



STATEMENT BY MRS. LOVELEEN KACKER, JOINT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT, ON AGENDA ITEM 14: UNITED NATIONS STUDY ON VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN: ORAL REPORT AT THE ANNUAL SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNICEF 2006 ON JUNE 08, 2006

Mr. President,

We are thankful to the Executive Director and Professor Pinherio for presenting the report on the UN Study on violence against children. The detailed report is received with interest and attention.

We take this opportunity to express our deep sense of appreciation at the initiative taken by the UN Secretary General to assess the nature and extent of violence against children globally in an effort to effectively prevent and combat all forms of violence against children.

India accords special importance to all national and international commitments in addressing the challenges of preventing violence against children and protecting child victims of violence, despite challenges posed by the magnitude and complexity of the problem. The growing incidence of violence against children is a disturbing trend and there is a need to raise an alarm.

India has taken a proactive stand on the issue of Child Protection and creating the protective environment for children. Towards this end, the Government of India has undertaken several initiatives, including enactment of Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act 2006 for setting up of National Commission at national and State Commissions at provincial level and formulation of the National Plan of Action for Children-2005.

In order to address the issue of crime against children adequately and effectively, a comprehensive Bill on Offences Against Children is under active consideration.

We would like to inform the Board that the Government of India has initiated in 2005 a nation wide study on child abuse, in collaboration with UNICEF and an NGO called 'PRAYAS'. The objective of the study is to ascertain the magnitude of the

problem and to take remedial measures for prevention and rehabilitation of the victims at the national level. The results of the study would complement and strengthen the findings of the global study on violence against children.

India presented a Country Report on Violence against Children at the Regional Consultation held in Islamabad in May 2005 and re-iterated its commitment to eliminate violence against children. We recognize the need to make the world safe for children and we also uphold the best interests of the child in all policies, interventions and strategies to protect them from all forms of violence. We look forward to the detailed final report and the recommendation on Violence against Children Study.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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