

East Asia Pacific Children and Young People's Regional Forum II

Distinguished guests, children and young people, friends, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon.

We the children and Young People from 10 countries of the East Asia Pacific Region have gathered for the Regional Forum II from July 23-27, 2001 here in Vientiane, Lao PDR.

We met each other in order to achieve these following goals:

To follow-up on the Beijing Declaration;

To share comments on the UNGASS outcome document: A World Fit for Children;

To select our regional delegates to UNGASS; and

To make follow-up plans after UNGASS.

For four days we have been through power-packed workshops which are fun and exciting. We formed special friendships through sharing, interaction and cultural exchange - learning to respect each other's culture.

As a result we came up with these ideas:

- We reviewed Beijing Declaration and the World Fit for Children document and raised specific recommendations related to the National Plan of Action of our respective governments.

We say NO to corporal and capital punishment which is highly considered as a violation of the rights of the child.

We must raise awareness and education about reproductive health to enable the children/young people to take responsibilities for their actions and behave appropriately.

We MUST stop using children as soldiers.

We encourage donor countries like USA and Japan to agree and provide commitment to support other countries implement the World Fit for Children.

We ask our own government to give more money for social services and not to waste it in activities such as election.

- We came up with guidelines for governments to select child delegates to UNGASS. We suggest the following criteria and process:

Delegates should be selected by children themselves.

He or she must be under 18.

There must be no discrimination among children as regards disability, minority, location and language.

Delegates should have the ability to articulate their perspective/opinions, needs, problems, etc.

He/she must possess a strong awareness and understanding of children issues and CRC.

The delegates should be selected from local to provincial to national and to regional level.

The government and non government representatives should find time together to share ideas, listen to each other and get better understanding of the issues and support each other. This will facilitate better lobbying and supporting especially by the government.

Children representatives either from the GO and NGOs should have the time to meet together to share, arrive at a common understanding and consensus of ideas and resolutions on the issues being discussed.

Governments should provide support by paying more attention, respect, freedom for the delegates to express their opinions. Likewise, they should provide financial support and other resources.

- In order to follow-up the outcome of UNGASS, we came up with action plans:

We want dialogue with the governments and make them listen to us.

There should be a Regional Forum III to follow-up the outcome of UNGASS (A World Fit for Children) and the Beijing declaration.

Together, we want governments, NGOs, children and young people to develop and implement the National Action Plan for children.

Budget allocation for social services.

- Finally we selected 4 delegates to attend the UNGASS to represent our region and to voice out our issues and concerns.

We thank the Lao PDR government and the Lao Youth Union, UNICEF and Save The Children Alliance for hosting this forum. We hope that you will continue to listen to children's issues and support our efforts. We hope that the outcome document of UNGASS will truly benefit the children in the world, including children of Lao PDR.

