

NATIONAL ACTION PLANS AGAINST THE COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN IN THE REGION

**XIV REPORT TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OAS ON
MEASURES UNDERTAKEN BY MEMBER STATES TO PREVENT
AND ERADICATE THE COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF
CHILDREN IN THE AMERICAS**

2014

José Miguel Insulza

Secretary General of the OAS

Zaira Navas

President of the Directing Council of the IIN

María de los Dolores Aguilar Marmolejo

Director General of the IIN

Víctor Giorgi

Coordinator, Promotion and Protection of Rights Area of the IIN

María Alejandra Di Pierro

Technical Assistant, Promotion and Protection of Rights Area of the IIN

GLOSSARY OF TERMS, ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CCSE: Child Commercial Sexual Exploitation

CONACOES: National Commission against Commercial Sexual Exploitation (Costa Rica)

CONAPEES: National Committee on the Eradication of Commercial and Non-Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (Uruguay)

CONAPREDES: National Commission for the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation Crimes (Panama)

CONNA: National Childhood Council (El Salvador)

CRC: Convention on the Rights of the Child

CSEC: Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

GTMPTP: Permanent Multisectoral Working Group against Trafficking in Persons (Peru)

IIN: Inter-American Children's Institute

ILO: International Labour Organization

Inter-American Programme: *"Inter-American Cooperation Programme for the Prevention and Eradication of Sexual Exploitation, and Smuggling of and Trafficking in Children"*

IOM: International Organization for Migration

ISNA: Salvadoran Institute for the Comprehensive Development of Children

OAS: Organization of American States

Optional Protocol: Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography

PMAIA: National Action Plan for Children (Peru)

PNPNA: National Policy for the Comprehensive Protection of Children (El Salvador)

SEC: Sexual Exploitation of Children

The Committee: Committee on the Rights of the Child of the United Nations

UNDP: United Nations Development Programme

UNFPA: United Nations Population Fund

UNICEF: United Nations Children's Fund

UNODC: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

This paper addresses the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents; when the terms women and men are used, they refer to adults. The occasional generic use of masculine terms is intended to promote brevity and clarity and should by no means be understood to imply discriminatory connotations of any kind.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. INTRODUCTION	5
II. BACKGROUND.....	8
III. METHODOLOGY	10
IV. LEARNING FROM EXPERIENCE: NATIONAL ACTION PLANS AGAINST THE COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN IN THE REGION	12
1. Coordination and Cooperation.....	16
1.1. Cross-Sectoral Coordination	16
1.2. Inter-State Coordination	41
1.3. Contributions of international agencies in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Plan	44
2. Prevention	46
3. Protection.....	57
4. Recovery and Restoration	73
5. Participation	81
6. General Evaluation of the Process	84
V. CONCLUSIONS	88
1. Coordination and Cooperation	88
2. Prevention.....	90
3. Protection	91
4. Recuperation and Restoration.....	92
5. Participation.....	93
VI. FINAL REFLECTIONS AND SOME RECOMMENDATIONS.....	94
VII. APPENDICES	99

I) INTRODUCTION

The sexual exploitation of children, on the basis of both financial exchanges and the imbalance of power, is a very ancient practice. It has been present in all cultures throughout the ages, varying its modalities and forms of expression in accordance to the transformations of society.

Together with the changes in the format of SEC, there have also been transformations in the way that societies and the international community itself view this form of child rights violation and how they act. Evidence of this is that in recent years, concern regarding child sexual exploitation (SEC) has been gaining ground in the agendas of the States and international agencies, with a significant number of actions taking place both in society and in legislation.

In this context, the Directing Council of the IIN adopted in 2007 Resolution CD/RES.10 (82- R/07), which created the *Inter-American Programme for the Prevention and Eradication of Sexual Commercial Exploitation, Illegal Trafficking and Trade in Children and Adolescents*. In 2008, the General Assembly of the OAS adopted Resolution AG/RES. 2432 (XXXVIII-O/08) and welcomed this step taken by the Directing Council of the IIN. Since then, the IIN has submitted yearly progress reports on the Inter-American Programme and has received new guidelines and mandates, giving rise to a number of resolutions issued by the General Assembly of the OAS: AG/RES. 2486 (XXXIX-O/09), AG/RES. 2548 (XL-O/10), AG/RES. 2686 (XLI-O/11), AG/RES. 2707 (XLII-O/12), AG/RES. 2771 (XLIII-O/13) and AG/RES. 2828(XLIV-O/14)¹.

These resolutions, the last of which was adopted by the General Assembly held in Asunción, in June 2014, reaffirm the currency and relevance of the issue, inasmuch as “*the sexual exploitation and smuggling of and trafficking in boys, girls, and adolescents of both sexes continues to have a considerable impact on our states, and, therefore, that it is necessary to continue implementing effective policies and strategies to combat those criminal acts*” and exhort the States to increase their efforts to invest in plans and programmes for the eradication of SEC AG/RES. 2828(XLIV-O/14).

¹ Documents available from: Organization of American States. General Assembly. Declarations and Resolutions: <http://www.oas.org/en/sla/general_assembly_resolutions.asp>

"Inter-American Cooperation Programme for the Prevention and Eradication of Sexual Exploitation, Smuggling of and Trafficking in Children"

The Inter-American programme has taken on board the significant aspects of the mandates received and grouped them into three working areas:

Working Area 1: Compilation, systematization and placing at the disposal of States, organizations and other interested parties, of meaningful and updated CSEC-related information, with particular emphasis on material produced in the region. This area has as a reference tool the *Inter-American Portal on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children*: www.annaobserva.org. For its update we have the support of a *network of technical liaison officers appointed by the States and exchange agreements with organizations referent in the subject*.

Working Area 2: Production of knowledge and tools to boost States' capacity to address the sexual exploitation of children. This area includes: *the production of brief articles disseminated by means of Issues Notes; the elaboration of an Annual Report to the OAS Secretary General on actions undertaken by the States in this field; Regional meetings to share "Good Practices".*

Working Area 3: Increasing the capacity of the States to confront SEC, through technical assistance and human resources training. This area includes: *Technical assistance for the States on producing national plans; advice to national coordinators; blended yearly course on the commercial sexual exploitation of children.*

Annual Reports submitted to the Secretary General of the OAS

As was said previously, within the actions of the Inter-American Programme, the IIN *submit a yearly report to the Secretary General of the OAS on the actions undertaken by the member states to combat sexual commercial exploitation of children in the Americas*. For the IIN, these reports constitute background documents, inasmuch as they provide an account of developments in the region, pinpoint challenges and make recommendations to the States so that they can improve their responses to SEC.

From 2010, these reports began to be perceived as an opportunity to focus on a specific significant issue highlighted by its relevance or regarding which the States have expressed concern.

In that year, therefore, bearing in mind the impact of new technologies on day-to-day communications, and the use that criminal organizations make of them, as well as the existing gaps in relation to facing this new reality, it was decided to work on this subject; a decision which gave rise to the Tenth Report: "*CSEC and the Internet*"².

In 2011, in response to the concern expressed by operators and by the authorities of the States themselves, with regard to the lack of validated knowledge with which to develop strategies for the restoration of rights of CSE victims, the IIN carried out the systematization and analysis of a number of experiences being implemented in the region, which contribute significant lessons. This led to the Eleventh Report: "*Experiences in harm reparation and restoration of rights existing in the region: developments and challenges*"³.

In 2012, the Inter-American programme pointed to the need to go beyond the description and analysis of experiences and advance towards deriving lessons that would make it possible to produce a framework of reference for the reparation and restoration of the rights of child victims. In keeping with the rights-based approach, it was imperative for this framework to include the gender perspective. Thus, the Twelfth Report contained "*Proposals for producing a framework of reference for reparation and restoration of the rights of child victims of commercial sexual exploitation with a gender perspective.*"⁴

In 2013, accompanying the international community's concern regarding the increasing emergence of places and communities frequented by travellers who engage in remunerated sexual relations with local children or adolescents, we focused the Thirteenth Report on the issue of "*commercial sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism*" (CSEC-TT).

In 2014, the Annual Report to the Secretary General focuses on follow-up to the Rio Commitment (2008), emerged from the Third World Congress, and how it is reflected in **National Plans implemented by the States in the region**.

The process of preparing this report was concomitant with the organization of the 21st Pan-American Child Congress, held in Brasilia- Brazil, December, 2014.

² Available from: ANNAObserve Portal - Publications:

http://www.annaobserva.org/observatorio/web/public/pdf/X_Informe_eng.pdf

³ Ibid. http://www.annaobserva.org/2012/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/XI_informe_ESCNNA.pdf

⁴ Ibid. <http://www.annaobserva.org/2012/en/12th-report-to-the-secretary-general-of-the-oas-2012/>

The Pan-American Congress is a body of the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN-OAS) whose objective is to promote the exchange of experiences and knowledge among Member States of the OAS about the policies aimed at children and adolescents. It brings together Ministers, Secretaries of State and other governmental authorities with competence in the subject. Also, since 2010, the Congress has as a component part, the Forum of children and adolescents.

At this occasion, coinciding with the commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Convention, we worked on three topics: 1) Violence against children and adolescents; 2) Adolescent Criminal Responsibility; 3) Sexual Exploitation of children and adolescents.

From the *Inter-American Program for the Prevention and Eradication of Sexual Exploitation, Smuggling of and Trafficking in Children and Adolescents*, we conceive the Pan-American Child Congress as a milestone in the strengthening process of the States and their respective societies in dealing with SEC, smuggling, and other forms of violation of children's rights.

II) BACKGROUND

The idea that fighting strategies against SEC must be articulated in National Plans has been developing through the three World Congress against SEC held: Stockholm (1996), Yokohama (2001) and Rio de Janeiro (2008).

In Stockholm was where the bases of the first action plans were founded. Among the recommendations made, it is the: *"foster close interaction and cooperation between the government and non-government sectors to plan, implement and evaluate measures against the commercial sexual exploitation of children, coupled with campaigns to mobilize families and communities to protect children from commercial sexual exploitation, and with adequate allocation of resources"*.

In turn, the Yokohama Global Commitment pointed: *"recommit to the Declaration and Agenda for Action of the first World Congress ("the Stockholm Declaration and Agenda for Action"), and in particular to developing national agendas, strategies or plans of action, designated focal points and comprehensive gender-disaggregated data collection, and effective implementation of measures, including child-rights based laws and law enforcement"*.

Finally, among the recommendations given to the States in Rio de Janeiro, where was resumed what was agreed in Stockholm, it is emphasize the one of developing and implementation of "*comprehensive National Plans of Action about sexual exploitation of children and adolescents [...] based on an inter-sectoral approach which involve all stakeholders in a framework for action that be coherent and comprehensive. Those Plans must incorporate strategies by gender, social protection measures and operational planes, with adequate resources of monitoring and evaluation and responsible actors designated, including civil society organization, for the implementation of initiatives to prevent and stop sexual exploitation of children and adolescents. In addition, those plans must offer support to child victims of sexual exploitation*".

The fact that the Third Congress has taken place in Brazil has generated a significant movement at regional level. Currently, most of the Members States of the OAS have designed and implemented Action Plans with different grade of effectiveness in the implementation and, in general, with little evaluation of the real impact of the actions taken. Even some States have made the effort to design Local Plans in coordination with the National Plan, or are in the second or third consecutive Action Plan.

Each Action Plan fits to the State's needs or its view on how to organize its public policy against CSEC. However, beyond their particularities, most of them are organized according to the specific lines of action agreed in the First World Congress, which are still in force: 1. Coordination and Cooperation; 2. Prevention; 3. Protection; 4. Recovery and Reintegration; 5. Child Participation.

National Plan in IIN experience

As was explained above, from the *Inter-American Program* we offer technical assistance to those States that required it. In this framework, during 2011 we participated in the design of the *National Plan for the Prevention and Eradication of Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents of Paraguay* and in 2012 we contributed to the *Second Framework for Action* of Chile. To it is added the accompaniment to all those States that have required specific help, exchange of information or technical opinions during their respective elaboration and implementation processes.

In this advisory work we take as principal reference the recommendations made by the Committee on the Rights of the Child to the reports made by the States (CDN, Art. 44).

Also, we have integrated the guidelines emerged of the three World Congresses held so far.

On the basis of this experience we have attempted to identify a number of strengths, weaknesses and challenges related to the process of designing, implementing, evaluating and redesigning a National Plan. This caused us to consider the need for a systematic study which included a significant number of Inter-American System States and which would provide lessons in relation to the production and implementation of these plans.

III) METHODOLOGY

The purpose of the study is to analyse public policies to combat the commercial sexual exploitation of children in the region through national action plans. Its ultimate aim is to boost the capacity of the States to promote and protect the rights of children in the face of different forms of sexual exploitation and its related activities (trafficking, the sale of children, gender violence). Therefore, we intend to derive lessons from the various practices, as well as reach conclusions and make clear and applicable recommendations.

The study was based on **three sources of information:**

- ✓ Information provided by the countries of the Inter-American System in response to a specifically designed questionnaire.

This questionnaire was organized in three parts. The first part dealt with general information regarding the countries' national plans: dates of adoption, enforcement periods, whether there was more than one plan, processes to produce new plans. The second addressed aspects related to the structure and contents of the last plan adopted, according to the Stockholm classification. The final part focused on a general assessment of the plan: existence of evaluations, estimates of target achievement and obstacles encountered during implementation. At the same time, it was requested that a SWOT analysis be produced for the identification of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats facing the plan and its production and implementation process.

The questionnaire was sent to the Principal Representatives to the Directing Council of the IIN and/or to the technical liaison officers who make up the network that serves as a link between the Inter-American Programme and National Commissions of the States of the Inter-American System. Answers

were received from fourteen countries: **Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay.**⁵

- ✓ Analyses of their own National Plans produced and implemented by the countries that responded to the Questionnaire.⁶

Where the country had adopted more than one plan, the last of these was used as the principal reference point for analysis. The same criterion was used for States where the plan's period of validity had lapsed and there was no other plan in place. In these cases it was noted whether a new plan was in the process of being produced and the possible replacement of national plans with other instruments that have a similar purpose.

- ✓ Comments made by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child on the country reports.

The States that have ratified or acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, must submit within two years following its entry into force (and then every five years), "*a report [...] providing comprehensive information on the measures it has taken to implement the provisions of the Protocol*" (Art. 12). On the basis of the information it receives, the Committee examines progress achieved, issues its comments and requests that they be circulated as widely as possible.⁷

Between 15 January 2007 and 4 October 2013, the Committee received and analysed reports from ten States of the Inter-American System (Costa Rica, Guatemala, Chile, United States, Ecuador, El Salvador, Argentina, Colombia, Guatemala, Paraguay) and issued the relevant recommendations. These are guidelines to be used to improve protection systems and a cross-cutting analysis of them sheds light on certain recurrent features that appear in several States in the region.

This material is essential when attempting to direct the conclusions and recommendations set forth in this report.

⁵ See Appendix 1: Questionnaire and Person Answering on behalf of the State.

⁶ All of the National Action Plans are available from the Inter-American programme's website: www.annaobserva.org. Observatory - Public Policies section.

⁷ See Appendix 2: Reports Submitted

The Stockholm classification is used as reference to organize the presentation and analysis of the information gathered and the conclusions arising from it: 1. Coordination and Cooperation; 2. Prevention; 3. Protection; 4. Recovery and Reintegration; 5. Child Participation.

IV) LEARNING FROM EXPERIENCE: NATIONAL ACTION PLANS AGAINST THE COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN IN THE REGION

The following status report emerges from the information gathered:

STATE	NATIONAL PLAN/S	DATE OF ADOPTION	VALIDITY PERIOD
Argentina	<i>Protocolo Nacional de Asistencia a víctimas de explotación sexual y trata de personas</i> [National Assistance Protocol for Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons] ⁸	December 2008	-
Brazil	<i>Plano Nacional de Enfrentamento da Violência Sexual contra Crianças e Adolescentes</i> [National Plan to address Sexual Violence against Children]	May 2013	to 2020
Canada	National Strategy for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation on the Internet	April 2004	Initially, 5 years Additional funding has been allocated so that efforts can continue.

⁸ Argentina has no national plan against CSEC. However, one of the objectives of the National Secretariat for Childhood and Families, which answers to the nation's Ministry of Social Development through the Area for the Prevention of the Worst Forms of Child Rights Violations, is to prevent, protect and assist victims of this crime. Care is provided in accordance with this Protocol.

STATE	NATIONAL PLAN/S	DATE OF ADOPTION	VALIDITY PERIOD
Chile	<i>Segundo Marco para la acción contra la Explotación Sexual Comercial de Niños, Niñas y Adolescentes</i> [Second Framework of Action against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children]	May 2012	2012-2014
Costa Rica	<i>Hoja de Ruta para hacer de Costa Rica un país libre de trabajo infantil y sus peores formas</i> [Roadmap to make Costa Rica a country free from child labour and its worst forms] ⁹	June 2010	2010-2020
	<i>Plan Nacional de Desarrollo</i> [National Development Plan]	December 2010	2011-2014 ¹⁰
	<i>Plan Nacional para la Erradicación de la Explotación Sexual Comercial de Niños, Niñas y Adolescentes</i> [National Plan for the Eradication of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children]	November 2007	2008-2010
Ecuador	<i>Plan Nacional del Buen Vivir</i> [National Plan for Well-Being] ¹¹	September 2013	2013-2017
	<i>Plan Nacional para combatir la Trata de Personas, tráfico ilegal de migrantes, explotación sexual laboral y otros modos de explotación de mujeres, niños, niñas y adolescentes, pornografía infantil y corrupción de menores</i> [National Plan to combat trafficking in persons, unlawful migrant smuggling, sexual exploitation at work and other forms of exploitation of women and children, child pornography and the corruption of minors].	October 2006	In force

⁹ In **Costa Rica**, the Action Plan against CSEC in accordance with this structure was in force between 2008 and 2010. After that, the issue was added to the Roadmap to make Costa Rica a country free from child labour and its worst forms: trafficking and sexual exploitation.

¹⁰ The National Development Plan for 2015-2018 is currently being produced. See: <http://www.mideplan.go.cr/el-plan-nacional-de-desarrollo/114-pnd-2011-2014/1308-plan-nacional-de-desarrollo-2015-2018-en-construccion.html>

¹¹ **Ecuador**'s National Plan for Well-Being is the instrument which governs policies, programmes and public projects, as well as the programming and execution of the State's resources. Compliance is mandatory for the public sector and it acts as a guideline for other sectors. The National Plan for Well-Being 2013-2017 contains four policy guidelines related to the crimes of trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling.

STATE	NATIONAL PLAN/S	DATE OF ADOPTION	VALIDITY PERIOD
El Salvador	<i>Política Nacional de Protección Integral de la Niñez y de la Adolescencia (PNPNA)</i> [National Policy for the Comprehensive Protection of Children] ¹²	2013	2013-2023
	<i>Política Nacional para la Erradicación de la Trata de Personas</i> [National Policy for the Eradication of Trafficking in Persons]	2012	
Jamaica	<i>National Framework of Action for Children (NFAC)</i>	Pending approval by Cabinet	2014-2019
	<i>National Child Diversion Policy</i>	Pending approval by Cabinet	Ongoing
	<i>National Plan of Action for Child Justice (NPACJ)</i>	2010	
	<i>National Policy on Children</i>	1997	Ongoing
	<i>National Policy for the Reintegration of School-Aged Mothers into the Formal School System</i>	2013	Ongoing
	<i>National Plan of Action on Child Labour (NPACL)</i>	2007	Ongoing
	<i>National Plan of Action for Integrated Response to Children and Violence (NPACV)</i>	To be submitted to the Cabinet for review and approval	2012-2017

¹² The National Policy for the Comprehensive Protection of Children is a public administration tool which establishes a number of goals and guidelines with the purpose of ensuring the full enjoyment of the rights of children. Its guidelines are binding for the decisions and actions of all institutions responsible for safeguarding rights and engaged in protecting children, among them, action that is aimed at prevention, care and special protection in cases of sexual exploitation. In 2014, the country began drafting a **National Plan of Action 2014-2016** with the purpose of making national policy operational. It does not focus exclusively on fighting sexual exploitation, but targets the comprehensive protection of child rights, such as: the right to survival and comprehensive development, growth, protection and participation. The Plan has not yet been adopted.

STATE	NATIONAL PLAN/S	DATE OF ADOPTION	VALIDITY PERIOD
Mexico	<i>Programa Nacional para Prevenir, Sancionar y Erradicar los Delitos en materia de Trata de Personas y para la Protección y Asistencia a las víctimas de estos Delitos</i> [National Programme to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Crime Involving Trafficking in Persons and to Protect and Assist Victims of these Crimes]	2014	to 2018
Nicaragua	<i>Plan Nacional de Desarrollo Humano</i> [National Plan for Human Development] 2012-2016		2012-2016
Panama	<i>Plan Nacional para la Prevención y Eliminación de la ESCNNA</i> [National Plan for the Prevention and Eradication of CSEC]	2007	2008-2010. Still in force, at the recommendation of the CONAPREDES plenary
Paraguay	<i>Plan Nacional de Prevención y Erradicación de Explotación Sexual de Niñas, Niños y Adolescentes</i> [National Plan for the Prevention and Eradication of the Sexual Exploitation of Children]	December 2011	2012-2017
Peru	<i>Plan Nacional de Acción por la Infancia y la Adolescencia</i> [National Action Plan for Children] ¹³	April 2012	2012-2021
	<i>Plan Nacional de Acción contra la Trata de Personas en el Perú</i> [National Action Plan against Human Trafficking in Peru]	October 2011	2011-2016

¹³ Peru has no National Plan against the sexual exploitation of children. The National Action Plan for Children (PMAIA, 2021) is the public policy framework document for children's issues. It includes four strategic goals established in accordance with stages in life and 25 Expected Outcomes in relation to the various issues that affect children, three of which refer to sexual exploitation and trafficking.

STATE	NATIONAL PLAN/S	DATE OF ADOPTION	VALIDITY PERIOD
Uruguay	<i>Plan Nacional para la erradicación de la explotación sexual comercial de niñas niños y adolescentes</i> [National Plan for the eradication of commercial sexual exploitation of children] (redesign)	December 2011	December 2015
	National Plan for the eradication of commercial sexual exploitation of children	2007	

1. Coordination and Cooperation

In this section we explore the coordination and cooperation established and/or anticipated both for the design and for the implementation of the national plan. In particular, we enquired about cross-sectoral coordination (institutional leadership, the presence and composition of a National Board or Commission, involvement in actions, level of incorporation of the rights-based perspective); inter-State cooperation, and the contributions of international agencies.

