

Second day of the Fourteenth Meeting
MC(14) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

**DECISION No. 15/06
COMBATING SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN**

The Ministerial Council,

Recognizing that sexual exploitation of children is a grave and large-scale problem throughout the OSCE region and beyond, with multiple, interlinked manifestations of all forms of sexual exploitation of children, including prostitution, child pornography, trafficking in children for sexual exploitation, sex tourism and forced marriages of children,

Recognizing that sexual exploitation of children violates human dignity and undermines the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Considering that sexual exploitation of children constitutes a grave and heinous crime, in many cases involving organized crime, that must be prevented, investigated, prosecuted and penalized with all available means,

Underlining the need to address the broad range of factors that make children vulnerable to sexual exploitation, including economic disparities, lack of access to education, and discrimination, including gender-related discrimination, as well as the need to counter demand for child pornography and sex tourism and to prevent the actions of perpetrators,

Considering that sexual exploitation of children is increasing and spreading through the use of new technologies such as the Internet,

Reaffirming all relevant OSCE commitments,

Taking note of the Resolution on Combating Trafficking and the Exploitation of Children in Pornography, adopted by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Brussels at its 15th Annual Session,

Mindful of the relevant provisions of pertinent international instruments, including the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the UN Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, as well as the decisions and recommendations of pertinent international bodies,

Taking into account the provisions of the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime (2001) relating to child pornography,

Recalling the Declaration and the Agenda for Action of the First World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, which took place in Sweden in 1996, and the Yokohama Global Commitment adopted at the Second World Congress in Japan in 2001,

Taking note of the recommendations from the United Nations Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children*, as well as the work of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography,

1. Condemns the sexual exploitation of children in all its forms, *inter alia*:
 - (a) Through child prostitution and child pornography, including through offering, obtaining, procuring, providing, or recruiting a child for such purposes, or profiting from exploiting a child for such purposes;
 - (b) When use is made of coercion, force, fraud, or threats, abuse of trust, authority or influence over a child, or the offering or giving of money or other forms of remuneration/consideration in exchange for sexual activities, including during times of armed conflict or in post-conflict situations;
 - (c) The production, distribution, dissemination or transmission, offering or otherwise making available of all forms of child pornography (via computer systems, the Internet or by other means);
 - (d) The intentional acquisition and possession of child pornography;
 - (e) Trafficking of children for sexual exploitation;
2. Calls on the participating States to conform their legislation on this subject to their relevant international commitments and obligations;
3. Urges the participating States to adopt a holistic approach towards the problem of sexual exploitation of children, addressing root and contributing factors, including the demand that fosters all forms of sexual exploitation of children, and to develop comprehensive and proactive strategies and measures aimed at preventing and combating the sexual exploitation of children;
4. Strongly urges the participating States to take all legal measures to prosecute the sexual exploitation of children, imposing penalties that are effective, proportionate and dissuasive. In this regard, encourages the participating States to consider legal measures that would allow them to prosecute their citizens for serious sexual crimes against children, even if these crimes are committed in another country;

* UNGA A/61/299 distributed on 29 August 2006. The Secretary-General's report on Violence against Children was presented on 11 October 2006, to the 3rd Committee of the General Assembly, by the Independent Expert, Paulo Sergio Pinheiro.

5. Calls upon the participating States to enhance the ability of law enforcement to proactively investigate and prosecute offenders;
6. Calls on the participating States to facilitate legal protection, assistance, appropriate medical care, rehabilitation and reintegration programmes for child victims of sexual exploitation and, where appropriate, to ensure the safe return of trafficked children;
7. Calls on the participating States to raise awareness at all levels of society on the problem of the sexual exploitation of children;
8. Advises the participating States to develop compatible and exchangeable data registration systems specific to the sexual exploitation of children, with due regard for the confidentiality of personal data, and to promote comprehensive data collection mechanisms and research on the sexual exploitation of children;
9. Supports measures by the participating States, in collaboration with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and appropriate representatives of relevant sectors of the economy, such as the travel, hospitality or media industries, to eliminate demand for sexual exploitation of children;
10. Urges increased co-operation among the participating States for the detection, investigation, prosecution and punishment of those responsible for the sexual exploitation of children;
11. Recommends that the participating States establish training programmes concerning sexual exploitation of children for personnel, including those working in the areas of justice, policing, tourism, transport, social work, health care, civil society, religious organizations, and education;
12. Advocates that relevant authorities in the participating States, in accordance with national legislation concerning the protection of personal data, work with Internet service providers, credit-card companies, banks and other corporations as well as relevant NGOs, to ensure information related to the sexual exploitation of children is tracked and reported;
13. Recommends the creation of telephone or Internet hotlines, possibly in collaboration with NGOs, to which individuals can confidentially report instances of sexual exploitation of children, so that such reports can be investigated by law enforcement, and so that victims and their families can receive appropriate support;
14. Takes note of civil society initiatives to combat the sexual exploitation of children, including, *inter alia*, the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism drawn up by ECPAT (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking in Children for Sexual Purposes);
15. Tasks the OSCE executive structures, within their existing mandates, to examine ways of ensuring appropriate training and awareness raising regarding the problem of sexual exploitation of children for OSCE officials keeping in mind the Code of Conduct for OSCE Officials and Staff Instruction No. 11 addressing trafficking in human beings;

16. Encourages relevant OSCE executive structures, within their existing mandates, to devote attention to the area of sexual exploitation of children, including links to trafficking in persons, and emphasizes the need for them and the participating States to co-operate with other international organizations, NGOs and civil society in combating the sexual exploitation of children.