



COMMIT Sub-Regional Plan of Action (SPA II 2008-2010)

FINAL DRAFT FOR CONSIDERATION AT

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Overview of the Second COMMIT SPA (SPA II, 2008-2010)

The Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Human Trafficking (COMMIT) represents a Government-led process incorporating the six countries in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam) in a formal alliance to combat human trafficking. The COMMIT process was initiated to create a sustained and effective system of cross-border cooperation and collaboration to combat human trafficking. The objectives of the COMMIT process are:

- To promote and strengthen systems and arrangements of inter-country and regional cooperation against human trafficking;
- To establish a holistic regional response, covering all aspects of the trafficking problem and ensuring that concern for the victim is at the center of all interventions;
- To identify and adapt successful models in one country to others as appropriate; and
- To enhance national capacities to address human trafficking in order to facilitate each country's engagement at the regional level, building on existing strengths in each country.

At the first Inter-Ministerial Meeting (IMM 1) in October 2004, the COMMIT Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed by six GMS Ministers (refer to Appendix A). With the aim of translating the MOU into action, a series of annual Senior Officials Meetings (SOMs) as well as regional and national consultations resulted in the six Governments adopting the first Sub-regional Plan of Action (SPA 2005-2007) in 2005, comprised of twelve Project Proposal Concepts (PPCs). Modifications to the SPA made at a Strategic Planning Meeting held in Vientiane, Laos, in August 2006 resulted in the following ten Project Proposal Concepts comprising the SPA (2005-2007).

Project Proposal Concepts of the Original COMMIT SPA (2005)	Revised COMMIT SPA following Vientiane Strategic Planning Meeting (2006)
PPC 1 – Regional Training Programme	PPC 1 – Regional Training Programme
PPC 2 – Identification of Victims and Apprehension of Perpetrators	PPC 2 – Identification of Victims and Apprehension of Perpetrators
PPC 3 – National Plans of Action	PPC 3 – National Plans of Action
PPC 4 – Multi-Sectoral and Bilateral Partnerships	PPC 4 – Multi-Sectoral and Bilateral Partnerships
PPC 5 – Legal Frameworks	PPC 5 – Legal Frameworks and Mutual Legal Assistance
PPC 6 – Safe and Timely Repatriation	PPC 6 – Safe and Timely Repatriation
PPC 7 – Post-Harm Support and Reintegration	PPC 7 – Post-Harm Support, including Economic and Social Support for Victims and Reintegration
PPC 8 – Extradition and Mutual Legal Assistance	PPC 8 – Addressing Exploitative Brokering Practices
PPC 9 – Addressing Exploitative Brokering Practices	PPC 9 – Cooperation with the Tourism Sector
PPC 10 – Economic and Social Support for Victims	PPC 10 – Management: Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation
PPC 11 – Cooperation with the Tourism Sector	
PPC 12 – Management: Coordination,	

Rationale for a Second COMMIT Sub-regional Plan of Action (SPA II, 2008-2010)

Item 31 of the COMMIT MOU stipulates the following:

“Reviewing the implementation of the Plan of Action and adopting a new Sub-Regional Plan of Action through a GMS Ministerial meeting in late 2007.”

Thus, Item 31 of the COMMIT MOU outlined that the life of the first SPA would only extend up to December 2007, requiring a second Sub-regional Plan of Action to continue on the commitments and activities begun by the COMMIT MOU and COMMIT SPA (2005-2007).

The COMMIT Process offers a model of regional cooperation not only for the Greater Mekong Sub-region, but for the entire world. In this regard, it has achieved great success.

Restructuring of the COMMIT Sub-regional Plan of Action (2008-2010)

Building on the progress of the COMMIT SPA (2005-2007), the PPCs of the COMMIT SPA II (2008-2010) have been consolidated and updated as illustrated in the table below. In summary:

- Victim identification activities from SPA I's PPC 2 were merged with victim protection activities in PPC 6 and PPC 7, creating SPA II's PPC 5 – Victim Identification, Protection, Recovery, and Reintegration. Thus, there is now a single victim protection PPC, in line with the COMMIT MOU.
- Prosecution and apprehension of perpetrators activities from SPA I's PPC 2 were merged with the criminal justice activities from PPC 5, creating SPA II's PPC 4 – Legal Frameworks, Law Enforcement, and Justice. Thus, there is now a single criminal justice PPC, with a title and scope in line with the COMMIT MOU.
- SPA I's PPC 8 was expanded to include other trafficking prevention activities, with a title and scope in line with the COMMIT MOU.
- The titles for SPA II's PPC 1 and PPC 3 were updated as appropriate.

SPA I PPC		SPA II PPC	
1	Regional Training Programme	1	Training and Capacity Building
2	Victim Identification and Apprehension of Perpetrators		
3	National Plans of Action	2	National Plans of Action
4	Multi-sectoral and Bilateral Partnerships	3	Multilateral and Bilateral Partnerships
5	Legal Frameworks and Mutual Legal Assistance	4	Legal Frameworks, Law Enforcement, and Justice
6	Safe and Timely Repatriation	5	Victim Identification, Protection, Recovery and Reintegration
7	Post-Harm Support, including Economic and Social Support for Victims and Reintegration		
8	Addressing Exploitative Brokering Practices	6	Preventive Measures
9	Cooperation with the Tourism Sector	7	Cooperation with the Tourism Sector
10	Management: Coordination, Monitoring & Evaluation	8	Management: Coordination, Monitoring & Evaluation

Objective

To improve the capacity of government and non-government anti-trafficking personnel to respond to all aspects of human trafficking.

PPC 1 status at the end of SPA I

The Regional Training Programme was developed in the first COMMIT SPA as a comprehensive, eight-day English-language course held at the Mekong Institute in Khon Kaen, Thailand, piloted in October 2005 and launched in August 2006. By the end of 2007, approximately 200 participants had completed this course, with mid to senior level government officials from the six GMS governments comprising the vast majority of participants.