1.1. Cross-Sectoral Coordination. The body leading the plan's design and implementation: composition, role/functions of the bodies involved, most significant activities/actions, rights-based perspective

ARGENTINA has no National Plan of Action against CSEC. However, it addresses the issue by means of its *National Assistance Protocol for Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons*. This Protocol emerged within the framework of the **Federal Council for Children and Families**, chaired by the National Secretariat for Childhood and composed of representatives of the agencies for the protection of child rights and the family in each of the provinces and the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires.

The *First National Meeting of Authorities in relation to trafficking in persons with the purpose of sexual and labour exploitation* was held in April 2012 and led to the appointment of focal points in the provinces and the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires, as well as a national focal point, answering to the National Secretariat.

The functions and jurisdiction of the national focal point are:

- To synchronize, collaborate, and provide technical assistance, advice and training when requested by any of the provincial focal points.
- To directly assist foreigners who are victims of trafficking and wish to return to their country of origin.
- To synchronize with consulates, embassies, international agencies secretariats or ministries of the country of origin the necessary steps for the protection of victims.
- To provide financial support and help in the voluntary return of victims to their country of origin. In the case of persons under the age of 18, this will include chaperoning to their country by specialized personnel, in coordination with the relevant local agency.
- To consolidate nationwide statistical information regarding persons assisted by provincial focal points, safeguarding their identities. To this end, agreements will be signed with each jurisdiction.

The functions and jurisdiction of the provincial focal points are:

- To coordinate action in order to set in motion the National Assistance Protocol for Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons, regardless of age, sex, nationality or type of exploitation suffered. That is, regardless of whether the victims of trafficking with the purpose of exploitation as stipulated by Law Nº 26,364 and its amendments in Law Nº 26,842 are children, women, men or family groups, nationals or foreigners.
- To act at the request for intervention by the judiciary, the Office for the Rescue and Support of Victims of the Crime of Trafficking, answering to the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, the Rescue Offices in each of the jurisdictions, or at the spontaneous request of a victim.
- To find lodging which will provide a physical area of containment to protect the victim and provide privacy.
- To identify the appropriate bodies to provide psychological, social and medical assistance, the necessary documents and any other protective actions in order to safeguard the rights of individuals.
- To coordinate the two stages of assistance as established by the National Protocol. The first stage is the responsibility of the jurisdiction where the exploitation has taken place and the second stage is the responsibility of the

jurisdiction of the person's place of origin or the place where the person wishes to establish a new life project.

- To provide financial support and aid the person's voluntary return to his or her place of origin whenever this place is within the country. In the case of persons under the age of 18, this return should be effected in the company of a member of staff of the assistance agency taking part.
- National citizens. In the case of nationals, once the first stage has been completed, the jurisdiction where the exploitation took place will coordinate directly with the focal point in the trafficking victim's place of origin. If necessary, there will be coordination with the national focal point.
- Foreigners. In the case of citizens of other countries who wish to return to their country of origin, the focal point in the locality where the exploitation took place will communicate with the national focal point, so that this official can implement the first stage of assistance to the affected parties. Transportation to the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires (headquarters of the national focal point) will be the responsibility of the jurisdiction where the exploitation took place. The national focal point will coordinate the voluntary and assisted return with the relevant authorities in the country of origin.
- The persons affected have the right not to continue receiving assistance and in that case, a record of finalization of the intervention must be made. In the case of persons under the age of 18, the team in charge of assisting them should provide shelter or refuge until they return to their place of origin, either to their family setting or to a suitable place providing comprehensive protection.
- To gather any reports and/or interviews that may have taken place with the victims assisted as a result of these crimes, safeguarding their identities, and send this information at regular intervals to the national focal point, according to a prior agreement.

CANADA, too, has no National Action Plan; however, the country reports that there is a *National Strategy for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation on the Internet*, led by **Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada (PSEPC)**. It includes: 1) Public Safety Canada- Canadian Centre for Child Protection [CCCP]/Cybertip.c); 2) Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP); 3) National Child Exploitation Coordination Centre (NCECC); 4) Justice Canada and 5) Industry Canada.

Among the principal functions and activities that these institutions carry out, the State notes:¹⁴

- Public Safety Canada: coordinates and supervises the continuing implementation of the Strategy; directs the Cooperation Programme (including a contribution agreement between the Canadian Centre for Child Protection and Cybertip.ca, the countrywide tipline, for awareness-raising activities, public education and materials); monitors current and proposed legislation; develops policy; coordinates investigation.
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police - National Child Exploitation Coordination Centre: disseminates information and intelligence in national and international child sexual exploitation cases; manages multi-jurisdictional /multi-suspect cases; responds to children at imminent risk in Canada or abroad; develops and offers training for law enforcement officials; develops and shares intelligence techniques and technologies; leads investigations; maintains an images database.
- Justice Canada: provides training, legal advice and support to the Strategy's federal partners; reviews legislation to ensure it is representative of the environment.
- Industry Canada: is no longer a partner, but received funds in order to support and establish partnerships with industrial and non-governmental organizations and to develop public awareness-raising campaigns and educational material (in 2007, funds were redirected so that Cybertip.ca could take over these responsibilities).

In addition, the country reports that agencies are acting in accordance with the child rights perspective, and the State is a Convention on the Rights of the Child signatory.

In **CHILE**, the **Ministry of Justice** and the **National Service for Minors** led the production of the *Second Framework for action against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children*, and they are now responsible for its follow-up, by means of an Executive Secretariat answering to the Ministry of Justice. Other stakeholders involved in confronting these problems also took part: 1) the Ministry of Labour; 2) the Ministry of Health; 3) the Ministry of Education; 4) the Public Prosecutor's Office; 5) Criminal Investigation Police; 6) the police force (*Carabineros de Chile*); 7) the National Television Council; 8) the Ministry of the Interior; 9) the National Tourism Service; 10) ILO; 11) UNICEF; 12) IOM; 13) Inter-American Children's Institute; 14) the Childhood

¹⁴ Canada: The State's answer to the 2014 Questionnaire.

Commission of the Chilean Municipalities Association, and 15) SENAME's Cooperative Agencies.¹⁵

These institutions established formal commitments in relation to the framework's different lines of action, and it is up to each institution to design actions to achieve the relevant outcomes. For its part, the Executive Secretariat produced process indicators for each of the outputs in the Action Matrix, with the purpose of measuring progress.

Among the most significant actions carried out in this context, the country mentions:¹⁶

- SENAME: ongoing development of the National Observatory for the Sexual Exploitation of Children; care for victims through its specialized programmes; the coordination of the No Excuses Campaign; production of a second study providing an assessment of CSEC; actions to unify CSEC-related data on a single cross-sectoral platform; design of a protocol, pending approval, for the care of CSEC victims within the framework of the Board on Worst Forms of Child Labour; among others.
- Ministry of the Interior: incorporation of the issue in the Assistance to Victims Network (RAV), by disseminating projects focusing on CSEC through the online registry; training in sexual exploitation for all of its members; coordination links with the Cross-Sectoral Trafficking Board and participation in the design and setting in motion of the relevant plan.
- National Tourism Service (SERNATUR): has trained all of its regional heads of the Tourism Awareness Programme, who have replicated their knowledge on CSEC prevention with different groups in their communities.
- With regard to the police, among other strategies, Chile's Criminal Investigation Police department has created a brigade in charge of trafficking in persons and the Carabineros de Chile has imparted a full training course on the commercial sexual exploitation of children to personnel at the 48th Precinct of the Police Investigation Section.

According to the country report, all persons involved in actions within the Second Framework for Action carry out their work according to the rights-based approach, to which end, training is provided.

¹⁵ Fundación Tierra de Esperanza [Land of Hope Foundation], SERPAJ, PAICABÍ NGO, OPCIÓN Corporation, RAÍCES NGO, Social Creativa NGO, Fundación Novo Millennio [New Millennium Foundation].

¹⁶ Chile: The State's answer to the 2014 Questionnaire.

Finally, it should be pointed out that although the constitutional structure of the Ministry of Justice and the National Service for Minors is nationwide in its scope, there are no local representatives for the execution and/or monitoring of the Second Framework for Action. In this respect, the public agencies involved organize and coordinate the implementation and development of their respective actions directly from their central and regional levels. However, there are, in fact, a few regions – Metropolitana, Biobío, Valparaíso and Magallanes – with technical boards that address the problem actively.

In **COSTA RICA** it is the **Ministry of Labour and Social Security** that leads the process of designing a *Roadmap to make Costa Rica a country free from child labour and its worst forms*. For its part, the **National Commission against Commercial Sexual Exploitation** (CONACOES), whose Technical Secretariat is part of the National Children's Board, monitors the fulfilment of targets by the institutions responsible for them, by means of CSE-related indicators.

CONACOES is composed of a number of different State, non-governmental and international agencies, which can be classified into two groups, according to their level of involvement and responsibility in addressing SEC.

- a) Institutions with direct responsibility: 1) the National Children's Board; 2) the Ministry of Labour and Social Security; 3) the Ministry of Public Education; 4) the Ministry of Health; 5) the Costa Rican Social Security Fund; 6) the Ministry of Justice and Peace; 7) the Ministry of Culture; 8) Recreation and Sports; 9) the Ministry of Foreign and Religious Affairs; 10) the Judicial Branch: Office for the Care and Protection of Victims and Witnesses; 11) the Office of the Public Prosecutor: the Deputy Prosecutor's Office against Sexual Crimes; 12) the Judicial Inquiry Agency: the Judicial Police; 13) the Ministry of Governance and Public Safety; 14) the Security Forces; 15) the General Bureau for Migration and Alien Affairs: Trafficking in Persons Administration¹⁷ and Migration Administration; 16) the National Bureau for Communal Development (DINADEC); 17) the Costa Rican Tourism Institute; 18) the Mixed Social Welfare Institute; 19) the National Women's Institute;
- b) Institutions and organizations that cooperate in the struggle: 20) the National Distance State University (UNED); 21) the National University (Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies on Childhood); 22) PANIAMOR; 23) World Vision; 24) Defence for Children International - Costa Rica (DCI); 25) ILO-IPEC; 26) the

¹⁷ This also acts as the Technical Secretariat for the National Coalition against Trafficking in Persons and the Unlawful Smuggling of Migrants (CONATT).

Rahab Foundation; 27) the *Semillas de Esperanza* Foundation [Seeds of Hope]; 28) the *Salvando Corazones* Foundation [Saving Hearts; 29) Partnership for your Rights; 30) CEPIA Association.

The most significant functions and actions of the bodies responsible are included in the description of the activities programmed for the fulfilment of the targets established on the Roadmap. By way of example, the State mentions:¹⁸

Agency	Goal
<i>Patronato Nacional de la Infancia</i> [National Children's Board]	Costa Rican society is aware of the nefarious effects of child labour and its worst forms and general opinion has evolved in rejection of the early inclusion of children in work activities that violate their rights.
	The regulatory framework that governs and supports the fight against child labour and its worst forms is coherent with the rights-based approach and with international regulations on the issue, which Costa Rica has adopted.
<i>Caja Costarricense del Seguro Social</i> [Costa Rican Social Security Fund]	The comprehensive care model places the focus on children at risk of disease as a result of their participation in labour-related activities and, particularly, victims of the worst forms of child labour.
	Access to comprehensive healthcare services for all and protection and improvement of the human environment with equity, quality, safety, diversity, universality, solidarity, accessibility and social inclusion.
Ministry of Public Education	Increase the coverage of non-formal education programmes and vocational training, particularly those aimed at persons at the minimum age for admission to employment, or who work, or are seeking to join the workforce and who are not in school, or are at risk of dropping out.
Ministry of Labour and Social Security	Have child-related information available in order to make it possible to gain access in a timely manner to data required to plan, follow-up and evaluate public policies related to the prevention and eradication of child labour and its worst forms.
Ministry of Culture	Develop decentralized artistic and cultural programmes in keeping with an inclusive policy.
Mixed Social Welfare Institute	Contribute through the conditional monetary transfer programme (<i>Avancemos</i>) to the prevention and eradication of child labour.
	Extend the coverage of the Social Welfare for Development programme and contribute to the prevention and eradication of child labour and its worst forms.

¹⁸ Costa Rica: The State's answer to the 2014 Questionnaire.

General Bureau for Migration and Alien Affairs (DGME)	<p>Train and raise the awareness of DGME officials in key issues such as trafficking in persons, CSE and the worst forms of labour, as well as of the ESME (Special Migration Situations Team), in order to provide comprehensive care for underage persons.</p>
	<p>Promote awareness-raising campaigns with regard to the specific risks that underage working migrants are facing.</p>

The country reports that these institutions have been incorporating a child-based perspective in their mission and functions, in keeping with their area of competence. *"For example, along these lines, the Bureau for Migration and Alien Affairs has designed a Migration Policy for Children, which it has been implementing by means of plans, programmes and projects [...]; specifically, creating a Childhood Commission, implementing a Specialized Unit for Underage Persons, forming and leading a Committee with the National Children's Board, and developing awareness-raising and training programmes on the subject of child rights, in its various working units. For its part, the Ministry of Labour has an Office to Address Child Labour, which leads interinstitutional coordination in the operationalization of the Roadmap. Health agencies such as the Ministry or the Costa Rican Social Security Fund have produced care manuals in order to deal with underage persons who are victims of sexual exploitation. All of which reflects significant progress in the vision of the State regarding child rights; the creation of specialized units and the strengthening of synchronized interinstitutional actions make it possible to shed light on the issue in institutions that are involved with these population groups, without losing sight of their institutional areas of competence."*¹⁹

CONACOES has no local representation. Nonetheless, local interinstitutional networks against sexual exploitation were established at six locations identified as key points with regard to these problems: San José, Limón, Santa Cruz, Aguirre, Los Chiles and Corredores.

In **ECUADOR** the agency responsible for the design and implementation of the *National Plan to combat trafficking in persons, unlawful migrant smuggling, sexual exploitation at work and other forms of exploitation of women and children, child pornography and the corruption of minors* is the **Interinstitutional Commission for the Implementation of the National Plan against Trafficking in Persons**.

¹⁹ Costa Rica: The State's answer to the 2014 Questionnaire.

This Commission is formed by the following institutions, which fulfil the functions described below:²⁰

- 1) Ministry of the Interior: Judicial Police and National Bureau for Police Specializing in Children (DINAPEN): chairs the Commission.
- 2) National Police Department: In charge of investigation and protection of the victims of sexual exploitation.
- 3) Ministry for the Coordination of Social Development: Coordinates the ministries that belong to the Commission's board of protection.
- 4) Ministry for the Coordination of Safety: Coordinates the ministries that belong to the Commission's security focal point.
- 5) Ministry of Education: In charge of designing policies and establishing regulations with the purpose of preventing and eradicating all forms of violence in the education system, and of ensuring the physical, psychological and sexual integrity of students. Carries out preventive activities related to sexual exploitation.
- 6) Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion: Offers protection and restitution of rights by means of foster care and a human development voucher.
- 7) Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Worship: Performs prevention activities, involving training, and has Comprehensive Care Centres for the victims of gender violence.
- 8) Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility: Responsible for procedures required in order to transfer the victims of sexual exploitation rescued abroad and enter into international agreements on the subject.
- 9) Ministry of Labour Relations: Carries out prevention activities in the labour sector.
- 10) Ministry of Public Health: Carries out prevention activities and provides care for victims of sexual exploitation.
- 11) Ministry of Tourism: Responsible for SEC prevention in travel and tourism. Has contributed to producing procedural norms for the regulation and control of tourist establishments, for the prevention of sexual exploitation in tourism-related activities.

²⁰ Ecuador: The State's answer to the 2014 Questionnaire.

- 12) Commission on Transition to determine public institutionality to ensure equality between men and women: Preventive activities with a focus on gender equality.
- 13) National Children's Council (towards National Council for Intergenerational Equality): Its mandate is to ensure the full enjoyment of the rights of citizens throughout their lives, by means of designing, mainstreaming, observing, following up on and assessing public policies. In this context, it advocates for the design of public policies and laws related to SEC.
- 14) Association of Municipalities of Ecuador: The Association of Ecuadorian Municipalities convenes municipal and metropolitan decentralized autonomous governments (GADs) to promote the construction of a decentralized and autonomous local management model, based on coordinated planning and participatory management of the territory, by means of institutional representation, quality technical assistance and coordination with other levels of government and State agencies. Carries out preventive activities on the ground.
- 15) People's Ombudsman: Watches over judicial proceedings in cases involving sexual exploitation.
- 16) Council of Justice: The judicial authority's government, administration, surveillance and disciplinary body. It defines and executes policies in order to improve and update the judicial system. It is responsible for the surveillance of judicial proceedings involving SEC.
- 17) Prosecutor General's Office: Acting ex officio or at the request of an interested party, leads the pre-procedural investigation and criminal proceedings in general. It directs the system for the protection and assistance of victims, witnesses and other persons taking part in the criminal proceedings.

The country reports that "*in general terms, the institutions that are part of the Interinstitutional Commission, particularly of the protection board, have incorporated into their practices and regulations a rights-based approach pursuant to the Children's Statute of 2003 and the Constitution of Ecuador of 2008, according to which the best interest of the child is recognized as a fundamental principle. However, not all of the public institutions comply comprehensively with the principles and mandates of the comprehensive protection doctrine. Adult-centred practices with a 'minor-focused' approach still prevail, where children's opinions are not included in the design of public policies or in the implementation of services for this age group.*"²¹

²¹ Ecuador: The State's answer to the 2014 Questionnaire.

At the moment, the Interinstitutional Commission has no local commissions. However, some of the institutions that are part of it, such as the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility, the Ministry of Tourism, the Prosecutor General's Office and others, have decentralized local offices where action is coordinated.

In **EL SALVADOR** the **Managing Board of the National Council for Childhood (CONNA)** approves the methodology for the design of the *National Action Plan*, which will make the National Policy for the Comprehensive Protection of Children operational. This Managing Board is composed of the most senior authorities of the following institutions:

- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Justice and Public Safety
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Labour and Social Security
- Prosecutor General's Office
- Corporation of Municipalities of the Republic of El Salvador (COMURES)
- Organized Civil Society: four representatives chosen by the Shared Care Network, two of whom must represent human rights NGOs.

The implementation of the Action Plan must be taken on by all of the members of the **National System for the Protection of Children**:

- a) CONNA
- b) Local Committees on Child Rights
- c) Child Protection Boards
- d) Promotion and Assistance Associations
- e) Salvadoran Institute for the Comprehensive Development of Children
- f) The Judicial Authority
- g) The Prosecutor General's Office
- h) The Office of the Ombudsman for Human Rights
- i) Members of the Shared Care Network

*"All of the members of this national system are represented throughout the territory and are mandated, according to the principle of joint responsibility, to establish coordination and synchronization at local and departmental levels."*²²

In addition, the agency responsible for designing, following up on, coordinating and assessing the *National Policy for the Eradication of Trafficking in Persons* is the **National Council against Trafficking in Persons**, created in 2011. This Council has an Executive Secretariat, led by the Victims' and Witnesses' Care Unit of the Ministry of Justice and Public Safety, and a Technical Committee, in charge of safeguarding the operations of the Work Plan against Trafficking in Persons 2014-2015, composed of:

- the Victims' and Witnesses' Care Unit of the Ministry of Justice and Public Safety
- Ministry of Labour and Social Security
- Ministry of Tourism
- Civil National Police
- Salvadoran Institute for the Comprehensive Development of Children (ISNA)
- General Bureau for Migration and Alien Affairs (DGME)

In **MEXICO**, the agency responsible for leading the *National Programme to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Crime Involving Trafficking in Persons and to Protect and Assist Victims of these Crimes* is the **Inter-Secretarial Commission** of the same name.

Pursuant to the General Act to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Crimes Involving Trafficking in Persons and to Protect and Assist Victims of these Crimes, of June 2012, amended in March 2014, this commission is formed by representatives of the following offices, with their respective duties (Art. 85 and 89):

- 1) **Governance Secretariat**: "...will coordinate the work of the Commission and act as liaison for representatives of the executive, legislative and judicial branches of the three branches of government, in questions relating to public policies it is necessary to implement, with the purpose of strengthening the prevention and punishment of crimes provided for in this Act, as well as protecting and assisting the victims of this crime, including supporting the necessary measures to fulfil the Federal Act against Organized Crime in the matter of the protection of witnesses and their families and other agents involved in the crime";

²² El Salvador: The State's answer to the 2014 Questionnaire.

