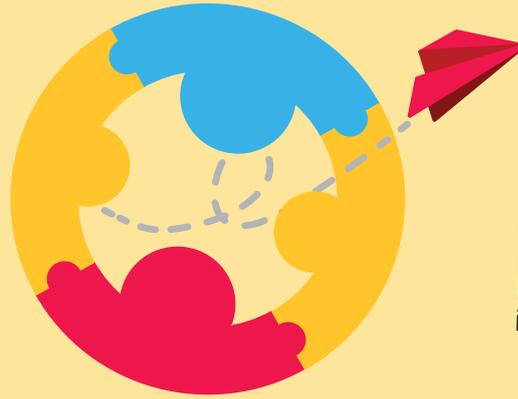


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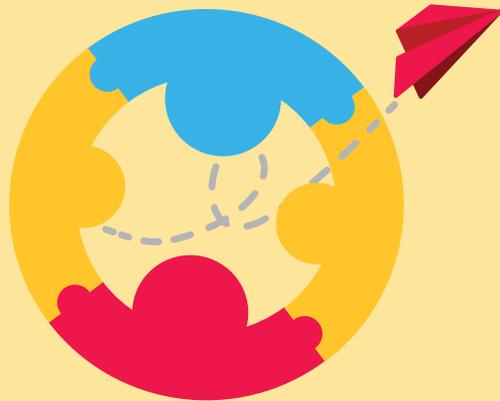
# INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT ON CHILD PROTECTION IN TRAVEL AND TOURISM

BOGOTÁ, COLOMBIA

6-7 JUNE 2018



International Summit on  
**Child  
Protection**  
in Travel and Tourism



International summit on  
**Child  
Protection**  
in Travel and Tourism



2018, Bogotá, Colombia



The International Summit on Child Protection in Travel and Tourism was organized by the Colombian Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism- in cooperation with the Tourism Authority of the Capital District of Bogota, the Colombian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Colombian Family Welfare Institute and ECPAT Colombia – Fundación Renacer.

Among the co-organizers of the summit were the High-Level Task Force on Child Protection in Travel and Tourism, UNICEF, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Travel and Tourism Council and ECPAT International. The summit was prepared with the participation of the World Tourism Organisation.

At the summit, leaders and international experts from the private sector, law enforcement agencies, international and regional bodies, as well as INGOs and youth representatives focused on coordinating and intensifying efforts to address the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism.

Child protection in tourism website:  
[www.protectingchildrenintourism.org](http://www.protectingchildrenintourism.org)

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September, 2018

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ORGANIZER:



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Acción Global para Prevenir y Combatir el Trato de Personas y el Tráfico Ilegal de Migrantes (2015-2019)



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Closing ceremony of the International Summit on Child Protection in Travel and Tourism

The International Summit on Child Protection in Travel and Tourism brought together leaders from around the world. Those attending included governments, multilateral organizations, private sector organizations, law enforcement agencies, child rights experts and non-governmental organizations. The purpose of the summit was to draw international attention to the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism; and provide an opportunity to exchange examples of good-practice and experience in ending this crime.

This summit explored what needs to take place in order to implement the recommendations of the *Global Study on Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism*. Many of these recommendations are aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals (a number of which relate to child protection and sustainable tourism) – and provide a long-term plan for better protecting children.

The *Global Study* is the result of inputs from 67 global partners. It documents the continued growth of the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism, the increasing numbers of child victims, and the universal nature of the problem. It concludes that no region is untouched, and no country is immune. The launch

of the study in May 2016, followed by a series of global, regional and national presentations and workshops, has already brought the findings to the attention of a wide range of decision-makers and stakeholders.

In July 2017, a high-level meeting was convened in Madrid with key partners to develop a strategy that will support the implementation of the *Global Study's* 46 recommendations. Hosted by the UNWTO, and attended by leaders and experts from the private sector, law enforcement agencies, international organizations, regional entities, and NGOs, this “transition meeting” defined the next steps for addressing the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism. Among these steps was a commitment to hold the event in Bogotá.

The specific objectives of the summit were to:

- ▶ Discuss ways of prioritizing action that protects children in the travel and tourism sector;
- ▶ Identify avenues for better integrated multi-sectoral responses – and ‘align the agendas’ of the various segments of the travel and tourism industry (and others), to protect children from exploitation;
- ▶ Share examples of good-practice to increase the involvement of a broad range of stakeholders;
- ▶ Build strategic and synergistic alliances as part of the process of promoting child protection in travel and tourism; and
- ▶ Call for committed action to move forward with the recommendations of the *Global Study* through concrete action towards ending the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism.

The organizers would like to thank all the participants for their ongoing initiatives as well as for their commitments to ending the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism.

*The overall goal of the International Summit on Child Protection in Travel and Tourism, was to “expand and strengthen actions by a broad range of partners worldwide and to protect children in travel and tourism based on the recommendations of the Global Study on sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism and as a contribution to 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals.”*

# OPENING OF THE SUMMIT



The summit started with welcome from the **Honourable Maria Lorena Gutiérrez**, Colombian Minister of Trade, Industry and Tourism, and **Karen Abudinen**, Director of the Colombian Family Welfare Institute.

A [video message](#) from **Marta Santos Pais**, Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence against Children was introduced by **Cecilia Anicama**, Programme Specialist, SRSG on the Violence against Children Team. She pointed to the fact that the *Global Study on Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism* highlighted the rapid growth of the industry and the subsequent increased risk of the exploitation of children. She noted that no country is untouched and no child is immune to this crime, while the lack of data contributes to making the problem less visible. She also emphasized that the business community can be “highly effective” in protecting children from violence and that sustainable tourism and protection of children must go hand in hand. Towards this end, we need to build alliances to realize the 2030 Agenda and leave no child behind.

The **Honourable Sandra Howard**, the Vice Minister of Tourism, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism, Colombia concluded that ‘multi-stakeholder approaches’ are the most effective way of working towards ending the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism.

**Helen Marano**, Executive Vice-President, World Travel & Tourism Council, reiterated that private businesses in the travel and tourism sector are engaged and committed to protecting children through private-public partnerships.



The **Honourable Sandra Howard**, the Vice Minister of Tourism, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism, Colombia

**Cornelius Williams**, Associate Director and Global Chief of Child Protection, Programme Division of UNICEF, focused on the “co-responsibility” of the private and public sector for strengthening standards for preventing the sexual exploitation of children- based on the Children’s Rights and Business Principles. He said that action to prevent the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism needs to be integrated into child protection systems – and that there is a need for sensitive management of reporting systems, to make sure that people report suspected cases without fear.

**Margaret Akullo**, Global Project Coordinator of GLO.ACT, UNODC, reminded the audience that although countries have already ratified many instruments to uphold the rights of child victims, there is still more work to be done to address inconsistencies in the implementation of the standards. Therefore, there is a need to renew strategic alliances. In this process, children need to be listened to and empowered as actors of change.

**Dorothy Rozga**, Executive Director, ECPAT International, pointed to the many positive actions that have already taken place and the need to maintain momentum, as much more needs to be accomplished to effectively protect children in travel and tourism.

**Stella Cárdenas**, Executive Director, ECPAT Colombia / Fundación Renacer, called upon all participants of the summit to work together to end the sexual exploitation of children,

stressed the importance of creating protective environments for children in the context of travel and tourism, including migration, underlined the role of other sectors, including the mining industry as a key actor in child protection. She called also for the meaningful participation of children who need to be recognized as “actors of change” and have their voices taken into account. The opening session was concluded by José Andrés Duarte, Director of Bogotá Tourism Council, who described the municipal strategy and reiterated a strong commitment to protect children from the sexual exploitation; he also welcomed all the participants to Bogotá.

