



PARLIAMENTARIANS WITHOUT BORDERS FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

2016 UPDATE



GLOBAL MARCH

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

Following the success of the first ever meet of Parliamentarians Without Borders for Children's Rights (PWB) that was held in Kathmandu, the second meeting of the PWB, was held in The Hague, The Netherlands on 8th & 9th July 2016. The meet was hosted by Mr. Roelof Van Laar, Member of Parliament, The Netherlands.

With participation of 16 Members of Parliament from different parts of the world, this one of a kind meeting brought innovative ideas, strategies and commitments from the Parliamentarians for addressing some of the most pressing concerns of children. In the one and half day event, the Parliamentarians brainstormed and discussed ways to not only eliminate child labour, trafficking and slavery as legislators, but also identified and agreed on key actions to be taken by Parliamentarians for strengthening education, and devising child responsive budgeting.

The second meet of PWB (Day 1) began with opening remarks by its founder, Mr. Satyarathi wherein he reasserted the purpose of establishing this group of Parliamentarians. He remarked that there are more than 46 thousand Parliamentarians in this world, and only 2% of them raise the issue of children's rights. With the growing issue of child labour all over the world, given the protracted crises in Syria, numerous natural disasters, fast growing inequality, climate change and rising fundamentalism, children are increasingly being pushed to the margins of society, and thus we need strong political, moral and economic will to put an end to the misery of children. This political, moral and economic will must be mobilised locally, nationally and globally, for not only producing effective legislations for children, but also adequate budgets for its implementation. He further emphasised on the greater role of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) especially concerning children in advocating for overall well-being of children and urged the Parliamentarians present to invest in children.

The meeting was opened by the First Secretary of the Government of Netherlands,.....who offered her full support to the initiative of Parliamentarians Without Borders for Children's Rights and urged the Parliamentarians to keep sharing their experiences and raise their knowledge and capacities for the advancement of children's rights. This was followed by a session on introductions by the fellow participating members briefly outlining their

achievements in their capacity as Members of Parliament in their respective countries.

The Second Session of Day 1 on '*Round up 2015 and Setting Context for 2016*', set a background for discussion on the need for ending child labour, slavery and trafficking by 2030 under SDG 8.7. This session gave an opportunity to participants to discuss and debate concrete actions that could be taken by Parliament members to contribute in the elimination of child labour and related issues. The Parliament members agreed to the need for receiving more information on these issues, and recommended that Global March must take up more initiatives in sensitising the masses including other Parliament Members (who are not formally part of PWB), Special Courts, Judges, Religious/Faith Leaders, and the citizens. Suggestion was also made to have more evidence based researches and to invest in education of children and the adults on how to protect themselves from being exploited and abused. Many Parliamentarians also suggested for a collective demand/action taken by Members of Parliament all over the world on ending child labour, slavery and trafficking through platforms such as PWB. Member of Parliament from Afghanistan, Ms. Fawzia Koofi, asserted that "Only ratification of UNCRC is not a full commitment. We must include children in all initiatives." Talking about the issue of child trafficking and exploitation, she argued that we must stop the demand side of the supply chain. Countries such as Afghanistan are only supply counties in such chains."

The Third Session of Day 1, on "*Role of Education in Preventing and Increasing Democratic Values under SDG 4.7*" of the meet was presented by a representative from The Hague Institute of Global Justice. The session discussed various ways for preventing violent extremism and emphasised on the role of governments, schools and teachers to take responsibility for identifying potential radicalised children and inculcate values of global citizenship, harmony, sensitivity and openness. The presentation was succeeded by valuable comments and suggestions by MPs on ways of preventing radicalisation amongst children and youth, which is a growing concern in many countries of the world. Some of the pertinent suggestions were such as revision in curriculum for ensuring quality education, imparting education to women, increasing employability opportunities, socio-psychological protection, global citizenship education, sensitisation of courts & judges,



discrete research on it, and involving of religious leaders.

The Final Session of Day 1 on “*Financing Child Related SDGs*” of the meet addressed the need for child-responsive budgeting and how it could be used as an effective tool to ensure implementation of child-related SDGs. This Session was moderated by a representative from UNICEF Netherlands, followed by experience sharing by Parliament Members on budgets in their respective countries. During the discussion, many interesting perspectives came to the forefront, where in some countries the funds were available but it was challenging to channelize and spend it effectively, in others it was noted that the challenge was allocation and release of the budgets. Non-consultative nature of Ministries of Finance with MPs was an issue that was raised by many. Thus the discussion and Day 1 concluded with many fruitful suggestions and better sensitised participants on how to formulate child-friendly budgets. Member of Parliament from Bangladesh, Ms. Fazilatun Bappy, said that “due to her party's persistent efforts, the fiscal budget for education was increased; however spending it was a challenge.”