- 2) Foreign Affairs Secretariat: "...design and coordinate a specialized protection and care programme for victims of the crimes provided for in this Act, to be applied in consular offices abroad. Likewise, it will coordinate with the Governance Secretariat, the National Migration Institute and the National Population Council in order to propose the necessary measures to safeguard victims' sojourn within the country for as long as necessary and prior to their voluntary return to their places of origin or permanent place of residence";
- 3) Public Security Secretariat: "...design and execute permanent programmes with the purpose of ensuring due surveillance at railway stations, bus terminals, airports and sea ports, and border crossings, with the objective of preventing and detecting the probable perpetration of the crimes envisaged in this Act";
- 4) Executive Secretariat of the National Public Safety System: "...gather information regarding the incidence of crime in the matter of the crimes envisaged in this Act and generate a database containing, at least, the nationality, age, marital status and sex of active and passive subjects, as well as the modus operandi of organized crime networks and the manner in which their members were detected, apprehended and brought before the competent public prosecutor, with local or federal jurisdiction";
- 5) Social Inclusion Secretariat: "...design and apply models which will make it possible to combat the structural causes that generate greater risk and vulnerability to the crimes envisaged by this Act, with a particular focus on poverty, marginalization and social inequality";
- 6) Public Education Secretariat: "...in coordination with the Governance Secretariat, design prevention modules for the various school cycles, to be included in the basic education syllabus";
- 7) Health Secretariat: "...provide the appropriate physical and psychological care to shelters for victims of crimes provided for in this Act. In addition, design a national strategy in order to inform society about the health risks associated with these crimes";
- 8) Labour and Social Security Secretariat: "...provide training for work, offer opportunities from its job bank and enter into agreements with companies, in order to provide opportunities for rehabilitation and resocialization to the victims of the crime envisaged in this Act, by means of job opportunities, as well as increase its inspections of work centres, within its area of competence, in order to prevent and detect this crime in a timely manner";
- 9) Tourism Secretariat: "...design programmes and public policies to discourage sex tourism, training staff in the service areas of this industry, as well as design

and implement campaigns within the country and beyond its borders, in order to prevent and discourage the proliferation of the crime envisaged in this Act, in any activity included within its area of competence”;

- 10) Prosecutor General's Office: “...produce and execute programmes to prevent the crime of trafficking in persons, with the purpose of strengthening citizen reports and social solidarity; promote within the National Conference of Prosecutors the necessary public policies to prevent the crime throughout the country and propose the legal harmonization of the types of crimes related to this issue throughout the country. Coordinate with the Public Safety Secretariat with the purpose of updating data regarding the incidence of crime in the country in order to follow up on the status of the criminal proceedings of individuals apprehended and remanded for crimes involving trafficking in persons. It will be responsible for establishing a Specialized Prosecutor's Office to address these crimes, whose active agents are suspected to be part of national or international organized crime, and implement means of investigation and a Unit for the Protection of Victims of and Witnesses to Trafficking in Persons, and promote measures for their procedural protection”;
- 11) National System for the Comprehensive Development of the Family: “...responsible for protection and care, prior to, during and after the proceedings, of all victims of the crime who are under the age of 18, making sure that their special needs are considered in shelters for victims of the crime of trafficking in persons”;
- 12) Social Prosecutor's Office to Care for Victims of Crime: “...provide timely and comprehensive care to victims and injured parties as a result of crimes, on its own or in coordination with specialized institutions, according to the terms of the applicable body of law. Cooperate in the effective performance of the authorities with jurisdiction in this issue and design and execute policies, programmes and plans for interinstitutional coordination and collaboration in the care of victims or persons injured by these crimes”;
- 13) National Migration Institute: “...in coordination with the Governance Secretariat, the Foreign Affairs Secretariat and the National Population Council, to implement the necessary measures to safeguard the sojourn of victims of the crime of trafficking in persons within the country for as long as necessary and prior to their voluntary return to their places of origin or permanent place of residence”;
- 14) National Women's Institute: “...responsible for protection and care, prior to, during and after the proceedings, of all women who are victims of the crime,

making sure that their special needs are considered in shelters for victims of the crimes provided for in this Act”;

- 15) National Criminal Science Institute: “*...design and implement training, capacity-building and updating programmes in relation to the prevention and punishment of slavery, trafficking in persons or exploitation, targeting, at least, Federal Investigation Agents and the Federation’s Public Prosecutor Agents.”*
- 16) Communications and Transport Secretariat

The institutions that are part of the Inter-Secretarial Commission have been instructed by the President of the Republic to coordinate effectively, with the purpose of achieving the objectives envisaged by the Act, providing within their respective areas of competence, all of the human, financial and material resources necessary to resolve this problem.

With regard to local representatives of the Cross-Sectoral Commission, the State reports that the Act through which it was established provides for coordination between government branches (federal, state and municipal) in the matter of prevention, care and protection of victims, and prosecution of the crime. Likewise, the National Programme itself considers the following in its Objective 1, Strategy 1.5, Line of Action 1.5.1: *“Promote the creation of cross-sectoral committees in federative and municipal bodies, in order to coordinate action against trafficking in persons”*.

In **PANAMA**, the *National Plan for the Prevention and Elimination of CSEC 2008-2010* (still in force) was produced by the bodies that constitute the **National Commission for the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation Crimes (CONAPREDES)** and **non-governmental organizations that are members of the National Network in Support of Childhood**, under the leadership of the **International Labour Organization (ILO)**. It is now the responsibility of CONAPREDES to lead the design of the new Plan.

Members of CONAPREDES are: 1) the Nation’s Public Prosecutor, acting as chair; 2) the Minister of Social Development; 3) a representative of the People’s Ombudsman’s Office; 4) the Minister of Health; 5) the Minister of Education; 6) the Minister of Public Safety; 7) the Minister of Government; 8) the Director of Judicial Investigation; 9) the President of the Superior Children’s Court of the Judicial Branch; 10) the Legislative Assembly; 11) a Coordinator representing the Executive Branch; 12) the National Secretariat for Childhood and Families (SENNIAF); 13) the National Network in Support of Childhood; 14) a representative of the country’s Lawyers’ Associations. It has no local representation.

Among the principal actions and activities carried out by these institutions within the framework of the Plan, the country indicates:²³

- Ministry of Social Development: advocated for the submission of the draft bill for the creation of the National Secretariat for Childhood and Families, which used to be the National Childhood Bureau answering to the ministry. Its team of psychologists offers its services to the population at risk and victims of the crime in provinces where SENNIAF is not represented.
- National Secretariat for Childhood and Families: is responsible for coordinating the comprehensive care of victims of the crime. It adopted the Protocol on the Care of Victims of Sexual Abuse and, in agreement with Spanish Cooperation (AECI), is at the final stages of launching a protocol on the care of victims of ill-treatment. It signed an agreement with the Panamanian Hotel Association (APATEL) in order to provide support at seminar-workshops imparted by CONAPREDES to the hotel sector and to university undergraduates taking courses in the hotel trade. It disseminates and promotes child rights by means of workshops aimed at teachers of the Ministry of Education's Psycho-Pedagogical Department.
- Ministry of Health: produced and launched a Healthcare Guide for Victims of CSE, a document to help doctors and healthcare teams to identify cases of abuse and/or CSE. Within the framework of the National Plan's Care Component, it provides psychological and medical care to victims of the crime or persons at risk, providing feedback to SENNIAF.
- Judicial Investigation Bureau: an agency of the National Police Department, it delivered seminars at the Police Academy, to the border police, to the National Maritime Service, children's police officers and street police officers.
- Children's Courts of Justice: in their presentation of yearly management reports to the Supreme Court of Justice, children's magistrates expound upon and divulge the crime by distributing informative material on criminal methods of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation. The participation of the magistrates at CONAPREDES plenary meetings has been fundamental and critical for the achievement of public policy in the context of the mandates of Law № 16 of 2004.
- Ministry of Education: fosters training and awareness-raising on the subject among teachers, instructors, heads and administrative personnel. A brochure on "Our Responsibilities as Teachers in the face of the SE of persons under the age of 18" is handed out at the seminars.

²³ Ibid.

- Ministry of Public Safety: During 2008-2010, the Police Academy (ACAESPOL) coordinated with the CONAPREDES Technical Secretariat to deliver instruction to the new generations who would be joining the ranks of the Border Police, the Aeronautical Service, the Children's Police and the Tourist Police.
- San José de Malambo Home: This NGO, a representative of the National Network in Support of Children, has a programme to provide care for victims of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation; known as TU DIGNIDAD VALE [Your Dignity is Valuable]. Since 2006, it has been providing support to victims in the Western Panama region, where it is located, as well as to victims identified by SENNIAF or Migrations.

The country reports that all of these agencies have a rights-based perspective of CSEC, since “[...] we adhere to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention’s Optional Protocol, the ILO’s Convention 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour and others related to child labour and hazardous work”.²⁴

In **PARAGUAY** the body in charge of producing, executing and monitoring the *National Plan for the Prevention and Eradication of the Sexual Exploitation of Children* is the **Cross-Sectoral Board on the fight against Abuse and the Sexual Exploitation of Children**. This Board is composed of the following State institutions and civil organizations: 1) National Childhood Secretariat (Sec. NyA) - Coordination of Prevention and Assistance for Victims of Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Children (chairs the Board); 2) Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare (MSPyBS); 3) Ministry of Education (MEC); 4) the Public Prosecutor (MP); 5) the People’s Ombudsman; 6) Municipal Council on behalf of Child Rights (CODENI), of Asunción; 7) Women’s Secretariat; 8) National Tourism Secretariat; 9) Social Action Secretariat; 10) National Police; 11) Global Infancia; 12) Luna Nueva Group; 13) Educational and Community Support Base (BECA); 13) Child, Teen and Youth Study Centre (CENIJU); 15) Plan Paraguay; 16) UNICEF - Paraguay.

Some of these agencies, and others, are identified in the National Plan as having responsibility in the fulfilment of specific objectives in each of the Plan’s components:

²⁴ Ibid.

Component	Agency Responsible
Diagnosis	MEC, MSPyBS, STP ²⁵ , PJ ²⁶ , MP, National Police, MJyT ²⁷ , Sec NyA, Women's Secretariat, Universities and specialized NGOs.
Awareness-Raising	Sec NyA, CDIA ²⁸ , PJ, MP, National Tourism Secretariat, the mass media, NGOs.
Interinstitutional Coordination	National Child Rights Council, municipalities and CODENIs, Sec. NyA, Tourism Secretariat, CDIA, MEC, universities, mass media, NGOs.
Legal and Regulatory	PJ, MP, Ombudsman, National Council, State Human Rights Network, UDH of the SCJ ²⁹ , National Police, CONAETI ³⁰ , COETI ³¹ , CIEJ ³² , NGOs, media, universities.
Care	PJ, MP, National Police, Prosecutor's Office, Ombudsman's Office, State Human Rights Network, CODENIs, National Congress, MSPyBS, medical centres, MEC, Tourism Secretariat, business sector, NGOs, community organizations, churches, social outreach, universities, Paraguayan Society of Psychology, the mass media, ILO/IPEC, UNICEF.
Prevention	MEC, MH ³³ , National Congress, Sec. NyA, Women's Secretariat, municipalities and provincial government, CODENIs, NGOs, grassroots organizations, churches, the mass media.
Monitoring and Evaluation	MEC, Women's Secretariat, municipalities and provincial government, MJyT, PJ, MP, National Police, State Human Rights Network, UDH of the SCJ, CDIA, CODHUPY ³⁴ and GOS and NGOs involved in these issues, community organizations, community radio stations, UNICEF, ILO/IPEC.

Source: *Plan Nacional de Prevención y Erradicación de Explotación Sexual de Niñas, Niños y Adolescentes* [National Plan for the Prevention and Eradication of the Sexual Exploitation of Children] 2012-2017.

The Cross-Sectoral Board has no local representation. However, the country reports that there is a Local Committee to Monitor the Local Plan in Ciudad del Este, regarding the fight against trafficking children for the purpose of sexual exploitation, established

²⁵ Economic and Social Development Planning Technical Secretariat. Indicated as having responsibility in the Plan, but the State does not include it on the Cross-Sectoral Board.

²⁶ Judicial Branch. Ibid.

²⁷ Ministry of Justice and Labour. Ibid.

²⁸ Child Rights Coordinator. Ibid.

²⁹ Human Rights Unit of the Supreme Court of Justice.

³⁰ National Council for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labour and Protection of Adolescent Labour. Ibid.

³¹ Elimination of Child Labour Coordinator. Ibid.

³² International Centre for Judicial Studies. Ibid.

³³ Ministry of Finance. Ibid.

³⁴ Human Rights Coordinator in Paraguay. Ibid.

during the implementation of the Project “Regional Strategy to Fight against Trafficking and Smuggling of Children for Sexual Exploitation in Mercosur”, Twin Cities.

Like Argentina and Canada, **PERU** has no specific national plan against the sexual exploitation of children. However, there is a National Action Plan for Children (PMAIA 2021), which contains two Expected Outcomes related to these issues, and a National Action Plan against Trafficking in Persons in Peru 2011-2016, which also includes prevention, prosecution of the crime and care for child victims of trafficking in persons with the purpose of sexual exploitation.

The implementation of the *National Action Plan for Children* is the responsibility of a **Multisectoral Commission** chaired by the Deputy Minister for Vulnerable Populations of the Ministry for Women and Vulnerable Populations, and constituted by State institutions, with the participation (as guests) of international organizations and a representative of the National Childhood Council.

The Plan specifically identifies the actors responsible for the achievement of each outcome. Thus, a sub-committee has been formed for Outcome 14 – “*Teenagers are not the object of sexual exploitation*” – coordinated by 1) the General Bureau for Children of the Ministry for Women and Vulnerable Populations (MIMP), and also composed of representatives of the following institutions: 2) Ministry of Education; 3) Ministry of Health (MINSA); 4) Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism (MINCETUR); 5) Ministry of the Environment (MINAM); 6) Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion (MIDIS); 7) Ministry of the Interior (MINITER) – National Police of Peru; 8) Ministry of Transport and Communications (MTC); 9) National Public Prosecutor’s Office; 10) Judicial Branch; 11) Ministry of Justice and Human Rights (MINJUS); 12) Civil Society Institutions (Vía Libre, CESVI, Alternative Human and Social Capital Association); 13) UNICEF; 14) Metropolitan Municipality of Lima (PNAIA 2021 Document: 80).

In addition, the bodies identified as being responsible for Expected Outcome 17 – “*Children comprehensively protected from trafficking (sexual, labour, begging)*” – are: 1) Ministry of the Interior; 2) Ministry for Women and Vulnerable Populations; 3) Ministry for Development and Social Inclusion; 4) Ministry of Transport and Communications; 5) Ministry of Health; 6) Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism; 7) Ministry of Justice and Human Rights; 8) Ministry of Education; 9) Ministry of Labour and Job Promotion (MTPE); 10) Judicial Branch; 11) Public Prosecutor’s Office; 12) Regional Governments; 13) Local Governments; 14) Children’s Ombudsman Offices 15) Permanent Multisectoral Working Group against Trafficking in Persons; 16) National Commission against Forced Labour (PNAIA 2021 Document: 81).

Many of these institutions carry out preventive activities against CSEC. In relation to care, the MIMP, through its National Comprehensive Social Welfare Programme, has Residential Care Centres for underage victims. The Ministry of Justice and Human Rights has legal aid services that provide legal counselling for victims, and the Healthcare Modules for Child Abuse provide medical attention.

With regard to the *National Action Plan against Human Trafficking in Peru 2011-2016*, the **Permanent Multisectoral Working Group against Trafficking in Persons** (GTMPTP) is responsible for its implementation. Established by means of Supreme Decree N° 002-2004-IN, the Working Group is composed of State agencies, private institutions and international agencies, whose responsibilities in terms of the Plan were determined by the regulations for Law N° 28950, Act against Trafficking in Persons, adopted by Supreme Decree N° 007-2008-IN, and which also appear in the Plan:

A) State Agencies

1) Ministry of the Interior (MININTER)

- *Permanent Secretariat of the National Commission on Human Rights*: Pursuant to a ministerial ruling, the Deputy Minister for Internal Order chairs the Working Group, while the Permanent Secretariat of the National Human Rights Commission of the Interior Sector is in charge of the Technical Secretariat (Trafficking Plan 2011-2016: 45-46).
- *National Bureau for Immigration and Naturalization* (DIGEMIN): It is strengthening the capacity of its migration and naturalization personnel by means of training workshops, as well as raising the awareness of officials who perform migratory control tasks. Likewise, it fosters the dissemination of information related to the fight against trafficking in persons and unlawful migrant smuggling by delivering tri-fold brochures, posters and other material, and raises the awareness of persons entering or leaving the country at the different migratory and/or border control posts, countrywide (Trafficking Plan 2011-2016: 46).
- *Investigation Division against trafficking in persons (Criminal Investigation Bureau)*: “*This is the Division responsible for investigating the crime of trafficking in persons. [...] It handles the Records and Statistics System in relation to the crime of trafficking in persons and similar crimes - RETA-PNP - a technological tool that makes it possible to record cases, investigate and monitor them, as well as providing indicators to enable the visualization of the development of the crime of trafficking in persons in Peru*” (Trafficking Plan 2011-2016: 47).

- *Investigation Division for High Technology Crimes (Criminal Investigation Bureau):*
 - *Technical Secretariat of the National Citizen Security Council: "Prevention of the crime of trafficking in persons and support in coordinating with regional and local government" (Trafficking Plan 2011-2016: 48).*
 - *Citizen Participation and Security Bureau (DIRFAPASEC): Supports the prosecution of crime, as well as prevention and coordination with sectors providing protection to victims (Trafficking Plan 2011-2016: 48).*
- 2) Ministry of Education (MINEDU)
- 3) Ministry of Health (MINSA): provides care and physical and psychological rehabilitation for the victims of trafficking in persons (Trafficking Plan 2011-2016: 48).
- 4) Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MREE): "...is committed to the fight against trafficking in persons and unlawful migrant smuggling in the area of prevention, prosecution and punishment of the crime, and of protection and assistance to victims, direct dependent family members, collaborators, witnesses and experts, by means of the following actions: a) Dissemination of counselling services provided to the public at consulates, decentralized offices and the Assistance to Nationals Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; b) Training for officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in particular, consular staff, on the scope and risks of the crimes of trafficking in persons and unlawful migrant smuggling, care for nationals abroad and assistance to victims of the crime of trafficking in persons from the perspective of protecting human rights and the best interest of the child; c) Reporting the alleged crimes of trafficking in persons and/or unlawful migrant smuggling against nationals abroad, or committed by them, to the General Immigration and Naturalization Bureau (DIGEMIN) and the Bureau of Criminal Investigation and Justice Support of Peru's National Police and INTERPOL Peru; d) Applying for, at the request of the police, information regarding preliminary or jurisdictional investigations initiated as a result of the crimes mentioned above, to the relevant authorities in the country where the events took place and reporting said information to the Technical Secretariat of the Permanent Multi-Sectoral Working Group against Trafficking in Persons; e) Providing protection, legal aid, and humanitarian assistance to Peruvian victims of trafficking in persons abroad, by means of coordination with public and private bodies abroad for the provision of medical, psychological and other types of care to the victims and their direct dependent family members, as well as ensuring their safe repatriation in accordance with guidelines on assistance

to nationals abroad of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; f) Entering into and implementing multilateral, regional and subregional international agreements, as well as participating in the principal international forums to foster cooperation and sharing of good practices in the fight against trafficking in persons" (Trafficking Plan 2011-2016: 49-50).

- 5) Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism (MINCETUR): "Since 2005, it has available a 'Guide for service providers in tourism: from spectators to actors', whose purpose is to fight the commercial sexual exploitation of children. It is carrying out a campaign on 'Halt Child Sex Tourism', and by means of Supreme Decree Nº 007-2007, MINCETUR adopted the regulations for Law Nº 28868, which empowers MINCETUR to define offences via regulatory means in the area of tourist services and to rate establishments providing accommodation, deeming the promotion and/or acceptance of the commercial sexual exploitation of children within their premises to be a serious offence" (Trafficking Plan 2011-2016: 56).
- 6) Ministry for Women and Vulnerable Populations: A number of services are available that seek to protect the rights of children and women, groups considered to be particularly vulnerable to trafficking in persons. For example: Women's Emergency Centre and Line 100-Free Nationwide Service, of the National Programme against Family and Sexual Violence (Trafficking Plan 2011-2016: 49).
- 7) Ministry of Labour and Job Promotion (MTPE): has a Labour Inspection Service as a resource to fight against trafficking in persons.
- 8) Office of the Public Prosecutor (MP-FN):
 - *Assistance for Victims and Witnesses Office*: "[...] its primary function is to supervise the fulfilment of the programme to provide assistance to victims and witnesses throughout the country, coordinate with the protection programme and propose policies and technical guidelines to regulate the effective operation of offices providing support in every branch" (Trafficking Plan 2011-2016: 52).
 - *Specialized Prosecutor's Offices against Organized Crime*: "created as the State's institutional response to the wide variety of criminal activities that are being set in motion by criminal organizations that are increasingly well structured; criminal organizations that threaten individual freedom and personal safety, through crimes such as trafficking in persons and unlawful migration, and crimes that affect public health, such as illegal drug trafficking, or those that pursue subversive and terrorist ends which

seek to erode the constitutional system and the domestic order” (Trafficking Plan 2011-2016: 52-53).

- *The Public Prosecutor’s School: “one of its operational targets programmed in the area of sustained and specialized training, is training officials and civil servants in the identification of cases of trafficking in persons and unlawful migrant smuggling”* (Trafficking Plan 2011-2016: 53).
- 9) Ministry of Justice and Human Rights: Through its Open Legal Aid Offices it provides services for reporting and legal defence for children affected by the crimes of trafficking in persons and unlawful migrant smuggling (Trafficking Plan 2011-2016: 55).
 - 10) Judicial Branch: is strengthening the capacity of specialized judges in criminal and family matters, throughout the country (Trafficking Plan 2011-2016: 57).
 - 11) Ombudsman’s Office.
 - 12) National Statistics and Computer Science Institute (INEI).
- B) Private Institutions:
- 13) Acción por los Niños [Action for Children]: “[...] has been promoting children’s human rights in different parts of the country, as well as training members of the Justice Administration, Peru’s National Police, Municipal Ombudsman Offices for Children, School Municipalities and Children’s Municipal Committees in order to aid their development as key agents in the defence and promotion of child rights” (Trafficking Plan 2011-2016: 58).
 - 14) Capital Humano y Social Alternativo [Alternative Human and Social Capital]: “CHS Alternativo deploys efforts to generate synergies that will lead to placing on the public agenda its concern about the human rights of thousands of women and children who are missing. As a result of searches performed and the location of several cases, it has been possible to determine that they have fallen victims to third parties for sexual and labour exploitation – trafficking in persons. CHS Alternativo handles the online information system on persons who have disappeared in Peru, as the national counterpart of the Latin American Network of Missing Persons” (Trafficking Plan 2011-2016: 58).
 - 15) Institute for Childhood and Family Studies (IDEIF): “An organization specializing in trafficking in persons, with experts who carry out activities in prevention, dissemination, training and the care of victims” (Trafficking Plan 2011-2016: 58).
- C) International Organizations

- 16) International Organization for Migration (IOM): “*In Peru, the IOM implements and coordinates the 0800-2-3232 telephone line for information on and reporting trafficking in persons to the Permanent Secretariat of the National Human Rights Commission of the Ministry of the Interior, as chair of the GTMPTP. Several awareness-raising campaigns have been performed and a training strategy has been implemented on the subject in a dozen points in the country, with the attendance of close to 3000 people. The IOM has produced the technical paper for the National Action Plan against Trafficking in Persons*” (Trafficking Plan 2011-2016: 59).
- 17) United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF): “*Through the CASESCI project it provides support to cross-sectoral intervention in order to prevent and care for the victims of child abuse and the commercial sexual exploitation of children*” (Trafficking Plan 2011-2016: 59).
- 18) International Labour Organization (ILO) - Regional Office for Latin American and the Caribbean: “*For the ILO, trafficking in persons is a vehicle for child commercial sexual exploitation (CCSE) and domestic child labour (DCL). In those terms, it is part of the problem addressed by the regional project for the prevention and eradication of CCSE and DCL in Chile, Colombia, Paraguay and Peru, under the name of Weaving Networks against the Exploitation of Children*” (Trafficking Plan 2011-2016: 60).
- 19) United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

The National Action Plan against Trafficking in Persons (PNAT) 2011-2016 states the following: “*According to one of the fundamental guiding principles surrounding the decentralized approach mainstreamed in the PNAT, it is proposed to establish Regional Groups against Trafficking in Persons, responsible for implementation and monitoring in the provinces, and answering to the GTMPTP*” (Trafficking Plan 2011-2016: 7). In fact, the country reports that the Working Group has provided technical assistance for the establishment of 18 Regional Networks against Trafficking in Persons, in 18 regions in the country, led by the Regional Government and constituted by State institutions and civil society involved in the issue of trafficking in persons. Likewise, the regions of Madre de Dios, Loreto and Ayacucho have regional action plans against trafficking in persons.³⁵

The fact that the State lacks a specific programme to address SEC and that the crime of trafficking is not viewed as a priority has led to the invisibility of the problem and to inadequate care being provided to victims. According to reports, there have been

³⁵ Peru: The State's answer to the 2014 Questionnaire.

cases where, for example, some service operators do not consider that teenagers exploited in bars and offered by their procurers, without necessarily being deprived of their freedom of movement are victims; in fact, they view them as prostitutes.

