support and care by specialized staff should be made a high priority;
- Conduct educational and awareness-raising actions focusing on children, parents, teachers, youth organizations and others working with and for children with a view to improving understanding of the risks of sexually exploitative use of the Internet, mobile telephones and other technologies, such actions to include information for children on how to protect themselves, get help and report incidences of child pornography and online exploitation, and indicators and evaluations to identify the effectiveness of such programmes, not only in relation to increasing knowledge but also in effecting behaviour change.
- Put online safety on the curriculum in schools, and promote it through youth organizations and at official meeting points for children;
- Take the necessary legislative measures to require Internet service providers, mobile phone companies, search engines and other relevant actors to report and remove child pornography websites and child sexual abuse images, and develop indicators to monitor results and enhance efforts.
- Encourage and support Internet service providers, mobile phone companies, Internet cafes and other relevant actors to develop and implement, with the meaningful participation of parents, children and adolescents, voluntary Codes of Conduct and other corporate social responsibility mechanisms and develop legal tools for enabling the adoption of child protection measures in these businesses.
- Provide incentives to the private sector for research and development of robust technologies to identify images taken with electronic digital cameras and trace and retract them to help apprehend the perpetrators;
- Promote public/private partnership to enhance research and the development of robust technologies to investigate the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents and promptly trace the victims;
- Develop and disseminate messages informing potential users of legislation on viewing child abuse images and develop programmes to reduce the demand for such images;

³ Increasingly the term ‘child abuse images’ is being used to refer to the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in pornography. This is to reflect the seriousness of the phenomenon and to emphasize that pornographic images of children are in fact records of a crime being committed. However, many laws use the term ‘child pornography’ and it is therefore used in this document.

- Encourage and support telephone and online hotlines to enable the public, including children, to report the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents online, moving where possible towards harmonized numbers and URLs.

C.3. Sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in prostitution

In addition to the actions mentioned above, we call on States, UN agencies, NGOs, the private sector, academia, children and young people and other relevant actors to:

- **Harmonize domestic laws in accordance with international standards including the definition of the child, and the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in prostitution;**
- Address the demand that leads to children being prostituted by making the purchase of sex or any form of transaction to obtain sexual services from a child a criminal transaction under criminal law;
- Establish specialized, gender-appropriate programmes to provide care, recovery and rehabilitation (including assessment of risk, prevention and response mechanisms) not only for girls but also for boys vulnerable to or victims of sexual exploitation in prostitution;
- Pilot and where appropriate replicate alternative models of care, such as community-based recovery, rehabilitation and reintegration which will serve as a longer-term preventive measure as well as help to redress the ostracism and social isolation faced by child victims of sexual exploitation in prostitution;
- Provide specialized and appropriate health care for children who have been exploited in prostitution, and support local models of recovery, social work systems, realistic economic alternatives and cooperation among programmes for holistic response;
- Undertake research on contemporary patterns of socialization of boys and men across different contexts to identify factors that inhibit and discourage adults from engaging in sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.

C.4. Sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in travel and tourism

In addition to the actions mentioned above, we call on States, UN agencies, NGOs, the private sector, academia, children and young people and other relevant actors to:

- Encourage and support the tourism, travel and hotel sectors in adopting professional Codes of Conduct, for example by joining and implementing the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children in Travel and Tourism; encourage the use of businesses that put in place appropriate child protection-focused corporate social responsibility strategies; and/or provide other incentives for those participating;
- Ensure that all stakeholders pay specific attention to unregulated tourism to prevent domestic and international travellers from sexually exploiting children and adolescents;
- Cooperate in the establishment of an international travel notification system, **such as the Interpol 'green notice' system, in accordance with applicable law and human rights standards;**
- Ensure investigation and, where sufficient evidence exists, that appropriate charges are brought and vigorously pursued against the State's nationals who are reported or alleged to have sexually exploited a child in a foreign country;
- Prohibit the production and dissemination of material advertising the sexual exploitation of children in tourism; but alert travellers to criminal sanctions that will apply in cases of sexual exploitation of children;
- Provide vulnerable children living in or near popular tourist destinations who have reached the minimum legal age for work with vocational training, careers guidance and job opportunities, where appropriate in partnership with the private sector, workers' and employers' organizations, to prevent them entering into situations of exploitation;
- Monitor new and emerging tourist destinations and establish proactive measures to work with private sector partners involved in development tourism services on measures to prevent the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents, including the use of socially and environmentally responsible strategies that promote equitable development;
- **Encourage and support greater intra- and inter-institutional cooperation among government, law enforcement, NGOs and other relevant actors to develop a simplified, effective, coordinated response to the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in travel and tourism.**

C.5. Trafficking and the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents

In addition to the actions mentioned above, we call on States, where appropriate with the support of UN agencies, NGOs, the private sector, academia, children and young people and other relevant actors to:

- Adopt a clear definition of child trafficking in accordance with obligations under the Palermo Protocol and other relevant international instruments and standards, and take into consideration the OHCHR Principles and Guidelines on the Trafficking of Human Beings (including children);
- Mobilize communities with a view to engaging them in dialogue on and a critical review of social norms and practices that make children vulnerable to trafficking, and establish

procedures that involve them in developing strategies and programmes where they participate, where appropriate, in the planning, implementation and monitoring of such programmes;

- Pilot and adapt or replicate successful models of community-based rehabilitation and reintegration programmes for child victims of trafficking;
- Establish policies and programmes that address not only cross-border but also internal trafficking of children and that include, among other elements, a standard operating procedure for the safe repatriation and return of children based on a careful assessment of the needs and risks to the child of returning to her/his place of origin to ensure that the best interests of the child are taken into account;
- Continue strengthening cross-border and internal cooperation of law enforcement officials, for example by establishing coordinating units with a mandate to issue clear guidelines for investigation of cases of trafficking of children and for treating trafficked children not as criminals but as victims in need of protection;
- Take legislative and other measures to ensure that a guardian is appointed without delay for every unaccompanied trafficked child, that an effective system of registration and documentation of all trafficked children is established, and that every trafficked child is provided with not only short-term protection but also with the necessary economic and psycho-social support for full and long-lasting recovery and social reintegration (in line with the *UNICEF Guidelines for the protection of child victims of trafficking* and *UNHCR Manual for assessment of the best interests of the child*);
- Undertake and/or support, with the involvement of civil society and children, the regular evaluation of programmes and policies to prevent and stop the trafficking of children and of legislation that may have a conducive impact on trafficking, for example laws on marriage, adoption and migration, birth registration, accordance of citizenship, refugee or other status.

D. FOLLOW-UP

We commit ourselves to the most effective follow-up to this Plan of Action:

- at the national level, *inter alia*, by annually reporting on the measures taken for the implementation of the Rio Declaration and Plan of Action and promoting/initiating discussions on the progress made and the remaining challenges;
- at the international level, by encouraging and supporting coordinated actions by the relevant special mandate holders with a view to maintaining awareness of the Rio Declaration and Plan of Action and promoting its implementation, and by encouraging the private sector to join the UN Global Compact and communicate their implementation progress with regard to addressing the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents and supporting the realization of this platform for coordinated corporate efforts and sharing of best practices.