



SANTAC

Southern Africa Network against Trafficking and Abuse of Children

Maputo, February 2007

Report on the SANTAC Constitutive Assembly and Preparation Meeting for the March Conference on Prevention of Trafficking and Abuse of Children

1. Introduction

The Southern Africa Network against Trafficking and Abuse of Children (SANTAC) held a Board meeting on 7th February 2007 in Tivoli Hotel in Maputo, Mozambique.

The representatives of SANTAC affiliated organizations in the Southern Africa region were represented by namely Marta Cumbi – FDC, Margarida Guitunga – SANTAC Secretariat; Maxwell Matewere - Eye of the Child; Beryl d'Almeida - ABC; Patric Solomons - Molo Songololo; Merab Keremire - Mapode; Jorge Oliveira – SANTAC lawyer; Daniel Sykonza - AGC; James Moleco - OASIS; Rafa Machava - Rede CAME; Sabina dos Santos - Rede CAME; Carol Bews -Child Welfare Society; Helen Anderson Novela - SCA; Salomé Cabo - SCA; Dalila Dai - TdH; Lea Boaventura -TdH; Félix Mulhanga –TDH, Sonia Carew - The Brigade;. During SANTAC election session of social organs, the FDC Management was represented by a Board Member Dr. Abdul Carimo.

1.1. The objectives of the meeting were the following, (i) to analyse SANTAC organic structure and the status of legalization; (ii) the election of the new board members, (iii) presentation and discussion of financial and activity report related to 2006, (iv) preparation of SANTAC Regional Conference denominated “ Stop Child Trafficking: Exploring intervention and prevention strategy strategies for Southern Africa” which will be held in 26th to 29th March, 2007, in Johannesburg; (v) presentation and discussion of the draft study on child trafficking in the region.

The meeting also served as an opportunity for the representatives to exchange relevant information and experiences related to the status of program implementation on child trafficking and abuse in different countries of the Southern African, and to provide information to the public and national press of activities being undertaken by SANTAC.

The initial part of the meeting, which analysed aspects related to the organizational structure, elections organizations and the press conference was conducted by the Ceasing Chairman of the Board, Mr. Patrick Solomons. The last part of the work related to the discussion on activity and financial report, and the preparation and organization of the next conference was conducted by Mrs. Marta Cumbi, from FDC in representation of her institution.

2.1. Organic structure and legalization status

SANTAC Lawyer, Dr. Jorge de Oliveira stated that SANTAC statutes were registered in the Ministry of Justice in Mozambique and new Board members could be elected. He pointed out that the Executive Director is not elected but appointed by the SANTAC Board.

He also informed the audience that according to the statutes of the organization, board members should be voted, taking into account the following structure:

GENERAL ASSEMBLY BOARD

- Chairman
- Deputy Chairman
- 2 Secretaries

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President
- Vice-President
- Treasurer
- 2 Voting members

AUDIT BOARD

- President
- Secretary
- Voting member

2.2. Election of new SANTAC Board of Directors

It was decided that each SANTAC affiliated organization would have a right to one vote. All present and properly affiliated NGOs in the meeting were considered eligible for different posts.

Before the elections, there were praises addressed to the Ceasing Board for the work performed mainly on their outstanding role of planning and organization of the implemented activities during their mandate.

There were some interventions on what has been SANTAC's role since its creation.

TdH General Director, Mr. Félix Mulhanga, on his address he stressed: (i) His gratitude for having had an opportunity of witnessing an act that marked a new stage of civil society work in Southern Africa on the defence of children's rights. (ii). That TdH encourages SANTAC to work hard with Southern Africa Governments, for the creation of favourable environment in order to have children's harmonious development through appropriate protection mechanisms, as well as work in order to raise community awareness on the rights.

He encouraged SANTAC to integrate more organizations, as a way of expanding its action in the whole region, as well as coordinate its activities promoting the welfare of the children.

Mrs Marta Cumbi from FDC praised the work undertaken by the Ceasing Board and manifested her gratitude by the results attained since SANTAC was created. She reminded the audience that SANTAC started as an awareness campaign which has transformed in a regional network today with influence in the communities and, due to the courage and role of shouldering this responsibility, the trafficking of children today is an issue that is discussed openly.

She called the attention of the need to face firmly the challenges that the organization has to deal with, and that there is a lot of expectation in relation to what has to be done in the protection framework of abuse and violence against children.