In **URUGUAY**, the body responsible for the design and implementation of the *National Plan for the eradication of commercial sexual exploitation of children* is the **National Committee on the Eradication of Commercial and Non-Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children** (CONAPEES), created by the Executive Branch on 27 October 2004, by means of Decree 385/004 and installed institutionally in November 2005 by resolution of the Board of INAU.

The following agencies constitute CONAPEES: 1) Children's Institute of Uruguay (INAU), acting as chair; 2) Ministry of Education and Culture (MEC); 3) Ministry of Tourism and Sports (MINDETUR); 4) Ministry of Public Health (MSP); 5) Ministry of the Interior (MINTERIOR); 6) National Administration for Public Education (ANEP); 7) Planning and Budget Bureau (OPP); 8) three organizations representing the National Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (ANONG); 9) Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN); 10) UNICEF (the two last acting in an advisory capacity).

The document governing the Plan (2007) determines the responsibilities of these agencies, in accordance with the sub-programmes anticipated:

Sub-Programmes	Agency Responsible
Prevention	Committee, INAU, OPP, MEC, MINDETURD, MINTERIOR, ANEP, MSP, civil society
Protection	Committee, MINTERIOR, INAU
Care	Committee, INAU, MSP, civil society, OPP
Restitution	Committee, INAU, MSP, MINTERIOR, INAU, civil society
Monitoring and Evaluation	Committee, OPP

As reported, in general terms, the child rights-based perspective is present in all of the institutions involved, but with varying degrees of practical representation. In general, it is the women's and gender issues' areas that undertake this matter and their views are clear and engaged. However, this is not always the case close to the apex of the institutional pyramid.

CONAPEES has no local representation. However there are other interinstitutional bodies with a number of different mandates and the Committee is discussing the relevance of generating new institutionality in the area or to position the issue permanently on the agenda of other already existing bodies. Despite these discussions

and as a result of the situation made evident by recent studies, there is a possibility of creating a permanent interinstitutional and social board in Western Montevideo.

1.2. Inter-State Coordination. Agreements of Cooperation with other Countries

CANADA reports the existence of a Memorandum of Understanding with the United States, with regard to investigations involving online sexual exploitation of children, which grants the National Child Exploitation Coordination Centre (NCECC) access to information related to specific virtual identities (registry information, Internet protocol registry, secondary e-mail addresses of Internet Service Providers), which would otherwise need to be obtained through a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty.

CHILE reports the existence of agreements with Colombia. On the one hand, there is a Working Plan under consideration for the implementation of an Agreement of Interinstitutional Cooperation and Technical Assistance between the National Service for Minors (SENAMIE) and the Colombian Institute of Family Welfare (ICBF), which includes action to address CSEC. On the other, the Ministry of the Interior, which leads the Mercosur and Associated States Action Plan for the Fight against Trafficking in Persons, has established coordination with the Government of Colombia with a view to sharing cooperation strategies for the prevention and control of trafficking in persons and unlawful migrant smuggling.

COSTA RICA describes an agreement which is not between States, but between a local NGO and the State of Canada. The Paniamor Foundation entered into an Agreement of Cooperation with Canada's International Bureau for Children's Rights (IBCR), on the basis of which the project "Prevention of Commercial Sexual Exploitation in Costa Rica" was developed. The project includes publicity campaigns and informative material, placed in strategic spots such as airports in Costa Rica and Canada, with a logo which identifies the subject and refers to Costa Rica's approach to CSEC.

ECUADOR refers to agreements of cooperation with Colombia and Peru. On 14 September 2012 it entered into a "Memorandum of Understanding between the Republic of Colombia and the Republic of Ecuador for the prevention and investigation of the crime of trafficking in persons and assistance for and protection of victims of this crime". *"The purpose or this instrument is to strengthen actions of joint coordination and cooperation for the prevention and investigation of the crime of trafficking in persons and assistance for and protection of victims of this crime. This*

document has given rise to others, which serve as tools for its implementation, such as: the Working Plan 2012-2014 and the Binational Strategy for Prevention of the Crime of Trafficking in Persons.”³⁶

In addition, on 14 November 2013, a “Framework Agreement of Interinstitutional Cooperation on the Subject of Trafficking in Persons between the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Ecuador and Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Peru” was signed, “whose objective is to strengthen joint coordination and cooperation and establish effective measures for prevention and investigation of the crime of trafficking in persons, and assistance for and protection of victims of this crime. To this end, the parties will seek to cooperate with each other, in compliance with their domestic laws, by sharing information, training, investigation and other forms of bilateral cooperation established in the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime”³⁷.

MEXICO indicates that there are agreements in the area of crime investigation and prosecution. In its National Programme (page 2) it describes each one of these. Some of them are: an agreement with the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning Mutual Assistance in Investigations; Agreements/Cooperation Treaties with the Republic of Peru, the Republic of Ecuador, the Republic of Bolivia, and others, on Mutual Legal Assistance on Criminal Matters; Agreement of Cooperation in Matters of Legal Assistance with the Government of the Republic of Colombia; Agreement of Cooperation with the Government of the Italian Republic concerning the Fight against Organized Crime.

PANAMA provides no report on inter-State agreements, but does mention that the National Commission for the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation Crimes per se has not entered into agreements. However, in describing the functions of the agencies which compose CONAPREDES, it refers to the fact that in the matter of investigations, the Embassy of the United States (FBI and DEA), Italian Cooperation and Spanish Cooperation have provided training in undercover operations, which shows some inter-State cooperation, regardless of the existence or lack of formal agreements.

PARAGUAY reports an agreement with Argentina: A “Project on Sharing Experiences in the fight against child trafficking”, the purpose of which is to contribute to addressing the problem, developing and coordinating strategies for prevention, protection and comprehensive care.

³⁶ Ecuador: The State’s answer to the 2014 Questionnaire.

³⁷ Ibid.

URUGUAY refers to the Regional Strategy to fight Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking (developed with the support of the IDB), in the framework of which the “Border Project” was implemented, which came to an end last year. After performing local diagnoses, it was attempted to establish inter-State coordination between Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, with operating protocols and binational action to approach the issue. *“Although the project achieved its expected outputs, once international cooperation ceased its sustainability became extremely fragile”³⁸.*

In addition, it reports that an experience-sharing activity is currently being designed with Argentina, including “SOUTH-SOUTH” technical support.

Finally, other countries, such as **ARGENTINA** and **ECUADOR**, refer not to specific agreements between certain States, but rather to some international, regional and worldwide experience-sharing activities, from which declarations, commitments and/or agreements for joint work have emerged. Namely:

- Recommendations on child rights and assistance to children who are victims of trafficking, smuggling, sexual exploitation or sale, adopted by Decision № 1 of the Meeting of High-Level Authorities in Human Rights and Foreign Ministries of the MERCOSUR and Associated Countries
- Agreements and Declarations of the First, Second and Third World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, held respectively in Stockholm, Sweden, in 1996, Yokohama, Japan, in 2001 and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2008.
- Memorandum of Montevideo, Uruguay, 2001.
- First Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons (OAS), Isla Margarita, Venezuela, 2006, and Second Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons (OAS), Buenos Aires, 2009.
- Final Declaration of the 1st Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities of Tourism of South America, for the prevention of sexual exploitation of children in tourism. 26 October 2005, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- XX Inter-American Congress of Ministers and High-Level Authorities of Tourism, OAS/Ser.K/III.21.1 CIDI/TUR- XX/doc. 5/12 rev. 1. 13 September 2012, Quito, Ecuador.

³⁸ Uruguay: The State’s answer to the 2014 Questionnaire.

1.3. Contributions of international agencies in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Plan

CHILE has the support of the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN-OAS), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), all of which have been identified as actors participating in the process of producing the Second Framework for Action.

IIN-OAS has provided technical advice for the design of the Framework for Action, as well as organizing and delivering blended courses on CSEC which, in the opinion of the State, strengthen institutional and civil society capacity by providing tools with which to address the problem.

The IOM supports the development of the Framework with advice to the Cross-Sectoral Board.

Together with SENAME, the ILO is conducting a study to estimate the prevalence of commercial sexual exploitation.

In **COSTA RICA** the ILO has been leading the production, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Roadmap to make Costa Rica a country free from child labour and its worst forms, Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation. *"Its presence has included support in logistics and substantial assistance for the development of specific actions fulfilled at State level".*

ECUADOR underscores the cooperation of the Hope Foundation and the IOM, both in the area of prevention, through funding for workshops, printing materials, etc., and in the area of protection, to provide emergent care to rescued victims.

In **EL SALVADOR** the support of international agencies in designing, implementing and assessing National and Sectoral Plans in general mainly involves technical and financial assistance. *"UNICEF, UNFPA, ILO, UNDP, UN Women, Save the Children, Plan International, World Vision, and others have been and continue to be strategic partners in the design of the National Action Plan for the Children's Policy, as well as the Work Plan of the Technical Committee against Trafficking in Persons."*³⁹

³⁹ El Salvador: The State's answer to the 2014 Questionnaire.

JAMAICA reports that the National Policy for the Reintegration of School-Aged Mothers into the Formal School System, as well as its monitoring and evaluation framework, were designed by means of extensive consultation with both local and international stakeholders, among whom are included the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

MEXICO points out that in the area of Trafficking in Persons there is coordination with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

PANAMA has also received the support of ILO and IOM. The first provided technical and financial assistance in the production, implementation and monitoring of the National Plan; in fact, it actually led the design process. Likewise, it financed the first programme for the care of victims and persons at risk of SE.

For its part, the IOM's Panama Office coordinated with the Executive Secretariat of CONAPREDES to organize a series of workshops in order to support the Ministry of Government and Justice, as it was then (now the Ministry of Public Safety) in the process of adjusting national legislation to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. As a result, the Ministry's General Secretariat appointed a staff member familiar with the subject in each institution, in order to produce a draft bill, which was subsequently submitted to the Assembly and ratified by means of Law Nº 79 in November 2011.

PARAGUAY received technical advice and financial support from IIN-OAS for the production of its National Plan. Likewise, it receives financial support from UNICEF-Paraguay and the European Union.

In **PERU**, as described above (*see heading 1.2 for a fuller description of the tasks involved*), several international agencies are represented on the Permanent Multisectoral Working Group against Trafficking in Persons (GTMPTP): IOM, UNICEF, ILO, UNODC.

"[...] the International Organization for Migration has contributed to the implementation of a toll-free helpline to report trafficking in persons. Likewise, UNICEF, with Belgian funds, has contributed to improving the logistics of police operations in the criminal investigation division for trafficking in persons and other sections in the country's four police regions. For their part, USAID, NAS, GTIP of the United States, and UNICEF have contributed to the development of the RETA PNP System of Peru's National Police" (Trafficking Plan 2011-2016: 38-39).

In **URUGUAY** the international agencies present in the country and which contribute to the National Plan are the United Nations System and the European Union. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the IOM, together with INAU, developed the “Project 0”, which finalized with the delivery of outputs targeting the analysis of the current protection and legislation system, and the design of a model to care for and address cases. UNICEF, in coordination with INAU and CONAPEES, developed and implemented “No Excuses”, a prevention and awareness-raising campaign. The European Union is funding a countrywide campaign: “Red Light - Stop Collaborating”. UNICEF and IIN-OAS, in addition, are part of CONAPEES, in an advisory capacity.

2. Prevention

In this section we explore the inclusion of preventive action or strategies in National Plans; the actions effectively implemented and their impact assessment.

In **CHILE**, the Second Framework for Action includes preventive action. The country specifically underscores two types of action. On the one hand, the existence of a number of awareness-raising strategies and activities, such as the No Excuses Campaign, the National Day against CSE (18 May), and the strengthening of technical capacity. On the other, work carried out to raise awareness in the hotel industry, to ensure that hotels include the issue among their quality assurance regulations, with the support of SENAME, the National Tourism Service and the Chile's College of Consultants.⁴⁰

So far, no impact assessments have been performed. There has only been a systematization of developments, shared with key stakeholders in a workshop, as part of the follow-up process.

For **COSTA RICA** prevention is the main strategic focal point to address SEC. In this respect, the Sub-Committee for Prevention and Promotion of CONACOES leads training and awareness-raising activities for various social stakeholders.

In its response, the country chose to highlight the project “Memes, memes everywhere”⁴¹, which was conducted over the course of 2013. It involved a

⁴⁰ Chile: The State's answer to the 2014 Questionnaire.

⁴¹ Available from: www.facebook.com/PANICR

communication strategy which sought to include the subject of SEC on social networks by means of drawings and photographs depicting everyday situations or expressing feelings or emotions with which users identified.

*"The project has received several national awards and has been recognized to be one of the five best Latin American practices in the fight against child labour. Although there was no pragmatic evaluation mechanism, its high impact became obvious when the number of fans of the site increased to over 7000 and when it received approximately 1200 reports denouncing websites or profiles associated with commercial sexual exploitation, detrimental to underage persons."*⁴²

In **ECUADOR**, the National Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons, the Unlawful Smuggling of Migrants, Labour Sexual Exploitation and other Forms of Exploitation of Women and Children, Child Pornography and the Corruption of Minors is organized around three focal points, the first of which is, in fact, "Prevention". Within this focal point, three strategic objectives are proposed:

"Strategic Objective 1: To produce quantitative and qualitative knowledge on the nature and dimensions of the problem, stakeholders, conducts and crimes; information which will serve as the basis to foster socio-cultural changes, decision-making and the implementation of policies, plans and programmes in relation to the subject of the plan" (National Plan, 2006: 15).

"Strategic Objective 2: To design and implement a communication strategy targeting the various social and institutional stakeholders, in order to raise awareness, train and inform regarding the dimensions and seriousness of the problems that are the object of this plan, and encourage prevention, reporting and protection that will contribute to changing cultural norms and practices." (National Plan, 2006: 17).

"Strategic Objective 3: To generate processes involving education, training and awareness-raising with and for different social stakeholders, who play, or could play, a role in identifying, preventing, recovering, repairing and restoring rights in relation to the problems that are the object of this plan." (National Plan, 2006: 20).

In this context, the State highlights some of the most significant actions performed as from 2012:⁴³

⁴² Costa Rica: The State's answer to the 2014 Questionnaire.

⁴³ Ecuador: The State's answer to the 2014 Questionnaire.

- ✓ Training workshops delivered to civil servants on the subject of trafficking in persons, with the collaboration of State institutions, international cooperation and civil society.
- ✓ Development of a project on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism, conducted by the Ministry of Tourism.
- ✓ Redesign and maintenance of the website *Regional Action Group of the Americas* (GARA) for the prevention of the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism: www.grupodeaccionregional.gob.ec
- ✓ Tri-fold brochures, posters, informative booklets, fold-outs and roll-ups were produced with awareness-raising messages and information on the subject of trafficking in persons, and delivered to citizens during the various awareness-raising and training programmes, as well as at the country's borders, ports and airports.
- ✓ Four cylinders and a hoarding with information on the prevention of trafficking in persons were installed at the international exit of Quito's Mariscal Antonio José de Sucre Airport at Tababel, with IOM funding and the support of the municipality of the Metropolitan District of Quito and Quiport.
- ✓ A radio campaign against trafficking in persons was conducted by the Ministry of the Interior, with the purpose of raising the awareness of the population of the northern and southern border areas and the provinces of Pichincha and Guayas.
- ✓ The subject of trafficking in persons was addressed on the social networks, such as Facebook and Twitter.

No impact assessments of these actions have been carried out.

In **EL SALVADOR** the National Action Plan of the National Policy for Children will include strategies and specific lines of action related to the prevention of any manifestation of violence against children. A special emphasis will be made on strengthening the protective role played by families, the modification of parenting patterns, and the right to sexual and reproductive health, among other aspects.

For its part, the Work Plan against Trafficking in Persons 2014-2015 will develop the focal points and guidelines identified in the National Policy against Trafficking in Persons, one of which is, specifically: a) The Prevention Focal Point: guidelines for dissemination, detection and primary prevention.

In **JAMAICA** the National Policy for the Reintegration of School-Aged Mothers into the Formal School System is itself viewed as a means of preventing SEC. The compulsory reintegration into the formal school system ensures that girls' and young women's opportunities for empowerment and self-sufficiency are not reduced, thus preventing them from becoming the victims of other crimes such as trafficking, prostitution or sexual abuse.

In **MEXICO**, the National Programme is organized around four broad objectives, with their respective strategies and lines of action, the first being: "*Objective 1: To prevent the crime of trafficking in persons, its modalities and to foster the visibility of this crime.*" "*This preventive approach is based on the generation of public policies that seek to alert the population to the characteristics and modalities of the different types of trafficking in persons [...]*" aiming "*mainly at reducing the risk of victimization*" (National Programme, 2014-2018: 13).

In order to achieve this objective, the following strategies and lines of action are identified:

Strategy	Lines of Action
1.1. Raise awareness and inform the population about the characteristics and ways of trafficking in persons.	<p>1.1.1. Develop educational programmes on the use of the Internet, social networks and their risks with regard to trafficking in persons.</p> <p>1.1.2. Disseminate the risks and consequences of trafficking, the rights of victims, means of reporting and support.</p> <p>1.1.3. Implement informative campaigns on trafficking modalities, as well as on the means used by traffickers.</p> <p>1.1.4. Design, produce and disseminate informative material in different languages, registers, tools and media on trafficking in persons.</p> <p>1.1.5. Promote campaigns to discourage the use of products and services that could be employed in trafficking in persons.</p>
1.2. Design, promote, implement and coordinate national and international prevention campaigns on trafficking in persons.	<p>1.2.1. Coordinate and implement surveillance operations at air, land and sea passenger terminals, and border crossings, to prevent victimization.</p> <p>1.2.2. Promote the participation of society in general in the prevention of crimes related to trafficking in persons.</p> <p>1.2.3. Develop mechanisms to foster reporting that are accessible to the population.</p> <p>1.2.4. Implement permanent campaigns within the country and beyond its borders, in order to prevent crimes related to trafficking in persons.</p>

	<p>1.2.5. Coordinate the design of international cooperation models with non-governmental authorities and organizations with a view to increasing prevention.</p> <p>1.2.6. Establish measures to ensure birth registration in more remote areas of the country, including untimely registration and/or for children born abroad.</p> <p>1.2.7. Inform migrants within the country and beyond its borders of the risks and implications involved.</p>
<p>1.3. Generate training programmes targeting civil servants in the three branches of government to increase understanding of the problem.</p>	<p>1.3.1. Establish general guidelines and incorporate them into training programmes targeting civil servants in the three branches of government.</p> <p>1.3.2. Develop and implement ongoing training, awareness-raising, capacity-building and professionalization programmes for civil servants in the three branches of government.</p> <p>1.3.3. Design specific plans targeting civil servants who can act as multipliers in order to establish specialized teams in the subject.</p>
<p>1.4. Encourage the participation and collaboration of civil organizations, non-governmental organizations and academia in the prevention of trafficking in persons.</p>	<p>1.4.1. Strengthen links with civil organizations, non-governmental organizations and academia for the implementation of coordinated action with a view to prevention.</p> <p>1.4.2. Promote specialization and certification for civil society organizations devoted to fighting crimes related to trafficking in persons.</p> <p>1.4.3. Foster the support of private citizens in the performance of preventive activities in highly vulnerable areas of the country.</p> <p>1.4.4. Provide incentives for civil organizations devoted to preventing crimes related to trafficking in persons in high-risk areas.</p>
<p>1.6.⁴⁴ Foster the monitoring of establishments and the media which, because of the services they offer, could result in the perpetration of crimes related to trafficking in persons.</p>	<p>1.6.1. Adopt measures for the inspection of labour centres, businesses and services that could encourage crimes related to trafficking in persons.</p> <p>1.6.2. Implement monitoring guidelines for the media in order to prevent the perpetration of crimes related to trafficking in persons.</p> <p>1.6.3. Design and disseminate codes of ethical conduct for different industries, the agricultural sector and the business, trade and services industries.</p> <p>1.6.4. Foster the implementation of codes of ethics in labour, urban, rural, industrial, manufacturing and agricultural</p>

⁴⁴ Strategy 1.5 refers to coordination between branches of government, addressed under the previous heading.

	<p>centres.</p> <p>1.6.5. Involve the social, business, industrial and productive sectors in actions to prevent trafficking in persons.</p>
--	--

Source: National Programme to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Crime Involving Trafficking in Persons and to Protect and Assist Victims of these Crimes, 2014-2018.

Beyond the multiple lines of action envisaged in the Programme, which entered into force this year, the country underscored two activities that were effectively performed:⁴⁵

- ✓ Entry into force of the *Guidelines for the Surveillance and Monitoring of Classified Ads*, which establish a procedure to supervise and monitor the classified ads published in any media and whose content could encourage or promote the perpetration of any of the crimes related to trafficking in persons.
- ✓ A Forum held on *Analysis of and Reflections on Trafficking in Persons involving Children*, whose objective was to contribute to the professionalization of civil servants and service providers. It was organized by the National DIF System, the Governance Secretariat, the Special Prosecutor's Office for Crimes Involving Violence against Women and Trafficking in Persons, the National Women's Institute.