Day 2 of the meet began with a short recap of Day 1 along with some insightful achievements of the fellow

Parliamentarians, who not only described their commitment to work for their people but also the limitations faced by them while implementing a policy or an initiative, an how they were able to overcome them with fruitful results. Member of Parliament from Uganda, Mr. Guma Gumisiriza attested that “not much was being done on the ground in Uganda for the elimination of child labour but we must now focus on school enrolments and using World Day Against Child Labour as a day to take up this issue with the Ministries.” Mr. Shehryar Afridi, MP from Pakistan stated that “prior to our government, the investment in education was only 12%, but we recognised the importance of education and took it to 29%, however 3 million children still needed to be in school.”

The next session of Day 2 focussed on role of governments in taking legislative/policy action for businesses to protect, promote and realise human rights/children's rights. Laws like Modern Slavery Act in UK, Ruggie Framework in Europe were discussed and seen as some of the best examples of making corporates accountable for their acts and encourage sustainable business practices.

The meet concluded with closing remarks by Mr. Kailash Satyarthi wherein he encouraged the

participants to go back to their countries and do their bit for children. He also motivated the Parliamentarians to convene national and regional level meets of Parliamentarians Without Borders and envisioned the group to be a group of experts of lawmakers and a strong international political platform which can deliberate with United Nations, Regional Bodies, Parliamentary Forums and other stakeholders in the world to eradicate the scourge of child labour, trafficking and slavery. He further suggested that a Secretariat may be established, along with a website and periodic newsletters may be circulated to formalise the structure.

Mr. Satyarthi's comments invited many suggestions from participants on how the PWB group could be strengthened and its scope and reach could be widened. The meeting ended with a formation of a Steering Committee along with signing of a Declaration (See Annexure 1) describing the key actions that will be taken by the Parliamentarians in next one year. The third meet of the Parliamentarians Without Borders for Children's Rights is proposed to be held in Accra, Ghana or in any other country as may seem appropriate in 2017.



Some of the key outcomes/ decisions for PWB 2016

Steering Committee 2016

Members of the Committee will be the following:

1. Roelof van Laar
2. Amineh Kakbaveh
3. Joseph Amenowode
4. Dilli Chaudhary

Cristovam Buarque remains the representative from Latin America.

Joseph Amenowode will be the Chair of the Steering Committee and Dilli Chaudhary will be the Secretary of the Steering Committee.

Next Meeting of PWB

The next meeting is proposed to be hosted in Accra, Ghana, preceded by Global March Board Meeting in Togo, or wherever the Steering Committee may feel appropriate.

Tasks of the Steering Committee

The Steering Committee will undertake fundraising tasks apart from building relationships within their parties, governments, oppositions, UN agencies and parliamentary forums, to raise the issue of child rights. To achieve this objective, the steering committee members will organise a regional level meet for Members of Parliaments on child rights every 4-6 months.

Mr. K. C Tyagi will become the convener for South Asia meeting of MPs and will take the lead in fundraising for South Asia.

Secretariat

Global March office in New Delhi will remain the Secretariat for PWB for the next one year. Funds will be raised for having a full time staff for PWB stationed at Global March office.

Members of Parliament present at the Meeting

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| 1. Ms. Fawzia Koofi, (Afghanistan) | 9. Mr. Dilli Chaudhary, (Nepal) |
| 2. Mr. Nazmul Haque Prodhan, (Bangladesh) | 10. Mr. Shehryar Afridi, (Pakistan) |
| 3. Ms. Fazilatun Nasa Bappy, (Bangladesh) | 11. Mr. Arvinth Kumar Arunchalem, (Sri Lanka) |
| 4. Mr. Joseph Z Amenowode, (Ghana) | 12. Ms. Amineh Kakabaveh, (Sweden) |
| 5. Mr. Benson Baba Tongo, (Ghana) | 13. Mr. Roelof Van Laar, (The Netherlands) |
| 6. Mr. Bhagwant Khuba, (India) | 14. Mr. Gerritjan Van Oven, (The Netherlands) |
| 7. Mr. K.C Tyagi, (India) | 15. Ms. Grace Kesande, (Uganda) |
| 8. Ms. Okky Asokawati, (Indonesia) | 16. Mr. Guma Gumisiriza, (Uganda) |