Based on its success, Governments requested that the Regional Training Programme be translated and adapted to the national context to allow wider coverage and participation of non-English speakers. The key steps involved in this process include: translation and adaptation of the curriculum to the national context by a multi-sectoral training working group, training-of-trainers (TOT) workshops, and pilot courses run by the participants of the TOT workshop.

To accommodate the specific training needs that arise on a regular basis, the SPA II (2008-2010) includes assessments identifying who is doing what training, who requires training (for example police, border guards, and policy makers), and what can be done to better harmonize the training available. The SPA II targets are designed to be responsive to the findings of national and regional training needs assessments.

Targets for SPA II (2008-2010)

- The Regional Training Programme will continue to provide training to government officials and non-government partners from the six GMS countries quarterly or as appropriate.
- All countries will have adapted and piloted the regional curriculum at the national level.
- National training assessments will be completed in all countries, with action plans completed based on these assessments.
- Needs for more targeted and specific operational training will be identified, and the appropriate training will be provided as necessary.
- All countries will have a cadre of government and non-government trainers to run future training programmes, with functional trainer certification and trainer refresher programs.
- Innovative remote learning materials and approaches will be tested and implemented to complement overall country and regional capacity building efforts.

	Indicative activities	Steps involved	Division of Activities	
			Regional ¹	National ²
1.1	Regional Training Programme	Regular training courses throughout the year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuation of the Regional Training Programme for governments, as well as selected non-government actors Updating and improving regional curriculum to ensure that it includes all latest developments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation in all aspects of training design and refinement Feedback provided on regional training needs Selection of candidates for training
1.2	Development of nationally based adaptations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue translating regional training materials (completed in most countries) Continue adapting curriculum and translations in preparation for the national training 	Provide technical and financial support upon request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National curriculum adaptations completed through a consensus process and pilot trainings Updating and improvement of national curricula as appropriate and in tandem with the regional curriculum
1.3	Training of Trainers	All countries schedule, carry out and adapt according to national priorities and needs	Provide technical and financial support upon request	National certification and refresher TOT courses
1.4	Training courses at country level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pilot courses run by TOT participants Assessment of pilot courses and further revisions/refinements as necessary Trainings at country level scheduled and implemented on a regular basis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide technical and financial support upon request Strengthen monitoring and impact assessment of capacity building activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular trainings and updates, managed by the national training working groups Evaluation after every training, with mid-term review at the national level
1.5	Identify and conduct training needs assessments (TNAs) and information about other existing training programmes at the regional and national level	Use data to identify who is doing training, who needs training, and what can be done to better harmonize the training available	Provide technical and financial support upon request	Develop and implement a national training needs assessment methodology
1.6	Identification of alternative and complementary training approaches based on national priorities	Explore different distance learning tools and expand training techniques to build specific skills among counter trafficking personnel at all levels	Provide technical support to assist in expanding training materials and approaches	Pilot testing of new and innovative training materials and approaches

¹ Regional activities refer to multi-country joint activities.

² National activities refer to activities that take place within a single country.

Objective

To improve the quality and implementation of national plans of action against human trafficking.

PPC 2 status at the end of SPA I

National Plans of Action (NPAs) provide an overall framework for a country's national response to trafficking. Since the signing of the first COMMIT SPA, great strides have been made in putting in place NPAs that specify clear goals, targets, and milestones. This process has resulted from collaborations between government ministries and development partners to consolidate the various workplans and implementation frameworks into a single national response.

All six COMMIT countries have now developed National Plans of Action against human trafficking, providing the opportunity to move forward together in the effective implementation, coordination, monitor and evaluation of these plans. There is now an opportunity to focus more attention on activities identified under the first SPA to broaden support for NPAs; strengthen implementation, coordination and monitoring; and evaluate NPA progress and results.

Targets for SPA II (2008-2010)

- All implementation plans for NPAs adopted and funded, with functioning coordination and monitoring mechanisms.
- Coordination mechanisms functioning and integrated into government agency mandates and budgets.
- Strengthened alignment between anti-trafficking activities and NPAs, including consistency between NPAs and sectoral/agency implementation plans.

Indicative activities		Steps involved	Division of Activities	
			Regional	National
2.1	Development / finalization of NPAs	Remaining countries to get final approval for their NPAs	Upon request, provide technical and financial support for coordinating NPA adoption and dissemination	Move NPAs that are not completed through the internal approval process
2.2	Support implementation and monitoring of NPAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop monitoring mechanisms to track the NPAs • Establish mechanisms to coordinate, monitor and report on NPA implementation, where these do not already exist • Complete inventories of agencies working on trafficking issues, clearly linked to activities contained in NPAs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upon request, provide technical and financial support for the implementation of the NPA • Undertake regional analysis of NPA progress (evaluation) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop sectoral/agency implementation plans based on NPA as necessary • Produce annual progress reports on NPA implementation (monitoring)
2.3	Develop strategies and implementation plans to broaden support for NPAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National level discussions by the COMMIT Taskforces on how to ensure trafficking concerns are integrated into National Plans of Action • Outline implementation strategy and approach for the coming years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work closely with the COMMIT TFs to develop effective regional and national mechanisms to monitor plan implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate support for local bodies responsible for specific aspects of the NPA for long-term sustainability of national anti-trafficking responses. • Secure regular budget allocation for anti-trafficking activities in line with NPA priorities
2.4	Monitoring and evaluation of NPA implementation in each country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out systematic, standardized assessments of NPA implementation and achievements • Implement regional technical workshops to review key findings of the assessment and identify best practices for improving national inter-agency cooperation and information exchange. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upon request, provide financial and technical support to review NPA implementation performance • Provide capacity building support to improve inter-agency coordination and information exchange • Ongoing monitoring, with evaluation at the end of SPA II 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead the review process at the country level • Facilitate the NPA review process across Government agencies • Coordinate and improve National level inter-agency coordination and information exchange mechanisms in accordance with the findings of the regional assessment.

PPC 3 – Multilateral and Bilateral Partnerships

Objective

To increase the effectiveness of multilateral and bilateral MOUs and cooperation agreements and to improve mechanisms for collection and exchange of information within and across borders.