*"These actions were performed during the current year, so it is not possible to measure their impact at this time."*⁴⁶

In **PANAMA**, the National Plan also contemplates preventive action. In particular, the State highlights awareness-raising activities in different communities, as well as a number of agreements that were entered into with various key institutional stakeholders for these issues, to perform awareness-raising and training activities for their staff and supply chain, and to prevent these crimes in the industry in question. For example, it mentions:

- ✓ Agreements and Letters of Commitment with the National Journalism Council. Meetings with directors of the media, the printed press, radio and TV. Awareness-raising and training seminar-workshops and forums conducted for social communicators, public relations specialists, journalists, radio and TV commentators and leader writers.
- ✓ An Agreement with the Chamber of Tourism of Panama (CAMTUR). A tour visiting the provinces in order to address the subject with hotel managers and

⁴⁵ Mexico: The State's answer to the 2014 Questionnaire.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

directors. A forum held for students of private schools and universities in the field of Hotel Management and Tourism.

- ✓ An Agreement with the Panamanian Hotel Association (APATEL). Over seventy seminars targeting human resources managers and directors in the tourism industry (hotels, restaurants, tourist operators, travel agencies, etc.), Panama's Tourism Authority staff, Tourist Police.

On the basis of this agreement, the director of Panama's Tourism Authority produced artwork for the campaign I AM NOT A TOY, targeting foreigners in order to alert them to the fact that the crime of sexual exploitation is prosecuted in Panama and the rights of the population under the age of 18 are protected. The campaign took place at Tocumen International Airport, with an Agreement of Collaboration entered into with the company Tocumen S.A.

- ✓ An Agreement with the Panamanian Association of Games of Chance (ASAJA). Seminar delivered to casino managers and distribution of over 10 000 tri-fold brochures and posters, which were placed inside the casinos.
- ✓ Framework Agreement between CONAPREDES and the University of Panama for the establishment of an Observatory against SE.

No impact assessments of these actions have been carried out.

In **PARAGUAY**, the National Plan contains two focal points related to prevention, with their respective objectives and lines of action, aimed mainly at reducing the vulnerability of children, by means of strategies taking place in personal, family, institutional and community environments:

Component	Specific Objective	Line of Action
Awareness-Raising	2. Public and private sector institutions and citizens in general are aware and assume their role regarding the SEC issue.	2.1 Implement SEC awareness campaigns for: key stakeholders (public and private sectors), the mass media, public opinion and vulnerable sectors.
		2.2 Avoid exposing children who have been sexually exploited to revictimization through social communication media, complying fully with the Children's Statute.
Prevention	6. CSEC cases are effectively prevented.	6.1 Train young people, children and their families in the prevention of SEC, including the subject in formal and non-formal education, through the MEC, with emphasis on the population at risk.

	<p>6.2 Reduce vulnerability factors among rural and urban populations.</p> <p>6.4 Implement monitoring and control for cases of sexual and domestic violence.</p> <p>6.5 Strengthen temporary prevention shelters.</p> <p>6.6 Produce proposals for the establishment of temporary homes specializing in: SEC, early pregnancy, drug addiction.</p>
--	---

Source: National Plan for the Prevention and Eradication of the Sexual Exploitation of Children, 2012-2017.

In this context, the National Secretariat for Childhood has performed several activities for prevention and for the dissemination of the subject, among which we should note:⁴⁷

- ✓ Awareness-Raising Campaign against Abuse, Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking in Children, "MY VOICE... IS YOUR VOICE... Let's Report Sexual Violence" (2012), which went on for a month and included a number of activities, such as the presentation of material on "How to talk about what happened without it hurting so much", a meeting at *El Cabildo* with thirty children from rural and urban areas, including Afro-descendants, in order to reflect on the subject, etc.
- ✓ Signature of Agreement with the National Tourism Secretariat (2013).
- ✓ Various awareness-raising and training workshops for civil servants.
- ✓ Various awareness-raising workshops and talks on trafficking and sexual exploitation aimed at children (over 500 children attended), mothers, fathers and teachers from the cities of Yaguarón and Tobatí and indigenous communities from the department of Boquerón.

In no case was an impact assessment performed.

In **PERU** both the *National Action Plan for Children* and the *National Action Plan against Human Trafficking in Peru* contain preventive actions.

Among the strategies to achieve Expected Outcome 14 of PNAIA, *Adolescents are not objects of sexual exploitation*, are included the following lines of action related to prevention (PNAIA 2021 Document: 80):

- *Strengthen the MIMP's 100 hotline and position it as a State strategy to denounce the sexual exploitation of children.*

⁴⁷ Paraguay: The State's answer to the 2014 Questionnaire.

- *Strengthen capacity on the prevention of child sexual exploitation in vulnerable groups and grassroots organizations.*
- *Communication and education campaigns, with the participation of children, in order to prevent sexual exploitation in families and in other settings, as well as dissemination of means of reporting the issue.*
- *Awareness-raising campaigns to prevent SEC and to avoid complicity and tolerance, targeting mainly men.*
- *Promote and/or encourage information gathering (studies, statistics, research, and other methods) leading to improved understanding and visibility of the issue.*

In addition, among the implementation strategies for Expected Outcome 17 – “*Children comprehensively protected from trafficking (sexual, labour, begging)*” – are:

- *Conducting studies and measurements to determine the extent and characteristics of the problem, and establish national registries to allow follow-up for care, recovery and reintegration processes for child victims of trafficking in persons.*
- *Strengthen the 0800-2-3232 hotline against trafficking in persons and position it as the State's strategy to report cases and situations involving violence against children, with an emphasis on trafficking, abuse and sexual exploitation of children, synchronizing it with the MIMP's 100 line.*
- *Conduct sustained information, communication and education campaigns on trafficking in children, in order to raise public opinion awareness regarding the risks this crime involves and foster innovative practices with civic responsibility.* By way of example, we can point to the incorporation of the CSEC issue in the “School on Air”, a Ministry of Education radio programme which reaches 65 provinces.
- *Establish institutional channels to allow coordination between initiatives of the State (of the three levels of government) and of local civil society, in the context of national policies, strengthening local networks for surveillance and prevention.*
- *Implement special programmes targeting teachers and children in educational institutions, aiming at prevention and the reporting of trafficking in persons.*

In its report, the country mentioned that three prevention campaigns were conducted: “More control and fewer exploitation routes”, organized by the Ministry for Women

and Vulnerable Populations; “Peru united against trafficking in persons and the sexual exploitation of children”, conducted by the Ministry of Tourism, the Migration Department and the Ministry for Women and Vulnerable Populations, and “Let’s Rescue Lives”, organized by the Ministry of the Interior.⁴⁸

Finally, in **URUGUAY**, the National Plan (2007) is divided into five sub-programmes, the first of which is “Prevention”. In this context, the following objectives and activities are suggested:

Objectives	Activities
1.1. Contribute to the modification of the prevailing social belief systems that underpin activities involving the sexual exploitation of children.	<p>1.1.1 Disseminate the National Plan in the community and in institutions and to professional practitioners involved at different levels.</p> <p>1.1.2 Promote and organize meetings for information and experience-sharing on the subject of CSEC.</p> <p>1.1.3 Conduct awareness-raising campaigns in the community through the mass media (maintained in the redesign of 2011, as heading 1.1.1).</p> <p>1.1.4 Coordinate awareness-raising campaigns with Mercosur and associated countries (maintained in the redesign of 2011, as heading 1.1.3).</p> <p>1.1.5 Generate sharing opportunities between the Committee and the Hotel and Tourism Industry, with a view to encouraging the production of a Code of Conduct for the sector (this was moved to the CARE sub-programme in the 2011 redesign).</p> <p>1.1.6 Establish sharing and advocacy opportunities with other commissions and committees involved in this issue: the Honorary Childhood Steering Council, CETI, Domestic Violence, SIPAV, Sexual Education and others (maintained in the redesign of 2011, as heading 1.1.4).</p>
	Added in the 2011 redesign, as heading 1.1.2: Generate social mobilization on the National Day against Child Sexual Exploitation.
1.2 Build knowledge on the situation of childhood in relation to this phenomenon.	<p>1.2.1 Enter into agreements with academia.</p> <p>1.2.2 Promote local participatory diagnoses in places where the risk is greater and for which there is no systematic information.</p>

⁴⁸ Peru: The State’s answer to the 2014 Questionnaire.

	1.2.3 Disseminate the information obtained from the studies.
1.3 Train human resources.	1.3.1 Train institutional officials and persons in charge who work in formal and non-formal education, health, tourism, migrations and consular offices, the Police Department, the media, the Judicial Branch and the Public Prosecutor's Office
	1.3.2 Train baseline teams in formal and non-formal education, health, tourism, the Police Department, the media, the Judicial Branch and the Public Prosecutor's Office, whose primary function is to provide support in the design and implementation of appropriate intervention strategies in each specific situation.
	1.3.3 Promote discussion opportunities with key educational institutions (the University of the Republic, the Catholic University, the National Police Academy, INAU's Study and Training Centre, Judicial Studies Centre, Teacher Training and ANEP subsystems) in order to provide training on SEC issues.

Source: National Plan for the Eradication of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, 2007.

We can deduce from this that most of the main actions are related to awareness-raising campaigns, training and research in particularly vulnerable territories. In this respect, the country highlights among the actions performed: the No Excuses Campaign, the Red Light, Stop Collaborating Campaign, and the training provided for 1000 practitioners throughout the country over the last seven years.

*"The outcome of the assessment of campaigns and training shows that there has been a positive impact on public opinion and practitioners. The issue is on the agenda, but much remains to be done in order to promote changes in the conceptions that make CSE possible and reproduce it."*⁴⁹

It should be noted that in the redesign of the 2011 Plan, training and knowledge-building, previously included in the Prevention Sub-Programme, were incorporated as a specific sub-programme, Sub-Programme 6: Training and Knowledge-Building.

⁴⁹ Uruguay: The State's answer to the 2014 Questionnaire.

3. Protection

In this section we delve into the States' current regulatory frameworks to address SEC, their effectiveness to punish, existing application weaknesses and changes that should take place as a result, and what the Action Plans establish in this regard.

Firstly, we should point out that all of the countries that are part of the study, as well as the remaining States in the Inter-American System, have ratified and/or acceded to the principal international instruments related to SEC.⁵⁰

As regards internal regulatory frameworks, we provide below a synthesis of the information on current laws, according to the country reports in answer to our Questionnaire.

⁵⁰ See Appendix 3: Ratifications Chart

STATE	ACT	COMMENTS
Argentina	Law Nº 26,061 , Comprehensive Protection of Child Rights Act.	
	Law Nº 26,364 , Prevention and punishment of trafficking in persons and assistance for its victims Act.	
Chile	Law Nº 19,617 of 1999	Incorporates new types of offences into the Criminal Code and broadens others, making punishments more severe in the case of underage victims and broadening the age range.
	Law Nº 19,927 of 2004 against Paedophilia, Prostitution and Pornography	Amends the sexual crimes section of the Criminal Code, increasing the types of conduct considered unlawful and adding, among others, the concept of "client", as a new active participant in the crime, punishable by ordinary imprisonment with a maximum term of between three years and a day and five years of imprisonment.
	Law Nº 20,207 of 2007	Establishes that the statute of limitations regarding sex offences against minors will be calculated as from the day that the minors come of age. Its intention is to give victims the opportunity of reporting their aggressors once they have turned 18, in view of the fact that before that age they are understood to be in a more unfavourable situation to reveal episodes of this nature.
	Law Nº 20,507 of 2011, "Categorizes the crimes of unlawful migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons and establishes regulations for their prevention and more effective criminal prosecution".	It categorizes the crimes of unlawful migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons and establishes regulations for their prevention and effective criminal prosecution, delivering further tools for the prosecuting agency to conduct investigations.
	Law Nº 20,526 of 2011, "Punishes the sexual harassment of minors, online child pornography and the possession of pornographic material involving children".	It aims to condemn the new criminal forms emerging in the shelter of the increasingly widespread growth of online social networks and other technological tools. <i>(continues)</i>



STATE	ACT	COMMENTS
	Decree № 557 of 2005	Declaring 18 May as National Day against the Sexual Exploitation of Children
Costa Rica ⁵¹	Law № 7899 of 1999, Act against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Underage Persons	It amends some of the articles of the Criminal Code related to CSEC crimes.
	Law № 8590 of 2007, Act to Strengthen the Fight against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Underage Persons	Introduces amendments to the Code of Criminal Procedure in favour of criminal proceedings in keeping with the victims' situation and to provide wider and timely access to effective justice.
	Law № 8720 of 2009, Act to Protect Victims, Witnesses and other individuals involved in criminal proceedings	Amends Law № 8590, increasing the criminal conducts and purposes of the crime of trafficking in persons, and including domestic trafficking.
	Law № 8811 of 2010	Determines the social responsibility of tourist enterprises, providing for the loss of licence of premises where commercial sexual exploitation takes place.
	Law № 9095 of 2013	Addresses trafficking in persons in all of its areas
	Executive Decree of 1 November 2013	Amends some of the articles of the Criminal Code, as well as the Migration and Alien Affairs Act, incorporating the crime of online and pseudo pornography, as well as the power to deny entry into the country to persons under preventive measures, with pending criminal proceedings as a result of sex crimes against underage persons, or who have served sentences for any of these crimes during the last fifty years.

⁵¹ As well as the laws which the country deemed particularly relevant, it also reported on the production, in October 2010, of a compilation of laws on the sexual exploitation of children, which is available from: http://www.pani.go.cr/files/Compendio_ESC.pdf



STATE	ACT	COMMENTS
Ecuador	Constitution of 2008	In the chapter devoted to the special protection of children, it stipulates that the State must adopt measures of protection and care for children, against all type of violence, abuse, sexual or any other exploitation, or against the neglect that these situations can lead to (Art. 46).
	Children's Statute, of 2013	Defines sexual exploitation (Art. 69) and imposes upon the State the obligation of adopting legislative, administrative, social, educational and any other measures necessary to protect children against these conducts (Arts. 72-74).
	Comprehensive Criminal Code of 2014	Characterizes the sexual exploitation of children as a crime, including enforced prostitution, sex tourism and child pornography. It increases the penalties stipulated for all of these crimes (as compared to the previous Criminal Code).
El Salvador	Constitution of the Republic of El Salvador.	
	Alien Affairs Act of 1986 (last amended in 2012)	
	Migrations Act of 1958 (last amended in 2012)	
	Criminal Code of 1997 (last amended in 2013)	<p>In Title XIX, Crimes against Humanity, the following activities are penalized: Article 367- Sale of Persons; Art. 367-A - Unlawful Smuggling of Persons; Art. 367-B - Trafficking in Persons; Art. 367-C - Aggravating circumstances for the offence of trafficking in persons, and Art. 370 - International Criminal Organizations.</p> <p>(continues)</p>



STATE	ACT	COMMENTS
Colombia	Comprehensive Protection of Children Act (LEPINA) of 2009 (last amended in 2013)	Its Title II - Rights of Protection, Chapter I - Personal Integrity and Freedom, contains twenty articles, among which are included: 37 - The right to personal integrity, 41 - Protection from trafficking in children, 55 - Protection from abuse and sexual exploitation.
	Special Comprehensive Act on a Life Free from Violence for Women , of 2010 (last amended in 2011).	
	Framework Act on Civic Coexistence and Administrative Contraventions of 2011 (last amended in 2012).	This law acts as a foundation for coexistence ordinances and includes some penalties. Among other things, it mandates municipalities to control offers of sexual favours and sexual harassment in public areas.
	Bill against Trafficking in Persons	Presented and examined by the Commission on Family, Children, Adolescence, the Elderly and Disabled Persons. The bill includes new criminal conduct and sentences to punish offenders, as well as procedures to prevent, protect and rehabilitate victims of this type of crime.
Jamaica	Child Care and Protection Act 2004	
	Trafficking in Persons Act 2007 - Amended August 31, 2013	
	Child Pornography Act 2009	
	Sexual Offences Act 2009	
	Cybercrimes Act 2010	



STATE	ACT	COMMENTS
Mexico	General Act to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Crime Involving Trafficking in Persons and to Protect and Assist Victims of these Crimes, of 2012.	Establishes measures catering to victims of trafficking in persons, as well as the penalties to be imposed for each of the forms of exploitation related to these crimes. The National Plan arises from this General Act.
	General Victims' Act of 2013	According to this Act, a victim is a person who has suffered, directly or indirectly, financial, physical, mental, emotional or any other damage or impairment that places his or her legal assets or rights at risk, as a result of the perpetration of a crime or of the violation of his or her human rights.
Nicaragua	Political Constitution of Nicaragua of 1987	
	Children's Statute, of 1998	
	Criminal Procedural Statute of Nicaragua, of 2001	
	Law № 641 of 2007, the Criminal Statute.	Regulating: Crimes against freedom and sexual integrity; sexual exploitation; pornography and payment for sex acts with adolescents; and trafficking in persons with the purpose of slavery, sexual exploitation or adoption.
	Law № 779 of 2012, Comprehensive Act against Violence to Women and Amendment to Law № 641, the Criminal Code.	Introduces amendments to the Criminal Code in relation to sex crimes.
Panamá	Law № 16 of 2004	
	Criminal Code	
	Judicial Code	



STATE	ACT	COMMENTS
Paraguay	National Constitution of 1992	
	Law № 1160/97 - Criminal Code	Penalizes certain conducts as forms of commercial sexual exploitation of children, as stated in the chapter about punishable acts against sexual freedom.
	Law № 1680/01 - Childhood Statute	Based on the doctrine of comprehensive protection, it establishes a system for the protection and promotion of child rights. It also contains specific prohibitions in Art. 31: prohibition of using children for the sex trade and Art. 25: children's right to be protected against all forms of exploitation.
	Law № 3440/08	Amends the Criminal Code in relation to the use of children in pornography.
	Law № 4788 of 2012, Comprehensive Act against Trafficking in Persons.	
Peru	Political Constitution of Peru	
	Law № 27337 of 2003, adopting the Childhood Statute	
	Law № 28251 of 2004	Amends the Criminal Code in relation to offences against sexual freedom, increasing penalties for a number of crimes and establishing new criminal offences, such as that of the user-client and sex tourism.
	Law № 28868 of 2006, Act empowering the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism to categorize offences by including regulations in relation to services offered in tourism, and to rate enterprises providing accommodation, and establish applicable penalties.	
	Supreme Decree № 007-2007-MINCETUR , Regulating Law № 28868 (continues)	



STATE	ACT	COMMENTS
	<p>Law № 28950 of 2007, Act against Trafficking in Persons and Unlawful Migrant Smuggling.</p> <p>--</p> <p>Supreme Decree № 007-2008 - IN, Regulating Law № 28950</p>	<p>Amends the wording of the Criminal Code in its articles 153 and 153-A on offences against personal freedom. Reclassifies the criminal offence of trafficking in persons, with reference to the definitions established in the Palermo Protocol, transferring it to the area of conduct that infringes upon liberty and removing it from the chapter on "procuring". Likewise, it amends article 303-A on the unlawful smuggling of migrants.</p> <p>--</p> <p>It establishes the responsibilities of the State's various sectors with regard to prevention, prosecution of the crime and protection of victims.</p>
	Law № 29174 of 2007, General Act on Residential Care Centres for Children.	
	Decree Law № 703 , Alien Affairs Act	<p>Victims of trafficking in persons may obtain residential and work permits in view of their exceptional circumstances, whenever it is deemed necessary to ensure their cooperation for the purpose of investigation, or criminal proceedings, or in consideration of their personal situation, and they shall be aided in their social integration.</p>
	Supreme Decree № 014-2006 - MIMDES of 2006	<p>Increases the standing of Ministerial Resolution № 624-2005 - MIMDES, of 22 September 2005, which adopts the "Guidelines of the Ministry for Women and Social Development acting as Governing Body of the National System for the Comprehensive Care of Children, for Intervention in Focal Points of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children".</p> <p>(continues)</p>



STATE	ACT	COMMENTS
Uruguay	Ministerial Resolution № 2570-2006-IN-0105 , of 2006 -- (continues) Ministerial Resolution № 129-2007-IN-0105 , of 2007	Institutionalizes the System for Registration and Statistics regarding the Crime of Trafficking in Persons and Similar Offences (RETA) -- Adopts the directive on " <i>Procedures regarding input, registration, consultation and reporting data in the RETA system</i> ".
	Resolution № 1558-2008-MP-FN of the Public Prosecutor's Office, of 2008	Adopts regulations on the assistance programme for victims and witnesses
	Resolution № 589-2009-MP-FN of the Public Prosecutor's Office	Adopts the "Guide on procedures for interviewing children, victims of sexual abuse, sexual exploitation and trafficking with the purpose of sexual exploitation".
	Legislative Decrees № 982, 986, 988 and 989 of July 2007	They include the criminal offence of advocating for trafficking in persons and punish personal complicity, concealment, obstruction of justice, and others.
	Law № 17,514/2002 , for the Prevention, Early Detection, Care and Eradication of Domestic Violence. Children's Statute (CNA) , of 2004	With the CNA, the country fulfils its commitment regarding bringing its legislation into line with international law on the subject – the Convention on the Rights of the Child – and mandates the adjustment of its institutions, services, programmes and policies according to the spirit of the Convention. It defines the situations in which children are deemed to be ill-treated or abused, including child prostitution, pornography and sexual abuse (Article 130). Likewise, it states that recipients of complaints regarding these situations must inform a competent judge immediately, at all times avoiding the revictimization of the child. (continues)



STATE	ACT	COMMENTS
	Law № 17,815/2004 , on commercial or non-commercial sexual violence committed against children or persons declared to be incompetent.	It classifies the criminal offences of pornography, prostitution and trafficking, with a special emphasis on clients who make use of prostitution and on the production of pornography.
	Law № 18,026/2006 , Cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law.	
	Law № 18,250/2008 , Migration Act	
	Law № 18,494/2009 , Control and Prevention of Money Laundering and the Funding of Terrorism Act.	
	Law № 18,914/2012 , Money Laundering Act	

CHILE considers that significant progress has been made in the classification and penalization of a number of criminal offences related to commercial sexual exploitation, including penalties for clients. As a successful example of the application of the law, it describes an event that occurred in late 2012, which entailed breaking up a sexual exploitation network, “*concluding with the apprehension of 17 persons involved, including clients and facilitators. There are still four people in preventive detention. The remaining defendants, most of them clients, are serving house arrest sentences, or have accepted an alternative measure in exchange for acknowledging their crimes*”.⁵²

The weaknesses that the country has encountered in their application are not related to the laws themselves, but to other phenomena, such as attitudes that view this crime as a natural event, tolerance and the invisibility of the problem, as well as the recantation of victims who fail to recognize themselves as such, given the complexity of CSE situations. Likewise, it stresses the fact that time frames for judicial proceedings and the reparation process for children who are victims of CSE do not coincide.

