

Proceedings of the Closing Ceremony

(I) Presentation of Key Recommendations*

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- 1.** To create an **Alliance for the Child**, in the form of an active body of persons in the field of law, to be set up immediately and vigorously to pursue all proposals. The body will function in partnership between the legal fraternity, voluntary groups working with children and all other interested persons including children.
- 2.** To review all national legislations pertaining to the child to be undertaken to identify problems in implementation of existing laws and to suggest fresh legislation where national legislation falls short of the standard set by the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). This review to be completed three months prior to the due dates for the respective country reports, in order to enrich these reports.
- 3.** To introduce the CRC into the syllabi of graduate law courses (LL.B.) as a compulsory paper additionally in all universities by the academic year 1995-96.
- 4.** To facilitate a campaign over media, including the electronic media, for publicizing the Convention and for advocating the rights of children in simple terms to the public in general and to the children themselves.
- 5.** To shape the future by immediately implementing the promise of free and compulsory primary education. This means enforcement of, and provision for, satisfactory educational facilities. This can be done incrementally starting with children of five years of age from the year 1994.
- 6.** To actively remove children from bondage and all hazardous workplaces and to revise legislation, totally to prohibit child labour; these measures to be supported by community awareness campaigns on the value of primary education.
- 7.** To strive for adult literacy so that parents can better understand, and cater for their children's rights to education, health, nutrition and freedom from labour.

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8. To pursue those in authority to provide incentives to needy families refraining from posting their children as wage earners.
9. To create greater awareness among law enforcement officers and the public about the plight of street children and children living in urban slums.
10. To transfer effectively the control over health and nutritional outreach services, education, water and sanitation and disability aid to institutions ensuring delivery and accountability.
11. To address through legal and social action the specific needs of the girl child, to protect her right to survival, development, protection and participation. Specifically, to :
 - introduce more stringent laws banning gender-specific foeticide;
 - ensure that there is compulsory registration of all births and deaths;
 - provide equal opportunities for boys and girls to participate in all social sector schemes dealing with health, nutrition and education;
- enforce minimum age of marriage for girls and more stringent enforcement of anti-dowry legislation;
- recognize the woman as a legal entity independent of her father or husband, removing the requirement for production of such information for various legal and governmental transactions in countries where it is presently not so.
12. To sensitize the judicial institutions, the law enforcing agencies and the development administration to the concerns of the CRC and in particular to the provisions of the Juvenile Justice Act.
13. To improve children's access to law by developing mechanisms which make recourse to legal remedy affordable and effective.
14. To actively lobby and build alliances with decision-makers including political parties, Members of Parliament and State Legislatures, intellectuals, industrial associations and voluntary agencies to serve the interests of the child.

ENVIRONMENT

At national level

- 1.** Necessary legislation be devised to settle the accountability of a polluter as against a victim.
- 2.** Subject "Water be placed in the Concurrent List, of Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India" to ensure an effective control on pollution and uniformity in distribution.
- 3.** To consolidate environmental and pollution laws to achieve uniformity of function and to avoid conflict in their enforcement.
- 4.** Mass environmental education programmes be promoted by both governmental and non-governmental organizations to generate broad-based public awareness of environmental hazards.
- 5.** Special curriculum be introduced at the secondary and higher secondary level of education system relating to environmental discipline.
- 6.** Publication and dissemination of zonal environmental programmes initiated by the government and making them available at the Zonal Pollution Board Office for public scrutiny.
- 7.** Introduction of system of public auditing of compliance with regulatory standards, need to be introduced.
- 8.** Urgent need for legislative protection for rural health from environmental hazard.
- 9.** Need for rural education through appropriate communication on environmental and ecological problems.
- 10.** Periodic environmental audits of industrial belts to assess adverse environmental impact.
- 11.** Eco-friendly trade, industries, and agriculture to be encouraged. Knowledge and information in this regard to be widely disseminated.
- 12.** Tax relief and fiscal incentives to be provided for eco-friendly technologies.
- 13.** Appropriate population dispersal techniques and anti-magnetic against demographic concentration to be part of urban planning.
- 14.** Ecologically sensitive and important landmasses including wetlands, wastelands to be

legislatively protected.

15. National environmental legislation needs to embody "precautionary principles" already mandated by international consensus.

16. Professional and non-professional organisations need be encouraged to enhance their contribution to environmental protection. National and State Legal Aid Boards should facilitate access to the general public for redressal of grievances relating to environmental hazards.

17. The role of non-governmental organisations in assisting prevention of environmental degradation and monitoring compliance with the environmental policies and regulatory standards need be recognised.

At international level

1. Trading in toxic, nuclear and hazardous waste, between and within the nations be prohibited.

2. Dumping of hazardous products be subjected to stringent international regulations.

3. International mechanism be established for mediation of disputes relating to trans-boundaries pollution and other environmental disputes.

4. Technology and equipments to monitor and measure environmental pollution be made available to the developing countries as a matter of priority in development assistance.

5. Environmental consumerism be encouraged so as to foster the marketability of green products.

6. A charter of imperatives be devised to promote environmental cordiality between the nations.

7. To promote and accomplish the concept of "Global Village" and equitable inhabitation of earth be devised.

8. Legislative measures be adopted to protect particularly children from all kinds of pollution.

HUMAN HEALTH

During the discussions at the International Conference, deficiencies of law relating to the practice of medicines and drugs were referred to. This was decided that emphatic recommendations may be made for the removal of those deficiencies and to ensure that the relevant laws may be strictly implemented without any discrimination. The Conference resolved to make the following recommendations :

1. Practice of various systems of medicines should be effectively regulated and controlled.
2. Provisions may be enacted to prevent practices of medicines by non-qualified persons.
3. Considering the importance and dimensions of problems of public health care, more funds should be made available by the Government for that purpose.
4. Medical Council of India should be provided with sufficient infrastructure and powers to take appropriate desired actions.
5. Serious thought should be given to regulate the doctor-patient relationship and to make the doctor liable to pay compensation, in view of prevailing situations in the countries like India; and the consequences which are likely to follow if the issues regarding liability were going to be decided by forums not consisting of experts.