**Najat Maalla M’jid**, Chair of the High-Level Taskforce on Child Protection in Travel and Tourism, and former UN Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, talked about the challenges of a “multi-stakeholder approach” in addressing the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism and called for ending impunity, anonymity and social tolerance to this crime. She stressed that this can be achieved by improving information sharing and taking cohesive action at several fronts. She also stressed that it is a multidimensional crime that is constantly evolving in an increasingly globalized world. It has various forms including exploitation of children in prostitution and pornography, trafficking and sale of children for sexual purposes, forced labour, early marriages, and online sexual exploitation and trafficking of children for sexual purposes. New forms of travel and tourism such as voluntourism, eco-stays or home-stays put children at risk of exploitation by travelling child sex offenders. New forms of travel and tourism such as voluntourism, eco-stays or home-stays put children at risk of exploitation by travelling child sex offenders.

Various risk factors are frequently interlinked and increase vulnerability of children to sexual exploitation. These include, but are not limited to: weakness of community protection mechanisms and dysfunctional families, poverty, consumerisms and peer pressure, social perception of the sexual exploitation of children and traditional harmful practices, migration, conflicts or natural disasters.

The sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism is still underreported while it compromises the dignity, health and development of children- and has destructive effects and a long-lasting impact on the victims. Although there is an increasing number of joint actions, still not all child victims are identified and many do not receive appropriate care and assistance until after their recovery. A number of remaining challenges are to be overcome. Therefore, to prevent the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism and to effectively protect all children without discrimination, we need to adopt a multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral and child-rights centred approach in order to address: the multidimensional and complex risk factors; the multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary aspect of child protection and the wide range of stakeholders at different levels (national regional and international).

Sustainable Development Goal 16 commits countries to ending the sexual exploitation of children. It will be reviewed in depth at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2019. The 30th anniversary of the Convention of the Rights of the Child will also take place next year, which presents an opportunity to galvanise greater action on progress towards ensuring the right of every child to live free from sexual exploitation. We need to act together and to include and empower children so no child is left behind.

# SUMMARY OF THE PANEL DISCUSSIONS

## THE PANEL DISCUSSION ON

### ‘THE ROLE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT IN COMBATting TRAVELLING CHILD SEX OFFENDERS AND INTER-SECTORAL COOPERATION’



The panel discussion was convened by The Colombian Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism and moderated by **Alejandro Varela**, Deputy Director for the Americas, UNWTO.

Panellists included:

- ▶ The **Honourable Maria José Moncada**, Vice Minister of Tourism, Honduras;
- ▶ **Mariama Mohamed Cissé**, Ag. Director of Social Affairs of the African Union Commission and substantive Executive Secretary of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child;
- ▶ **Per-Anders Sunesson**, Ambassador at Large for Combating Trafficking in Persons, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Sweden; and
- ▶ **Jorge Morandeira**, Adviser to the Minister of Tourism of the Western Republic of Uruguay and Coordinator of the Executive Secretariat of GARA.

The following recommended points of action were made:

- ▶ Develop or strengthen existing campaigns that tell people how to report suspicious behaviour. This should be organized private businesses, and CSOs.
- ▶ Develop or strengthen existing campaigns that tell people how to report suspicious behaviour. This should be organized private businesses, and CSOs.
- ▶ Countries need to cooperate more and share more information about travelling sex-offenders on all levels.
- ▶ More resources need to be dedicated to law enforcement.
- ▶ More resources need to be dedicated to research and continuous dialogue with civil society organizations.
- ▶ Standards, self-regulating or obligatory codes for the travel and tourism sector should be introduced, and
- ▶ Child rights should be the starting point for developing child protection measures in travel and tourism.

## ‘THE IMPACT OF DIGITAL ENVIRONMENTS ON CHILD PROTECTION IN TRAVEL AND TOURISM’



The panel discussion was convened by ECPAT International and UNICEF. It was moderated by **Andrés Franco**, Deputy Director, Private Sector Engagement from UNICEF.

The keynote speech was delivered by **Steven Grocki**, Board Member, WePROTECT Global Alliance and Chief Criminal Division, US Department of Justice. He pointed out that:

- ▶ The sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism is fully intertwined with online child sexual exploitation.
- ▶ Travelling sex offenders use internet resources, share techniques and practices with each other and communicate with children to groom them before the exploitation happens.
- ▶ Offenders are also committing crimes using live-streaming without even leaving their homes.
- ▶ Technological advances have changed the nature of online crimes and law enforcement needs to give a particular focus to extra-territoriality and improving collaboration. In such a rapidly changing environment, we all need be aware of this threat to better design the responses.

Respondents **Mauro Accurso** from GSMA and **Marie-Laure Lemineur**, Head of Programme Combatting Online Child Sexual Exploitation (OCSE), ECPAT International, made the following points to consider:

- ▶ There is no typical offender – while preferential offenders misuse technology to seek out victims, there are also situational offenders among business travellers, travelling workers or voluntourists – in all cases, technology plays a part in the process of sexual exploitation of children.
- ▶ There is a need to advance technology and provide new opportunities to law enforcement, such as using artificial intelligence to identify risks, cases and offenders. Technology is important for undercover operations (that need to be conducted with respect to privacy) because it produces positive results in infiltrating communities that involve offenders.
- ▶ IT companies have a significant role to play in denouncing sexual exploitation, therefore cooperation with hotlines, CSOs and law enforcement is very important. Technology generates problems in terms of diffusion of the materials but it also helps to combat it. Mobile payments are one way of collecting evidence in addition to those gathered from personal electronic devices.
- ▶ Awareness needs to be raised among IT providers about child protection measures, as sometimes they may not be aware that child exploitation can occur through their services.
- ▶ There is need to change social attitudes, engage the public to not tolerate this crime as well as educate children and empower them to increase their resilience.

### **Reported cases:**

*A travelling sex offender set up an orphanage to create his own exploitative environment. Another offender abused children at a resort beach bar but was apprehended by a traveller, who observed suspicious behaviour and acted.*

## ‘RESPECTING CHILDREN’S RIGHTS AND HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT ASSESSMENTS IN TRAVEL AND TOURISM’



The panel discussion was convened by ECPAT Germany and moderated by **Rika Jean-Francois**, CSR Manager of the International Travel, Berlin ITB.

The discussion was conducted with the panellists:

- ▶ **Paula Gaviria**, the Presidential Commissioner for Human Rights, Colombia;
- ▶ **Beth Verhey**, Senior Advisor, Child Rights and Business, UNICEF;
- ▶ **Antje Monshausen**, Chairwoman of Roundtable Human Rights in Tourism;
- ▶ **Philip (Gerry) Dyer**, Chief of Office, End Violence Against Children, The Global Partnership; and
- ▶ **Theo Noten**, Programme Manager, Defence for Children-ECPAT The Netherlands

Child rights impact assessment are long and comprehensive processes that involve various stakeholders. The panel concluded after making the following points:

- ▶ The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPR) comprise of three pillars and clearly describe the obligations of companies to implement due diligence processes. At the same time, governments have to establish frameworks to address the role of the private sector in regards to corporate accountability.
- ▶ National Action Plans are an important tool to address the state’s duty regarding the UNGPR. Sectoral approaches, like those in the tourism industry, have proven to be essential in order to focus on specific needs and risks related to each sector.
- ▶ Tourism development plans need to be based on child rights impact assessments and local consultations.
- ▶ Small and medium enterprises need to be involved in child protection.
- ▶ There is a need for sustained and ongoing training, integrated into human resources processes and linked to referral mechanisms.
- ▶ Each organization including the private sector, government and NGOs, should have a policy and monitoring system to prevent the sexual exploitation of children.
- ▶ The process of stakeholder involvement has to be inclusive, transparent and built on trust.
- ▶ Time and resources need to be invested to help identify and involve the most vulnerable groups.