In this respect, the country considers that in order to increase the effectiveness of the regulatory framework it is necessary, on the one hand, to continue working on raising awareness of the issue, the presence of exploiters, its multiple causes and on facing myths. And on the other, to increase the time allocated to preventive measures for children in relation to protection and introduce videotaped interviews for sex crimes against underage victims.

COSTA RICA also considers that the country has made great progress in creating and applying specific legislation on the issue, adjusting it to current behaviour. For example, with the amendments of late 2013, amendments were made to the law, creating criminal offence classifications that are in line with criminal conduct associated with social networks and websites.

As regards application difficulties, Costa Rica agrees with Chile in that “*the greatest weakness involves the detection and identification of the crime and the victim. It is not always possible to perceive clearly when an underage person is the victim of sexual exploitation; or when it is detected, there is tolerance and indifference to the situation, which makes it impossible to identify, much less prosecute the action*”.⁵³

⁵² Chile: The State's answer to the 2014 Questionnaire.

⁵³ Costa Rica: The State's answer to the 2014 Questionnaire.

Because of this, it considers that the cross-cutting focal point for this issue should still be prevention, awareness-raising and training.

In **ECUADOR**, in recent years, citizens' dissatisfaction with the current criminal legislation was evident, as it was deemed to be insufficient to punish criminal offences. For this reason, the National Assembly saw the need to issue a new Code that would consolidate processes and toughen punishments. The **Comprehensive Criminal Code** emerged as a result. "*It is imperative to point out that, while as yet no cases have been tried under this Comprehensive Criminal Code, because of its heavy punitive slant, the law will act as a deterrent among members of society and, we hope, will contribute to reducing the perpetration of these heinous crimes.*"⁵⁴

*"The main weakness in applying the legislation is the classification of the criminal offence, owing to unfamiliarity with the specific crime of trafficking in persons with the purpose of sexual exploitation on the part of some members of the Prosecutor's Office and the National Police. In many cases, this offence is confused with procuring, corruption of minors and other related offences, which carry less severe punishments than trafficking in persons and which, in addition, makes it difficult to maintain accurate statistics on this crime and how to fight it effectively."*⁵⁵

Therefore, in order to ensure that this Comprehensive Criminal Code is implemented correctly, it is considered necessary to train judicial practitioners, members of the National Police and all authorities involved in the investigation and punishment of this crime.

EL SALVADOR considers that there have been positive developments in this issue, with some convictions in recent years.⁵⁶

The country highlights the fact that one of the weaknesses encountered in the effective application of the law is the transnational nature of the crime, added to migratory flows, which makes it necessary to make arrangements between States for the investigation of the crime. In addition, personnel specializing in new technologies (computer networks, for example) are needed, as well as technological teams and resources for the investigation of this type of crime.

⁵⁴ Ecuador: The State's answer to the 2014 Questionnaire.

⁵⁵ Ibid.

⁵⁶ See: http://www.elsalvador.com/mwedh/nota/nota_completa.asp?idCat=47859&idArt=7550424 - <http://www.transparenciaactiva.gob.sv/el-salvador-segundo-en-condenas-por-trata-de-personas/>

Therefore, in order to improve the effectiveness of the regulatory framework, “*it is necessary to provide technical tools to National Protection System officials, and to reinforce coordination strategies between the judicial system and crime investigation, from a local perspective*”.⁵⁷

JAMAICA considers that its legislation is sufficient to impose punishments on offenders. However, it specifies that this is only possible so long as cases are handled efficiently by the judicial system. In January of this year, the Jamaican Constabulary Force’s Trafficking in Persons Unit reported that over the last two years, 27 victims of trafficking in persons had been rescued and that there are at present 7 cases that have been brought before the Courts.

As principal barriers to the application of the law, it identifies difficulties encountered in submitting evidence, as well as the non-availability of witnesses to confirm events. As a result, it understands that it is necessary to foster citizen support and cooperation, not only in communicating alleged cases suspected of CSEC, but also in providing evidence or statements against the perpetrators. In addition, to increase the capacity of members of the police and the judicial system, in order to handle cases effectively and efficiently.

MEXICO, for its part, also considers that it has made progress in legal terms and that the positive aspect of its legal framework is that, as it is a General Law, “*it is mandatory throughout the country, and therefore, the agencies have only one type of criminal offence to deal with and it is not necessary to promote amendments locally in order to address trafficking in persons*”⁵⁸.

“*Despite progress in the legal system, in terms of trafficking in persons, society continues to be unfamiliar with the causes, factors and consequences of the crime and its modalities, firstly owing to insufficiently effective means of deterring and informing the population, and secondly, as a result of limited coordination. In addition, there are no coordinated programmes or mechanisms which would make it possible to directly encourage the participation and collaboration of civil society, academia and non-governmental organizations to promote, foster and intensify the fight against trafficking in persons*” (National Programme, 2014: 7).

NICARAGUA considers that its legal framework provides effective means of punishment. “*It can be said that our weaknesses do not involve regulation, but rather*

⁵⁷ El Salvador: The State’s answer to the 2014 Questionnaire.

⁵⁸ Mexico: The State’s answer to the 2014 Questionnaire.

the eradication of tolerance towards violence and criminal offences against children who are victims of CSE.”⁵⁹

However, the lack of a law to establish the legal procedure for interinstitutional care of CSE victims is described as a deficiency. While this gap was filled in 2009 with a Guide for Detecting and Caring, produced by MIFAN, with the support of the ILO, it is deemed necessary to draft a law in this regard.

In **PANAMA** the National Plan is organized in four sections and the third of these addresses the investigation and punishment of exploiters and the protection of the rights of CSE victims.

“Cases for which statistics are the most readily available are those involving CHILD PORNOGRAPHY, with very good conviction rates, as they have been investigated by prosecutors who have been well trained in the issue, and are scholarly and committed. In second place, Remunerated Sexual Relations and Procuring”⁶⁰.

The principal weakness in relation to applying the law is the correct classification of the crime. “[...] to keep a case going, according to them, they find it easier to provide evidence for domestic sex crimes than for sexual exploitation. This situation ignores the crime and makes it invisible, as well as affecting the investigation work that should be performed in relation to criminal legislation and the international human rights instruments.”⁶¹

“[...] CSE modalities would be dealt with fairly if they were positioned more appropriately under the Crimes against Humanity Title of the Criminal Code, just as Trafficking in Persons is provided for, also considered part of organized crime, bearing in mind that the crime of CSE violates the human rights of the most vulnerable population, persons under the age of 18.”⁶²

In **PARAGUAY**, “Legal and Regulatory” is another of the focal points of the National Plan, and the following is proposed under its heading:

⁵⁹ Nicaragua: The State’s answer to the 2014 Questionnaire.

⁶⁰ Panama: The State’s answer to the 2014 Questionnaire.

⁶¹ Ibid.

⁶² Ibid.

Specific Objective	Line of Action
4. The body of law is adjusted to prevent, protect from and punish SEC, and judicial officials prioritize SEC cases, responding effectively and efficiently.	<p>4.1 Adjust laws with a view to responding effectively to SEC issues and SEC-related international commitments, thus facilitating the comprehensive development of children.</p> <p>4.2 Incorporate the necessary changes in the Criminal Code and Criminal Procedural Code in order to ensure the exemplary punishment of the perpetrators of sexual exploitation of children.</p> <p>4.3 Incorporate the necessary changes in the body of law, aiming at effectively addressing the SEC issue.</p> <p>4.4 Judicial institutions fulfil their role completely; are aware, trained and prioritize SEC cases.</p> <p>4.5 Implement penalties for public and private institutions that fail to fulfil their role completely and punish those who fail to report cases.</p>

Source: National Plan for the Prevention and Eradication of the Sexual Exploitation of Children, 2012-2017.

The country considers that its regulatory framework is effective. As a case in point, it gives an account of a historic conviction in which, after a two-week oral trial, two men were sentenced to 30 years' imprisonment for the criminal offences of sexual abuse, coercion and the production of pornography with the participation of minors. This is the longest sentence imposed in Paraguay for these offences.

However, as a weakness, the State identified certain activities that have not yet been regulated and/or classified, such as sex tourism, brothels, and children's access to the Internet. It is therefore necessary to take the steps required to enact these laws.

In **PERU**, according to the country report, the regulatory framework is only relatively effective, owing to wording issues in the classification of the crime of trafficking: "*the wording is not very clear, which has resulted in some judicial proceedings being declared invalid, because the crime of trafficking in persons was not duly categorized*", or was categorized under the criminal offence of "procuring". In this respect, the Permanent Multisectoral Working Group against Trafficking in Persons has submitted a bill to amend Article 153 of the Criminal Code to the wording provided by Law № 28950, in which the criminal offence is categorized more clearly.

In the case of **URUGUAY**, "*whereas progress over the last few years should be acknowledged, the coexistence of different laws that address the issue and judicial discretion give rise to negative effects inasmuch as whether a case goes before a justice of the peace court, a criminal court or courts specializing in organized crime hinges on its cover sheet and conceptualization. Cases in which the existing body of law is applied*

successfully are very few. The prosecution of procurers and ‘client’ perpetrators does not occur in all cases and it is these last who enjoy the greatest impunity.”⁶³ In this respect, the country considers that the law should be clearer and more explicit and that discretionary decisions should be limited.

A further weakness lies in the fact that the problem is seen as something natural, which hinders judicial action, the investigation phase, the gathering of evidence and building safeguards for victims.

Because of this, in Sub-Programme 2 – “Protection” – of the National Plan (2007)⁶⁴, the following objectives and activities are proposed:

Objectives	Activities
2.1 Adjust the country’s current legislation to ensure that it protects children from all forms of commercial sexual exploitation.	2.1.1 Produce draft bills to bring national laws into line with international commitments undertaken.
2.2 Disseminate current national and international legislation regarding the commercial sexual exploitation of children.	2.2.1 Disseminate laws and their amendments.
2.3 Prosecute the criminal offence of commercial sexual exploitation of children.	2.3.1 Create a Specialized Unit answering to the Ministry of the Interior (CEMI). 2.3.2 Develop cooperation with other countries in order to fight the commercial sexual exploitation of children. 2.3.3 Develop action to increase migratory control at border crossings.

Source: National Plan for the Eradication of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, 2007.

⁶³ Uruguay: The State’s answer to the 2014 Questionnaire.

⁶⁴ The 2011 redesign includes changes mainly involving terminology.

4. Recovery and Restoration

In this section we explore existing services to care for and restore the rights of child victims of SEC: principal characteristics, alignment with the rights-based perspective, coordination with the general protection system, impact assessments performed and weaknesses identified.

CHILE has 16 specialized services to care for children who are victims of CSE in 10 regions in the country, whose objective is to “restore the rights of child victims of commercial sexual exploitation, halt violations, and promote reparation of the harm caused, family and social integration and the strengthening of their capacity to protect themselves”. These projects are put up for open tender, implemented by NGOs, financed with fiscal resources and technically and financially supervised by SENAM. Over the course of 2013, 1206 victims were served.

At present, these services are included under special protection. However, the National Childhood Council was created last March, a body which has assumed the mandate of moving towards effective coordination and synchronization between the various agencies involved in the design and development of childhood policies, including those targeting child victims of CSE. Because of this, it is hoped that it will be included within the general system for the protection of children in the mid-term.

Intervention is organized in different stages; namely:⁶⁵

- *Intervention Process: Entry into the specialized programme, with the purpose of carrying out detection procedures and specialized diagnoses.*
- *Approach: a strategy that seeks to establish interactions between the project's personnel and the victim, with the purpose of initiating close relationships and developing trust, which will contribute to a child's sense of self-worth and provide relational support to the bonding process initiated.*
- *Shelter: a strategy which must be present from the first contact with the child and which must be constantly reinforced, from the moment of entry to the moment of exit from the process.*
- *Detection: an intervention strategy that aims to identify as precisely as possible the type of violation that the child and his or her peers are being subjected to,*

⁶⁵ Chile: The State's answer to the 2014 Questionnaire.

as well as the alleged clients and/or procurers involved. This implies the need for street work, among other strategies.

- *Specialized diagnosis:* an intervention strategy that aims to perform actions that will make it possible to discover the specific damage that affects child victims of sexual exploitation.
- *Individual intervention plan:* the intervention (or treatment) involves executing the intervention strategies and actions established in each individual intervention plan, with a view to repairing and/or shifting the meaning of the sexual exploitation that has been undergone in social, socio-educational, psychological and legal areas.
- *Follow-up and exit:* assessment of the repair process developed with the child, according to achievement indicators established for each of the intervention phases.

These services are in line with the rights-based perspective, as they are governed by the technical rules established by SENAME, which constitute guidelines that follow the rights-based approach and other meaningful and complementary perspectives such as the gender approach.

No impact assessments of these services have been carried out. However, a study entitled “*Children undergoing commercial sexual exploitation (CCSE): Report arising from the national survey on participation with a gender approach; 2012*”, includes the opinion of children who are cared for by the reparation projects. As regards the subject in question, the main conclusion was that in a sample of 227 children, 22.6% experienced inequality in education and health services; 15% reported having felt some kind of discrimination from persons involved in their care, while the rest of the population did not identify with any gender inequities.

In **COSTA RICA**, both the National Children's Board (PANI) and non-governmental organizations have institutional protection alternatives available to provide comprehensive care and special protection to the victims of sexual exploitation.

Likewise, in 2013, two NGOs opened mobile centres to address underage persons undergoing sexual exploitation or at risk of becoming victims. In them they deliver training programmes on subjects such as English, sewing, make-up and hairdressing, cooking, tourism and others.

All of the programmes, both the State's and the NGOs', are underpinned by the rights-based approach. For example, when working on building life projects for victims of sexual exploitation, their progressive autonomy is respected and their active participation is fostered in choosing and making decisions regarding the programme that could strengthen their capabilities, according to their interests.

Impact assessments have not been systematic. However, the State identifies as a weakness the absence of plans, programmes and projects targeting the male SEC-victim population.

In **ECUADOR**, the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion, through agreements of cooperation with private institutions, delivers specialized services involving shelter and residential care for the victims of trafficking, including trafficking with the purpose of sexual exploitation of children. The process has stages involving referrals, observation and inclusion, and emotional support.

These services are in line with the rights-based perspective, since "*they aim to protect the rights of institutionalized persons in a comprehensive manner, through services providing healthcare, education, adequate food, recreation and vocational training, among others*".⁶⁶

Up to 2013, the MIES performed evaluations of the institutions offering shelter to the victims of sexual exploitation, with the purpose of ensuring that these services were based on rights. The outcome of these assessments showed that not all of the institutions complied with the requirements of the MIES, and their continuing operations was conditional to their readjusting their management models. Further to this, no impact assessments are performed with the persons cared for.

As a weakness, the State mentions the scant allocation of financial resources and specialized staff to care for victims of sexual exploitation.

Since 2009, **EL SALVADOR** has a Regional Shelter for Victims of Trafficking, with the administration of ISNA. Children receive protection and care, including health and psychological care, food, clothing and personalized legal aid. Likewise, and in line with efforts with a view to empowering girls and young women, they receive vocational and entrepreneurial workshops, funded by the IOM. "*However, the services rendered by the shelters need to be enhanced, for which reason national and regional management processes have been launched with international cooperation agencies, with the*

⁶⁶ Ecuador: The State's answer to the 2014 Questionnaire.

purpose of delivering better care to victims and strengthening restoration of rights as well as reintegration into families and society, in a systematic and organized manner.⁶⁷

In **JAMAICA** the *National Taskforce Against Trafficking in Persons* handles rights restoration and reintegration services catering to children who have been victims of sexual exploitation. This is a national body coordinated by the Ministry of Justice, with the support of government agencies, national and international non-governmental organizations and international development partners.

Intervention begins with the identification of exploitation cases, both within the country and for Jamaicans living abroad, and then the necessary steps are determined in order to enable encounters, the restoration of rights and reintegration.

Impact assessments of these services are currently being carried out.

In **MEXICO**, the second broad objective of the National Programme is: “*To provide care, protection and assistance in a comprehensive manner to victims of trafficking in persons*” (National Programme, 2014-2018: 13). Within this framework, the following strategy and lines of action are established, among others:

Strategy	Lines of Action
<p>2.1 Promote means of coordination between branches of government in order to protect, care for and comprehensively help victims of crimes involving trafficking in persons.</p>	<p>2.1.1 Design and implement instruments to enable the provision of adequate follow-up to victims, for their protection, care and assistance.</p> <p>2.1.2 Produce an inventory of institutions' existing resources to care for victims.</p> <p>2.1.3 Design differentiated protocols for the care and protection of victims, to operate within the three branches of government.</p> <p>2.1.4 Design critical paths including time frames, attributions and obligations regarding care for victims.</p> <p>2.1.5 Design and implement training programmes for civil servants for the comprehensive care of victims of trafficking in persons.</p>

Source: National Programme to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Crime Involving Trafficking in Persons and to Protect and Assist Victims of these Crimes, 2014-2018.

Specifically, the country reports that the Federal Government has a high-security shelter run by the Special Prosecutor's Office for Crimes involving Violence against

⁶⁷ El Salvador: The State's answer to the 2014 Questionnaire.

Women and Trafficking in Persons, which caters to women and girls who are victims of these crimes. Likewise, there is coordination with civil society organizations to provide care for victims.

In addition, a national inventory of shelters providing services for children who are victims of these crimes is being conducted, and at the same time a Protocol to Identify, Care for and Protect Child Victims is being updated.

*"The inventory of shelters is being carried out through the State Systems for Comprehensive Family Development, and therefore Centres that are part of them must operate in accordance with this perspective [the rights-based perspective]. Likewise, the Protocol to Identify, Care for and Protect Child Victims takes the rights-based approach into account in all processes."*⁶⁸

In **NICARAGUA**, children who have been victims of the crime of commercial sexual exploitation are cared for comprehensively by the Bureau for the Care of Victims of Trafficking in Persons and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of the Ministry for Families, Adolescence and Childhood, which works jointly and in coordination with other government bodies responsible for fighting against SEC (MIGOB, National Police: Special Crimes and Women's Police Station; the Public Prosecutor's Office, Migration and Alien Affairs Bureau; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Criminal Courts, and National Social Welfare System institutions), NGOs, communities and families.

Interventions begin with the Special Protection process: priority care which attempts to safeguard the right to life, by providing urgent care for physical and psychological health issues.

When the protection of shelters is necessary, victims are referred to Special Protection Centres, run by non-governmental organizations. An individual care plan is designed for every child, in order to ensure that comprehensive care is provided and that their rights are restored, seeking family strengthening and, finally, social reintegration.

MIFAN ensures coordination and support throughout the care process. Thus, for each of the victims' rights, it coordinates with different State, civil society or private agencies: health - MINSA; education - MINED; recreation - families, municipalities, IND, communities and NGOs; integration into interest groups - NGOs; vocational or technical courses - INATEC. Likewise, if victims must undergo criminal proceedings, MIFAN provides all necessary support in order to achieve the conviction of exploiters

⁶⁸ Mexico: The State's answer to the 2014 Questionnaire.

or traffickers: filing complaints, producing and presenting social studies, contributing MIFAN administrative files, support for victims throughout the proceedings, and other actions.

Care is provided according to the rights-based approach, the best interest of the child is borne in mind and his or her opinions are heard and taken into account, in keeping with the age and maturity of the child, in compliance with the mandates of the Convention and the Children's Statute.

In relation to impact assessments of these services, the country reports that "*the restoration of the rights of children at risk of becoming victims and of victims of CSE has been achieved at the border crossings of Peñas Blancas, Guasaule, Las Manos, el Espino and vulnerable tourist areas such as Granada and San Juan del Sur, by means of their civil registration, school enrolment, enjoyment of the right to risk-free recreation and integration into an affectionate family with values.*"⁶⁹

In the case of **MEXICO**, the wording of the National Programme itself indicates that: "*With regard to the care and assistance provided to victims of trafficking in persons, they are frequently transferred to refuges or shelters that have not been checked and are not supervised, let alone certified. Added to this, these shelters are established through the efforts of civil society, and lack means of support to address the basic needs of the beneficiaries.*

Refuges, shelters, half-way houses, foundations or government bodies all lack the unity of criteria which would be provided by a model to provide comprehensive care. Neither is there an adequate network of specialized support to coordinate means of care and protection for victims of trafficking. Despite the fact that there is a National Network for the Care of Victims, with 773 agencies, only three of them are devoted to the care of victims of trafficking in persons or some form of exploitation, which is evidence of the very limited visibility of this criminal conduct.

It should be mentioned that the state of Tlaxcala is the only one in the whole of the country that has a comprehensive model, entitled 'Care Model for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Girls', which was drafted by the National Women's Institute, the State Women's Institute of Tlaxcala and the government of the state of Tlaxcala in 2010" (National Programme, 2014: 8).

⁶⁹ Nicaragua: The State's answer to the 2014 Questionnaire.

PANAMA has nothing to report on this point of the Questionnaire. However, when identifying the organizations that are part of CONAPREDES and their role within the framework of the National Plan, the San José de Malambo Home is mentioned, with its care programme for victims of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation, known as YOUR DIGNITY IS VALUABLE, which has been caring for victims in the Western region – where it is situated – since 2006, as well as for victims identified and referred by SENNIAF or by Migrations. *"The orphanage has classrooms and offers crop-growing alternatives to the population being served and their families, in support of the food-provision sustainability of this population. The technical team of psychologists and social workers delivers awareness-raising workshops to teenagers between 12 and 14, and between 15 and 17 years of age."*⁷⁰

In **PARAGUAY**, the National Secretariat for Childhood has, since 2008, a Coordination for Prevention and Assistance to Victims of Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Children, which is in charge of comprehensive care for child victims. It works in coordination with the Specialized Unit on Trafficking in Persons and Sexual Exploitation of Children of the Public Prosecutor's Office, joining in the execution of search warrants in order to provide psychological support for the victims, as well as with the Ministry for Women, which offers temporary shelter for girls and teenagers rescued during a search. During their stay, victims receive medical care, psychological support and help in procedures to obtain identity documents and in judicial proceedings with the Children's Ombudsman and the Prosecutor for Children, with a view to their family reintegration. Once this reintegration has been achieved, the case is referred to the jurisdiction of CODENI, in order to follow up on family, school, psychological and medical resettlement.