The organs voting process resulted in the following outcome:

1. General Assembly

- Chairman – Molo Songololo -7 votes
- Deputy Chairperson – Bridge – 2 votes
- Voting member 1 - Save the Children – 5 votes
- Voting member 2 SHARE

1. Board of Directors

- President – FDC – 5 votes
- Vice President - EYE CHILD - 3 votes
- Treasurer - CWS initially won by Rede CAME with 6
- Voting member 1 - AGC - 3 votes
- Voting member 2 - TDH -1 vote

2. Audit Board

- President Rede CAME – 3 votes
- Assistant ABC - 4 votes
- Voting member OASIS - 3 votes

3. Press Conference

In this meeting framework, a press conference was schedule with the objective of informing the public about the status of activities that are being undertaken by SANTAC. It also served to introduce publicly the newly elected board members in the elections held during SANTAC Annual General Meeting in the morning period.

More than 50 people participated in the press conference including journalists of the main information bodies of radio and television of Mozambique. In this gathering the distinguished presence was of the members of Diplomatic Corps accredited in Maputo, the Ambassadors of Norway and Sweden, as well as the South African, Zimbabwean, Malawian, of Portugal Embassy High Commissioners apart from the members of Mozambique government and Civil Society representatives.

The Ceasing Chairman, Mr. Patrick Solomons in general terms presented SANTAC's status of the work that it has been doing, in its action to minimize the problem of child trafficking and abuse in Southern Africa. Among many other actions, he highlighted the

current work done by the NGOs affiliated to SANTAC in the region mainly to issues related to protection, rehabilitation, reintegration and advocacy for an adequate legislation to combat the child abuse in various countries.

He used this occasion to congratulate those who direct or indirectly dedicated themselves to the cause of child abuse. He stated that SANTAC has been always aware of the challenges they face since their creation and with the support of various partners, organizations and others can be proud today of the clear vision of what they are doing and of what they intend to do in the future with regards to child trafficking and abuse.

Dr. Abdul Carimo, as the FDC representative at the Executive Board at its highest level, and SANTAC Patron stated the fact of a broken silence after 5 years of work and said that is now possible to read or hear from any information body of every SADC country histories or news related to initiatives in favour of child protection against any form of violence. He has said that if 5 years ago each organization worked individually, today there are organizations with more than 50 affiliated working towards benefiting the child such as MAPODE from Zambia, Eye of Child of Malawi and Rede Came of Mozambique.

He spoke of the role of SANTAC at local level, that coadjuvated with advocacy joint actions that ended up with the handing of an African Civil Society Declaration to the African Heads of States in their First African Summit in Maputo. In that Declaration, it was SANTAC members who mobilized the civil society in Africa to call on the African Union to include issues on children's right and protection in their agenda.

He stated that when the campaign was launched there only 5 countries (Zambia, Namibia, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Mozambique) and since 2002 until today these countries started with researches to determine the nature and size of this phenomenon of child trafficking and concluded that it is a common phenomenon and needs responses and coordinated strategies in the whole southern Africa region.

He announced the Civil Society Regional Conference to be held in Johannesburg from 27 to 29 March 2007, where a research report done in South Africa, Mozambique, Namibia and Lesotho will be launched. He said that the report makes radiography of the phenomenon manifestation in the region and gives recommendations to different stakeholders including governmental and regional institutions linked to child trafficking and abuse.

He informed the audience that he was involved in a group which is preparing two Draft Bills against child trafficking and abuse, which will be submitted soon to the Assembly of the Republic of Mozambique

The Representative of Amazing Grace, from Mpumalanga, Mr Daniel Sykonza spoke on the importance of the work that his NGO is developing in Mpumalanga in terms of sheltering and awareness raising against child abuse. He stated that there are children victims of trafficking and abuse, who are receiving integral assistance, and in the social reintegration process he has confirmed the presence of children from Mozambique and Swaziland in their sheltering centres. He has informed that the work of his organization is extended to victims of HIV/AIDS orphaned children, and the centre was very safe to accommodate children because it has basic condition for survival

The Eye of Child Representative, Malawi, Mr. Maxwell Matewere stated that due to the work being done by Eye of Child of Malawi with regards to child trafficking, the problem of child abuse is more known today. He has shown some concerns for the fact of many reported cases of child trafficking and abuse occurring mainly in the border areas. He stated that many Malawian children are taken from rural areas and are forced to work as prostitutes, domestic workers or victims of sexual exploitation.

He said that some children are taken their genital organs for trafficking in other countries¹. He spoke of the increasing cases of HIV/AIDS that are increasing the number of orphan children and of the important work that is being done with the border authorities to stop child trafficking. He said that only a joint work in the region can combat child abuse.

Rede CAME Representative stated that her organization has been working with SANTAC since the beginning of the campaigns against child trafficking and abuse, and today they have a network that works in an untiring way in the defence of the child.