PPC 3 status at the end of SPA I

The spirit of this PPC, previously PPC 4 in SPA I, is to use regional experience to develop, refine, and implement bilateral and multilateral cooperation agreements that address human trafficking. Once signed, these agreements can provide an effective implementation and monitoring systems for bilateral and multilateral cooperation. This includes setting targets within and between countries that are integrated into government agency mandates and budgets. While MOUs on human trafficking are a central theme of this PPC, this activity also involves examining other relevant agreements, particularly those promoting safe migration and labor recruitment. Activities under this PPC broadly fall under four headings:

- Assisting in the MOU development process between governments;
- Improvement of mechanisms for data collection and information exchange;
- Analysis of the establishment and implementation of bilateral and multi-sector approaches (MOUs) to combating trafficking to improve future and existing bilateral/multi-sectoral arrangements; and
- Addressing specific procedural and information gaps with cross-border dimensions.

Targets for SPA II (2008-2010)

- New bilateral agreements as needed and appropriate.
- Bilateral implementation mechanisms on human trafficking signed where appropriate, with effective implementation and monitoring.
- Bilateral coordination and implementation mechanisms functioning and integrated into government agency mandates and budgets.

	Indicative activities	Steps involved	Division of Activities	
			Regional	National
3.1	Establish a system for collecting and collating selected non-confidential data on victims for use in prevention and other efforts	Map and document existing mechanisms for information exchange in each country, including systems for coordination of information and existence and usage of current databases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistance in the development, modification and use of existing databases as appropriate • Assistance in development of collection and reporting systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions on key information fields to be shared (no more than 15) • Review prevention interventions based on information processed
3.2	Analysis of MOUs and agreements in terms of process, content, and implementation; and development of implementation guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of existing MOUs and agreements to compare content and assess impact • Review of existing tools that can be adopted to assist in guideline development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide technical and financial support • Regional seminar to develop guidelines for MOU development and implementation 	COMMIT Taskforces to review proposed monitoring guidelines for eventual adoption
3.3	Multilateral or cross-border meetings/seminars on experiences in developing and implementing MOUs and agreements against trafficking, including obstacles and recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out national workshops and events to build up to a regional seminar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide technical and financial support 	Bring national decision makers and experts together to analyze the results of MOUs
3.4	Support for capacity building in the development and implementation of bilateral MOUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out a training needs assessment • Develop training approach and plan • Implement regional seminar and national training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide technical and financial support • Follow- up regional seminar to examine ways to strengthen implementation of bilateral MOUs against human trafficking as part of the capacity building process 	National training needs assessments to strengthen bilateral MOU development and implementation

PPC 4 – Legal Frameworks, Law Enforcement and Justice

Objective

- To create an effective, standardized system for investigating cases and initiating prosecutions, and exchanging criminal justice related information between countries;
- To develop a strong legal framework across the Greater Mekong Sub-region;
- To ensure there are effective mutual legal assistance (MLA) and extradition mechanisms between GMS countries and that these can be used for cases of human trafficking; and
- To ensure there is an informed and appropriate judicial and prosecutorial response

PPC 4 status at the end of SPA I

PPC 4 is a merging of SPA I's PPC 2 (Apprehension of Perpetrators) and PPC 5 (Legal Frameworks and Mutual Legal Assistance). COMMIT countries continue to move forward in terms of strengthening their legal frameworks and the criminal justice response to human trafficking. Several countries have national laws on human trafficking, and there was growing recognition of the importance that appropriate laws needed to be complemented by strong legal processes governing issues such as victim/witness support and protection, criminal procedures, and clarity of standards of evidence. With regard to law enforcement, specialist units have been established in many of the GMS countries, and the heads of these units meet regularly to develop and implement an agreement on standardized operational procedures for sharing of information and intelligence. Several GMS countries have developed specialist units or focal points in key provinces or hotspots as well.

Specific initiatives under this PPC include:

- Refinements and improvements of national legal frameworks where necessary that:
 - Criminalize trafficking, including component and related offences
 - Provide for adequate penalties
 - Provide for a right of support and protection to all identified victims of trafficking, including a right of access to legal remedies
 - Fully support victims as witnesses
 - Address procedural issues which challenge the prosecution process
 - Subject trafficking and related crimes to the widest possible jurisdiction
- Strengthening extradition and mutual legal assistance treaties incorporate trafficking-related crimes and facilitate effective investigative and judicial cooperation; and
- Improvement in the judicial and prosecutorial response.

Targets for SPA II (2008-2010)

- Strengthened general and specialist law enforcement responses to human trafficking.
- Effective cross-border, regional, and internal cooperation between specialist trafficking units.
- Ratification of the major international and regional agreements relevant to human trafficking, and incorporation of key provisions into national law.
- National legal frameworks 1) criminalize trafficking, 2) provide for appropriate penalties, 3) protect victims, 4) support witnesses, and 5) create widest possible jurisdiction.
- Extradition and MLATs incorporate trafficking-related crimes and facilitate investigative and judicial cooperation.
- There is an informed and appropriate judicial and prosecutorial response

