

**NGO Resource Centre
Child Right Working Group meeting on 21 July, 2009**

MEETING MINUTES

Chaired by Ton That Tuan – Plan International

Noted by : Phan Ha – NGORC

Participant: TDH, PLAN, DWC, CIAI, SAVE THE CHILDREN, RAFH, CECEM, CHILDFUND, CESVI, E&D, ILO, VACR, WORLD VISION VIETNAM., FRENCH EMBASSY – CHILD PROTECTION PROGRAM

AGENDA:

1. Opening – Introduction of participants (see the full list of the participants and addresses attached)
2. Introduction of meeting purpose and agenda
3. Presenting the key points and general comments for the CRC Complementary Report
4. Plenary discussion on comments/inputs – Further comments/ideas from NGOs
5. Plenary discussion and agreement of the next steps to finalize the Complementary report
6. Sharing of CRWG in the South about CR related activities
7. Plenary discussion on future activities and next meeting of CRWG
8. Wrap up and Closing

WELCOME AND OPENING SPEECH BY MARKO – NGO RC CO-DIRECTOR AND INTRODUCTIONS FROM ALL PARTICIPANTS:

The group welcomed three special colleagues from the South: Ms. Margrit – Country representative of Tdh-Lausanne, coordinator of HCMC INGO Discussion Group, Ms Johanna Risse – Assistant country representative of Tdh-Lausanne and Mr. Paul Finnis, Director of Saigon Children's Charity, Chairman of Childrights Working Group in HCMC.

PRESENTATIONS OF KEY POINTS AND GENERAL COMMENTS FOR CRC REPORT:

Review and update:

The last meeting called for recommendations for the CRC report from participating CRWG organizations. Following this, the group received comments from ten organizations.

All comments will be discussed in detail during the next Task force meeting; this meeting is also open to those of CRWG who would like to join.

Tuan, from Plan organization, informed everyone that according to the Committee on the Rights of the Child's Secretariat, the report from the government of Vietnam has not yet been received. If this information is accurate, the NGO community may have more time to improve the report.

It was suggested that this information be checked with a government official- Madam Thuy of

MOLISA, or someone who is familiar with the submission process (e.g. has it officially been submitted and where was the document sent). Following this, the group will outline a detailed plan and time frame. Nevertheless, the finalization of the complementary report will be conducted as roughly planned before.

Key points of general comments on the draft complementary report:

All participants discussed and agreed upon 5 key recommendations :

- 1. Less recommendations should be emphasized highlighting the importance that recommendations be both specific and essential*
- 2. Some data/facts/evidence should be re-checked and updated*
- 3. The report should be more specific/more focused*
- 4. Priorities should be clearly defined*
- 5. Statements and recommendations should be supported with sufficient/strong evidences*

Other important ideas:

Participants also agreed that:

- The consultant should be made fully aware of the 5 key recommendations when completing the final report; this report should also be agreed upon by Save, Plan, and NGO RC
- The draft complementary report had been shared to the Gov (MOLISA) for comment/input before. So this will not be done again. The final report will be shared with the Gov upon completion.

AGREEMENT ON NEXT STEPS OF FINALIZATION PROCESS OF COMPLEMENTARY REPORT:

The participants discussed and agreed to finalize the report as summarized below:

No.	Activity/Milestone	Who	When
1.	Share and discuss the 5 key recommendations with the consultant	Hai Anh/Tuan/Ha	
2	Consultant considers and integrates the comments		
3	Task Force and consultant open the meeting for discussion with other members	Task Force (the meeting is open to other members)	
4	Finalize the report (also other material such as Child Friendly Report)	Consultant (and task force)	
5	Circulate the report for final review	All	
6	CRWG meeting about final report	All	
7	Sign off the complementary report	All	
8	Share the final report with Govt	NGO RC/SC/PIAN	

9	Report submission	(to be confirmed)	
---	-------------------	-------------------	--

Note that:

- As the consultant is no longer in Vietnam, the time frame will be determined at a later date
- The consultant and Task Force will keep all group members informed via email about the finalization process

SHARING OF CRWG IN THE SOUTH ABOUT CR RELATED ACTIVITIES:

Paul Finnis, the Director of Saigon Children's Charity, Co-Chair of Child Rights Working Group in HCMC shared some key information of the group.

CRWG in the South was set up in 2008 and its TOR have been developed and submitted to the Resource Centre. Three meetings have been organized. The group has recently decided to focus on Child protection policy and how to keep children safe as its core issue for the coming year, leaving out education.

The group would like to mobilize more organizations to become active in the child-rights working group. The group still faces some difficulties to open up its meetings in particular with regard to Vietnamese NGOs. Paul mentioned that some members have changed address so the group cannot contact them anymore. He also encouraged any organisation that has an office in the South to feel free to join the CRWG meetings.

He mentioned that it is a great opportunity for the 2 working groups to work together about child protection issues. He compares the 2 groups to a big and a small brother that can share and learn from each other.

The group plans to have all members agree on a common list of principles about child protection policy which can then be used by all as advocacy tools for example. During next meeting in September, the group will define the principles and discuss. A coalition of INGOs has developed a toolkit called "Keeping children safe" on how to set up a child protection policy in an institution and training material too. The group would like to translate relevant parts of the toolkit into Vietnamese and then organize workshops to share it with NGOs that work in Vietnam, international and local.

The group faces a difficulty regarding the language used at the meetings. Saigon Children's Charity will provide translation at the next meeting, so that it will be more inclusive. Paul hopes that the 2 working groups can develop a close connection, exchange information/experiences, issues to work on to be shared in the North and in the South.

Some organizations that are in the "Keeping Children Safe" coalition are working in Vietnam (for example, Save the Children or Plan), so Paul asked whether they have already translated parts of the toolkit.

CEFACOM and other members also shared and expressed willingness to cooperate with the HCMC CRWG on the "keeping children safe" issue.

Paul invites all the members to come and attend the next meeting of the HCMC- CRWG if they are in Ho Chi Minh City in mid-September. A delegate from the HCMC-CRWG will try to attend the next

meeting in Hanoi, which is on Child Protection.

Johanna Risse from Terre des hommes Foundation shared the following link to the website of the "Keeping Children Safe coalition" where members can read and download material about "keeping children safe" toolkit: <http://www.keepingchildrensafe.org.uk/> as a preparation for next meeting.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES OF CHILD RIGHTS WORKING GROUP:

- **Next CRWG meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 9, 2009 with the topic of Child Protection** (all members are requested to send their particular topics two weeks before the meeting)
- Mailing list of CRWG will be improved by NGO RC