



SANTAC

Southern Africa Network Against Trafficking And Abuse Of Children

MAPUTO CONSENSUS

“ON PREVENTING AND COMBATING CHILD TRAFFICKING BEFORE, DURING AND BEYOND THE 2010 WORLD CUP”

Under the objective of “Sharing lessons learned and developing ways forward” on the protection of children against exploitation and human **trafficking** before, during and after the FIFA 2010 World Cup, in Southern Africa, the second SANTAC Regional Conference brought together, on 8-9 October 2008, the Civil Society, Private Sector, SADC Secretariat, SADC governments, academic institutions from the region and overseas, international organizations (IOs), bilateral donors and multilateral agencies, including United Nations, children and young people.

The initiative, promoted and organized by Southern Africa Network against Trafficking and Abuse of Children - SANTAC - in close co-operation with the British High Commission, Fundação para o Desenvolvimento da Comunidade (FDC), Norway Embassy Mozambique, Pestana Rovuma Hotel, Save the Children in Mozambique, Terre des Hommes Germany, UNICEF, Mozambican and South African governments, marked the launch of the 2010 World Cup Regional Awareness Campaign to support preventive and reactive actions against human trafficking, sexual and economic exploitation of children and young people in Southern Africa, before during and after the FIFA 2010 World Cup, to take place in South Africa.

Chaired by Dr. Abdul Carimo Mahomed Issá (SANTAC Board of Directors President), the Conference was honoured by the presence of Mr. João Kandyane Cândido, Mozambican Deputy Minister of Woman and Social Welfare in representation of the Mozambican Government; Mrs. Thandi Lujabe-Rankoe, South African High Commissioner in Mozambique, in representation of the South African government; Madame Graça Machel, SANTAC co-Patroness; Adv. André Cumbe, Mozambique's Deputy General Attorney; Mrs. Jannah Ncube, SADC Senior Policy Advisor representing SADC Executive Secretary; Adv. Ângela Melo, African Union Human Rights Commissioner; Mrs. Barbara Kersteins, Head of Social Sector in European Commission in Mozambique; Mrs. Micaela Marques de Sousa, UNICEF Senior Advisor for African Union and NEPAD; Adv. Pierre Smith, Deputy Director of Public Prosecution and Adv. Brandon Lawrence, both from South Africa's National Prosecuting Authority; Dr. Elisângela Machado from University of Brasilia; Adv. Beatri Kruger from Free State University/South Africa; Mrs. Marija Nicolouska from IOM Pretoria; the independent consultant Adv. Hélder Chambal, under the moderation of Mr. Adern Nkandela, from Nelson Mandela's Children Foundation. More than 120 persons participated.

The overarching objectives of the Conference were to:

- Bring together all key role players and stakeholders, raise awareness and make reflections about the threats on TIC, sexual and labour exploitation, in the context of and during the 2010 World Cup;
- Explore and discuss strategies for intervention and prevention against TIC, sexual and labour exploitation in the region;
- Lobby and advocate SADC countries to adopt and implement the required measures at national and regional level to prevent, suppress and punish cases of human trafficking, especially women and children, long before 2010;
- Disseminate the main findings of the 2010 World Cup possible social impact on children;
- Adopt a regional consensus, (also to be considered by the African Union) for the implementation of joint actions for preventing the exacerbation of trafficking and exploitation before, during and after the 2010 World Cup.

The Conference was built on the vast experience gathered so far in the fight against **child trafficking**, including legislative initiatives, numerous workshops, conferences and meetings on how to improve the inter-governmental

and inter-institutional cooperation, projects, and policy implementation at Southern Africa level and beyond. Almost eight years after the first signatories, the ratification and implementation of the **Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, Supplementing the U.N. Convention Against transnational Organised Crime**, are an immediate priority for the achievement of a converged legislative platform and a basis for intensified cooperation. It also ensure that other relevant African Union and international instruments, conventions and policy frameworks, such as the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, the 2008-2012 Call for Accelerated Action on the Implementation of the Plan of Action on Africa Fit for Children (AFFC); the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Civil Society Declaration of the Kopanong Regional Conference held in South Africa will be properly implemented.

The Conference provided yet another important milestone in the fight against child **trafficking** which invited actors to take the next crucial steps towards reinforcing efforts to implement best practices identified in a comprehensive and coordinated Southern Africa approach.

Child trafficking is an abhorrent and worrying phenomenon involving coercive sexual exploitation, labour exploitation in conditions akin to slavery, exploitation in begging and juvenile delinquency as well as domestic servitude. These practices constitute serious violations of the victims' human rights as enshrined in international law.

Child trafficking has been identified as a criminal activity increasingly perpetrated by transnational organized crime that generates substantial illicit proceeds, often laundered and fed into licit markets, with a too low risk of prosecution and confiscation.

The international community, development partners, including institutions at local, regional and governmental level, NGOs, IOs, private sector and the SADC Governments, AU Organs are called upon to rise up to the challenges posed by this international crime phenomenon with all its repellent aspects preventing and providing unambiguous and comprehensive response, at national, regional and international levels, working towards a comprehensive, multidisciplinary and effectively coordinated policy that involves actors from all fields concerned. Such prevention and explicit response must be consistent with, and indeed put at the front, human rights standards, and must give particular attention to exploitation, abuse and trafficking in children taking into account their best interest and the consistency with international instruments on children rights.