Indicative activities		Steps involved	Division of Activities	
			Regional	National
4.1	Creation and strengthening of specialist Anti-Trafficking Units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions with remaining countries on steps to support establishment of specialist response Targeted training, mentoring, and on-the-job training provided to law enforcement Expansion of knowledge and skills to local officials in main problem areas 	Sharing of best practices and obstacles in law enforcement capacity building and case monitoring across countries	Provision of support, training, mentoring, and on the job training as necessary and requested
4.2	Training programmes for non-specialist police and other relevant officials (border guards, prosecutors, etc.)	Assess organizations providing anti-trafficking training to law enforcers; identification of gaps and needs	Undertake regional capacity building efforts	Assessment and gap identification at the country and more local levels
4.3	Capacity building for cross-border cooperation	Assessment of existing cross-border mechanisms on various borders, and needs assessment of other areas needing cross-border mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharing of best practice in cross-border cooperation and evidence sharing, across countries Seminar to finalize agreement on standardized operational procedures for sharing of information/ intelligence 	Exploration missions and capacity building as needed and requested
4.4	Assessment in each country of how laws and legal procedures are actually implemented in practice, to protect victims and support effective apprehension of traffickers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share the outcome of the assessment Convene national workshops to identify and refine the recommendations Country-specific strategies to improve prosecutions and access to civil remedies under existing legal frameworks will then be developed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional COMMIT-specific report collating data for the GMS countries Secretariat to provide technical assistance to COMMIT TFs for country strategy development when requested. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment conducted at the country level Country-specific strategies to improve prosecutions and access to civil remedies under existing legal frameworks developed, conducting case analyses where useful.
4.5	Information exchange on implementation of legal/prosecution procedures including evidence and evidentiary rules	Regional seminar based on the assessment above in activity 4.4	Support to analyze assessment findings and arrange regional seminar	Analysis and coordination of legal/prosecution procedures at the country levels
4.6	Strengthened cooperation on development of improved legal operational procedures to bring perpetrators to justice, with an emphasis on cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of national laws and procedures for prosecuting human trafficking, with regional comparative analysis Regional seminar on development of improved legal operational procedures to bring perpetrators to justice, with an emphasis on cooperation 	Regional seminar on developing improved legal operational procedures to bring perpetrators to justice	Preparation and coordination regarding national legal prosecutorial processes
4.7	Establish case monitoring and analysis systems to identify past experiences and/or lessons learned, and address barriers to effective and appropriate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review existing monitoring systems Adapt monitoring systems to specific country needs 	Provide technical and/or financial support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect information on successful and unsuccessful cases Analyze the factors that

	investigative, prosecutorial, and judicial responses to human trafficking			contributed to success or failure
4.8	Ongoing development and strengthening of national and bilateral legal frameworks, including MLAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review existence and application of current extradition and mutual legal assistance agreements/treaties • Regional seminar on expansion and improved use of MLA and extradition in human trafficking cases • Survey of extent & application of extraterritorial provisions involving COMMIT countries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional evaluation in 2009 to analyze whether national legal frameworks 1) criminalize trafficking, 2) have adequate penalties, 3) protect victims, 4) support witnesses, and 5) create widest possible jurisdiction. • Regional seminar to share information on the use of legal mandates on money-laundering, as well as provisions to freeze and confiscate assets of perpetrators and provide compensation to victims 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing support to legal framework strengthening • Creation of country schedules to develop and amend agreements and procedures in GMS countries as required • Follow-on seminar on amending mutual legal assistance agreements

PPC 5 – Victim Identification, Protection, Recovery and Reintegration

Objective

- To establish mutually accepted criteria for victim identification procedures, efficient and transparent return/repatriation of victims of human trafficking, and victim-centered protection, recovery and reintegration, in line with the standards set out by the COMMIT MOU and the international instruments referenced in that MOU; and
- To raise the level and quality of support and services provided to victims of human trafficking, through the identification, interim care, return/repatriation, and recovery processes, and to improve economic and social support for victims of trafficking.

PPC 5 status at the end of SPA I

PPC 5 is a merging of all of SPA I's victim protection activities, which previously fell under PPC 2 (Victim Identification), PPC 6 (Safe and Timely Repatriation), and PPC 7 (Post-Harm Support). SPA II's PPC 5 bring together all elements of the victim protection response under one PPC, striving to develop a clear consensus among the Governments on support and services that should be provided to victims of human trafficking in order to enhance the likelihood of successful recovery and reintegration, and to reduce the likelihood of re-trafficking. Through the course of SPA I, COMMIT Task Forces and regional partners have been working together on all elements of victim protection, including victim identification, interim care and protection, return/repatriation, shelter and recovery, and reintegration. It is recognized that one of the major difficulties with reintegration is that victims often return to an environment similar to that which they left, with accompanying vulnerabilities such as lack of economic security and/or lack of vocational opportunities. In this regard, many of the vulnerability factors relevant to reintegration are also relevant to prevention. COMMIT countries agree that new and innovative approaches to reintegration, prevention, and vulnerability targeting are required.

Targets for SPA II (2008-2010)

- Bilateral and national level policy and procedure changes implemented to address key gaps in capacity building and program infrastructure of recovery and reintegration.
- National level operationalization of the regional guidelines on protection fully completed, including victim identification.
- Bilateral and national-level policy and procedure changes implemented to address current challenges in implementing recovery and reintegration guidelines and repatriation guidelines.

Indicative activities		Steps involved	Division of Activities	
			Regional	National
5.1	National level and bilateral operationalization / implementation of victim protection guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National level meetings to review existing national guidelines, with aim to harmonize with regional guiding principles as drafted by the COMMIT Governments under SPA I • Develop national and bilateral adaptations from the regional guiding principles for victim protection • Review and harmonize protection guidelines at the departmental level, integrating key components into staff training, operational procedures and protocols • Elaboration of national level guidelines, especially for the following key components: victim identification (destination country), shelter and recovery, and return • National level workshops on strategies to establish referral systems to improve victim protection and facilitate implementation of guidelines • Bilateral workshops and cross border technical exchanges to establish and fortify operational cooperation in the protection and safe and timely returns of victims of trafficking – in particular victim identification, interim care and recovery, and return/reintegration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translation of regional victim protection guiding principles into national languages • Provide technical and financial support to facilitate national level reviews, drafting groups, and operationalization process • Provide technical and financial support to facilitate returns and to capacity building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disseminate regional guidelines to relevant ministries / departments, and consolidate existing national guidelines to review against regional guidelines • Facilitate whole of government assessment and refinement of national guidelines on victim protection, particularly on victim identification (destination country), interim care and recovery and return of victims of trafficking • Formal adoption of national operational guidelines on victim identification (destination country), interim care and recovery and return of victims of trafficking • Improve inter-agency coordination (referral systems) and develop national implementation strategies for victim identification (destination country), interim care and recovery and return of victims of trafficking • Establish bilateral information sharing and review mechanisms with concerned counterpart governments • Initiate inter-agency capacity building activities to strengthen victim protection measures
5.2	Comparison of the criteria or standards for victim identification within the national legal frameworks of the GMS	Analysis and workshop to increase countries' understanding of how trafficking is defined and who qualifies as a victim in other GMS countries	Regional seminar on developing common understanding and sharing experiences on victim screening and identification mechanisms throughout the GMS	Analysis and report of national victim identification practices, including how trafficking is defined
5.3	Establishing and strengthening the legal protection for victims, families, witnesses, and informants	Policy and procedural / operational improvements in the legal protection of victims, families, witnesses, and informants	Upon request, provide technical and financial support, as well as regional experience sharing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case analysis to understand procedural strengths and weaknesses in victim/witness protection • Policy analysis to understand how policies can be changed to improve legal protections
5.4	Bilateral and national policy and procedural changes to address operational and coordination gaps	National capacity building programs for government and non-government officials working with victims of trafficking	Provide technical and financial support for training design and development	Mandate and resource the incorporation of specific victim protection training provisions across relevant ministries

