

**Ministerial Meeting
of
The South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC)
June 22-23, 2010
Kathmandu, Nepal**

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Ministerial Meeting of the South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC) was held on the 22-23 of June 2010 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The meeting was attended by the Ministers, Head of Delegations, SAIEVAC Coordinators and Children from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The meeting was hosted by the Government of Nepal with financial and technical support of the South Asia Coordinating Group on Action Against Violence Against Women and Children (SACG).

The Ministers and the Head of Delegations, while appreciating the report of the SAIEVAC Coordinators Meeting, realizing the importance of instituting a mechanism as a formal structural entity with clearly defined focus on promoting and protecting the rights of the children and ending violence against children in the region, and recognizing the opportunity it presents in supporting various directives of SAARC in relation to children such as the Colombo Declaration on Children of South Asia and the findings of the Assessment of the SAARC Decade of the Rights of the Child, endorses the recommendations of the SAIEVAC Coordinators and the Children's Consultation and directs that:

- 1) The name of the South Asia Forum for Ending Violence Against Children (SAF) shall be changed to the South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC) and the Organogram and the Terms of References for SAIEVAC be adopted and a permanent Secretariat for SAIEVAC established;
- 2) A Permanent Secretariat of the SAIEVAC shall be established in Nepal under the auspices of the Government of Nepal, who will ensure that adequate infrastructure and logistic support is provided to facilitate the functions of the Secretariat;
- 3) The SAIEVAC, including the establishment of its Secretariat, be jointly supported by Member States and the SACG through the provision of technical assistance and support in resource mobilization;
- 4) A Governing Board shall be established as the institutional mechanism to govern the SAIEVAC process as per the approved Terms of Reference (TOR). Such a Board shall consist of a Board Member appointed by each Member State, the SACG Chairperson, 2 Child Representatives (a boy and a girl by rotation from Member States) and Representatives of Civil Society Organizations (Optional to a maximum of two and on special invitation depending on the specific substantive matters to be discussed in the board meeting);
- 5) The Governing Board be constituted and the first meeting be convened by later half of 2010;

- 6) Each Member State shall have a National SAIEVAC Coordinator who will be responsible for coordinating national level activities in addition to being the focal point for SAIEVAC Regional Level activities. The functions of the Coordinators will be as defined in the approved TOR;
- 7) The SAIEVAC Secretariat with guidance of the SAARC Secretariat shall make every effort to attain the status of SAARC APEX Body by the first half of 2011;
- 8) The SAIEVAC Secretariat shall initiate institutional linkages with relevant global and regional instruments/bodies such as the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence against Children to reinforce the mandate and functions of SAIEVAC;
- 9) The Workplan as submitted by the SAIEVAC Coordinators be operationalised with the objective to develop an effective and comprehensive child protection system, and address key issues for the region including child labour, sexual abuse and exploitation, trafficking, corporal punishment, and early marriage;
- 10) The SAIEVAC Secretariat, SAIEVAC Coordinators, and SACG take due consideration of the recommendations presented by the children in terms of setting up institutional mechanisms for child participation at the national and regional level, key areas of concern in the five thematic areas and children's representation at the governing board as and when it is constituted.