



PARLIAMENTARIANS WITHOUT BORDERS FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

27th and 28th March, 2015, Kathmandu, Nepal



GLOBAL MARCH
Against Child Labour
Contra el Trabajo Infantil
Contre le Travail des Enfants



The world went global before parliamentarians went global. Parliamentarians globally are tied to local problems and next election. Yet, they are faced each day with more and more issues that cut across constituencies, countries and regions. These problems are global in nature, with no local or immediate solutions. They need a unified cross-country and global response. This thought was sparked by Kailash Satyarthi, Nobel Peace Laureate and Chairperson Global March Against Child Labour and Senator Cristovam Buarque Ph.D to bring together members of parliament from different countries on the issue of children rights.

The noble idea finally took shape in March this year at Kathmandu, Nepal wherein 20 engaged parliamentarians from across 9 countries (details as per Annexure) united to create a strong group of legislators to engage with their constituents on children rights and work together with multiple stakeholders to eliminate pressing concerns around children's basic rights nationally and globally.



The one and a half day conference was kicked off by the Rt. Hon'ble Speaker of Constituent Assembly of Nepal, Mr. Subash Chandra Nembang. He was joined by child rights champions, Mr. Kailash Satyarthi, Nobel Peace Laureate, Brazilian Senator Cristovam Buarque and Ms. Karin Hulshof, Regional Director, UNICEF.

The opening ceremony attended by multiple stakeholders such as civil society organisations, government representatives, public, media, etc was followed by dynamic closed group discussions among participating parliamentarians on critical issues like child labour, child slavery, trafficking, education etc.

Discussions on Day 1 (27th March, Friday) were divided into 4 sessions that began with the introduction of the Parliamentarians and their expectations from the meeting.



The first topic of discussion was around the issues of elimination of child labour, child slavery, child trafficking and promotion of laws that protect children from “all forms of violence”. Mr. Timothy Ryan, Board Member, Global March Against Child Labour set the tone for the session “Towards a World without Child Labour- Roadmap to 2016 and 2025”. The session chaired by Dr. Aliya Aftab , Member of Parliament Pakistan, saw the exchange of views and highlighted current scenario around these themes in their respective countries.



Chaired by Member of Parliament from India, Ms. Supriya Sule, the second session Education: Equitable, Inclusive and Free: a Collective Vision for Quality Education beyond 2015” saw Mr. Chritian Mahart Head of Office and UNESCO Representative, Nepal sharing his reflections on the situation of child labour in Nepal followed by a spirited debate on the need for equitable, inclusive and quality education for every child.



In the third session “Role of Parliamentarians in Furthering Children's Rights within the purview of the SDGs”, the group deliberated on the importance of influencing country specific agenda in the light of the adoption of the new Sustainable Development Goals in September this year. Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Special Adviser to the UN Secretary General for Post-2015 Development Planning, was the keynote speaker for this session. She emphasised on the critical role of Members of Parliament as key players in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals along with the need to domesticate the SDGs in their countries once finalised and to lay down their vision for the same.



The second day began with participants sharing best practices in their countries and regions and firming up the outcome document of the meeting thus formalising the way forward. It was a critical day as Members of Parliament passionately discussed the importance of the initiative and clear ways to build and sustain the momentum of this movement in the coming years.



The focus areas/ goals decided to be a part of the outcome document are as follows:

1. To demand for clear definitions in the Sustainable Development Goals on issues of child labour, child trafficking, violence against children, especially with respect to inclusion of elimination of child slavery in the SDGs.
2. To globally push for greater Inter Agency coordination among already existing pillars of government bodies and UN agencies.
3. To promote increased financing for development with a strong focus on education especially for the 'hard to reach' category of children.
4. To ensure a more responsible and accountable business/ corporate sector that carries out due diligence in their supply chains to prevent and eliminate child labour.
5. To promote strong regional cooperation to combat trafficking of children and adults. MPs from different countries will form a task force to coordinate initiatives between countries to strengthen law enforcement agencies on the issue of trafficking.
6. To adopt a two pronged approach to reduce the instance of child labour: reducing demand by stricter implementation of laws banning child labour, giving jobs being done by children to adults and discouraging sale/ procurement of products using child labour on the supply side.
7. MPs will seek special attention for the protection of children in war zones and conflict areas. They will also help in identifying ways for financing emergencies.
8. To reduce early marriages and child marriages and to tackle this problem at the community level with direct intervention by Parliamentarians at the local law enforcement level.
9. Eradicate poverty which is one of the main triggers for child labour. MPs will take action to raise awareness among their constituents about already existing anti-poverty schemes.
10. Parliamentarians will start multi party initiatives; issues of children's rights need to be addressed without party politics.