PPC 6 – Preventive Measures

Objective

To improve regional cooperation to prevent human trafficking and exploitation, reduce vulnerability to trafficking, and suppress illegal and/or exploitative brokerage practices.

PPC 6 status at the end of SPA I

PPC 6 is an expansion of SPA I's PPC 8, Addressing Exploitative Brokering Practices. The PPC was expanded to include more of the other preventive measures to combat human trafficking, in line with the COMMIT MOU. Thus, this PPC now addresses awareness raising, vulnerability targeting and reduction, and source-side as well as destination-side prevention, in addition to addressing the use of exploitative labor brokering and manpower services to traffic persons. As before, addressing exploitative brokering includes more formalized agencies that tend to operate through legal or semi-legal means, as well as small-scale job brokers at the community level who tend to be beyond the reach of meaningful regulation.

Activities of this PPC include:

- Comparative research and analysis on formal versus informal recruitment of migrant workers;
- The development of regional guidelines on the recruitment of migrant workers in the GMS region;
- Increased capacity and engagement of Ministries of Labour to regulate these practices;
- Direct measures to reduce vulnerabilities in source areas, in the migration and recruitment processes, and in workplaces; and
- Closer cooperation between sending and receiving countries in monitoring of working conditions for migrant labourers.

Efforts to reduce vulnerabilities and prevent trafficking occur at the source, destination, and across borders.

Targets for SPA II (2008-2010)

- Development and implementation of regional and national operational guidelines and mechanisms for labour recruitment and migrant protection.
- Training on and systematic monitoring of compliance with the regional and national guidelines on labour recruitment and migrant protection.
- Enhanced direct measures to accurately target and reduce vulnerabilities in source hotspots and in workplaces, as well as in the migration and recruitment processes

	Indicative activities	Steps involved	Division of Activities	
			Regional	National
6.1	Strengthening measures to reduce vulnerability to trafficking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeting and supporting poverty reduction programs, and increasing economic opportunities • Supporting education and skills training • Providing necessary personal legal documentation, including birth registration 	Provide technical and financial support for accurate vulnerability targeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted poverty alleviation, scholarship, economic development, birth registration, and other interventions where appropriate
6.2	Development of community protection and surveillance systems of the vulnerable or risk groups, and development of effective preventive measure at national and local levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vulnerability targeting at community levels, for early identification and intervention for those at risk • Capacity building for frontline responders and watchdogs in the surveillance system 	Provide technical and financial support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop methods for targeting vulnerability and risk factors, which vary by location • Build capacity of local and national groups to target and report vulnerability and potential trafficking
6.3	Raising public awareness at all levels regarding human trafficking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public information campaigns and advocacy regarding the dangers and negative impacts of trafficking, and of assistance available to trafficked persons 	Provide technical and financial support	Targeted public awareness raising
6.4	Strengthening application of national labour laws to protect the rights of all workers based on the principles of non-discrimination and equality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-country research on formal versus informal recruitment of migrant workers and brokering practices • Regional training on implementation of the regional guidelines on recruitment of migrant workers • Labour monitoring practices strengthened, including the development of working linkages between labor inspectors and law enforcement agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide financial and technical support • Draft training curriculum, and conduct regional training of trainers programmes • Develop framework of regional cooperation among Ministries of Labour and employer and employee organizations • Sub-regional meeting to share experience and discuss roles of Ministries of Labour in combating human trafficking • Support to train and provide on-the-job training for labor and broker inspectors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist in the implementation and analysis of the research findings • Conduct research with victims of labor exploitation • Disseminate the information throughout the country • Training at the national level • National consultations to review existing practices and propose linkages with law enforcement agencies • Conduct national meetings to review findings and identify steps to strengthen frameworks for control of exploitative brokerage activities
6.5	Development and implementation of regional guiding principles on the recruitment of migrant workers in the GMS region	Finalise and disseminate guiding principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub-regional seminar to develop regional guidelines • Other financial and technical 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitated follow-up at national level • Capacity building of government

			support as required	<p>officials, workers and employers organizations on recruitment practices and their possible exploitative outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop, pilot-test, and disseminate labour information packages to be used in the process of recruitment and in workplaces, in appropriate languages. • Development and publicising of a focal point registry of legally licensed or registered job brokers, marriage and adoption agencies • Provide outreach, registration, legal, and other services at workplaces and communities on the destination side • Strengthen complaints mechanisms for workers and applicants • Regular updating and publication of information about activities of persons and companies suspected of involvement in trafficking
6.6	Development of labour information packets, including conditions of employment, rights and responsibilities under labour laws, information on emergency service providers for trafficked victims, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-depth assessment in selected countries regarding information needs to better support to safe labour migration and review of existing materials (previously a stand-alone activity); • Compilation of rights and responsibilities under labour laws in all 6 countries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of draft information package • Pilot testing with returnees and potential migrants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research and compilation of conditions of employment • Information collected on emergency service providers and Embassy contacts in all countries • Revise and produce in local languages

PPC 7 – Cooperation with the Tourism Sector

Objective

To expand the contribution made by the private sector, including the tourism sector, to combating human trafficking and related problems.

