

- ▶ set up a central registry for missing children to facilitate the identification and tracing of child victims;
  - ▶ exchange lists of paedophiles between different countries to prevent the repetition of offences by the same persons;
  - ▶ coordinate efforts more closely between police, customs and postal officials to curb the circulation of pornographic materials; and,
  - ▶ establish consultations and the exchange of training programmes among law enforcement authorities to deal with transnational trafficking in children.
- The commentary on follow-up to the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (Stockholm, 1996) endorsed recommendations similar to those above on international cooperation. It also focussed on the need to mobilize the business sector, including the tourism industry, and the media, against the use of its networks and establishments for the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

The SR's interim report to the General Assembly included some commentary on country-specific situations and a special section on the media and education. Information is provided on, for example, the international legal framework for the protection of children, facets of the media, the role of the press in the reporting of sexual offences, the impact of audio and radio, the print media, and pornography on-line and the Internet.

In the area of media and education, the SR recommended that, *inter alia*:

- ▶ laws for the protection of children against commercial sexual exploitation be publicized and popularized;
- ▶ prominent visibility be given to convictions of child sex offenders;
- ▶ a culture of rights and positive moral values for society be promoted, including respect for all human rights, principles for good parenthood, and, elimination of practices based on culture and tradition which are inimical to children;
- ▶ children be sensitized and educated to detect and identify aberrant behaviour and risk factors or situations making them vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation;
- ▶ the public be educated on the pernicious and long-lasting consequences of any form of sexual abuse or exploitation of children;
- ▶ steps be taken to raise awareness among leaders of mass communications and entertainment industries related to the needs of children and the protection of their rights;
- ▶ free and compulsory primary and secondary education be provided for children;
- ▶ mechanisms for reporting crimes against children be widely publicized;
- ▶ media and education personnel be sensitized to the dangers of revictimization of children and safeguards be provided to avoid such dangers;
- ▶ training programmes for all those involved with children be designed and implemented, aimed at early detection of signs of physical or sexual abuse;

- ▶ free counselling services be offered for child victims and their families to ensure reintegration; and,
- ▶ the private sector, including computer industries, be mobilized in the fight against the commercial sexual exploitation of children through, for example, making hotlines available to enable users to report potentially harmful materials on the Internet in an effort to promote self-regulatory controls.

Renewal of the mandate will be considered by the Commission at its 1998 session.

#### **Omnibus Resolution of the Commission on Human Rights**

In 1997, the Commission continued its recent practice of adopting by consensus an omnibus resolution (1997/78), incorporating a number of subjects relevant to children's human rights and to the elaboration of optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Commission, *inter alia*:

**Preamble:** expressed concern over the situation of children resulting from poverty, inadequate social and economic conditions, natural disasters, armed conflicts, displacement, economic and sexual exploitation, illiteracy, hunger, intolerance and disability and inadequate legal protection; and reaffirmed that the best interest of the child is the primary consideration in all action concerning children.

**I. Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child:** welcomed the nearly universal ratification of the Convention; called on states parties to implement fully the provisions of the Convention, withdraw reservations incompatible with its objects and purpose and review remaining reservations; called on states parties, organs and bodies of the UN, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, the media and the community at large to make the principles and provisions of the Convention widely known and encourage training on the rights of the child for those involved in activities affecting children; encouraged the Committee on the Rights of the Child to continue to pay attention to the needs of children in especially difficult circumstances, including children with disabilities.

**II. The girl child:** called on states to institute legal reforms to ensure equal enjoyment by girls of all human rights and freedoms and take effective action against violations of those rights and freedoms; called on states and international and non-governmental organizations to develop and implement gender-sensitive strategies to address the rights and needs of children, take into account the particular needs of girls, especially in education, health and nutrition, and eliminate negative cultural attitudes and practices against girls; called on states to eliminate all forms of discrimination against girls and the root causes of son preference, and to protect girls from violence, including female infanticide and prenatal sex selection, genital mutilation, incest, sexual abuse and exploitation; called on states to develop age-appropriate, safe and confidential programs, and medical, social and psychological support services to assist girls who are subjected to violence.

**III. Prevention and eradication of the sale of children, and of their sexual exploitation and abuse, including child prostitution and child pornography:** welcomed the reports of the Special Rapporteur and the Working Group elaborating a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of