## ‘THE PRIVATE SECTOR’S ROLE IN CHILD PROTECTION’



The panel discussion was convened by the World Tourism and Travel Council and moderated by **Helen Marano**, Executive Vice-President, External Affairs, World Travel and Tourism Council.

Panellists included:

- ▶ **Lauren Aste**, Chief Legal Officer & General Counsel, Carlson Wagonlit Travel;
- ▶ **Jay Galindo**, Head of Regional Security for Caribbean, and Latin America, Marriott International;
- ▶ **Philip K.H. Ma**, Vice Chairman of China Chamber of Tourism;
- ▶ **Ken Sien**, Director, Strategic Accounts, Maritz Global Events;
- ▶ **Gustavo Toro**, President COTELCO (Hotel Association of Colombia); and
- ▶ **Caroline Meledo**, Senior Manager, Corporate Responsibility & Human Rights, Hilton.

The panel concluded with making the following points:

- ▶ There is a moral imperative to be involved, but there is also a good business case to be made for the private sector;
- ▶ Initiatives will not be effective without political will. The private sector needs to be ‘at the table’ with governments.
- ▶ The sexual exploitation of children is still a very sensitive topic in a number of countries but an absence of discussion does not mean that the problem does not exist.

While the travel and tourism industry is not the cause of this issue it has a key role to play in supporting the fight against this crime. Otherwise, there is a risk that the industry will be acting as a vehicle for the exploitation of children. There is a need to encourage the public to speak openly about the problem in order to prevent it.

- ▶ Chambers, Associations and Councils can play a crucial role in communicating child protection related issues with their members. For instance, the China Chamber of Tourism will require all members to sign declarations in accordance with international and Chinese laws to protect children, and to display information on this issue for customers.
- ▶ The travel and tourism industry in Colombia is sensitive to this issue, but fulfilling specific obligations remains a challenge. While preventative actions mostly take place in hotels, greater efforts also need to be undertaken in less regulated facilities, as the issue is much broader (e.g. the use of technology, AirBnB, booking.com). This issue should be brought to the attention of the UNWTO World Committee on Tourism Ethics.
- ▶ There are a number of ongoing initiatives undertaken by the private sector that were presented in the panel discussion. Standard-bearer companies can influence more tangible and multi-stakeholder actions and involve more actors to take further action. These include awareness-raising through mandatory and regular trainings (both for employees and franchises), connecting with clients and suppliers, establishing good relationship with law enforcement for reporting cases, ensuring monitoring of risks and progress made and increasing the involvement of companies.
- ▶ Both supply and demand need to be addressed – through education of customers and through zero-tolerance of sexual exploitation of children by companies and throughout their supply chains.

- ▶ The private sector also has a role in supporting families, educating parents and children.
- ▶ A number of successes were quoted when suspicious behaviours observed by the employees of the private sector were reported according to their internal child protection policies and the offenders were stopped.
- ▶ When it comes to child protection the private sector needs to join forces and work in a non-competitive spirit.

## ‘THE ROLE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT IN COMBATting TRAVELLING CHILD SEX OFFENDERS AND INTER-SECTORAL COOPERATION’



The panel discussion was convened by the National Police of Colombia and Fundación Renacer, and moderated by **Margaret Akullo**, Global Project Coordinator of GLO.ACT, UNODC.

Panelists included:

- ▶ **Bjorn Sellstrom**, Coordinator, Crimes Against Children team, OEC/VCO INTERPOL General Secretariat;
- ▶ **Marcos Gomez**, Homeland Security Investigations, Special Agent;
- ▶ **Mario Gomez Jimenez**, Adviser on Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Children, **General Prosecutor Office of Colombia**, **Eusebio Vasquez Colchado**, Chief, Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Division for the Loreto Region Criminal Investigation, National Police of Perú; and
- ▶ **Julio César González Bedoya**, Brigadier General, Director of Protection and Special Services, National Police of Colombia.

The panelists stressed that online and offline worlds are interlinked and every image of a child being sexually abused is evidence of a physical crime. The discussion concluded with the following points for action:

- ▶ There is a need to improve international cooperation, to share information by countries and undertake genuine action to effectively protect children from traveling child sex offenders. There are countries that are creating units, databases and connecting with others such as through the Interpol online sexual exploitation database, but to date- only 54 countries are connected. Regular exchange of information will also be enhanced through Interpol’s “Green notice” for convicted sex offenders who are likely to reoffend in other countries.
- ▶ As law enforcement work is not only to catch the perpetrators but to be child-rights focused this included a need for inviting young people to engage with the police in preventive initiatives.

*A number of major advances in collaboration were presented, including: good-practice examples on establishing cutting edge forensic facilities; collaboration amongst different local, regional and national law enforcement, civil society organisations, corporate partners (including IT and telecommunication companies); bilateral and multilateral mechanisms for international collaboration; multi-sectoral taskforces and dedicated child-focused police resources; trainings with police investigators, prosecutors and judges to facilitate increased successful arrests and prosecutions and education initiatives for children and youth on drugs, violence and sexual exploitation.*

# SUMMARY OF THE SESSIONS

## THE SESSION ON

### 'STRENGTHENING AWARENESS AND IMPROVING THE REPORTING SYSTEMS FOR SUSPECTED CASES OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN IN TRAVEL AND TOURISM'



The session was convened by The Colombian Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism and moderated by **Jorge Morandera**, Adviser to the Minister of Tourism of the Western Republic of Uruguay and Coordinator of the Executive Secretariat of GARA.

Speakers included:

- ▶ **Karol Fajardo Mariño**, Director of Sectoral Analysis and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism, Colombia, “Ojos en todas partes” campaign;
- ▶ **Isra Sunthornvut**, Secretary General, ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly, (AIPA); **Mauricio Rasi**, Special Adviser to the Ministry, Ministry of Tourism Brazil;
- ▶ **Astrid Winkler**, ECPAT Austria, “Don’t look away!” campaign; and
- ▶ **Zully Salazar**, President, Corporación de Turismo Cartagena de Indias and Fundación Renacer “La Muralla Soy Yo”.

The session focused on the most effective ways to raise awareness about the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism and how the travel and tourism industry can improve reporting.

The following conclusions were reached:

- ▶ The campaigns shall result in zero-tolerance to the sexual exploitation of children and increased reporting.
- ▶ There should be a strong focus on improving, strengthening and promoting reporting mechanisms to encourage the reporting of suspicious cases.
- ▶ There is a need to address demand by harmonizing regional laws. The ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly has initiated this process in Southeast Asia.
- ▶ Big sporting events are a good platform for promoting reporting campaigns, as demonstrated during the recent World Cup in Brazil, when there was an increase in the number of reported cases of the sexual exploitation of children.
- ▶ The focus should be placed on international cooperation between governments, law enforcement, the private sector and CSOs to raise awareness and mobilize the public so that they report suspected incidents. The campaigns should redirect the target audience to police reporting mechanisms as well as to low-threshold reporting systems run by civil society.
- ▶ The role of functioning helplines and hotlines needs to be promoted within the travel and tourism industry.
- ▶ Campaigns should reach out schools and universities to sensitize young people and their parents.
- ▶ Words matter – the campaigns should use and promote appropriate terminology. The term “child sex tourism” which may inadvertently legitimize and normalize this crime is harmful to children and the industry. The term “sexual exploitation of children in the context of travel and tourism” should be used instead.

## ‘SPORT EVENTS AND THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION’

The session was convened by the Council of Europe and moderated by **Elda Moreno**, Head of the Children’s Rights and Sport Values Department, Council of Europe.

