

Declaration of the Second Asian Forum on the Rights of the Child 2011

21 November 2011

We, the participants of the Forum, which was organized in Japan when the accidents that happened in the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake are still in progress at the nuclear power plant in Fukushima,

Building on the outcomes of the Seoul Forum in 2009,

Aware of the necessity of valuing children's rights and providing rights-based support for children even in the situation of disasters and conflicts,

Drawing attention to children at risk without protection by society and states, particularly a large number of Asian children who suffer from poverty, human trafficking, child labor, sexual exploitation and physical and mental abuse,

Aware of the importance of supporting children so that all of them can manifest their potential to the maximum extent in a safe and healthy environment as "competent beings" and for this purpose, respecting children's views and expanding opportunities for their participation,

Determined to promote children's rights in each country and in the whole region of Asia, on the basis of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) as the common ideal, by developing networks of researchers and experts and in collaboration with international organizations, governments, NGOs/civil society and other actors,

Have agreed to promote the following initiatives for the realization of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in Asia:

1. To advocate for the ratification of or accession to the Optional Protocols to the CRC by those States that have not yet done so; and seek for the development and implementation of comprehensive legislation in accordance with the CRC and its Optional Protocols as the legal basis for promoting the following child policies.
2. Bearing in mind the frequent occurrence of natural and human-made disasters in Asia, to promote the adaptation and further development of existing protocols and guidelines for protecting children's rights during disasters, in accordance with the principle of "Children First"; and, for respecting children's rights in the recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction processes, including through capacity-building, empowerment and engagement of children themselves.
3. To review national and local policies concerning life and development of children, including energy policies, from children's rights perspectives, including the need to secure the best interests of the child, with a view to restructuring such policies.

4. To develop and implement policies, legislation and measures such as awareness-raising toward the prevention and prohibition of all forms of violence against children, including abuse and exploitation of children.
5. To promote the development of mechanisms and systems for advancing the protection and promotion, monitoring of and reporting on children's rights at the national and regional levels, in particular monitoring systems and ombudsperson systems.
6. To be involved in child rights-based initiatives for "child-friendly communities/neighborhoods", "child-friendly schools" and "child-friendly institutions" at the national level, while promoting the development of regional networks for "child-friendly communities/neighborhoods".
7. To seek for the advancement of exchange of information and opinions, as well as, research concerning children's rights, including children's own researches; sharing data on and realities of the situation of children; relevant legislation and policies as well as innovative initiatives and good practices for children, with a view to realizing children's rights in the Asian region.
8. To continue the dialogue through the Asian Forum on the Rights of the Child in collaboration with researchers and experts, international organizations, governments, NGOs and civil society and other actors, with a view to further promoting the above-mentioned initiatives at the national and local levels in the region.