No impact assessments of these services have been carried out.

In **PERU** the following care and victims' rights restoration services are in place:

- **Residential Care Centres** of the National Comprehensive Social Welfare Programme, of the Ministry for Women and Vulnerable Populations: they provide comprehensive care for female teenagers between 12 and 18, most of them victims of trafficking with the purpose of sexual exploitation, providing personalized care and, in addition, training for work.
- **Emergency Centres for Women** of the National Programme against Family and Sexual Violence: specialized free care including psychological, legal and social aid for victims of trafficking in persons with the purpose of sexual exploitation

⁷⁰ Panama: The State's answer to the 2014 Questionnaire.

(adults and minors). There are currently **200** Emergency Centres for Women all over the country.

- **Shelter House** for victims of trafficking in persons, run by the Institute of Legal Medicine of the Public Prosecutor's Office (Trafficking Plan 2011-2016: 53).
- The Institute for Childhood and Family Studies, "*IDEIF has a reference centre in Iquitos, which cares for victims of commercial sexual exploitation, and plans to prepare a further comprehensive care centre for trafficking in the district of Santa Anita, in Lima*" (Trafficking Plan 2011-2016: 58).
- **Legal Aid Offices** of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights provide legal aid to victims.
- **Children's Ombudsman:** a public, administrative and free service specializing in children, whose objectives are to promote and protect the rights of children recognized by law. Ombudsman Offices refer complaints of trafficking in persons and sexual exploitation of children to the appropriate agencies, such as the Criminal Prosecutor's Offices and the National Police (police stations or DIVINTRAP).
- The Ministry of the Interior offers help to victims and potential victims of trafficking through the **Network of Consular Offices** throughout the world and the **network of decentralized offices:** Arequipa, Cusco, Iquitos, Piura, Puno, Tacna and Tumbes (Trafficking Plan 2011-2016: 50-51).

No impact assessments have been carried out.

In **URUGUAY**, there is a Victims Care Programme. Its implementation, funding and supervision varies according to whether cases are in Montevideo or in other parts of the country. In Montevideo, procedures are run by the State and there is direct intervention with the victims. In other parts of the country, procedure management is blended, as the State has entered into agreements with two NGOs, whose travelling teams work on training and supporting local technical staff and institutions.

At present, instruments are being designed in order to conduct impact assessments. However, the lack of personnel to care for victims has already been identified as a weakness.

5. Participation

In this section we seek to discover whether children and children's organizations have taken part in the design of the Plan and its implementation, and in what way, and whether self-protection is promoted.

In **CHILE** children did not take part in the production of the Second Framework for Action, nor do they do so in the actions included in the Plan.

In **COSTA RICA**, children did not take part in the production of the Roadmap nor in the National Development Plan. However, Participatory Councils of children are being established at present, which will be included in local protection sub-systems in order to give them a leading role in decision-making related to SEC prevention.

With regard to self-protection, PANI has designed a strategy so that teenagers can become aware of how easy it is for sexual exploiters to attract them via the social networks. They placed small banners on Facebook, and when the young people "liked" a banner, they were taken to PANI's official website, where they received advice on safe Internet surfing.

In **ECUADOR**, the Interinstitutional Commission on the Implementation of the National Plan against Trafficking in Persons worked on a draft proposal in several internal workshops, with all of its member institutions, in order to promote consultation and feedback. In particular, the National Childhood Council promoted three regional workshops with local stakeholders of the National Decentralized Comprehensive Protection System (SNDPINA), among whom representatives of the Children's Movement took part. *"All of the contributions gathered at the various events have been incorporated into the final document of the National Plan."*⁷¹

Despite this, at present children's organizations do not take part in the actions included in the Plan.

With regard to self-protection, the State reports on a strategy implemented by the Ministry of Education, within the framework of the Strategic Plan for the Institutionalization of Sex Education 2013-2017. *"Peer methodologies are being implemented on comprehensive sex education, with the purpose of providing information and training to adolescents and young people in the education community."*

⁷¹ Ecuador: The State's answer to the 2014 Questionnaire.

One of these is a participatory process on the prevention of gender violence and sexual violence in the education system, a game-based methodology implemented between peers in order to ensure reflection, awareness and empowerment for the prevention of sex crimes [...]".

In **EL SALVADOR**, during the design of the National Policy for the Comprehensive Protection of Children, CONNA developed a countrywide survey with the participation of 7341 persons, of whom 3784 were children. Specifically with regard to the crime of sexual exploitation, a focus group was formed with the population of the regional shelter for victims of trafficking. The children identified and presented the principal situations that represent threats and violations of their human rights.

In addition, children's organizations are in the process of being formed, in compliance with the regulations established in LEPINA. They are now called *Associations to Promote and Assist in Child Rights* (Art. 93, LEPINA). These organizations are an integral part of the National Comprehensive Protection System and will be included in the validation of the National Action Plan.

In relation to actions to promote self-protection among children in the face of SEC-related threats, the State reports that:

- The Civil National Police (PNC), in coordination with Save the Children, has carried out informative sessions on how to prevent trafficking and sexual exploitation in public school centres. A total of 1377 boys and 1522 girls have taken part.
- ISNA's Volunteer Multiplying Agents Programme. Develops competencies in teenagers in order to share lessons learned and experiences on the human rights of children, and prevent trafficking, sexual exploitation and other forms of abuse. It is implemented in the seven regional and departmental delegations.

In **JAMAICA**, as we have said, the National Policy for the Reintegration of School-Aged Mothers into the Formal School System was designed by means of a consultative process which also included children, who were organized into focus groups. Likewise, teenage mothers who are currently being catered to through this policy were consulted on their specific needs and how they could be satisfied by means of a policy of this type.

In **MEXICO**, children did not take part in the design of the National Programme to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Crime Involving Trafficking in Persons and to Protect and

Assist Victims of these Crimes and no information is provided on whether they participate in its implementation.

In order to promote self-protection, informative campaigns have been carried out, with a view to providing information on means of “hooking” victims and on what measures to take when a threat is identified.

The same kind of activity is conducted in **NICARAGUA**.

In **PANAMA** children did not participate in the design of the Plan, but it is expected that they shall do so in the next one.

Self-protection actions have been promoted. One example is provided by the psychologists of the San José de Malambo Home. By means of games, the teach children and teenagers their rights according to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, how to prevent certain risks and how to respect their bodies and say no.

In **PARAGUAY**, four workshops were held with children in rural and urban areas and with indigenous populations in the cities of Asunción, Encarnación and Ciudad del Este. They included participatory construction of what is understood by sexual exploitation and what the authorities are expected to do about it. *“Based on the consultation workshops [...] strategies were designed in order to combat this crime, in terms of prevention, protection, punishment and comprehensive care, as well as institutional strengthening.”⁷²*

In **PERU**, during the process of designing the National Action Plan for Children, regional workshops were held with children in order to gather their contributions and opinions on the issues presented in the Plan. Likewise, a representative of the National Children's Council participates on the Cross-Sectoral Commission in charge of implementing the Plan.

Self-protection was promoted through the Crusade against Trafficking in Children, which included a competition for students in educational institutions throughout the country. Competitors were asked to compose songs and messages on the prevention of trafficking in persons in its different forms; among them, sexual exploitation.

URUGUAY has nothing to report on this point in the Questionnaire. However, it included a new sub-programme in its redesign of the Plan in 2011: CHILD PARTICIPATION In this context, the following objectives and activities are suggested:

⁷² Paraguay: The State's answer to the 2014 Questionnaire.

Objectives	Activities
5.1 Safeguarding child participation in the issues that concern them.	<p>5.1.1 Hold a poster competition for children with a view to raising awareness in the subject.</p> <p>5.1.2 Hold a competition on the design of a new logo for CONAPESE.</p> <p>5.1.3 Facilitate training and dissemination meetings in coordination with INAU's teen participation programmes.</p> <p>5.1.4 Encourage the production of artistic manifestations on the subject, involving teenagers and youth.</p>

Source: National Plan for the Eradication of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, 2011.

6. General Evaluation of the Process

In this section, we seek to discover how the Plan, if it exists, is evaluated in general terms, as well as the views of the person answering the questionnaire in relation to the Plan and its development, classified in strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.

In the first place, we should point out that none of the countries provides information on the assessment of the Plan's outcomes; many do not answer this point, while others state that its period of validity has not yet ended.

With regard to the personal view of the Plan and its development, a SWOT analysis is shown below, the outcome of a synthesis of the answers received:⁷³

⁷³ Note: the order in which the answers appear has no bearing on their significance. At the top of the list are the answers that are reiterated in various countries; after that, answers are grouped by issue similarity.



STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involves a wide number of agencies committed to its cross-sectoral development/participation (xxxxxx). • Arranges and documents existing institutional coordination in order to address SEC comprehensively / distribute responsibilities for each institution (xxxx). • Comprehensiveness / a Plan with a comprehensive approach to crime prevention, victim care, investigation and punishment of exploiters and protection of victims' rights (and strengthening of the Commission, in this specific case) (x). • Synchronization with other plans that address these problems (x). • It evolves into a working guide and essential tool to direct institutional efforts in the subject. • Contributes to improving organizational capacity to approach situations. • It is requested in the National Action Plan against Trafficking in Persons that all institutions allocate a budget for the implementation of the Plan. • A homogeneous tool that can be implemented throughout the country. • It is mandatory. • It creates a body in charge of follow-up, systematization and half-yearly feedback in relation to developments and the commitments undertaken. <p>(continues)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no surveillance systems / monitoring and evaluation indicators for the fulfilment of the Plan, or they should be improved (xxxx). • There is no effective countrywide and interinstitutional coordination with the purpose of achieving prevention and assistance for children, and the more effective punishment of exploiters, with a rights-based perspective, and without overlapping efforts undertaken by the different agencies involved (xx). • Not all of the institutions participating in the Plan's design address the execution of the Plan as a priority (xx). • As it is associated with other violations of rights, it can be rendered invisible in institutional terms (x). • Lack of a budget for the implementation of the Plan / No exclusive resources have been allocated to the implementation of Plan (x). • Lack of clarity and knowledge of the subject, which leads to application weaknesses (x). • A number of actions take place, but they do not all lead to the expected outcomes. • Difficulties in the implementation of the body of law in relation to punishing clients. • The continuity of participation opportunities needs to be ensured: policies open to dialogue, reflection, criticism and building and rebuilding. • Lack of dissemination of the Plan.



- In legal operations and those related to the protection of victims, progress has been seen in Public Prosecutor's pilot projects, which outline the procedures to use in the criminal prosecution of child exploiters (clients, intermediaries, procurers and exploitation networks).
- It gives priority to protection and victims' rights.
- It seeks to raise the awareness of the population in order to bring about a cultural change which implies zero tolerance for sexual exploitation.
- It focuses on the decentralization of the approach to sexual exploitation at national, departmental and municipal levels.
- It incorporates the leading participation of children in the prevention of sexual exploitation.
- In PNAIA 2012-2021, the problem of the sexual exploitation of teenagers is differentiated from trafficking in persons in the form of sexual exploitation.

OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The commitment of related sectors and contributions to the positioning of the subject on the various institutional agendas benefits interinstitutional coordination for a comprehensive approach (xxx). • International commitments undertaken (x). • The possibility of sharing good practices in the region. • The State's political will to confront the crime of trafficking in persons and sexual exploitation. <p>(continues)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes in political and administrative authorities (xx). • Positioning sexual exploitation as one of the worst forms of child labour, or as one of the purposes of trafficking can lead to a loss of identity of SEC as such (x). • Bureaucracy, the slowness of government proceedings. • Competing priorities on the political agenda. • Its status as a large-scale transnational crime prevents the country from solving the problem in isolation. Coordination between States is necessary.



- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Further to the commitment undertaken by previous governments, the authorities of the government currently in power have understood that the issue must be followed up in terms of human rights and have given their support to the Plan's actions.• Technical criteria and languages have merged to increase understanding of the phenomenon and intervention.• On the basis of the Plan, sectoral programmes have been generated in order to prevent child sexual exploitation, such as those designed by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Tourism.• The problem of sexual exploitation has become visible and the population in general and the public authorities have become aware of it. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Existence of crime syndicates of traffickers and procurers.• Owing to the power and financial resources produced by this crime, it leads to corruption among officials.• A lack of reliable national and international statistics on this crime. |
|---|--|

V) CONCLUSIONS

In order to organize the conclusions arising from the material provided by the countries, we shall follow the “Stockholm Focal Points”, the same criteria used for the rest of the report. Then we shall underscore some final considerations and recommendations.

First, it should be mentioned that disparities with regard to the approach to SEC in the public policies of the States in the region are very marked. While the links between SEC and other connected issues, such as trafficking, labour exploitation and other forms of violence can enable intervention strategies based on joint efforts, they can also reduce the visibility of SEC and neglect certain very specific aspects of this problem.

1. Coordination and Cooperation

A considerable step forward in the region is that the SEC issue has been included on the agendas of all of the States and within them, there are a number of agencies and institutions that go beyond those that traditionally dealt with these problems.

This implies that the subject has acquired a degree of visibility and constitutes a sign of the political will of the States to address this worrying situation. To this is added the effect that the existence of National Plans has on reaching agreements on guidelines and determining criteria for intervention with countrywide scope.

All of the countries have a governing body in charge of designing and implementing the National Plan. These bodies are composed of different public institutions, civil society organizations and international organizations (in some cases), which exceed the specific sphere of childhood.

In general terms, all of the institutions which are part of the specific agency (Committee, Board) have responsibilities both in the design and in the implementation of the Plan, and these specific roles and functions are appointed at the design stage. However, assessments show (see SWOT analysis) that there is an impression that these agreements do not always reflect actual practices on the ground. Institutions taking part in drafting the Plans do not prioritize the issue in the same way when allocating resources or planning training for their staff.

The countries report that their agencies' perception of SEC is consistent with the child rights-based perspective, in many cases linking this to the fact that the State has signed the CRC and other related international instruments. However, some countries also admit that not all of the institutions act in compliance with the comprehensive protection doctrine and that, conversely, some practices still persist that are based on the doctrine of the irregular situation. This is related to the staff training policies of the various institutions and to the priority which, within each one, is given to the rights-based perspective and the intervention guidelines that arise from it.

Finally, it should be pointed out that in no case is there local representation of the body charged with the design and implementation of the Plan (Committee, Commission). In general, the institutions that form these bodies do have local representation, but not the body as such (see Ecuador, Panama, Uruguay). In other cases (such as Chile, Costa Rica, Paraguay and Peru) there are parallel local strategies in the form of local interinstitutional boards or networks, or local committees to follow up on plans which are also local (as in Paraguay). Only in Mexico does the National Plan itself stipulate among its actions the creation of local cross-sectoral commissions.

These difficulties in reaching outlying territories are particularly significant in countries with very different social and cultural realities, where it is necessary to implement national guidelines while bearing local conditions most particularly in mind. In some cases, the availability of trained human resources in these areas is a weakness which must be addressed.

Cooperation between States is mentioned in relation to two aspects: coordination at border crossings and the investigation of crimes and the application of the law for people who do not live in the country where the crimes have been committed.

Border areas, viewed not as dividing lines, but as territories inhabited by people, merit a deeper analysis. While there is a certain amount of collaboration between institutions in different countries, it does not always follow central guidelines, but is based on relationships arising as a result of local sharing experiences.

Coordination between countries is presented as a problem when investigating a crime, applying the law and punishing the persons responsible.

A threat reported repeatedly by people who work in this field deserves a special mention. The high profits obtained from these criminal practices, together with other activities of organized crime, result in these organizations having significant resources

at their disposal that enable them to maintain and increase their fields of action. It is in this context that numerous examples of corruption among senior officials and middle management emerge, leading to a certain degree of impunity, while undermining the confidence of the population regarding the State's capacity to intervene effectively in these situations.

Finally, in relation to the contributions of international agencies, all of the countries receive, or have received some kind of support at different stages of the development of their Plan. On the whole, contributions consist of technical advice and financial support. In some countries (Chile, Costa Rica, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay), international agencies are also included in the body charged with the design and implementation of the Plan.

The international agencies most frequently mentioned by the countries that answered the survey were the ILO and the IOM, followed by IIN-OAS, UNICEF and the European Union.

2. Prevention

In all of the countries, the National Plans view prevention as an essential focal point in addressing the issue.

Two types of preventive action stand out: On the one hand, activities of a general kind, targeting the population as a whole, with the objective of **raising awareness** regarding the different forms of SEC and trafficking, their risks, the mechanisms employed by exploiters, the cultural values and attitudes that perpetuate these practices and the consequences suffered by the victims.

These campaigns also increasingly include information on the country's laws on the subject and means of reporting cases. In this way, the laws that punish "payment for sex with underage persons" are publicized, in an attempt to underline the criminal nature of these practices, in contrast with the tolerance that still predominates in a culture that views them as natural.

On the other hand, there are also activities aimed specifically at the actors directly involved in this area, or who could enter into contact with the vulnerable population; in particular, public officials. In these cases, activities are more closely related to **training and capacity-building**.

A number of countries (Chile, Ecuador, Panama, Paraguay) chose to highlight in their answers the actions they have performed in relation to the prevention of CSEC in travel and tourism, and the work carried out with key industry stakeholders (airports and border crossings in general, hotels, travel agencies, restaurants), which shows the significance that this modality or scenario has acquired recently (see Thirteenth Report to the SG). Mexico's National Plan also includes this kind of activity.

In addition, in some countries (Ecuador, Uruguay, Peru) research is being conducted into the nature and dimensions of the phenomenon, characteristics of victims and exploiters, etc. This kind of study contributes to understanding the problem and the particular features it acquires in some areas, such as in territories where industrial undertakings are established, or new tourist destinations are promoted, or where government control at border crossings is lax. This research is, therefore, significant in planning policies which address the special features of the different settings as well as of the stakeholders and forms of SEC that emerge there.

At the same time, it is possible to observe the growing importance of the media and the new technologies, from the point of view of both the risks they can lead to, and the role they can play in prevention, mainly by publicizing activities.

Finally, two significant pending matters are identified. On the one hand, few countries refer to activities developed with and for children, with a view to their empowerment and self-protection, which reflects a deficiency in the States with regard to child participation (which is repeated in relation to their participation in the design and general implementation of the Plans). On the other, **none of the countries have carried out impact assessments** of the activities they have implemented.

3. Protection

All of the countries that took part in the study have ratified and/or acceded to the principal international instruments that refer to or are related to SEC.

This is reflected in changes in their domestic regulatory body in order to bring it into line with the international commitments undertaken.

With regard to SEC in particular, all of the countries consider that they have made progress, by including either new types of offences or new types of offenders (such as client-exploiters) and/or by making sentences tougher.

However, all of the countries also pinpoint some weaknesses they have encountered in the effective application of the regulatory framework. These difficulties are of two broad types. On the one hand, weaknesses that are not specifically related to the law, but to prior issues connected with reporting the crime and bringing the matter to court. This includes tolerating the problem, considering it natural. This is the case in Chile, Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Uruguay.

On the other hand, weaknesses in correctly identifying the crime, which results in its being punished as if it were a different type of crime (that perhaps carries a less severe sentence) or in cases being dismissed. This happens in Ecuador, Panama and Peru.

As a result, the changes that are needed in order to improve the effectiveness of the regulatory framework can also be classified into two types. On the one hand, those linked to activities involving prevention, awareness-raising and training on the crimes, their modalities, risk factors and means of reporting them. The objective of these activities should be to strip the phenomenon of its “natural” aspects, eliminate tolerance and encourage reporting. On the other, changes that aim to redesign existing laws in order to improve the classification of crimes, thus enabling the correct description of events, as well as training judicial staff in charge of applying the law.

4. Recovery and Reintegration

In this section we attempt to learn something of the existence and characteristics of services catering to and restoring the rights of child victims of SEC. However, the information the countries provided was less extensive and in depth than for the other items. This in itself could be an indication of the fact that these actions are less well-developed in the countries, or of a lack of familiarity with the information.

Despite this, some common elements can be identified:

- All of the countries refer to the existence of some services catering to children who are victims of SEC, most of them run by the State in agreement with civil society organizations.
- The countries report that these services comply with the rights-based perspective. Some of them base their statement on the comprehensive approach of their interventions, others on their acknowledgement of children as individuals with the capacity to take part in matters that concern them (in this case in particular, in building an alternative life project).

- Just as we observed in the case of prevention, no impact assessments have been carried out for these services. This is essential, in order to discover their real effect on child victims of SE, as well as to plan actions and handle resources appropriately.
- Despite the lack of assessments, some of the countries pinpoint the lack of resources, mainly human, to care for child victims, as a deficiency.
- Although this aspect was only pointed out by Costa Rica, it is important to bear in mind the existence or lack of plans, programmes and projects targeting male victims of SE.

For a more in-depth study of experiences involving care and rights restoration existing in the region, we suggest reading the Eleventh and Twelfth Reports to the Secretary General of the OAS, on the website of the Programme: www.annaobserva.com

5. Participation

The information gathered under this heading is considerably less extensive than in the other sections. The fact is that child participation, acknowledging children as rights-holders with the capacity to reflect, decide and influence matters that concern them is one of the issues which has been most difficult for the adult world to accept, particularly in practice, when transitioning from the paradigm of the irregular situation to the paradigm of comprehensive protection.

To this we should add the special features of this issue, which bring into play a number of taboos regarding sexuality and the difficulties that adults encounter when attempting to speak of it with children.

However, we feel it is important to note that there are some activities targeting children that do not necessarily imply that they must participate in their design and/or implementation. Here they are the recipients of an activity created by adults and not the protagonists of its production and implementation.

According to the answers given by the countries, we can identify two situations with regard to participation. On the one hand, there are States where children participated and where their opinions and views were incorporated into the process of producing the National Plans, but not in the actions implemented subsequently (e.g.: Ecuador). On the other, there are States where, without having been included in the drafting process, children have been involved in subsequent actions (e.g.: Costa Rica),

particularly through their own organizations. In other countries, children did not participate at all (e.g.: Chile).