Speakers included:

- ▶ **George Nikolaidis**, Chair of the Lanzarote Committee (Council of Europe Convention on the protection of children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse);
- ▶ **Andrés Franco**, Deputy Director, Private Sector Engagement, UNICEF;
- ▶ **Natalie Volin Lehr**, Director, Corporate Affairs, Carlson;
- ▶ **Sarah de Carvalho**, CEO, It’s a Penalty Campaign; and
- ▶ **Guillemette Vuillard**, Manager of the “Don’t look away!” campaign.

The following points were discussed:

- ▶ Big sporting events provide a platform for reaching a global audience in a very short period of time; social media messages reach millions of people and sport itself is an accelerator for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda.
- ▶ Multi-stakeholder collaboration is the key to preventing cases of child sexual exploitation. This includes working with the government, businesses, including the travel and tourism industry, sponsors, local organizations and law enforcement.
- ▶ The sexual exploitation of children doesn’t only take place in mega sporting events, but also within smaller sports clubs- and both boys and girls can become victims. For example, there was a recent case of basketball players that were exploited in a Greek island.
- ▶ A zero-tolerance policy toward the sexual exploitation of children needs to be adopted by all companies, and sports clubs. Child protection policies should be introduced by all sport organizations. In order to holistically address this issue, greater effort is needed and training needs to be provided to staff working in sports clubs.
- ▶ Social campaigns do have positive impact – a campaign on reporting suspicious activity conducted during the World Cup in Brazil helped to reintegrate 200 children.
- ▶ When working with businesses in sponsoring campaigns related to this issue, there is a greater chance of success if the message remains positive, such as promoting child protection at sporting events, rather than concentrating on a negative message.
- ▶ Child rights must become a central component of the planning of big sporting events. For example, during the Super Bowl an awareness and educational campaign was conducted with the support of Carlson. Similarly, the Commonwealth Games Federation has included child rights in their policy with the support of Terre Des Hommes International Federation.
- ▶ Legislation such as the Lanzarote Convention can serve as an incredibly useful tool in prosecuting offenders, particularly in the context of mega sporting events, where articles related to extra-territoriality and dual criminality serve as a guide for prosecutors. The Convention can be also applied outside Europe.

## ‘CHILDREN, VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING IN THE CONTEXT OF TRAVEL AND TOURISM’



The session was convened by UNODC Colombia and moderated by **Margaret Akullo**, Global Project Coordinator of GLO.ACT, UNODC.

The panellists included:

- ▶ **Miguel Uribe**, Government Secretary, Bogotá Mayor’s Office;
- ▶ **Nelson Rivera**, Therapeutic Deputy-Director, ECPAT Colombia/ Fundación Renacer;
- ▶ **Fernanda Fuentes**, National Project Officer, UNODC Brazil;
- ▶ **Andrea Claudia Querol Lipcovich**, President, CHS Alternativo, Perú; and
- ▶ **Felipe Botero Escobar**, Deputy Secretary for Human Rights and Peace Building, Secretariat for Peace and Civic Culture of the Cali Mayor’s Office.

The following points were discussed:

- ▶ There is a need to support families to create protective environments for children. Laws are not sufficient to prevent sexual exploitation.
- ▶ It is important to create a space for dialogue between the private sector, civil society organizations, local and national governments in order to drive the prevention, protection, prosecutions and partnerships approach.
- ▶ Special focus needs to be given to migrants as they are particularly vulnerable to trafficking. Cross border cooperation needs to be strengthened.
- ▶ Gender approach as a key to understanding this crime, there is a need to target girls and women as well as boys, transgender and LGBT groups.
- ▶ Law enforcement needs to ensure control and screening of tourist destinations so potential offenders understand that they will not remain anonymous.
- ▶ The sexual exploitation of children is rooted in a broader problem of violence that needs to be addressed.
- ▶ Child trafficking for sexual purposes is not always linked with big organized crime groups, but with individual offenders.
- ▶ Political will is necessary to fight corruption and address this crime through coordination among local authorities, NGOs and neighbouring countries.

## ‘INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTOURISM – RISKS FOR CHILDREN IN TRAVEL AND TOURISM’

The session was convened by Better Care Network and moderated by **Najat Maalla M’jid**, Chair of the High-Level Taskforce on Child Protection in Travel and Tourism, and former UN Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography.

The following speakers participated in the discussion:

- ▶ **Florence Martin**, Director, Better Care Network;
- ▶ **Mechtild Maurer**, Executive Director, ECPAT Germany;
- ▶ **Rebecca Nhep**, Joint CEO- ACCI Relief, Co-Chair- ReThink Orphanages Network, Better Volunteering Better Care Initiative; and
- ▶ **Damien Brosnan**, Programme Manager, The Code.

A [video recording](#) from **Senator Linda Reynolds**, Australia was presented.

The discussion focused on voluntourism and orphanage tourism – both of which present an array of risks to children, including the risk of child sexual exploitation and even by creating demand for ‘orphanage trafficking’ where children are sought to fill facilities. The following conclusions were reached:

- ▶ There is a challenge in raising awareness amongst tourists and companies that involve employees in community work of the risks associated with certain activities, that may seem to be making a ‘positive difference’ but do not consider the negative impacts and implications for children.
- ▶ A child-rights based framework must be brought to tourism or we may see similar problems continue to arise. For example, as demand shifts away from orphanage tourism it might transfer to other types of child-related tourism activities.
- ▶ Norms and standards need to be disseminated in the tourism industry and it is the responsibility of governments and civil society to advocate and intervene to scrutinize travel and tourism products.
- ▶ It is the responsibility of tourism companies as well as faith-based organizations promoting mission trips to engage in child rights based activities and understand what is harmful for children. Travel companies should pull orphanage tourism out of their packages.
- ▶ CSOs can support certification organizations on how to establish guidelines for change to redirect the good intentions in an ethical and sustainable manner. The challenge is to approach and work with small companies offering voluntourism.
- ▶ Successes have been seen, for example Australia has become the first country to include orphanage trafficking and orphanage tourism as a form of modern slavery in their legislation.
- ▶ The Code developed a policy for its members that requires them to withdraw voluntourism and orphanage tourism from the companies’ products.
- ▶ Orphanage tourism needs to be banned; other forms of volunteering can be proposed that are safe for children.
- ▶ Nobody should work with children unless they are well-trained on psychological care and children’s rights.
- ▶ Everybody can make a difference and raise awareness about risks for children linked with voluntourism, also through social media.
- ▶ All organizations, donors, governments should require appropriate procedures and child protection policies and ensure that children are empowered to influence practices and make reports.
- ▶ Political will is necessary to fight corruption and address this crime through coordination among local authorities, NGOs and neighbouring countries.

## ‘THE NEED FOR STANDARDS ON CHILD PROTECTION IN THE TRAVEL AND TOURISM SECTOR’



The session was convened by Fundación Renacer/ECPAT Colombia in partnership with the Colombia’s Presidential Human Rights Programme and Moderated by **Luz Angela Artunduaga Charry**, Representative, UNICEF Colombia.

Speakers included:

- ▶ **Katherine Herrera Moreno**, UNICEF/Advisor to the Presidential Commissioner for Human Rights, Colombia;
- ▶ **John Karakatsianis**, Corporate Citizenship Director, Avianca;
- ▶ **Guillaume Landry**, Director General, International Bureau of Children Rights;
- ▶ **Elise Allart**, Executive Director Programmes & Operations, TUI Care Foundation & former Manager Sustainability TUI Benelux; and
- ▶ **Cecilia Anicama**, Programme Specialist, SRSG on Violence against Children Team.