PPC 7 status at the end of SPA I

PPC 7 (PPC 9 in the first SPA) focused on cooperation with the tourism sector, noting its regional nature. All COMMIT countries are now making significant progress in promoting child safe tourism, and UNIAP-supported research has highlighted the need for better information on the links between tourism and trafficking. A separate initiative indicated that tourism development could have both positive and negative impacts on trafficking and developed a check-list against which increases in vulnerability to trafficking could be identified and addressed. For Phase II of the SPA, this PPC has been expanded to emphasise the need for greater involvement of the various industries of the private sector to address the issue of human trafficking.

Targets for SPA II (2008-2010)

- Regional strategy adopted on cooperation with the tourism sector to combat human trafficking, and action plan created and implemented.
- Increase in cooperation with private sector regionally and in all countries, with evidence of tangible progress used as a springboard for further cooperation.

	Indicative activities	Steps involved	Division of Activities	
			Regional	National
7.1	Support for follow-up initiatives against human trafficking in the tourism services sector, with special attention to distinct segments (tourists, workers, vulnerable communities)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of workplan initiatives, in support of commitments made at November 2007 seminar • Monitoring and evaluation, with documentation of good practice • Regional seminars to share experiences and good practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional private sector partners identified and involved in implementation of the regional workplan • Provide technical and financial support for monitoring of follow-up initiatives and support of regional seminars 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review country-specific information on the links between tourism and trafficking • Information campaigns, awareness raising, training, and other activities as appropriate
7.2	National strategies and work plans on cooperation with private sector to combat human trafficking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of key private sector partners in each country • Research to map the chain of supply and demand for trafficking and child sexual exploitation in the private sector conducted in each country • Establish regional registry of child sex tourism offenders and data-sharing mechanism • Awareness raising campaign • Regional hotline and supporting mechanisms • Legal cooperation 	Provide technical and financial support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National workshops held to identify key partners, and to develop and finalise national strategies and work plans • Establish national registry of child sex tourism offenders to share with partner countries

PPC 8 – Management: Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation

Objective

To ensure effective monitoring of the implementation of the COMMIT Sub-regional Plan of Action (2008-2010), including timely and accurate reporting on activities, and the conduct of independent, targeted evaluations.

PPC 8 status at the end of SPA I

In addition to developing a monitoring and evaluation system for COMMIT, PPC 8 (PPC 10 in SPA I) also includes a component to facilitate effective communication and cooperation between all the different parties involved in COMMIT. In the spirit of this PPC, reports and evaluation findings are presented to governments, donors, and other key stakeholders.

Article 32 of the COMMIT MOU designated the United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking (UNIAP) as Secretariat to COMMIT process. The Secretariat comprises the Project Management Office of the UNIAP in Bangkok, Thailand, and its respective project offices in the six GMS countries. The Secretariat is responsible for:

- Facilitating communications and planning;
- Raising funds to ensure timely intervention of the COMMIT SPA II;
- Organizing Senior Officials Meetings (SOMs) and an Inter-Ministerial Meeting every three years;
- Documenting outcomes and decisions reached;
- Reporting to development partners, as required;
- Management and tracking of budget utilization, with reporting at SOMs on the status of the budget utilization;
- Disseminating information and press releases on COMMIT;
- Providing internal as well as external monitoring and evaluation of COMMIT, with support from the national COMMIT Task Forces; and
- Internal review of COMMIT Secretariat management.

While the abovementioned responsibilities are ongoing services provided by the COMMIT Secretariat (UNIAP), the most important contributions of the COMMIT Secretariat include the coordination and monitoring of the COMMIT process over the duration of the SPA:

Targets for SPA II (2008-2010)

- Inter-agency and inter-governmental monitoring plan functioning, with joint targets and timelines.
- Annual monitoring reports and final evaluation of COMMIT SPA II (2008-2010).
- Impact assessments for multi-agency prevention, protection, and prosecution efforts across the GMS.

	Indicative activities	Steps involved	Division of Activities	
			Regional	National
8.1	Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a system of data collection and analysis • Operationalize the system • Disseminate outcomes 	Biannual and annual reports summarising all activities undertaken in previous period, with concrete recommendations for next SPA	Report on each activity undertaken within the SPA
8.2	Monitoring and evaluation	Regional, standardized monitoring and evaluation system established	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation of SPA implementation • Evaluation of selected PPCs 	Close monitoring of implementation each PPC area
8.3	Fund raising	Funding proposals for COMMIT Projects prepared and vetted with all donors/ partners	Ongoing discussions with external agencies to identify financial and technical support for project activities	Ongoing discussions with external agencies to identify financial and technical support for Project activities
8.4	Communications and administration	Clearing house function, including planning, coordination and scheduling of activities, and liaison with partner agencies	Management of funds	Regular and ad hoc meetings of COMMIT Task Forces
8.5	Third Ministerial Meeting (and SOMs 6 and 7)	Planning and implementation of event	Work with host government to develop and implement SOM/IMM meetings	Host government plans and implements

Basis for the monitoring plan

The monitoring plan for the SPA II is based primarily on progress in SPA I, as well as new developments since SPA I was first created. Central to the monitoring plans are targets for each PPC, which are incremental by time to clearly demonstrate progress toward achievement of the PPC. The targets are designed to be able to measure the collective efforts of numerous agencies and ministries in multiple countries, as they work toward the same common objectives. The targets are also based on international standards and principles governing trafficking prevention, prosecution, and protection of trafficked persons.