The comprehensive Southern Africa policies against human **trafficking** needs to address the entire **trafficking** chain, comprising countries of origin, transit and destination alike, targeting recruiters, people who transport the victims, exploiters, other intermediaries, clients, and beneficiaries.

Furthermore, root causes of **trafficking**, not least including poverty, gender inequalities, social and cultural attitudes, and the demand for sexual services, cheap labour and other forms of exploitation must continue to be at the forefront of the long-term efforts to effectively fight child trafficking.

Victims/survivors of trafficking must be recognised as victims of crimes against humanity. The treatment given to the victims must be harmonized at national, regional and international levels in order to avoid further victimization.

The Maputo Consensus, prepared in the spirit of contributions made at the First Civil Society Declaration on Child Trafficking at the Kopanong Regional Conference and the , aims at further developing Southern Africa and international cooperation, concrete measures, standards, best practices and mechanisms to prevent and combat **child trafficking**.

The coalition of committed governments, international bodies, NGOs and the private sector is called upon to take concrete measures and to intensify cooperation in the fields of prevention, victim protection and assistance, and judicial cooperation, in particular, to achieve a swift and sustainable reduction of **child trafficking**.

Representatives from the countries, organizations and sectors mentioned above, underlined their intention to

develop the work against **child trafficking** on the basis of the Annex to this Maputo Consensus on Preventing and Combating **Child Trafficking** before, during and beyond the 2010 World Cup.

MECHANISMS FOR COOPERATION AND COORDINATION

1. Multilateral coordination and exchange of information

All international bodies, governments and other actors internationally active to fight and prevent **child trafficking** should intensify their cooperation and exchange of information with a view to achieving a better coordinated response, to avoid overlaps and duplication of work, and to maximise the impact of actions taken at international level. Governments should ensure that Civil Society that play a significant role in the fight against **child trafficking** have adequate resources to fulfil their mandate. Imperative for improved cooperation is, therefore, to further develop action plans that provide pragmatic and concrete solutions for cooperation that should be followed-up.

For the SADC Governments, particular emphasis should be put on further efforts to continue through the integration of the Southern African Countries into the structures for cooperation against **child trafficking**.

In the field of law enforcement and judicial cooperation, direct contacts between competent authorities should be further promoted and take precedence over the use of complex procedures and structures.

2. National structures

The validity and performance of best practices of the **anti trafficking** policy at the national and international levels should be subjected to review, consolidation and development.

At the national level, a systematic mechanism, such as regular multi-sectoral group meetings, would support a regular evaluation, monitoring and further improvement in the implementation of national policies. Links between such mechanisms should be established at Southern Africa level, in close cooperation with the National and Regional institutions, and INTERPOL.

3. Strengthening Southern African networking on prevention and victim assistance

? Proactive and Reactive National and Regional Referral Systems, including database of service providers and strengthening of existing mechanisms must be established in order to ensure that all the organisations involved in the prevention and provision of assistance to victims and survivors should further develop networking and exchanges with a view to ensure the promulgation and implementation of best practices. It must also include the accessibility to information on the availability of both governmental and non-governmental facilities and resources, 'safe house' accommodation and specialist support measures. Furthermore, the networking, especially within the NGO sector, should be used to facilitate the dialogue among the relevant National institutions. In addition, the IO-NGO sector and others involved in the assistance to victims should make efforts to ensure the management and quality of the assistance and protection of victims that is provided, for instance through the development of a self-assessment framework, to be further elaborated and supported under the Southern African Network against Trafficking and Abuse of Children (SANTAC).

4. Mobilising regional instruments

Instruments used in cooperation with government authorities or in supporting local NGOs and civil society should be further established and developed with all countries of origin, transit and destination.

Jointly financed and implemented actions against **child trafficking**, such as information campaigns, should be further considered and implemented.

Child trafficking should be included on both the SADC and AU agenda. Regional and continental policy and strategic instruments should be established to provide the basis for inter-state co-operation and collaboration as well as common standards for addressing child trafficking. These instruments should provide for a comprehensive inter-sectoral response and integration of child trafficking in different social, economic and political sectors.

PREVENTION OF CHILD TRAFFICKING

5. Root Causes

An essential aspect of a human rights based approach to **child trafficking** is to put emphasis on gender perspectives. A Southern Africa **trafficking** strategy should include the combating of gender-based violence and patriarchal structures that fosters a favourable environment for **trafficking, including women and children**.

Legislation and policies on equal opportunities must protect and strengthen the legal and social position of women and children and specifically address all forms of gender discrimination.

Support programmes should be established aiming at the full participation and empowerment of women and children in their societies, in particular, in educational facilities and economic life, including support to entrepreneurship.

Support programmes should aim at the strengthening of efforts to tackle poverty and to avoid further marginalisation, particularly amongst the most vulnerable groups of the populations, including women and children in all countries of origin, transit and destination through measures designed to improve governance, material support, social protection and employment opportunities and sustainable economic developments.