The following points were discussed:

- ▶ Private sector needs to implement child protection standards as part of companies’ business models.
- ▶ There is a challenge to engage more companies, in particular small and medium-size companies, as well as the so called “informal” sector, to implement child protection standards and develop monitoring tools for its implementation.
- ▶ Private sector plays a key role in protecting children from all forms of violence. Prevention is also a form of reducing risks through due diligence processes.
- ▶ Private sector needs to center all of its policies and standards on human rights, and in particular child rights in order to contribute to sustainable development of communities.
- ▶ By adopting and implementing codes of conduct, the private sector can create protective environments for children and ensure, that children are safe from all forms of exploitation.

## ‘PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN IN TRAVEL AND TOURISM’



The session was convened by [Down to Zero](#) Alliance Partners and moderated by **Carrie van der Kroon**, Programme Officer, Defence for Children – ECPAT Netherlands and **Judith Flick**, Programme Manager Down to Zero, Terre des Hommes Netherlands.

Speakers included:

- ▶ **Michelle Guelbart**, Director of Private Sector Engagement, ECPAT-USA;
- ▶ **Caroline Meledo**, Senior Manager, Corporate Responsibility and Human Rights, Hilton;
- ▶ **Joyatri Ray**, Programme Coordinator Society, Culture and Tourism, EQUATIONS, India;
- ▶ **Theo Noten**, Programme Manager Defence for Children – ECPAT The Netherlands;
- ▶ **Hernán Franco**, Manager, Hotel Matisse; and
- ▶ **Humberto Rodríguez**, The Code Manager, ECPAT Colombia.

The following points were discussed:

- ▶ Private businesses that are committed to protect children in travel and tourism should more actively communicate externally about their efforts in order to inspire other companies – positive communication can spur further action.
- ▶ Employers should train all employees, not only frontline staff, but also housekeeping, security, sales, communications, ICT and other areas to ensure they are aware of the problem and committed to child protection.
- ▶ The private sector has an important role to play in involving the non-licensed, informal or unorganized sectors that are part of their value chain; as they know what is happening on the ground and can take action to report.
- ▶ CSOs are an important partner that can assist companies in understanding the problem, providing training and support in developing child protection policies as well as ensuring psycho-social support and reintegration for children.
- ▶ CSOs together with the private sector can advocate and communicate with the governments at local, regional and national levels to ensure that child protection measures and legislation are implemented.

## ‘LEGAL FRAMEWORKS AND THEIR IMPLEMENTATION’



The session was convened by Fundación Renacer / ECPAT Colombia and UNICEF Colombia and moderated by **Nidia Cerinza**, Judge, Council of State Gender Commission, Colombia.

Speakers included:

- ▶ **Juan Carlos Cortés González**, Deputy Ombudsman, Colombia;
- ▶ **George Nikolaidis**, Chair of the Lanzarote Committee (Council of Europe Convention on the protection of children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse);
- ▶ **Stella Conto**, Judge of the High State Court, Colombia;
- ▶ **Pablo Cruz Casas**, Federal Judge, Argentina; and
- ▶ **Paola Hittscher**, Special Prosecutor on Trafficking, Perú.

The following recommendations were discussed:

- ▶ Law enforcement should strengthen cross-border cooperation in the region to improve protection of children from trafficking.
- ▶ Governments should dedicate more financial and human resources for law enforcement to ensure that the large volume of cases are investigated and officers are well trained in child-friendly methods.
- ▶ Border control officers should ensure swift exchange of information in the investigation process.
- ▶ Governments should cooperate closely with the private sector, both travel and tourism and IT, as well as with civil society organizations and medical staff.
- ▶ While implementing national legal frameworks, reference should be made to international legal instruments, such as the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, known as the Lanzarote Convention, that constitutes the most comprehensive legal tool for protecting children from sexual abuse and exploitation.
- ▶ Governments and law enforcement should go beyond implementation of the legal frameworks and create comprehensive strategies that can change social attitudes. This can be achieved by using child-rights based language and having the best interest of the child as a guiding principle.

## ‘THE ROLE OF THE MEDIA IN THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN IN TRAVEL AND TOURISM’



The session was convened by UNICEF and moderated by **Suzanne Bilello**, Communications Expert, UNICEF.

Speakers included:

- ▶ **Anastasia Moloney**, Latin America and Caribbean correspondent, Thomson Reuters Foundation;
- ▶ **Leif Coorlim**, Freedom Project, Editorial Director and Executive Director of CNN International;
- ▶ **Susanna Greijer**, Project Coordinator, Luxemburg Terminology Guidelines for the protection of children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse; and
- ▶ **Ximena Norato Palomeque**, Director and Founder, PANDI News Agency.

The following recommendations for media were discussed:

- ▶ Create empathy to change behaviours and end social tolerance to the crime of sexual exploitation of children.
- ▶ Talk to survivors, support them and help them tell their stories.
- ▶ Make change if other solutions fail – for example CNN freedom project started after footage documenting child trafficking, that was presented to local authorities did not result in an investigation.

- ▶ Play an important role in reporting potential cases that can lead to arrests of travelling child sex offenders by law enforcement.
- ▶ Approach governments to provide media with access to data and urge them to collect disaggregated data and monitor systems in order to inform action on the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism.
- ▶ Ensure, that some topics, like the sexual exploitation of boys, receive coverage, although there may be taboos in society and difficulties for victims to speak out.
- ▶ Do not produce sensational coverage of the sexual exploitation of children in the news and media, as this approach is exacerbating the problem instead of reducing it.
- ▶ Establish a closer dialogue with civil society organizations and media about what constitutes a “good story” that contributes to child protection. Media often regard CSOs as not “news friendly”, while it’s the best interest of the child and his/her privacy that need to be the basic concern.
- ▶ Remember that words matter when trying to change the way the sexual exploitation of children is perceived by the society and media. Media outlets have a leadership role and should promote the Luxemburg Terminology Guidelines.

# KEY ACTIONS DISCUSSED

## RECOMMENDATIONS AND MAIN POINTS FROM

### THE DISCUSSIONS FROM THE PANELS



The recommendations and main points were presented by **Corinne Dettmeijer Vermeulen**, former National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings and Sexual Violence against Children, The Netherlands.

Corinne Dettmeijer-Vermeulen stressed coinciding commitments expressed by the participants of the summit.

She started by discussing who has **responsibility for child protection in travel and tourism** and the moral imperative to act.

She asked how best to translate this responsibility into action and accountability, claiming that people do not really want to acknowledge the sexual exploitation of children and if they do, they often act as if this crime was only happening in “faraway countries” and was committed only by “paedophiles”. However, we know this is not true.

The sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism affects every country. Therefore, all countries and governments have the responsibility to prevent their sex offender citizens from reoffending in other countries. The country where victimization takes place, also has a responsibility to establish good reporting systems, ensure that law enforcement is well-resourced and that victims are protected and approached in a child sensitive manner with full respect of their rights.

The country where victims are located needs to raise awareness about the sexual exploitation of children and ensure prevention.

Corinne Dettmeijer-Vermeulen recalled a picture described during the second panel: “People at the beach. Out in the open, the signs of child exploitation were evident. The perpetrator felt safe, anonymous and at liberty. But then, a tourist that witnessed the situation picked up the man’s tablet and smashed it. The offender was reported to the police, apprehended and convicted”. It was a good example of awareness about this crime and active engagement of the public in child protection. That is where campaigns like “Ojos en todas partes” or “Don’t look away!” have done their work and that is what needs to be continued by other countries. In this case, there was a reporting system in place and it was used. Law enforcement was also effective.

She recalled another case discussed in the fifth panel. A man, who sexually abused a child, was deported and believed that he had got away with the crime. However, once he landed in the USA, he was apprehended and prosecuted. This was a good example of cooperation between law enforcement from different countries.

