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IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 60/251 OF 15 MARCH 2006 ENTITLED “HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL”

The Secretary-General’s study on the question of violence against children

Note by the Secretariat

1. The present note provides information on the submission of the final report of the Secretary-General on the study on violence against children at the sixty-first session of the General Assembly and follow-up events that have taken place in 2006.

Introduction

2. At its sixtieth session, in 2004, the Commission on Human Rights welcomed the establishment of a secretariat for the Secretary-General’s study on the question of violence against children, which had been requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/138, in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO). During the study process, substantive progress reports on the activities of the independent expert, Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro, were submitted to the Commission on Human Rights and the General Assembly (E/CN.4/2004/68, E/CN.4/2005/75, E/CN.4/2006/63 and A/60/282).

3. As per the request of the General Assembly in its resolution 60/231, the Secretary-General submitted the final report of the independent expert for the United Nations study on violence against children (A/61/299) to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session on 11 October 2006.

Follow-up

4. The General Assembly, in its resolution on the rights of the child 61/146 welcomed the Secretary General's study on violence against children and encouraged Member States and requested United Nations entities, regional organizations and civil society to widely disseminate and follow up on the study. In the same resolution, the Assembly also decided to invite the independent expert, in cooperation with Member States, relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular OHCHR, UNICEF, WHO, the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Human Rights Council and regional organizations, national institutions, and civil society, "to promote the wide dissemination of the United Nations study on violence against children, to give support to the first year of effective follow-up to its recommendations with an integrated approach that bridges the dimensions of public health, education, child protection and human rights, to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session a report on progress made in the initial phase of the follow-up and to anticipate the necessary strategy for follow-up to the implementation of the study".

5. Since October 2006, launches of the *World Report on Violence against Children*, a publication which provides a more detailed account of the study, have taken place, including a launch in Geneva for the international community on 20 November 2006, as well as regional launches in Latin America and the Caribbean, West and Central Africa, East Asia and the Pacific, and North America and national launches in a number of countries. Additional regional and national launches are expected to take place in 2007.

6. The independent expert has carried out various activities since the official launch of the study. He attended the debate in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on 23 January 2007. The Parliamentary Assembly discussed its report on "child victims: stamping out all forms of violence, exploitation and abuse of child victims".¹ Following the Assembly debate, there was a ceremony to launch the United Nations study on violence against children in Europe with the participation of the president of the Parliamentary Assembly, the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe and the independent expert.

7. An expert meeting on violence against girls in schools, at which the independent expert was the keynote speaker and presented the study's main findings, was held in Paris on 23 November 2006, organized jointly by UNESCO, the French National Commission for UNESCO and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

8. The independent expert presented the study report to member States of the Organization of American States (OAS) on 13 October 2006 in an extraordinary session of the Committee of Juridical and Political Affairs of the OAS. Member States discussed possibilities of follow-up to the study in the Americas and the need to strengthen cooperation among regional bodies.

¹ A summary of which is available at <http://assembly.coe.int/Main.asp?link=/Documents/WorkingDocs/Doc06/EDOC11118.htm>.

9. The independent expert also presented the study report at the opening of the III National Summit of Governors for Childhood and Adolescence, which took place in Colombia on 13 to 14 November 2006, and attended the Juvenile Defender Leadership Summit in Washington DC on 28 October 2006 where he discussed ways to incorporate international law into the policy and practice of juvenile defenders and referred to the study recommendations.

10. The independent expert has met with partners in the different regions to discuss follow-up to the study. He also discussed follow-up with the Committee on the Rights of the Child during its forty-fourth session held from 15 January to 2 February 2007.

11. More details about the activities of the independent expert, as well as his statements, are available at <http://www.violencestudy.org/a408>.
