

there is no central point at which all the information is stored or from which it is disseminated; it would not be technically feasible for any one entity to control all of the information conveyed on the Internet; the educational value of the wealth of information available on the Internet is to be commended; children are exposed to danger online and can be potentially harmed by child pornography by being filmed/photographed or made the subject of the pornographic material in some other way, or by being exposed to such material as viewers; technological advances have made the creation and distribution of child pornography easier, cheaper and more difficult to detect, allowing it to develop into a multi-million-dollar industry which can be run from the exploiter's home; the Internet can be used by paedophiles to contact each other and they can set up bulletin boards to exchange information relating to their sexual interest in children, or have running conversations in the form of "chat rooms" on such subjects.

The recommendations in the report are divided into several sections. First, with regard to the media and education, the recommendations focus on laws for the protection of children, the sensitization of children to enable them to identify the risks, media programming relative to the needs and rights of children, awareness-raising with regard to HIV/AIDS and implementation of sexual health education, and the need to minimize the dangers of the Internet being used for purposes of commercial sexual exploitation of children. Second, on the questions of response and intervention, the report refers to mechanisms for reporting crimes against children and existing response mechanisms, training for all sectors of society involved with children with a view to early detection of physical and sexual abuse, and sensitization of the public to the needs of a child victim of sexual abuse and exploitation so as to avoid ostracism, further revictimization or unfair punishment. The third set of recommendations deals with issues related to recovery and reintegration. The fourth, on networking between governmental and non-governmental organizations, notes obstacles to effective networking and underlines the need for adequate funding of projects and initiatives aimed at protecting and promoting the rights of the child and better coordination and cooperation between groups and individuals working with or on behalf of children.

The Special Rapporteur's interim report to the General Assembly (A/53/311) notes the ongoing effort to gather information from governments and others on trafficking of children, including: paths within countries through which children are trafficked, international trafficking routes, profiles of the children involved and of those involved in the trafficking, the purposes for which children are trafficked, whether children are part of a general trafficking path along with commodities, such as drugs or firearms, and provisions related to the prevention, extrication, repatriation, and rehabilitation of the child victims of trafficking.

The report also comments on the definition of terms related to the mandate of the SR. With regard to "sale" in

its commercial application, the report notes that no consensus currently exists with respect to the sale of children, stating that the traditional concept of sale is that it pertains only to property — real, personal or incorporeal — and that the consideration is always price in money. The SR defined "sale" as "the transfer of parental authority over and/or physical custody of a child to another on a more or less permanent basis in exchange for financial or other reward or consideration". With regard to "traffic" and "trafficking", the report recalls that there is as yet no internationally recognized definition of "trafficking in persons" although, in resolution 49/166, the General Assembly defined it as the "illicit and clandestine movement of persons across national and international borders, largely from developing countries and some countries with economies in transition, with the end goal of forcing women and girl children into sexually or economically oppressive and exploitative situations for profit of recruiters, traffickers and crime syndicates, as well as other illegal activities related to trafficking, such as forced domestic labour, false marriages, clandestine employment, and false adoption". With this noted, the report refers to other definitions developed by various national and international bodies. The SR noted that there are some basic elements in all of the definitions devised, namely: some degree of involuntariness on the part of the person being trafficked, either through the employment of deceit, coercion or actual force, abuse of authority, confiscation of travel documents, or debt bondage. The report states that, with respect to children, the element of involuntariness would be for the most part assumed, regardless of any actual consent of the child to the transaction.

The identified aims of trafficking are noted as including those associated with commercial sexual exploitation as well as:

- ♦ inter-country adoption: especially of babies and very young children, as a result of, *inter alia*, the shortage of children available for adoption in most developed countries, rising infertility rates in some countries, the widespread use of contraceptives, legalization of abortion, and changing mores which now enable single mothers to keep their children; the need to pay special attention to the situation of unmarried or especially poor women, who, because of their financial situation or the social unacceptability of their circumstances, may be forced or pressured into giving up their children for adoption;
- ♦ labour: noting that over and above prostitution, many children are recruited as a cheap source of labour; while not literally enslaved, children are extremely vulnerable and are often victims of sexual abuse, end up working in construction, agriculture or in factories where they are exposed to a multitude of health risks, many of which prove fatal;
- ♦ criminal activities: referring to organized crime networks using children in various capacities, such as street-corner crack dealers;