It should be an essential and common goal for the fight against child trafficking to address the elimination of the demand for sexual services and cheap labour. This includes education to equal and respectful relationships between sexes, and targeted awareness campaigns. Harmful traditional practices must be controlled in the best interest of the child.

6. Training

Specialised joint multi-sectoral training should be set up which targets police investigators, prosecutors, IO, and NGO personnel, intended in particular at improving the conduct of anti-**trafficking** operations, the identification and rescue of trafficked victims/survivors and of their subsequent treatment by the police and criminal justice system. Specific specialised training modules need to focus on **child trafficking**, addressing the complex and special vulnerabilities of **child** victims.

General, multi-disciplinary and human rights based training for judicial, law enforcement, medical, education, diplomatic, migration, IO, and NGO personnel and other concerned professional groups should be developed. This training should also focus on the immediate needs and treatment of victims and of how they should be treated by the criminal justice system. **It should also promote a multi-disciplinary approach by, for instance, specialized NGOs providing lectures at police academies.**

Specific training programmes aimed at border officials and police personnel and the new recruits of both agencies that are designed should be developed to enable them to recognise the indicators of trafficking-related crimes, the collection and dissemination of intelligence, and to fully realise their potential to identify and rescue victims. As an integral part of increasing the ability of front line and recruit personnel to assist victims, this training should incorporate the principles of democratic policing, human rights and gender equality and should consist of elements like gender sensibility, intercultural qualification and an overall human rights education.

Closer links should be developed with educators and Ministries of Education with a view to elaborating and including relevant and realistic teaching modules in school and college curricula and to informing pupils and students of human rights and gender issues. These subjects should be specifically linked to teaching young people about the *modus operandi* and dangers presented by trafficking crime and (prevention/protection).

7. Awareness Raising

Awareness raising and information campaigns should be an on-going process and not be limited to “one-off” activities in various locations.

Awareness raising campaigns should be aimed at relevant target groups, including potential victims, policy makers, law enforcement officers, diplomatic and consular personnel and other relevant public officials, such as medical, social services, families, community and religious leaders. They should include an overall aim towards the target groups to increase their readiness to address **child trafficking** adequately, strengthen their institutional capacity to promote the sustainability of the activities of the campaigns.

The campaigns must use realistic data and include videos, printed material, etc. to support this process, briefing materials such as leaflets, brochures or videos should be prepared in local languages. It should also include community mobilization by making the community listen and be aware of the amount of trafficking cases that happen in the region. It has to include basic skills to identify and to reject any form of trafficking strategies, as well as reject any link of trustfulness to travel with strangers.

The perception of the problem of **child trafficking** brought forward by media needs to include a clear explanation of the phenomenon and this explanation needs to be better developed. To maximise public knowledge and awareness of **trafficking**, targeted awareness raising campaigns with media professionals should be conducted, including the preparation of updated briefing or background material on **trafficking** crime.

Awareness raising campaigns aiming at the 'demand' side of the **trafficking** process should be developed as part of a comprehensive process of eliminating **child trafficking** effectively.

Well-publicised telephone child lines should be established in the countries of origin, transit and destination. These child lines should serve three purposes: (i) to act as an independent source of advice and guidance to potential victims who may be considering the merits of offers made by the traffickers, (ii) the 'hotline' can be used as a 'first point of contact' for trafficked victims who can then be referred to the full available range of support measures, (iii) denouncing reporting situations.

VICTIM / SURVIVOR PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE

8. Immediate assistance

Victims of trafficking must be granted access to a full range of support measures that should include: access to safe accommodation; physical, sexual and reproductive and independent health; psychological care and support; and legal and social counselling.

A minimum standard of care for children victims must have access to the school system and vocational training taking into account these special needs.

Networking between IOs, NGOs, CBOs and others involved in the provision of assistance to victims in countries of origin, transit and destination should be intensified and further developed with a view to facilitate the reintegration of victims. The reintegration of victims would also benefit from an increased level of attention from the consulates and embassies in the countries of origin and destination.

The cooperation among NGOs, social workers and others concerned with victim assistance from countries of origin, transit and destination should be developed. This would improve the understanding of the victim that would contribute to the recovery of the victim and eventually also to his or her re-integration. Those concerned with assistance to victims should also seek to involve collaborators from countries of origin in the work of their organisation.

9. Reintegration

The range of victim/survivor reintegration measures should be made available to trafficked children irrespective of whether they are being returned to their home countries or not.

In order to support the reintegration process and reduce the risk of re-**trafficking**, reintegration programmes should be aimed at empowering the victims by developing their capacity to attain economic independence through the provision of vocational training or job opportunities.

Cooperation among the various ministries, judicial systems, and attorney must be encouraged in order to provide laws and other proceedings to prevent, suppress and punish **child trafficking**;

Children, young people and women must participate and be part of all the processes of fighting **child trafficking** and abuse prevention through awareness and education programmes, at national, regional and international levels.

Maputo, 9 October 2008