Still, many perpetrators feel they can get away with this crime. Because they feel anonymous, they are on the move, far away in places where they feel they can do things they would not do at home. Or would not dare do at home because they are convicted sex offenders. They are travelling, within their own country, abroad, or on the internet.

Travel and tourism does not create sex offenders, but the industry is in a position to identify them. We heard that although addressing the sexual exploitation of children is a relatively new field for some companies, it is increasingly becoming recognized as a critical one, for moral and business reasons. It is important that the industry addresses this crime, rather than be a vehicle

for the exploitation of children. We have heard excellent examples, of staff trainings to identify cases of sexual exploitation. The major hotel chains set a good example that they should be proud of and publicize. A call was heard for non-formal booking platforms and accommodation providers to also take action on non-regulated facilities and services, although they were not represented at this summit.

In her speech, Corinne Dettmeijer-Vermeulen reminded everyone that the keywords from the summit were: **cooperation** between countries, **police forces, public** and **private partnerships** and **civil society**. Civil society developed codes of conduct and child protection guidelines. Travel and tourism industry can improve them and bring to the next level. And when the private sector does not abide their own accord it is the government that should set rules and regulations.

As technology advances, abuse and exploitation becomes more sophisticated – to the point where perpetrators can access children, document the abuse and then in real-time post it on the internet to share with other offenders. There is political will to protect children both online and off-line, but there is a need for improved international cooperation and genuine action. Interpol is a collaboration of 192 countries and their mission is “connect police for a safer world”. Technology does not only lead to more sophisticated abuse, it also leads to forensic improvements and finding the digital footprint of perpetrators.

Corinne Dettmeijer-Vermeulen concluded that it is important to remember that police and all other partners work is to stop the perpetrators. It should be always child-rights focused. The real aim of our work is to promote and ensure rights for all children.

## THE DISCUSSIONS FROM THE CONCURRENT WORKING SESSIONS



The recommendations and main points were briefly summarized by all the moderators during the closing session.

**Strengthening awareness and improving the reporting systems for suspected cases of the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism:** Tourism can make the difference, it is inclusive. We need to improve legislation and work closer with parliamentarians. All tourism destinations need to apply justice by strengthening and developing operational reporting systems. Training for employees needs to be delivered at different levels and should be based on internal child protection policies with clear guidance on how to report suspicious cases.

**Sports events and the protection of children from sexual exploitation:** We need to combine strategies, focus on specific situations of a host country, based on children rights impact assessment and multi-stakeholder alliances. Mobilize international key stakeholders to develop strategies that go beyond their individual events. Governments need to implement international standards and ensure that all sport movements implement them. All stakeholders, including grass-root sport organizations, must team up to create a culture of zero-tolerance towards sexual exploitation of children. Sport is powerful, it is a driver for a positive change. We need champions of child protection in travel and tourism.

**Child victims of trafficking in the context of travel and tourism:** Trafficking of children for sexual purposes needs to be combatted through coordinated responses at local, regional and national level. Political will needs to translate into concrete actions and funding for child protection. We need to promote coordination between neighbouring countries and understand gender dimension of trafficking.

**International voluntourism – risks for children in travel and tourism:** Orphanage tourism

contributes to sexual exploitation of children and should be banned. We need to address both the demand and supply side. Promote global awareness raising campaigns to shift young people understanding of what is in the best interest of the child. We need to promote child-rights based alternatives to voluntourism that involves direct contact with children, as children are not a travel product. Norms and standards need to be disseminated, so that tourism companies offer ethical and rights based products.

**The need for standards of child protection across the travel and tourism industry:** It's impossible to talk about sustainability if we don't talk about children rights in the private sector. The challenge is how to make sure that the standards are being implemented in the travel and tourism industry. We need to build alliances and stop social tolerance to the sexual exploitation of children.

**Partnerships between civil society organizations and the private sector for the protection of children in travel and tourism:** Child protection is not only the concern of frontline hotel staff, all employees need to be trained and committed at all levels of business. CSOs and the private sector need to communicate more about child protection initiatives, as positive communication and good practice examples will spur more positive actions. Child protection needs to be ensured through the supply chains of the private sector. We need to create tourism destinations that are free from sexual exploitation of children.

**Legal frameworks and their implementation:** Adopt and implement legal frameworks that do not re-victimize children. Special attention to child protection is needed in the framework of cross-border cooperation, where all actors need to be involved.

**The role of the media in the protection of children in travel and tourism:** Media need to commit from the very top of their organizations. Language is a very sensitive issue as it is crucial to convey a correct understanding of child protection issues and vulnerability of children. Closer collaboration and exchange is needed between civil society organizations and media practitioners, so they know how to talk about sexual exploitation of children. We need to bridge the gap and build capacity of journalists to talk about the complexity of this crime.



**Najat Maalla M'jid, Chair of the High-Level Taskforce on Child Protection in Travel and Tourism (HLTF)** concluded the final session by reiterating that the HLTF is committed to ensure the follow-up to the summit through building bridges and providing visibility to multi-stakeholder practices and actions that will be implemented by all the participants.

**The Call for Action** was developed during the summit through the multi-stakeholder discussion with all the co-organizers and was presented by **Sandra Howard, Vice Minister of Tourism, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism, Colombia.**

# SUMMIT DECLARATION AND THE CALL FOR ACTION



We, the participants of the first International Summit on Child Protection in Travel and Tourism, which was hosted by the Government of Colombia, and co-organised by The World Travel and Tourism Council, ECPAT International, UNODC, UNICEF, the High Level Global Task Force on Child Protection in Travel and Tourism and ECPAT Colombia/Fundación Renacer:

Reiterate that the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism encompasses a broad spectrum of exploitation of children; including in prostitution and pornography; for the production of online child abuse material; and in the sale and trafficking of children in all its forms; and that various travel products put children at risk of exploitation, such as voluntourism, orphanage tourism or mega events.

Recognize that the travel and tourism industry is in a unique position to identify and prevent this crime and it is a moral imperative for each of the segments, both private and public, to take an active role in eradicating the sexual exploitation of children.

Stress that the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism is fuelled by increasing child vulnerability due to soaring poverty rates, social disparities, gender discrimination, drug and alcohol abuse, environmental degradation, HIV, displacement, migration, armed conflicts, natural disasters, some harmful social norms and societal tolerance of this crime.

Recall the Convention on the Rights of the Child as a framework instrument that defines a child as a person under 18-years-old and emphasizes the principles of non-discrimination, the right to life, survival and development, the best interests of the child, and the right to participate.

Recognize that the Summit brought together pivotal world leaders representing governments, international and regional multilateral organizations, the private sector, law enforcement agencies, child rights experts, non-governmental organizations and youth representatives. This was done to identify the action required to implement the 2 recommendations of the Global Study on Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism, (which are aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals)- and to develop a roadmap to address this persistent worldwide challenge.

Highlight that the Global Study, which was produced and widely disseminated in cooperation with 67 partners worldwide documents the continued growth of the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism, the increasing numbers of child victims, and the global and evolving nature of this crime in an increasingly globalized and interconnected world.

Affirm the conclusions of the Global Study, which include, but are not limited to:

- ▶ The vulnerability of children has increased as the number of travellers and tourists has more than doubled in the last 20 years. This has been exacerbated by the rapid development of the ICT sector and the increasing expansion of social networks that facilitate easier contact with children in all parts of the world.
- ▶ No region is untouched and no country is immune to this crime – as the travel and tourism sector is expected to continue to expand and diversify in the future.
- ▶ Most offenders sexually exploit children because they have the opportunity to do so, as there is a prevailing perception

of impunity and anonymity. There is no typical offender – the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism involves not only tourists but also business travellers, transient workers or volunteers that exploit children in various settings – often with the support of suppliers and intermediaries.

