



**United Nations Secretary-General's
Study on Violence Against Children**
www.violencestudy.org

Draft Agenda

**Inter-agency Group Meeting on
Violence Against Children**

2 March, 2006

hosted by UNICEF, New York
9.30 am – 1.00 pm

Purpose of the Meeting

A number of UN agencies are already heavily involved with the United Nations Study on Violence Against Children according to their mandates and capacity, including OHCHR, UNICEF, and WHO as the key supporting partners, but also others such as ILO, UNESCO, UNHCR, and UNODC who have made specific contributions to the Study according to their particular agency perspectives. For other agencies, opportunities for expanding involvement still exist, and this meeting provides an opportunity to clarify concepts, to be updated on progress so far and also to identify opportunities for further involvement especially in terms of the follow up to the Study. It will also be an opportunity to hear from agencies and exchange ideas on how to reinforce the process at country level, and also regional and international level to ensure positive change for children.

The purpose of the meeting is:

- To expand and strengthen the engagement of the partnership network for the Study and explore opportunities for engagement in advocacy opportunities and follow up
- To review the draft recommendations and seek agency feedback
- To identify linkages with UN agencies priorities and specific roles in the Study process and follow up

Background

In 2001, the General Assembly (resolution 56/138) requested the Secretary-General to conduct an in-depth study on the question of violence against children, following a recommendation by the Committee on the Rights of the Child. The Independent Expert, Professor Paulo Sergio Pinheiro, was appointed in February 2003 to direct the study, in collaboration with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Health Organization. The final Study Report will be presented to the UN General Assembly in 2006. A child-friendly version will also be produced.

Objectives of the Study

The study will lead to the development of strategies aimed at effectively preventing and combating all forms of violence against children, outlining steps to be taken at the international level and by States to provide effective prevention, protection and intervention, treatment, recovery and reintegration. It is guided by international human rights treaties, in particular the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the jurisprudence of its Committee on the Rights of the Child and other human rights treaty bodies.

The focus of the study is on children as victims of violence, although some attention is paid to children as perpetrators of violence against other children. It seeks to provide an understanding of the nature, extent, causes, and consequences of different forms of violence against children, taking into account the various settings in which violence takes place – including family, schools, religious institutions, care and residential institutions, detention facilities and prisons, in sports, on the streets, and in work situations. Physical, sexual or mental violence and neglect of children by individuals and groups in the course of organised crime, including drug-related organized crime, commercial sexual exploitation and the sale and trafficking of children is also being examined. The study follows nine years after the 1996 United Nations study on the impact of armed conflict on children, known as the Machel study (A/51/ 306 and Add. 1); therefore, violence against children in armed conflict is not addressed explicitly in the present study.

Outline of the Study Report

The Study Report to be presented to the UN General Assembly in 2006, will feature the following chapters: (1) Introduction and overview – background information and models for understanding the global context of the situation and conditions in which children live, how they affect children’s vulnerability to violence, and the impact of violence on children’s development., (2) Overview of State obligations, legal frameworks and agreements, (3) Violence against Children in the home and family, (4) in schools and educational settings, (5) other institutional settings (orphanages, children in conflict with the law), (6) in work situations and (7) in the community and on the streets, and (8) Conclusions and recommendations.

Snapshot of key elements and achievements so far

The Independent Expert, Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro, has presented progress reports to the General Assembly on in 2004 and 2005, and also to the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva in 2004 and 2005. He has emphasised the value of the strategy that he has implemented, including the importance of the nine regional consultations in building momentum and support in 2005, support from partner agencies and governments, and the follow-up activities that have emerged so far. In the lead-up to the final report at the end of 2006 the focus is on continued mobilisation and partner activities to sustain consistent participation from the various stakeholders involved in this process, including representatives from governments, international organizations, civil society entities, and children. Several elements of follow-up are already in place, especially in the regions, and many countries are already using the platform provided by the Study to extend the reach of effective strategies.

The key elements of the Study Strategy are:

- The questionnaires sent to all governments worldwide at the beginning of the Study process – 125 received – available at <http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/study.htm>
- The call for Public Submissions and other contributions of information – more than 250 public submissions and thousands of other documents
- Expert and thematic meetings on topics such as juvenile justice, gender-based violence, trafficking, disabilities, the role of faith-based organisations, and international mechanisms to protect children from violence
- Children’s participation as a key strategy in mobilisation partners at international, regional, and national level
- The Nine Regional Consultations and related national consultations, and field visits by the Independent Expert – indicated increased openness by governments and partners to address violence against children
- Global Communications Strategy – to involve all partners in advocacy and follow up

Draft Programme

Inter-agency Meeting on Violence Against Children

March 2, 2006

**Maurice Pate Conference Room
13th floor UNICEF house**

9.30 am – 1.00 pm

- 9.30 am **Welcome: Importance of the Study for the UN system** - Rima Salah, Deputy Executive Director, UNICEF
- 10 am **Overview of the study process** - Paulo Sergio Pinheiro, Independent Expert leading the UN Secretary General's Study on Violence Against Children
- 10.30am **The impact of the study** – OHCHR, UNICEF and WHO representatives
- 11.30 am **The role of UN agencies and partners – next steps** – Amaya Gillespie, Director UN Secretary General's Study on Violence Against Children.
- Opportunities to participate in and support the study for partners within the UN system;
 - Plans for a communication strategy;
 - Prospects of an Inter-Agency Group in following up on the Study;
- 1.00 pm **Closing** – Rima Salah, Deputy Executive Director
- Lunch