As a way forward, the Parliamentarians decided to form a Steering Group comprising representatives from every country. This smaller group will work closely and actively to take the initiative forward. They would be actively involved in the planning, fostering collaboration, resource mobilisation, endorsement/promotion, monitoring and reporting of PWB activity in associated countries in accordance with their capacity and reach.

It was also decided that the Parliamentarians Without Borders initiative will be supported by two secretariats based out of Nepal and Brazil along with support from the Global March Secretariat (India).

The Steering Group also proposed that the Parliament Members should develop country and regional level plans to drive this initiative forward. It was discussed and agreed upon by the South Asian Members of Parliament to organise a regional South Asia meeting of engaged Parliamentarians in 3 months in India, to be chaired by Mr. Ravi Prakash Verma (MP India).

As per the regional plan for South Asia, it is proposed to hold quarterly meetings of engaged Parliamentarians in the region to maintain the momentum of the initiative and build a strong movement for furthering children's rights at the country, regional and international levels.

The detail of the Steering Group Members is as follows:

S No.	Name	Country
1	Senator Cristovam Buarque	Brazil
2	Mr. Roelof van Laar	Netherlands
3	Dr. Muhammed Çetin	Turkey
4	Mr. Luis Alberto Castiglioni*	Paraguay
5	Mr. Nazmul Haque Prodhan	Bangladesh
6	Ms. Lubna Faisal	Pakistan
7	Ms. Hamida Akbary	Afghanistan
8	Mr. Dilli Chaudhary	Nepal
9	Mr. Ravi Prakash Verma	India

*confirmation pending



ANNEXURE – I

We, the Parliamentarians present at the first meeting of the initiative - Parliamentarians Without Borders for Children's Rights in Kathmandu, Nepal with the aim to consider the implementation of this important initiative in the world, agree that:

1. the current reality of the global world requires the politicians of PWB to unite for global problems, and
2. violation and denial of children's rights is one of the global problems that requires a global platform for addressing it. The concerns of children of any country are the concerns of the whole humankind.

Based on the above, we also agree on with the following two principles:

- a. each one of us considers himself/herself to be members of PWB for Children's Rights network, and commits to building broad consensus for the advancement of children's rights in their respective legislative agenda.
- b. each one of us will do our best in our countries not only for promotion and protection of children's rights, but also to increase the network of PWB around the world.

We have decided to establish a provisional Secretariat of PWB with three main purpose:

- a. to facilitate exchange of ideas, practices, experiences and actions at national, regional and global level;
- b. to expand the network of PWB through increased membership; and
- c. to organise the second meeting of PWB for Children's Rights one year from now in a country chosen to organise a regional meeting of PWB for Children's Rights.

Our concern is for children's rights everywhere. Our vision is to transform this Kathmandu meeting into an international sustainable movement for promotion and protection of every child.

It will be supported by secretariats in Nepal and Brazil.

ANNEXURE – II

List of Parliament Members participating in the first meeting of Parliamentarians Without Borders for Children's Rights, Kathmandu, Nepal

S No.	Name	Country
1	Senator Cristovam Buarque	Brazil
2	Mr. Roelof van Laar	Netherlands
3	Dr. Muhammed Çetin	Turkey
4	Mr. Luis Alberto Castiglioni	Paraguay
5	Mr. Nazmul Haque Prodhan	Bangladesh
6	Ms. Fazilatun Nasa Bappy	Bangladesh
7	Ms. Lubna Faisal	Pakistan
8	Ms. Aliya Aftab	Pakistan
9	Ms. Nafisa Azimi	Afghanistan
10	Ms. Hamida Akbary	Afghanistan
11	Mr. Dilli Chaudhary	Nepal
12	Ms. Ranju Jha	Nepal
13	Mr. Yogendra Chaudhary	Nepal
14	Dr. Usha Kiran Ansari	Nepal
15	Mr. Sanjay Kumar Gautam	Nepal
16	Mr. Ravi Prakash Verma	India
17	Mr. Jay Panda	India
18	Ms. Supriya Sule	India
19	Ms. Sushmita Dev	India
20	Mr. Bhagwant Khuba	India



ANNEXURE – III

List of Participants / Observers other than Parliament Members

S No.	Name	Country
1	Mr. Kailash Satyarthi	Global March Against Child Labour
2	Ms. Amina J Mohammed	United Nations
3	Mr. Christian Manhart	UNESCO
4	Mr. Timothy Ryan	Global March Against Child Labour
5	Ms. Bipina Sharma	ILO
6	Mr. Dilli Guragai	Save the Children
7	Mr. Marcus Dubbelt	Global March Against Child Labour
8	Ms. Deepika Mittal	Global March Against Child Labour
9	Ms. Purva Gupta	Global March Against Child Labour
10	Ms. Sreejita Basu	Global March Against Child Labour
11	Ms. Yogina Shakya	Backward Society Education (BASE)
12	Mr. Raghav Thakur	Backward Society Education (BASE)



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