

**UNICEF Follow-up**  
**UN Study on Violence against Children**  
**To be presented in session from 3.30 to 4 pm**

I would like to thank my colleagues from WHO and OHCHR for their very informative remarks. The follow-up to the study is very important and in this respect, we have an ongoing discussion in UNICEF in terms of our contribution to the follow-up. Given the unprecedented mobilization and momentum on issues around violence against children, it is important that we harness this to generate tangible benefits for children in terms of their protection and wellbeing.

Preventing and responding to violence against children is central to UNICEF's global priorities and the follow-up to the UN Study is an integral part of UNICEF's workplan for the upcoming years. As Ms. Veneman said during her closing at the Executive Board meeting June, 'UNICEF will implement the conclusions in the forthcoming UN Secretary-General's study on violence against children in our work with partners and in our cooperative programs with Governments'.

UNICEF's programmatic priorities are set out in our Medium Term Strategic Plan. For the period 2006-2009, this includes follow-up actions on the United Nations Study on Violence against Children at the country level. This would entail the contribution to the dissemination of findings and the follow-up of the UN Study. This also includes, for example, the support to specific advocacy, awareness and communication approaches to prevent and address child sexual abuse, exploitation, child trafficking and harmful traditional practices such as FGM/C or child marriage. For example, in UNICEF we

have now established an internal task force to discuss how best to strengthen policy guidance and programming to combat harmful traditional practices.

Here I would also like to mention the collaboration with the Division for the Advancement of Women on the UN Study on Violence against Women. The Commission on the Status of Women will focus during its next session on violence against girls and this will provide additional opportunity to draw attention to the particular vulnerability of girls, raised in the study.

Another priority in our MTSP is to increase by 60 % the number of programme countries with national quality standards based on “child-friendly” schools or similar/equivalent models. One main characteristic of a “child friendly” school is a learning environment which is free of violence.

To reach these targets, we will strengthen UNICEF’s follow-up and support to national and regional initiatives. This will include staff training and capacity, programmatic guidance where needed, such as the guidelines on the protection of child victims of trafficking, strong advocacy, including a Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism and the Secretary General’s Bulletin on special measures for the protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse by UN staff, and the continued monitoring of results, including tools for the measurement of violence against children

The regional level momentum I believe has been crucial to the success of the study. It will be important for our regional offices to channel this into strong networks,

programme focus and advocacy, building on the 9 regional consultations to strengthen and support existing partnerships.

All that we do in New York, Geneva or Bangkok will not be worthwhile if we are unable to make a difference in the everyday lives of children. For this we need action on the ground – in the countries and the communities. At the country level and in the context of the UN reform process, it will be important to work with our partners to include the issue of violence against children into all country programming frameworks, including the UNDAF and PRSP (Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers). We have sought to illustrate in our publications, including State of the World's Children 2006, the real consequences of protection failures, such as violence, on development outcomes.

Another important element mentioned in the report is to strengthen data around the issues of violence. Ensuring sound and routinely updated data and its effective use is important to feed into evidence-based advocacy, policy development and programming. As noted in the report, it is important to set time bound results to ensure adequate follow-up. Ensuring that we have a robust database system that monitors these issues systematically is critical.

As you are aware, over the past weeks, UNICEF has been in liaison with the SG's office to determine a date for the launch. In addition, we have managed to work with the President of the Third Committee for the submission of the report. As the date of the launch draws closer, we look forward to working with all partners to ensure that together we can follow-up to the recommendations of the study.