



## South Asia Initiative To End Violence Against Children [SAIEVAC]

SAARC Apex Body

**“In Solidarity with the Children of SAARC”**



## SAIEVAC ORGANIZING THE 4<sup>th</sup> NACG MEETING

South Asia Initiative To End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC) will organize its 4<sup>th</sup> NACG ( National Action and Coordinating Group Against Violence Against Children) Meeting in Negombo, Sri Lanka from 17-18 June 2014.

The events are being hosted by the National Child Protection Authority, Ministry of Child Development and Women’s Affairs, Government of Sri Lanka (SAIEVAC National Mechanism, Sri Lanka). The 4<sup>th</sup> NACG and the is expected to be attended by about 20 participants comprising of the Chair and Co-Chairs of the NACG, representatives from relevant SACG agencies and officials from the SAIEVAC Regional Secretariat.

Following the 3rd NACG Meeting, the SRS followed up with member countries where the formation and operation of NACGs is lagging behind. As a result of the follow-up, Maldives has elected the NACG Chair and Co-chair. India also had series of meetings and exchanges to formalize the NACG through the efforts of the Interim Working Group. The SRS is in regular communication with the NACGs for supporting them to resolve any existing or emerging issues in the structure and functioning of NACGs as per the principles and approaches agreed in different regional forums.

As an effort to continue regional communications and exchanges, SRS, through the support of SAARC Development Fund, has already organized the Regional Advocacy and Communications Planning Workshop in Islamabad, Pakistan. The workshop has been able to not only introduce the concept and practices of communication for development but also arrived at outcomes and inputs around select VaC priorities. A plan of action with definitive way forward will be circulated soon.

The meeting of the SACG and the SRS held in New Delhi from 11-12 February 2014 discussed the possible linkages and synergy between the NACGs and SACG. The meeting also briefly touched upon the roles of UN Agencies and INGOs within NACGs. In order to explore areas for synergies between NACGs and SACG, a tripartite meeting between SACG Agencies, NACGs and SRS has been proposed to be held immediately after the 4th Meeting of NACGs.

The SACG-SRS Meeting held in New Delhi also discussed the preparations for the 4th Technical Consultation on “Rights and Responses for Children with Disabilities”. The meeting proposed to organize the Consultation in the last week of November to mark the International Day for Disability (3rd December) instead of the date

considered earlier. As a preparation for the Technical Consultation, the mapping of the NACG organizations and agencies working with and for children with disabilities has already started. The SRS is in regular touch with the SAAGN for exploring more meaningful collaboration also to streamline information sharing with the SAIEVAC National Mechanisms. Plans are already underway to analyze the data maintained by SAACH and publish a report through SAIEVAC's Regional Campaign against Corporal Punishment.

As decided during the 3rd NACG Meeting, the SRS has already circulated the SAARCLAW Declaration and the Thimphu Declaration of the 9th SAARC Chief Justices' Conference, SAIEVAC's Regional Advocacy and Communication Strategy, and Concept Note and Programme for convening the Regional Advocacy and Communication Workshop.

Apart from the steady progress being made with regard to the institutionalization of NACGs, there are certain additional issues to be clarified and collectively decided. The finalization and adoption of the ToR for NACGs is yet to be carried out. More needs to be done with regard to developing strategies for resource mobilization and sustainability of NACGs. The institutionalization of children's participation at the national level through NACGs is at a preliminary stage and this is an area that needs to be put at center stage of the NACG mechanism. The formation of working group on child participation within the NACGs is yet to be realized in as much as the lack of clarity at the regional level on the status and institutionalization of the SAIEVAC Expert Panel on Child Participation. The roles of UN/INGOs within NACGs has become an area that merits urgent attention and finalization to maximize the role and responsibility of the NACGs in the larger interest of moving the SAIEVAC agenda forward. The convergence of views of the SACG agencies in relation to its role vis-à-vis the NACG and the type of guidance the SACG provides to its National level agencies have also emerged as an area that needs closer attention. This has a direct implication on the common communication platform for SRS/SACG/NACGs which has been endorsed but continues to raise concerns.

Based on the challenges and opportunities highlighted above, the 4th NACG consultation is convened with the following objectives:

- To review/reaffirm the NACG targets set for 2014 during the 3rd NACG Consultation in Colombo 2013;
- To review existing/emerging challenges in the institutionalization process of the NACGs including the role of the UN/INGO partners and identify strategic steps forward;
- To review the proposed common communication strategy and launch the platform; and
- To hold a tripartite dialogue on moving the common VAC agenda forward

Expected Outcomes:

1. The targets set to be achieved by end 2014 reviewed and confirmed;
2. The existing/emerging challenges identified and workable strategy.

Please see Tentative Agenda of the NACG Meeting at [www.saievac.org](http://www.saievac.org)

## **DATE AND VENUE**

Date: 17-18 June 2014

Venue: Hotel Jetwing Sea, Negombo, Sri Lanka

**For more information, please contact:**

Dr.Rinchen Chopel  
Director General  
Tel. number : Direct +977 – 1 – 4001601  
Tel.number: PABX + 977 – 1 – 4001685/4001602 Ext 107  
Email: [rinchen.chophel@saievac.org](mailto:rinchen.chophel@saievac.org)

Mr. Mr. RoshanLal Chitrakar  
Administrative and Logistics officer  
Tel. number: PABX +977-1-4001685/4001602-Ext- 102  
Email: [roshan@saievac.org](mailto:roshan@saievac.org)

Mr. Nim Karma Sherpa  
Advocacy and Communications Officer  
Tel. number: PABX +977-1-4001685/4001602-Ext- 104  
Email: [nimkarma.sherpa@saievac.org](mailto:nimkarma.sherpa@saievac.org)

Ms. Alisha Tuladhar  
Finance Officer  
Tel. number: PABX +977-1-4001685/4001602-Ext- 105  
Email: [alisha@saievac.org](mailto:alisha@saievac.org)

Ms. Sulakshana Rana  
MCA Project Co-ordinator  
Tel. number: PABX +977-1-4001685/4001602-Ext- 106  
Email: [sulakshana@saievac.org](mailto:sulakshana@saievac.org)

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