An overview of the targets and their associated timelines as of December 2007 is as follows:

ACTIVITY		SPA I STATUS 2007	SPA II TARGETS 2008 – 2010	
POLICY & COOPERATION	PPC 2 National Plans of Action	1: All NPAs completed and passed by the governments, with draft implementation plans.	3: All implementation plans for NPAs completed, adopted, and funded, with functioning coordination and monitoring mechanisms.	6: Coordination mechanisms functioning and integrated into government agency mandates and budgets.
	PPC 3 Multilateral and bilateral partnerships	2: Regional experience in developing and implementing bilateral cooperation agreements on trafficking documented and shared.	4: Strengthened alignment between anti-trafficking activities and NPAs, including consistency between NPAs and sectoral/agency implementation plans.	7: Bilateral coordination mechanisms functioning and integrated into government agency mandates and budgets.
LEGAL FRAMEWORKS, LE, JUSTICE	PPC 4 Legal frameworks, law enforcement, and justice	1: Strengthened general and specialist LE responses to trafficking.	(1 - Continued) Strengthened general and specialist LE responses to human trafficking.	
		2: Effective multilateral and bilateral cooperation between specialist trafficking units.	(2 - Continued) Effective multilateral, bilateral, and internal cooperation between specialist trafficking units.	
		3: Strategies for prosecuting trafficking under existing legal frameworks developed.	7: There is an informed and appropriate judicial and prosecutorial response.	
		4: Countries have ratified the major international and regional agreements relevant to human trafficking and incorporated key provisions into national law.		
		5: National legal framework (1) criminalizes trafficking, (2) adequate penalties, (3) protects victims, (4) supports witnesses, and (5) creates widest possible jurisdiction.		
		6: Extradition and MLATs incorporate trafficking-related crimes; facilitate investigative and judicial cooperation.		
PROTECTION	PPC 5 Victim ID, protection, recovery, and reintegration	1: Regional guidelines for victim identification, shelter and recovery, repatriation and reintegration agreed by consensus and adopted by governments.	2: National level operationalization of the regional guidelines on protection fully completed.	
			3: Bilateral and national level policy and procedure changes implemented to address key gaps in capacity building and program infrastructure of victim return.	
			4: Bilateral and national level policy and procedure changes implemented to address current challenges in implementing victim identification guidelines and repatriation guidelines.	
PREVENTIVE MEASURES	PPC 6 Preventive measures	1: Regional and national guidelines on migrant recruitment practices in the GMS completed.	3: Development and implementation of national operational guidelines and mechanisms for labor recruitment and migrant protection.	7: Training on and systematic monitoring of compliance with regional and national guidelines.
			4: Direct measures to accurately target and reduce vulnerabilities in the migration and recruitment processes, and in workplaces.	
	PPC 7 Cooperation with the private sector	2: Regional strategy on cooperation with the tourism sector developed.	5: Regional strategy adopted on cooperation with the tourism sector to combat human trafficking, and action plan created and implemented.	
TECHNICAL, M&E	PPC 1 Training & capacity building	1: Materials updated, modularized for national training and trainer certification.	3: National level adapted curricula, with a cadre of trainers and targeted operational training provided according to needs assessments. Trainer certification and trainer refresher programs running.	
	PPC 8 Coordination and M&E	2: Inter-agency and inter-governmental monitoring plan functioning, with joint targets and timelines.	4: Annual monitoring reports and final evaluation of COMMIT SPA II.	
			5: Aggregate impact assessments: multi-agency prevention, protection, and prosecution efforts across the GMS.	

Appendix A: COMMIT MOU

Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation against Trafficking in Persons in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region

We, the representatives of the Governments of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Union of Myanmar, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam:

Deeply Concerned over the suffering caused by the trafficking in persons within the Greater Mekong Sub-Region and from the Greater Mekong Sub-Region States to other regions of the world;

Asserting that it is completely unacceptable that human beings are traded, bought, sold, abducted, placed, and maintained in exploitative situations, thus being denied their most fundamental and inalienable rights;

Recognizing that poverty, lack of access to education, and inequalities, including lack of equal opportunity, make persons vulnerable to trafficking;

Further recognizing the link between trafficking and the growing demand for exploitative labour and exploitative sexual services;

Acknowledging that trafficking is intensified by discriminatory attitudes, practices and policies based on gender, age, nationality, ethnicity, and social grouping;

Emphasizing that children and women who become victims of trafficking are particularly vulnerable, and need special measures to ensure their protection and well being;

Concerned by the involvement of both community members and organised criminal groups in trafficking in persons;

Recognizing the need for a strengthened criminal justice response to trafficking in order to secure justice for victims of trafficking and end impunity for traffickers and others who derive benefits from this crime;

Acknowledging the importance of effective and proportionate penalties for traffickers, including provision for freezing and confiscating their assets, and for the proceeds to be used for the benefit of victims of trafficking;

Recognizing the important contribution that survivors of trafficking can, on a strictly voluntary basis, make to developing, implementing, and evaluating anti-trafficking interventions, and in securing the prosecution of traffickers;

Acknowledging the important role played by victim support agencies in the areas of prevention, protection, prosecution, rescue, repatriation, recovery and reintegration, as well as in supporting a strengthened criminal justice response;

Recognizing that each Government hereby undertakes to take steps, individually and through international assistance and co-operation, to the maximum of its available resources, with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of the commitments recognized in this MOU by all appropriate means;

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, particularly Article 4, which states that ‘No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms’;

Commending those Greater Mekong Sub-Region States which have ratified and/or acceded to the key international legal instruments concerning trafficking and related exploitation including the:

- United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children;
- United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW);
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and its Optional Protocols on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict;
- ILO Forced Labour Conventions (29 & 105);
- ILO Convention (182) Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour;

and encourage those States which have not yet done so, to accede to these instruments at the earliest possible time;

Reaffirming the importance of the United Nations Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking contained in the report of the UNHCHR (2002) to the United Nations Economic and Social Council;

Reaffirming existing regional initiatives and commitments to combat trafficking in persons;

Welcoming the pioneering Memorandum of Understanding between Thailand and Cambodia on Bilateral Cooperation for Eliminating Trafficking in Children and Women and Assisting Victims of Trafficking (2003) and efforts to develop similar bilateral anti-trafficking arrangements within the Greater Mekong Sub-Region;

Welcoming the importance of bilateral agreements, such as the Memoranda of Understanding on Cooperation in the Employment of Workers between Thailand and Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar respectively, in promoting safe, orderly, well-regulated migration as this serves to reduce the demand for illegal migration services which provide opportunities for traffickers;