Rede Came presented specific data of the work being developed in terms of multi-sectoral and gave emphasis to the fact of a Draft Bill of Prevention and Combat of Trafficking of persons being underway and the identification mechanism and references to cases and their respective documents.

Mrs Merab Keremire of MAPODE thanked the audience and highlighted the importance the work which is being done by SANTAC since the date the organization was created. She spoke of the important role and vision performed by the NGO TdH in their involvement in the protection of children victims of trafficking and abuse.

She spoke on the important role of awareness done by SANTAC, in the communities, civil society, and regional governments and in African Union in general, a fact which has made the Heads of State and Government to pay more attention on the problem of child trafficking in the continent. She said that talking about this issue was no longer a "taboo" as it used to be in the past.

She enhanced the role of other SANTAC associated organizations that everyday, even with serious difficulties continue fighting and dreaming with a prosperous world for all children victims of abuses.

4. Presentation of the Financial and Activities Report

Mrs. Margarida Guitunga, SANTAC Secretariat, presented the report where she stated that:

- The Report was elaborated based on the conclusions of Auckland meeting where there were some decisions that are considered crucial for SANTAC development actions.
- The regional meeting 3-5 May 2006 in Johannesburg, where apart from members, there were some NGOs (IOM, UNODC, US Embassy, ILO) with the objective of making use of the technical experiences of these specialized

¹ It has been referred that there is information that Malawian children are trafficked to Holland.

- institutions. She said that there was a training session of partners on PCM – Project Cycle Management.
- Activity Report of each country was presented and discussed SANTAC Draft statutes where targets were set for official registry.
 - She passed the information that the number of SANTAC joining members was increasing;
 - In March there will be a regional conference in Johannesburg which will be followed by another between UE-SADC on child trafficking which will take place in June 2007, in Maputo.
 - The efforts of fund raising should continue because what can be raised is far away from the budgeted needs.
 - That the Ambassadors of SADC countries were sensitized to support SANTAC's initiatives, for that reason they were present at the press conference;
 - Mr. Carlos Manjate represented SANTAC in Angola conducting a workshop on Child trafficking and sexual abuse;
 - Mr. Carlos Manjate was representing SANTAC in the World Social Forum held in Nairobi at the beginning of this year.
 - He presented the document about the terms of reference on the elaboration of the compilation of the study on child trafficking which might be presented in March Conference, but highlighted that it could not be discussed in depth because Mrs. Marina Chichava, who should present the document was absent due to sickness.
 - Informed that the last part of the financial report had not been approved by the FDC administration. The report makes reference of the months of October to December.

4.2. Members Reaction in relation to presented Report

The members came out with the following comments:

- That the reports' comments would be sent later, as they did not have access to the report on time to read more carefully;
- They decided that they would read the report in seven days, they would then send their written comments to Mrs. Margarida;
- Being SANTAC now a juridical personality, the auditing of SANTAC's accounts will be separated from FDC and the Board of Directors was given the responsibility of follow up and monitor these processes;

- The Board of Directors must discuss aspects related to clarification of the analysis and of conditions of adhering to the organizations as well as in the consolidation of the Action Plan, in the mobilization of funds and expansion of cooperation;
- They recommended the need of studying ways in which the members could possibly start paying quotas and seek other forms (at local level), instead of waiting for donations;
- It was concluded that there should be an internal mechanism for monitoring SANTAC's activities.

5. Regional Conference Preparation

5.1. Date and Place: 26 to 29 March 2007, Kopanong Hotel & Conference Centre, Johannesburg. We estimate the presence of 100 delegates to attend.

5.2. Proposal of the Agenda: See Annex 1

5.3. Participants: Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Democratic Republic of the Congo; Namibia, Tanzania, Reunion Islands, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe and other invited guests.

5.1.2. Conference Objectives

- I. Meet all key actors and stakeholders of Southern Africa to discuss issues related to trafficking and abuse of children;
- II. Develop an understanding about the nature and manifestations of trafficking and abuse of children in Southern Africa;
- III. Share information and experiences on child trafficking in the region and seek joint forms of responding to this problem;
- IV. Discussing exploiting strategies of intervention and prevention against child trafficking in the region;
- V. Reinforce the existing network, as well as the initiatives and the assumed commitment in this domain of child trafficking;
- VI. Present the compiled report of the study results done in some countries of the region;
- VII. Present a declaration containing actions to combat child trafficking in the region.

5.2. Funds

The guaranteed funds amount to the total of \$37.200 IFTDH and the total of \$119.000 that will be necessary to cover for the Conference expenses.