- ▶ The sexual exploitation of children is not just about international tourists, as regional and domestic travellers commit the vast majority of offences throughout the world.
- ▶ The sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism is multi-dimensional and involves different manifestations of often interlinked forms, including trafficking for sexual purposes, sexual exploitation of children for prostitution, online child sexual exploitation and early or forced child marriage.
- ▶ Although significant progress has been made over the past years towards better protection of children from the sexual exploitation in travel and tourism, the global situation continues to exacerbate risks.
- ▶ Governments, NGOs and other organizations face multi-faceted challenges in tackling these crimes due to insufficient multi-stakeholder cooperation across sectors, along with fragmented approaches that do not take into account its multidimensional nature.

Emphasize that the increasing vulnerability of children worldwide is linked with complex risk factors, such as conflict, migration, displacement, living in child care institutions, orphanages or on the streets, that deprive them of a protective environment.

Note with concern that the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism is underreported and under-prosecuted – often due to social tolerance, cultural taboo, fear of reporting cases and obstacles to accessing the justice system. These factors intensify the feeling of anonymity and impunity of offenders.

Also note that the Global Study provides comprehensive guidance for establishing a child rights centred, multi-stakeholder plan of action for the effective and sustainable protection of children in travel and tourism.

Acknowledge the benefits to national economies from travel and tourism but recognize that the expansion of the industry increases potential risks of the sexual exploitation of children.

Recognize the critical role played by each of the participants of the Summit, representing governments, the private sector, law enforcement agencies, UN agencies, civil society organizations, and youth, as a catalyst of change in the promotion of child protection in travel and tourism.

Emphasize the central role of children in promoting their rights in the context of travel and tourism. Emphasize the crucial role of governments, and in particular Ministries of Tourism (or their equivalents) in cooperation with justice, law enforcement and social sectors, in prioritizing child protection and the elimination of all forms of violence against children within tourism and travel agendas in particular in accordance with Sustainable Development Goals 5, 8 and 16.

Emphasize the key role played by the travel and tourism sector, and related industries, including information technology, in strengthening the protection of children from the sexual exploitation in travel and tourism, recognising, in particular, good practices implemented by hotels, airlines, travel agencies, tour operators, taxi companies and others from all over the world that serve as model for travel and tourism sectors.

Emphasize the importance of regional intergovernmental bodies in undertaking efforts to protect children in travel and tourism.

Recognize the role of the civil society organizations in protecting children from sexual exploitation in travel and tourism and providing direct help to child victims – as well as encouraging cooperation among various stakeholders, including mobilizing and supporting the private sector in advancing responsible business practices towards child protection.

Value the leadership of the High Level Global Task Force on Child Protection in Travel and Tourism that guided the development of the Global Study on the Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism and later shifted its mandate to the elimination of sexual exploitation of children through the implementation of the recommendations of the Global Study.

Reaffirm strong commitments by leaders and international experts representing some private sector, law enforcement agencies, international and regional bodies, as well as INGOs active in the field, to address the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism (as discussed at the “Transition Meeting” hosted by the UNWTO in July 2017 in Madrid).

Recognize that a number of joint initiatives linked to child protection in travel and tourism have already been successfully implemented in many countries, such as the work that UNODC and UNICEF are doing supported by the European Union under GLO.ACT on victim support services and relevant government authorities to develop frameworks for the protection and assistance of children.

Recall the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations 'Protect, Respect and Remedy' Framework and Children's Rights and Business Principles, which provide a framework for business to respect and support children's rights.

Stress the significance of transforming the Code of Ethics for Tourism into an international convention, known as the UNWTO Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics.

Recall the legacy of the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development 2017, which called for tourism industry to lead sustainable development with the slogan "Leaving no one behind" including children.

Stress that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development enshrines specific targets related to ending all forms of violence against children (5.2, 8.7, 16.2) and promoting development of sustainable tourism (8.9, 12b) that are interrelated.

Highlight the strategic opportunity in 2019 provided by the UN High-Level Political Forum to assess progress towards the elimination of sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism as one of the forms of violence specifically mentioned by the Sustainable Development Goal 16, target 16.2 in the 2030 Agenda.

Recognize that the development and implementation of global, national and regional strategies to advance the 2030 Agenda offers an opportunity to strengthen cross-sectoral and cross-regional partnerships, which are necessary to protect children from sexual exploitation in travel and tourism.

Recall the need to ratify and implement other international instruments and revise national laws accordingly, including:

- ▶ The Optional Protocol to the CRC on a Communications Procedure (OP3 CRC), 2014;

- ▶ The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, 2000;
- ▶ The ILO Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour No.182;
- ▶ The following Council of Europe Conventions: Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, CETS No.201, 2007 (Lanzarote Convention); Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, CETS No. 197, 2005 and Convention on Cybercrime, CETS No. 185, 2001; and
- ▶ The United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and the United Nations Trafficking in Persons Protocol, to combat organized crime to investigate and prosecute child traffickers and child sex offenders.

Recall the United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/64/293 where the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons was adopted in 2010 and where a call was made to address the social, economic, cultural, political and other factors as well as eliminate the culture of tolerance towards violence that make young people and children vulnerable to being trafficked.

Acknowledge that 2019 will see the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention of the Rights of the Child, which provides an opportunity to spur accelerated action to ensure the right of every child to live free from all forms of sexual exploitation.

Reiterate the urgent need for accelerated action to protect children in travel and tourism.

**We call upon all key stakeholders to adopt a comprehensive, child rights-centred multi-stakeholder framework where all key actors actively work together to end impunity for travelling child sex offenders, through:**

- ▶ **Strong and sustainable evidence-based awareness** that will inform and mobilize key actors, including communities, families and children to end societal tolerance to the sexual exploitation in travel and tourism and open a constructive dialogue with the media on the need to enhance child protection in travel and tourism and promote the use of the appropriate terminology.

Multi-stakeholder actions:  
Launch a global campaign;  
Create a central repository of existing resources to make them accessible to provide practical guidance.

- ▶ **Proactive, comprehensive, context specific and sustainable prevention** based on identifying and tackling underlying risk factors, empowering children as actors in child rights protection, and promoting self-regulatory mechanisms, codes of conduct and other standards on child protection to respond to existing and new forms of the exploitation of children in the context of travel and tourism.

Multi-stakeholder action: Train relevant key stakeholders for a common and appropriate understanding of the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism along with the implementation of standards on child protection across the travel and tourism sector.

- ▶ **Strong and effective legal frameworks** ensuring the protection of children and the prosecution of offenders; increasing cooperation between law enforcement and the justice system for successful cross-border investigations.

Multi-stakeholder actions:  
Strengthen or develop operational reporting systems such as helplines, hotlines and online reporting platforms;

Establish standards to report cases of the sexual exploitation in travel and tourism and engage the public to actively use reporting mechanisms;  
Ensure that law enforcement is well-resourced and trained to identify, investigate and use child-friendly methods when dealing with child victims and witnesses.

- ▶ **Access to child and gender sensitive justice, protection, comprehensive care and full recovery** for children by providing special and prompt protection and assistance that is appropriate to prevent further victimization and trauma.

Multi-stakeholder action:  
Ensure financial and human resources for appropriate and long term medical and psycho-social support for children taken into account along with reintegration, psychological and physical issues potentially faced by victims.

Appreciate the contributions from all the partners and participants, and the multi-stakeholder dialogue that was scaled-up with the first International Summit on Child Protection in Travel and Tourism.