Annexure 1

Parliamentarians Without Borders for Children's Rights

2nd Meeting

8-9th July 2016, The Hague, Netherlands

Declaration 2016

We, the Parliamentarians gathered at the 2nd meeting of the Parliamentarians Without Borders for Children's Rights in The Hague, Netherlands -

- acknowledge the completion of 1 year of the initiative whose efforts successfully achieved a specific target on child labour, trafficking and slavery in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) as SDG 8.7, which was agreed and called for at the 1st meeting held in Kathmandu, Nepal
- reaffirm our commitment and acknowledge the relevance and necessity of engaging Parliamentarians to take up and further the agenda for the promotion and protection of children's rights, by the following:
 - a) Creating awareness in our constituencies, political parties, among fellow parliamentarians, and in our countries and regions;
 - b) Making efforts to prioritise issues of children, especially girls and other marginalised children (such as those affected by child labour, trafficking, slavery, early/forced marriages, disability, humanitarian crises, sexual exploitation, juvenile crimes, and/or having inadequate access to education and health) in political discourse by raising the issues in parliamentary debates for comprehensive and effective policies and programmes and ensuring adequate budgetary allocations,
 - c) Engaging with stakeholders nationally and regionally for meeting commitments towards ratified international treaties such as ILO Conventions and UN Convention on the Rights of the Child;
 - d) Strengthening our efforts to accomplish all child-related SDGs by way of bringing it in our respective Parliaments and public domain including increased media responsibility with an aim to ensure that the rights of children scattered across the SDGs are all achieved;
 - e) Recognising that right to education is the fundamental to all children's rights, advocate for the human rights imperative, economic gains and social transformation aspects of education to be prioritised simultaneously in national and global policies.
 - f) Recognising the growing importance of business sector, work towards strengthening policy and implementation and working towards the establishing a ethical code for increased corporate social responsibility with zero tolerance for child labour, trafficking and slavery in the national and global supply and value chains
 - g) Expressing our deep concern over rising fundamentalism and conflicts across the world resulting in violence, internal displacement, migration and refugee crisis leading to child labour, child trafficking, child soldiers, state-less children and sexual exploitation, ensure that no child affected by conflicts, disasters and other humanitarian crises be left behind and unprotected.
 - h) Expressing our deep concern over the effects on children of increased human trafficking and migration (children of migrant workers and children on the move), including children growing up with one or no parents, without means of support and exploited (abroad and in their own countries), work towards effective protection of such children.

We reiterate our commitment to continue our efforts by achieving the following till we meet again next year for the 3rd meeting of the initiative in Accra, Ghana:

- Raising issue regarding prioritisation and implementation of child-related SDGs in respective Parliaments;
- Creating and strengthening multi-party, multi- stakeholder engagement at national and regional level for promotion and protection of children's rights;
- Organising regional meetings with fellow Parliamentarians in our respective regions for establishing regional agendas on children's rights in the next 1 year;
- Engaging with SDG related emerging frameworks such as Alliance 8.7 (on SDG 8.7), Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children (SDG 16.2), and International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity (on SDG 4).

Accepted and signed* on 9th July, 2016 by following members of Parliamentarians without Borders on Children's Rights

Annexure 2

Participants of the Second Parliamentarians Without Borders Meet, The Hague

Members of Parliament:

1. Ms. FawziaKoofi, (Afghanistan)
2. Mr. NazmulHaqueProdhan, (Bangladesh)
3. Ms. FazilatunNasaBappy, (Bangladesh)
4. Mr. Joseph Z Amenowode, (Ghana)
5. Mr. Benson Baba Tongo, (Ghana)
6. Mr. BhagwantKhuba, (India)
7. Mr. K.C Tyagi, (India)
8. Ms. OkkyAsokawati, (Indonesia)
9. Mr. DilliChaudhary, (Nepal)
10. Mr. ShehryarAfridi, (Pakistan)
11. Mr. Arvindh Kumar Arunchalem, (Sri Lanka)
12. Ms. AminehKakabaveh, (Sweden)
13. Mr. Roelof Van Laar, (The Netherlands)
14. Mr. Gerritjan Van Oven, (The Netherlands)
15. Ms. Grace Kesande, (Uganda)
16. Mr. GumaGumisiriza, (Uganda)

Global March Board Members:

1. Ana Vasquez
2. CleophasMally
3. DilliChaudhary
4. ElieJouen
5. FransRosaelers
6. Gerardo Zamora
7. KailashSatyarthi

Global March Staff:

1. Maina Sharma
2. Marco Dubbelt
3. PriyankaRibhu
4. Purva Gupta



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