5.3. SANTAC Secretariat's Responsibility

Initiate immediately the preparation of the logistic and financial issues to allow that they respond to the expectations taking into consideration that:

- a) Until the middle of the second fortnight of the current month (February) will be necessary to have: (i) the mobilized funds and the respective agreements signed, (ii) all meetings related to the consulting agencies, travelling agencies must be confirmed, (iii) the public announcement of the event realization and the documents and Media release accurately distributed, (iv) the list of participants finalized, (vii) the venue, program, speeches, and presentations finalized.
- b) By mid March will be necessary to have : (i) invitations and the forms of register ready, (ii) the participants forms and other requests made by these properly processed, (iii) aspects related to the trip PTAs and Conference finalized, (iv) the people who will discuss and or present themes must be properly identified and prepared, (vi) The Media release finalized.

5.4. Conclusions

- For the realization of this Conference it will be necessary that the SANTAC Secretariat starts a strong action of resource mobilization from the partners and other institutions;
- They recognized to be urgent the placement of Conference information on Web Site;
- SANTAC must decide whether children should or should not participate (Youth Beyond Borders) given that this action will have financial impact;
- The Opening will be done by the Patrons namely Mrs Graça Machel and Mr Desmond Tutu. SANTAC must decide whether children should or should not participate (Youth Beyond Borders) given that this action will have financial impact;
- The Opening will be done by the Patrons namely Mrs Graça Machel and Mr Desmond Tutu;
- Among many other themes that will be discussed issues such as: compilation of the study, status of the situation of African child, trafficking as a global phenomenon, legislation on child abuse and trafficking, resolutions and the production of the final declaration;
- Mrs. Margarida has spoken about the existence of 7000 Euros for contracting a consultant to compile the regional research on the abuse and trafficking of children;
- It was informed that the compilation of the Report on child abuse which must be launched in March in the Johannesburg Conference was being elaborated. Marina Chichava, FDC Anthropologist contracted for the effect;

- She stated that Ms Chichava had professional and academic requirements to be contracted as a Consultant;
- Mrs Merab Keremire of MAPODE said that she had read the initial draft and the work was very encouraging;
- Some participants suggested that in the next occasions there should contract and independent researcher for the task;
- They decided that the draft elaborated by Ms Chichava, even incomplete, it should be distributed to the members on the 8th February in the current year;
- The possibility of raising funds from South African Airways (SAA) was discussed through discounts or by seeking for some private institutions in Namibia;
- James Moleko presented a proposal of Final Declaration; the members suggested that the document should be clear, short and purposeful. It was decided that Mrs. Rafa, Daniel and James will help each other in the elaboration of this document;
- It was agreed that Rede came, FDC, Mapode and TdH and Save the Children will support the secretariat in the preparation of the Conference
- It was decided that the JHB Chid Welfare Society and Molo Songolo for the reasons of being located in South Africa, the place where the Conference will take place, must have a fundamental role in the preparation and organization of the Conference, mainly towards ensuring the participation of the South African Government Representatives;
- Mrs. Sonia Carey of Bridge availed herself to help the SANTAC Secretariat in the resource mobilization for the realization of the conference;
- Mrs. Margarida Guitunga of SANTAC Secretariat requested the support of all affiliated organizations, justifying that it will not be easy to organize an International Conference which will be held in another country;
- They concluded that there is a need to work in the Declaration of civil society taking into account that they have an important role in the trafficking of children.

6. Next Annual General Assembly

The next Annual General Assembly will be held in May 2008.

List of Participants

	NAME	ORGANISATION	COUNTRY
	Abdul Carimo	FDC	Mozambique
	Marta Cumbi	FDC	Mozambique
	Merab Kiremire	MAPODE	Zambia
	Maxwell Matewere	Eye of the Child	Malawi
	Beryl D'Almeida	Abandoned Babies Committee	Zimbabwe
	Nominise J. Gogo	SHARE	Port Elizabeth, SA
	Daniel Sykonza	Amazing Grace	Mpumalanga, SA
	Salomé Cabo	Save the Children Norway	Mozambique
	Helene Novela	Save the Children Norway	Mozambique
	Carlos Manjate	REDE CAME	Mozambique
	Sabina dos Santos	REDE CAME	Mozambique
	Rafa Machava	Muleide	Mozambique
	Margarida Guitunga	SANTAC	Mozambique
	James Moleko	Oasis Cultural Heritage	JHB, SA
	Carol Bews	JHB Child Welfare	JHB, SA
	Felix Mulhanga	Tdh Germany	Mozambique
	Lea Boaventura	Tdh Germany	Mozambique
	Judith Mthombeni	Tdh Germany	JHB, SA
	Patric Solomons	Molo Songololo	Cape Town, SA
	Sonia Carew	The Bridge	Namibia