**We reaffirm our commitment to build upon this [Declaration and the Call to Action of the Summit](#) to ensure the protection of children in travel and tourism and to end impunity.**

# MANIFESTO FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN IN TRAVEL AND TOURISM FOR LATIN AMERICA



Gathered in Bogotá for the first International Summit on Child Protection in Travel and Tourism, on behalf of the Government of Colombia, host of this important event with the participation of the Governments of Brazil, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay and Uruguay;

Considering tourism as a crosscutting activity for the social and economic development for all countries;

Recognizing that tourism is key for the development of the world's economy as a productive activity that contributes in promoting an inclusive and sustainable growth, and as an essential tool for the restoration and enhancement of the social fabric, through productive employment, decent work, mainstreaming gender equality, peaceful co-existence among people, safeguarding human rights and lobbying towards better living conditions for the host communities and a positive experience for those who visit them; Taking into account that, in order to comply with national and international laws, policies, programmes and projects related to tourism development, the cooperation and linkage between governments, the public and private sector, as well as the civil society and local communities is essential; so that future generations can also access and benefit in a sustainable manner from the wealth and social benefits offered by this industry;

Understanding that the sexual exploitation of children overshadows the tourism industry; Recognizing that these illegal practices must be stopped with responsibility, ensuring that countries, day by day, strengthen their image as destinations that do not tolerate such crimes, through concerted actions at all levels, local, national and international;

Bearing in mind that the sexual exploitation of children is a violation of the fundamental rights of this population and is a form of coercion and violence;

Expressing the will to establish cooperation and coordination mechanisms within the 17 goal framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

And acting in full accordance with each of the present institutions and signatory organizations, through its representatives. We declare that:

1. Tourism must be promoted as a positive activity that boosts human rights, such as the right to work, to leisure and to exchange local culture and diversity, firmly rejecting terms such as "sex tourism" and "child sex tourism", in order to avoid the mistaken perception of these terms as being licit or recognized by the sector;
2. A joint effort from governments, international organizations, unions, tourism service providers and other key actors in the sector is needed to offset the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism;
3. Long-term national policies that highlight the importance of working permanently for the prevention and subsequent eradication of the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism must be promoted;
4. Fighting the sexual exploitation of children is responsibility of states and family. Civil society also plays a vital role in the prevention and protection of children from sexual exploitation;

5. A broader knowledge and better understanding of the current national and international regulations in regards to sexual exploitation must be achieved, for which the regulations and information shared need to be understood and correctly comprehended by the recipients, in conformity with the protection of their fundamental rights;
6. Monitoring and impact evaluations of tourism development plans aiming at protecting the rights of children must be enforced;
7. Efforts to involve the private sector in the design and implementation of policies that prevent the sexual exploitation of children must be developed and strengthened. While it is important to include large companies, efforts must be done to include small and medium-sized enterprises and establishments, as well as the various branches that conform the tourism industry – such as land, air and maritime transport, the food and beverage sector, travel agencies and recreational facilities, among others. This will lead to an enhanced cross sector and multi-stakeholder action across the entire industry value chain, strengthening the protection of children against sexual exploitation;
8. Continuity must be given to the actions implemented against the sexual exploitation of children; the public and private sectors must act consistently with policies and laws, as well as in keeping with ethical values, especially those from the *Global Code of Ethics for Tourism*;
9. ICT companies must be involved to collaborate with law enforcement agencies in preventing the use of new technologies with the purpose of sexual exploitation of children; and, to collaborate with the financial sector to put an end to the profits gained by exploiters, criminal networks and facilitators;
10. A joint strategy with the ICT regulatory body to control the content of web pages in which the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism can be facilitated must be created;
11. Working groups/task force teams in the public and private sectors, and in civil society organizations must be created and strengthened. These are key in the research, monitoring and development of strategies that prevent and combat the sexual exploitation of children at local level. Citizens and public servants must be empowered so that they actively participate in the prevention and reporting of those who are involved in this crime. Also, they are essential in the process of identifying best practices, and supporting the process of recovery and rehabilitation of victims;
12. Awareness-raising and training campaigns on responsible tourism aimed at various users and actors in the travel and tourism sector must be promoted to provide information on the phenomenon of exploitation and sexual abuse of children, and for preventive measures that can be taken to reduce and eradicate all cases of exploitation and sexual abuse of children in the context of travel and tourism;
13. Local, national and international campaigns must be developed that are designed to promote a zero tolerance attitude towards the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism, aimed mainly at condemning and warning aggressors and those who facilitate or promote these crime;
14. Information systems must be strengthened and standardized in order to have accurate and up to date information of the figures showing the behaviour of the offenders.

With these actions we will be giving continuity to the work that has been developed jointly as a region for the prevention and eradication of human trafficking and the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism, with the commitment to coordinate concrete and measurable actions aimed at complying with the international duty to combat the causes that generate and maintain these forms of violence; particularly, by developing social mobilization actions that place the focus on the discouragement of demand in the so-called tourists or travellers, and of the naturalization of human trafficking and the sexual exploitation of children, women and other traditionally marginalized groups.

This letter is signed in Bogotá D.C on the 7th day of the month of June 2018, by the following representatives of the Governments that are part of the Regional Action Group of the Americas – GARA (Grupo de Acción Regional de las Américas):

SANDRA HOWARD TAYLOR  
VICE-MINISTER OF TOURISM OF COLOMBIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND  
TOURISM

ALDO INSFRAN OLIVERA  
HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT FOR QUALITY  
TOURISM  
MINISTRY OF TOURISM OF PARAGUAY

CLAUDIA GARCÍA ZARAGOZA  
DIRECTOR FOR THE ADVOCACY AND  
TRANSVERSALISATION OF THE GENDER  
PERSPECTIVE  
MINISTRY OF TOURISM OF MEXICO

LUIS ROLANDO MICH  
HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT FOR TOURIST  
ASSISTANCE  
GUATEMALAN INSTITUTE OF TOURISM

MARURICIO SPONTON RASI  
SPECIAL ADVISER  
MINISTRY OF TOURISM OF BRAZIL

MARIA JOSE MONCADA VALLADARES  
DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR TOURISM PLANNING,  
MANAGEMENT AND INVESTMENT  
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR TOURISM OF  
HONDURAS

JORGE W. MORANDEIRA  
ASSESSOR  
MINISTRY OF TOURISM OF URUGUAY  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE REGIONAL  
ACTION GROUP OF THE AMERICAS

SHANTANNY ANASH CAMPBELL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CHIEF  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER  
NICARAGUAN INSTITUTE OF TOURISM

The original version of the Manifesto in Spanish can be found [here](#).

# ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS



**BIOS OF THE SPEAKERS** are available [here](#).

**PROGRAMME OF THE SUMMIT** is available [here](#).

**PARTICIPANTS LIST** is available [here](#).

## CONCEPT NOTES

- ▶ Concept notes from the discussion panels can be found [here](#).
- ▶ Concept notes from the working session can be found [here](#).

## OTHER RESOURCES

- ▶ The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, [www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/GuidingPrinciplesBusinessHR\\_EN.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/GuidingPrinciplesBusinessHR_EN.pdf)
- ▶ Children's Rights and Business Principles, [www.unicef.org/csr/resources.html](http://www.unicef.org/csr/resources.html)
- ▶ UNWTO Global Code of Ethics, <http://ethics.unwto.org/content/global-code-ethics-tourism>
- ▶ UNWTO Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics, <http://ethicsconventions.unwto.org>
- ▶ The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism [www.thecode.org](http://www.thecode.org)

We invite all the participants of the first International Summit on Child Protection in Travel and Tourism to share your news, resources and practical examples on how to protect children in travel and tourism. Let's create a central repository together!

More at: [www.protectingchildrenintourism.org](http://www.protectingchildrenintourism.org)



International Summit on  
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in Travel and Tourism

**ORGANIZER:**



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contra la Droga y el Delito



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