With regard to self-protection, activities have taken place in a number of countries. Their objective is, essentially, to make children and young people aware of the risks to which they are exposed and their vulnerability in the face of exploiters, and to teach them how to prevent risk or act to confront it.

VI) FINAL REFLECTIONS AND SOME RECOMMENDATIONS

Progress and challenges in coordination

Data received confirm the fact that SEC has gained a position on political and social agendas. This will result in increasing the numbers of State and civil society stakeholders who take part in confronting the issue. This is reflected in their participation in the production of National Plans and in the development of some of the actions included in them. Perhaps the prevention and population awareness-raising campaigns are the best example of this.

We should, nonetheless, be aware that there are still challenges to be faced. Some of these are:

- ✓ The different stakeholders should be effectively aligned with a conception of SEC and the individuals involved in it which is consistent with the rights-based approach. Namely: the children affected are victims and the State's intervention must in all cases provide reparation and restore rights; punishment should be limited exclusively to exploiters, be they "clients" or intermediaries.

The concept of SEC based on the rights perspective, which has been consolidated in the States' legal frameworks, has not always been equally well assimilated in the intervention protocols of the various agencies and, even more seriously, in the attitudes of the operators who come into contact with the victims. Therefore, the challenge involves transcending the discursive level of documents in order to incorporate the new perspective into operators' thoughts and actions, deconstructing social representations that are incompatible with the rights-based perspective.

- ✓ The existence of multi-stakeholder National Commissions is a consolidated development in the region. Nonetheless, with certain exceptions, these

Commissions lack the geographic representativity that would reflect inter-agency features. This is a weakness to be addressed, inasmuch as national guidelines must be adapted and made operational in very different local contexts.

- ✓ Making the issue a priority on the agendas and intervention protocols of different State agencies. In many cases, these actions continue to be viewed as marginal in relation to the mission of some of the institutions that participate in the Plans.
- ✓ The allocation of resources. National Commissions often lack their own budgets and their actions are funded by the contributions of the various institutions. As a result, they depend on the priorities that these institutions may establish. Added to this, unforeseen events which demand investments often arise in institutional management, and this jeopardizes the contributions that these institutions make to the National Plans.

These two final aspects are related to one of the recommendations that the Committee has reiterated to States and that we highlight in the previous Note: sufficient financial and human resources should be ensured in order to safeguard the actions linked to the Protocol and strengthen social welfare agencies.

Legal frameworks and socio-cultural contexts

In recent years, the concept of SEC developed on the basis of the rights perspective has increasingly been incorporated into legal frameworks. This has led to significant progress, such as the broad definition of “sex acts” in the description of offences, punishment for individuals who pay for or reward sexual activities with underage persons, and the inclusion in some cases of legal provisions that address publicizing tourist destinations with links to the sex trade.

However, these developments encounter certain obstacles related to the cultural tendency to silence, justify or tolerate the buying and selling of sex with children. This has an impact both on reporting and on judicial decisions themselves.

In addition, there are certain inconsistencies between the concept of children as holders of rights as expressed in the body of law and judicial proceedings that do not contemplate the distinctive features of children and their evolutionary stages. Proceedings such as repeated interrogations, confrontations and investigations that

invade their privacy are still used in many countries, leading to recantation and the enabling of impunity.

Prevention and restoring rights

Prevention is a line of activity which is given high priority in National Plans.

There is wide experience in the region of good quality campaigns and communication products that aim to raise the awareness of the population and have an impact on the behaviour of the stakeholders most closely associated with this area.

On some occasions there have been proposals, and some have even been performed, of regional campaigns conducted across several States in coordination, focusing particularly on border areas and bearing multilingualism in mind. Examples of this are experiences in Central America and the tri-border area between Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay. These experiences show a path to be explored further.

However, these campaigns tend to lack continuity. In addition, in no case have any impact assessments been conducted, which makes it impossible to derive lessons in order to design new experiences.

Regarding strategies to restore rights, these have been examined in depth in the reports submitted by IIN in 2011 and 2012. On this occasion, we identify some aspects that are still a matter of concern:

- ✓ The rich accumulation of experiences has not given rise to sharing opportunities and horizontal cooperation that would make it possible to transfer lessons learned.
- ✓ There are no impact or process assessments.
- ✓ A matter that should be addressed is synchronization between specific interventions with children affected by SEC and universal policies that enable their integration.
- ✓ Destigmatization and the cognitive remodelling of society's representations of these children is a fundamental element in enabling genuine integration and minimizing the risk of falling back into the networks of exploiters.

Finally, we should stress the fact that both prevention and restoration require the ongoing training of human resources. In this respect, we agree with the Committee on

the Rights of the Child when it recommends the continued and strengthened systematic training of all specialist groups involved in these issues. This includes staff responsible for law enforcement, judges, lawyers, military personnel, immigration and customs officials, accredited adoption agencies, social workers, health workers, religious and community leaders, civil society organizations.

It is important for operators to work upon attitudinal aspects that will allow them to establish relationships with this population as adults who are respectful of the different life stories that these children have experienced. This includes, among other things, working on gender models and the relationship between male and female elements.

The voice of children

Acknowledging children as active agents, who think and have the right to be heard on the subjects that affect their lives, is still one of the aspects of the Convention which is least incorporated in State policy. This is particularly significant in subjects -such as SEC- which are associated with the “hard core” of culture, including sexuality, gender roles, power relations and the behavior of adults; matters from which children tend to be excluded. This silence increases vulnerability and deprives children of the elements they need in order to understand the situations they experience in their surroundings and protect themselves from threats.

In this respect, there are some instances of discussion and analysis of these subjects in youth organizations; tips on how to be alert to Internet risks are transmitted and there is participation in prevention campaigns.

However, the States in which youth organizations have taken part in the production of Plans and/or their implementation are few.

Therefore, we consider that participation should be strengthened, and that the attitude of viewing children as real or potential victims must be overcome, in order to empower them as active social agents with resources with which to face the threats in their surroundings.

The importance of monitoring and systematic evaluation

The study confirms another of the issues that the Committee on the Rights of the Child has repeatedly noted: research and monitoring systems that make it possible to follow the evolution of this phenomenon identify risk groups, prevailing modalities and geographic areas, are practically non-existent in the region. Such information would contribute to more specific design, adjusted to the features and localization of every State. Therefore, although monitoring and recording “low visibility” events involve methodological challenges, owing to their crime-related features, it is necessary to work upon them, and making progress in this regard can no longer be postponed.

Furthermore, there are no systematic evaluations of the Plans (with one exception), and within them, it is not foreseen assessment of activities such as prevention campaigns or the operation of rights-restoring services.

In the IIN’s experience, the notion that policies should be evaluated in order to draw lessons and adjust plans accordingly has gained strength in the region in recent years. However, there are still cases where Plans are replaced or expire without being systematically assessed.

Finally, we wish to reaffirm IIN-OAS’s commitment to continue working from the *Inter-American Programme for the Prevention and Eradication of Sexual Exploitation, Smuggling of and Trafficking in Children* and together with the States in the region, to eradicate this and all forms of exploitation which violate the rights of children in the Americas and the Caribbean.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Consultation Form and Persons Responsible for Answering on behalf of the States

Consultation Form

14th Report to the Secretary General of the OAS on the actions undertaken by the Member States to combat sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in the Americas, 2014

“NATIONAL PLANS”

Consultation form to States

The present information will be the basis of the 14th Report to the Secretary General of the OAS and will constitute a fundamental document for the 21st Pan-American Congress of children and adolescents

State:

Preparer:

Institution:

PART I

General information about National Plans in the State

National Plan(s) (name)	Date of approval	Effective period
1.		
2.		
3.		

If there is more than one Plan, does the new collect the previous experience? Does it introduce relevant changes? Point them briefly.

If having finished the effective period of the previous plan(s) there is no a new plan, for which reasons has it not been created? Does the State have any plan in elaboration process?

PART II

About National Action Plan

Answer the following questions based on **the last approved Plan.**

1. Coordination and Cooperation

1.1. Inter-sectorial coordination

1.1.1. Which body is responsible of the Plan's design and implementation? (National Commission or similar)

1.1.2. How is it integrated? (List the integrant agencies or organizations)

1.1.3. Are those agencies/organizations directly involved in the Plan's implementation? Which functions do they have in this framework? Mention the more relevant activities/actions.

1.1.4 Arguably that all of them have a vision about SEC coherent with children rights perspective? Make a brief reflection about their practices from this perspective.

1.1.5 Does this body have a local expression? (Local Commissions) Which one and what are their characteristics?

1.2. Coordination between States

1.2.1. Are there cooperation agreements with other States in this area? Briefly explain them, to which needs they respond and in what they consist.

1.2.2. What is the presence/contribution of the international agencies in the elaboration/implementation/monitoring and evaluation of the Plan?

2. Prevention

- 2.1. Does the Action Plan include actions/strategies of prevention of SEC?
- 2.2. What actions/strategies of prevention have been developed in this framework? List and describe them briefly (bodies in charge or collaborators; objectives; target population). **Please indicate if there is a link where we can access to campaign materials.**
- 2.3. Do some impacts evaluations of those strategic(s)/action(s) have been made? What are the results?

3. Protection

- 3.1. What disposes the Action Plan regarding the legal framework for addressing SEC?
- 3.2. What legal framework does the State have in relation with the SEC? Indicate the number of the law/decreet/disposition and promulgation date.
- 3.3. Does the legal framework is considered effective to sanction offences regarding SEC? Indicate an example of a successful application of the current regulations.
- 3.4. Which difficulties are found in their application? Indicate an example in which difficulty of application of the current regulations is displayed.
- 3.5. From the above, what do you think would be necessary to improve the effectiveness of the legal framework?

4. Recuperation and reintegration

- 4.1. Are there services of attention and restitution of rights for children victims of sexual exploitation? Describe the main characteristics: kind of management (national, private or mixed); targeted population; working methodology.
- 4.2. Is it possible to say that this/those service(s) is/are in line with children rights perspective? Indicate an example that evidences your answer.
- 4.3. Are they integrated to the children protection general system?

4.4. Do some impacts evaluations of this/those service(s) have been made? What are the results?

4.5. What weaknesses do they have?

5. Participation

5.1. In the Plan elaboration, have children and adolescents been heard? How? How their opinions have been considered? Point to an example.

5.2. Do children and adolescent's organizations take part in the actions included in the Plan? In which ones? How?

5.3. Has auto-protection of children and adolescents against SE been promoted? How?

PART III

General Valuation

1. Plan Evaluation

In case of the Plan(s) effective period is over, does an evaluation of results have been done? At which degree the disposed objectives and activities have been completed? Which were the main implementing difficulties?

(If some evaluation reports exist, please annex them)

2. Informant opinion

Here we are interested in the perception of the preparer.

Notice the 3 main strength of the last approved Plan:

Notice the 3 main weakness of the last approved Plan:

Notice 3 opportunities generated from its discussion, approval and implementation (it is about favorable situations external from the Plan but in relation with the process):

Notice 3 threatens in relation with the discussion, approval and implementation process (it is about unfavorable situations external from the Plan but in relation with the process):

Please have the amiability to annex the last approved National Plan.

Thank you very much!

Persons Responsible for Answering on behalf of the States

Argentina: Alejo Torres - National Children's Secretariat, Ministry of Social Development.

Canada: Dr. Roberta Sinclair, Emily Fox, and Kristin Duval - Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Canadian Police Centre for Missing and Exploited Children - Behavioural Sciences Branch (CPCMEC/BSB).

Chile: Angélica Marín Díaz - National Service for Minors.

Costa Rica: Patricia Hernández Sánchez - National Commission against Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CONACOES) and National Children's Board (PANI).

Ecuador: Gabriela Flores, Sandra Ruiz, María Fernanda Revello, Aracelly Martínez - National Childhood Council and Ministry of the Interior.

El Salvador: Carolina Manzano - Subdirectorate of Policies, National Childhood Council (CONNA).

Jamaica: Randell Bailey, Manager, Research & Development Manager, Child Development Agency.

Mexico: Dr Elva Leonor Cárdenas Miranda - National System for the Comprehensive Development of Families.

Nicaragua: Karla Vareas - Trafficking and CSE Bureau - MIFAN.

Panama: Eiselys Vásquez Cedeño - National Commission for the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation Crimes (CONAPREDES) – Executive Secretary.

Paraguay: Elvira Santos - National Childhood Secretariat.

Peru: Roxana Teresa Dávila Castillo - Child Policy Bureau of the General Bureau for Children of the Ministry for Women and Vulnerable Populations.

Uruguay: Luis Purtscher - Children's Institute of Uruguay.



Appendix 2: Table Reporting to the Committee on the Rights of the Child

Members States of the OAS	Date of accession or ratification of the Protocol	Date when the first report was due	Date of General Distribution of the Report at the United Nations	Date of the Committee's Session when the report was discussed
Antigua & Barbuda	30 April 2002	30 April 2004	-----	-----
Argentina	25 September 2003	25 September 2005	11 March 2010	25 March- 11 June 2010
Bahamas				
Barbados				
Belize	1 December 2003	1 December 2005	-----	-----
Bolivia	3 June 2003	3 June 2005	-----	-----
Brazil	27 January 2004	27 January 2006	-----	-----
Canada	14 September 2005	14 September 2007		
Chile	6 February 2003	6 February 2005	6 July 2007	14 January - 1 February 2008
Colombia	11 November 2003	11 November 2005	3 December 2009	25 Mayo - 11 June 2010
Costa Rica	9 April 2002	9 April 2004	23 December 2005	15 January - 2 February 2007
Dominica	20 September 2002	20 September 2004	-----	-----
Dominican Republic	6 December 2006	6 December 2008	-----	-----
Ecuador	30 January 2004	30 January 2006	8 July 2009	11 - 29 January 2010
El Salvador	17 Mayo 2004	17 Mayo 2006	23 July 2009	11 - 29 January 2010
Grenada	06 de February 2012			
Guatemala	9 Mayo 2002	9 Mayo 2004	19 Mayo 2006	21 Mayo - 8 June 2007
Guyana	30 de July 2010			
Haiti				
Honduras	08 de Mayo 2002 a			18 Mayo – 5 June 2015



Members States of the OAS	Date of accession or ratification of the Protocol	Date when the first report was due	Date of General Distribution of the Report at the United Nations	Date of the Committee's Session when the report was discussed
Jamaica	25 de August 2012			
Mexico	15 March 2002	15 March 2004		
Nicaragua	2 December 2004	2 December 2006	12 March 2010	13 September - 1 October 2010
Panama	9 February 2001	9 February 2003	-----	-----
Paraguay	18 August 2003	18 August 2005	13 August 2012	16 September - 4 October 2013
Peru	8 Mayo 2002	8 Mayo 2004		11- 29 January 2016
Saint Kitts y Nevis				
Saint Vicente & the Grenadines	15 September 2005	15 September 2007	-----	-----
Saint Lucia	8 October 2013	8 October 2015		
Surinam	2 November 2004	2 November 2006	-----	-----
Trinidad Y Tobago				
United States of America	23 December 2002	23 December 2004	16 July 2007	18 Mayo - 6 June 2008
			16 November 2011	14 January - 1 February 2013
Uruguay	3 July 2003	3 Julio 2005	31 October de 2013	12- 30 January 2015
Venezuela	8 Mayo 2002	8 Mayo 2004	3 September 2013	1- 19 September 2014



Appendix 3: Table of Ratifications⁷⁴

Ratification of international treaties related to the commercial sexual exploitation of children and women by OAS member states.

	Convention on the Rights of the Child 20/11/1989	Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography 25/5/2000	Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour 17/6/1999	Inter-American Convention on International Traffic in Minors 18/3/94	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women 18/12/1979	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women 6/10/1999	Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women, "Convention of Belém do Pará" 9/6/1994	United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime 15/11/2000	Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, the "Palermo Protocol" 15/11/2000	The Rome Statute 17/7/1998
1. Antigua & Barbuda	05/10/1993	30/04/2002	16/09/2002	-	01/08/1989 a	05/06/2006 a	12/08/1998	24/07/2002	17/02/2010	18/06/2001
2. Argentina	04/12/1990	25/09/2003	05/02/2001	13/12/1999	15/07/1985	20/03/2007	09/04/1996	19/11/2002	19/11/2002	08/02/2001
3. Bahamas	20/02/1991	-	14/06/2001	-	06/10/1993 a	-	03/05/1995	26/09/2008	26/09/2008	*
4. Barbados	09/10/1990	-	23/10/2000	-	16/10/1980	-	08/02/1995	*	*	10/12/2002
5. Belize	02/05/1990	01/12/2003	06/03/2000	11/06/1997	16/05/1990	09/12/2002 a	25/11/1996	26/09/2003 a	26/09/2003 a	05/04/2000

⁷⁴ Update at September 2014.



6. Bolivia	26/06/1990	03/06/2003	06/06/2003	31/10/2003	08/06/1990	27/09/2000	26/10/1994	10/10/2005	18/05/2006	27/06/2002
7. Brazil	24/09/1990	27/01/2004	02/02/2000	03/07/1997	01/02/1984	28/06/2002	16/11/1995	29/01/2004	29/01/2004	20/06/2002
8. Canada	13/12/1991	14/09/2005	06/06/2000	-	10/12/1981	18/10/2002 a	-	13/05/2002	13/05/2002	07/07/2000
9. Chile	13/08/1990	06/02/2003	17/07/2000	-	07/12/1989	*	24/10/1996	29/11/2004	29/11/2004	29/06/2009
10. Colombia	28/01/1991	11/11/2003	28/01/2005	12/06/2000	19/01/1982	23/01/2007	03/10/1996	04/08/2004	04/08/2004	05/08/2002
11. Costa Rica	21/08/1991	09/04/2002	10/09/2001	22/05/2001	04/04/1986	20/09/2001	05/07/1995	24/07/2003	09/09/2003	07/06/2001
12. Dominica	13/03/1991	20/09/2002 a	04/01/2001	-	15/09/1980	-	30/06/1995	17/02/2013 a	17/05/2013 a	12/02/2001
13. Dominican Republic	11/06/1991	06/12/2006 a	15/11/2000	23/09/2011	02/09/1982	10/08/2001	10/01/1996	26/10/2006	05/02/2008	12/05/2005
14. Ecuador	23/03/1990	30/01/2004	19/09/2000	20/05/2002	09/11/1981	05/02/2002	30/06/1995	17/09/2002	17/09/2002	05/02/2002
15. El Salvador	10/07/1990	17/05/2004	12/10/2000	17/10/2005	19/08/1981	*	13/11/1995	18/03/2004	18/03/2004	-
16. Granada	05/11/1990	06/02/2012 a	14/05/2003	-	30/08/1990	-	29/11/2000	21/05/2004 a	21/05/2004 a	19/05/2011
17. Guatemala	06/06/1990	09/05/2002	11/10/2001	-	12/08/1982	09/05/2002	04/01/1995	25/09/2003	01/04/2004 a	02/04/2012
18. Guyana	14/01/1991	30/07/2010 a	15/01/2001	-	17/07/1980	-	08/01/1996	14/09/2004 a	14/09/2004 a	24/09/2004
19. Haití	08/06/1995	*	19/07/2007	-	20/07/1981	-	07/04/1997	19/04/2011	19/04/2011	*
20. Honduras	10/08/1990	08/05/2002 a	25/10/2001	23/10/08	03/03/1983	-	04/07/1995	02/12/2003	01/04/2008 a	01/07/2002
21. Jamaica	14/05/1991	26/08/2012	13/10/2003	-	19/10/1984	-	11/11/2005	29/09/2003	29/09/2003	*



22. México	21/09/1990	15/03/2002	30/06/2000	*	23/03/1981	15/03/2002	19/06/1998	04/03/2003	04/03/2003	28/10/2005
23. Nicaragua	05/10/1990	02/12/2004 a	06/11/2000	07/10/2005	27/10/1981	-	06/10/1995	09/09/2002	12/10/2004 a	-
24. Panamá	12/12/1990	09/02/2001	31/10/2000	18/01/2000	29/10/1981	09/05/2001	26/04/1995	18/08/2004	18/08/2004	21/03/2002
25. Paraguay	25/09/1990	18/08/2003	07/03/2001	28/11/1997	06/04/1987 a	14/05/2001	29/09/1995	22/09/2004	22/09/2004	14/05/2001
26. Perú	04/09/1990	08/05/2002	10/01/2002	20/04/2004	13/09/1982	09/04/2001	02/04/1996	23/01/2002	23/01/2002	10/11/2001
27. San Kitts y Nevis	24/07/1990	-	12/10/2000	-	25/04/1985 a	20/01/2006 a	17/03/1995	21/05/2004	21/05/2004 a	22/08/2006
28. Santa Lucía	16/06/1993	08/10/2013	06/12/2000	-	08/10/1982 a	-	08/03/1995	16/07/2013	16/07/2013a	18/08/2010
29. San Vicente y las Granadinas	26/10/1993	15/09/2005 a	04/12/2001	-	04/08/1981 a	-	23/05/1996	29/10/2010	29/10/2010	03/12/2002
30.. Suriname	01/03/1993	18/05/2012	12/04/2006	-	01/03/1993 a	-	19/02/2002	25/05/2007 a	25/05/2007 a	15/07/2008
31. Trinidad y Tobago	05/12/1991	-	23/04/2003	-	12/01/1990	-	04/01/1996	06/11/2007	06/11/2007	06/04/1999
32. United States of America	*	23/12/2002	02/12/1999	-	*	-	-	03/11/2005	03/11/2005	-
33. Uruguay	20/11/1990	03/07/2003	03/08/2001	28/10/1998	09/10/1981	26/07/2001	04/01/1996	04/03/2005	04/03/2005	28/06/2002
34. Venezuela	13/09/1990	08/05/2002	26/10/2005	*	02/05/1983	13/05/2002	16/01/1995	13/05/2002	13/05/2002	07/06/2000

(-) States that have neither signed nor ratified the Treaty indicated in the heading.

(*) Signed without ratification, adoption or accession.



Sources:

Coalition for the International Criminal Court: <<http://www.iccnow.org/?mod=romeratification&lang=es>> (information up-to-date to 15 February 2013)

Organization of American States: <http://www.oas.org/dil/treaties_signatories_ratifications_member_states.htm> (information updated to 12 June 2012).

United Nations Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights: <<http://treaties.un.org/Pages/Treaties.aspx?id=4&subid=A&lang=en>>

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes: <<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/index.html?ref=menusid>>