Intending fully that this MOU reflects the continuing political will of our Governments to cooperate to combat trafficking in persons; and

Calling upon all countries outside the GMS to join our countries in the fight against human trafficking;

Hereby solemnly commit to the following actions:

I. In the area of Policy and Cooperation (national and international):

1. **Encouraging** the use of the definition of trafficking contained in the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children supplementing the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organised Crime;
2. **Developing** national plans of action against trafficking in persons in all its forms;
3. **Working towards** establishing and strengthening a national, multi-sectoral committee on trafficking in persons with a mandate to coordinate the implementation of the National Plan of Action and other anti-trafficking interventions;
4. **Creating** mechanisms to strengthen regional cooperation and information exchange, and designating a national focal point on combating trafficking;
5. **Improving** regional cooperation against trafficking, in particular through bilateral and multilateral agreements; and
6. **Strengthening** cooperation between Governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations in combating trafficking in persons.

II. In the area of Legal Frameworks, Law Enforcement and Justice:

7. **Adopting and enforcing**, as quickly as possible, appropriate legislation against trafficking in persons;
8. **Adopting** appropriate guidelines and providing training for relevant officials to permit the rapid and accurate identification of trafficked persons and to improve the investigation, prosecution and judicial process;
9. **Investigating**, arresting, prosecuting, and punishing perpetrators of trafficking in accordance with national law;
10. **Making** available to trafficked persons legal assistance and information in a language they understand;
11. **Developing** realistic and effective cooperation in the criminal justice system to remove impunity for traffickers and provide justice for victims;
12. **Strengthening** cross-border cooperation in law enforcement among the six GMS countries to combat trafficking through criminal justice process;
13. **Providing** the necessary personnel and budgetary support for trafficking response capacities within national law enforcement authorities; and

14. **Promoting** bilateral or multilateral agreements among the GMS countries to assist each other in the judicial process.

III. In the area of Protection, Recovery, and Reintegration:

15. **Promoting** greater gender and child sensitivity in all areas of work dealing with victims of trafficking;
16. **Ensuring** that persons identified as victims of trafficking are not held in detention by law enforcement authorities;
17. **Providing** all victims of trafficking with shelter, and appropriate physical, psycho-social, legal, educational, and health-care assistance;
18. **Adopting** policies and mechanisms to protect and support those who have been victims of trafficking;
19. **Strengthening** the capacity of the embassies and consulates to ensure that they can more effectively assist trafficked persons;
20. **Ensuring** cross-border cooperation in the safe return of trafficked persons, including support to ensure their well-being; and
21. **Working together** to facilitate the successful recovery and reintegration of trafficked persons and to prevent them from being re-trafficked.

IV. In the area of Preventive Measures:

22. **Adopting** measures to reduce vulnerability including: supporting poverty reduction programs; increasing economic opportunities; ensuring access to quality education and skill training; and providing necessary personal legal documentation, including birth registration;
23. **Supporting** the development of community protection and surveillance networks for early identification and intervention for those at risk;
24. **Raising** public awareness at all levels, including through public information campaigns and advocacy, both of the dangers and negative impacts of trafficking, and of assistance available to victims;
25. **Applying** national labour laws to protect the rights of all workers based on the principles of non-discrimination and equality;
26. **Encouraging** destination countries, including those from outside the Greater Mekong Sub-Region, to effectively enforce relevant national laws in order to reduce acceptance of exploitation of persons that fuels the continuing demand for the labour of trafficked persons, and to suppress the crime of trafficking in women and children through mutual cooperation; and
27. **Increasing** cooperation with the private sector, especially the tourism and entertainment industries, to take an active role in the fight against trafficking

V. In the area of Mechanisms for Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation of this Memorandum of Understanding:

28. **Developing** an initial Sub-Regional Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons, 2005-2007 and undertaking all necessary efforts to fully implement this Plan;
29. **Developing** procedures for the collection and analysis of data and information on trafficking cases and ensuring that anti-trafficking strategies are based on accurate and current research, experience and analysis;
30. **Establishing** a monitoring system for the implementation of the Plan of Action to evaluate the status quo and the progress of each country in implementing the commitments covered in this MOU including, at the minimum, annual senior officials meetings;
31. **Reviewing** the implementation of the Plan of Action and adopting a new Sub-Regional Plan of Action through a GMS Ministerial meeting in late 2007;
32. **Creating** a national task force to collaborate with the COMMIT Secretariat (United Nations Inter-Agency Project against Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region) and other partners;
33. **Inviting** government funding agencies, as well as relevant United Nations and other inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to provide financial, material and technical assistance to support GMS countries in their anti-trafficking efforts, including the implementation of this MOU and the forthcoming Plan of Action; and
34. **Recognizing** that amendments to this MOU may be desirable in the future, the Governments set out the following process for amending this MOU: (1) if four of the six undersigned Governments believe that the MOU should be changed, and inform the Secretariat in writing, a procedure for consultation shall be undertaken by the Secretariat in a mutually convenient manner; (2) the purpose of such a procedure shall be to propose changes to the MOU; (3) any changes to the MOU shall be agreed to unanimously by the six Governments, and the approval of each Government shall be communicated to the Secretariat in writing.

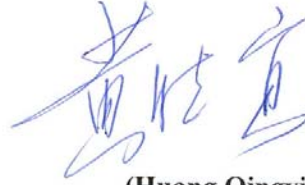
Done at Yangon, on this 29th day of October 2004.

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**



**(Ith Samheng)
Minister of Social Affairs,
Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation**

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**



**(Huang Qingyi)
Vice Chairperson
National Working Committee
for Children & Women under the State Council**

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC**



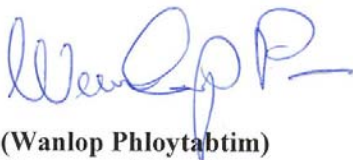
**(Somphanh Phengkhammy)
Minister of Labour and Social Welfare**

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR**



**(Colonel Tin Hlaing)
Minister of Home Affairs**

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND**



**(Wanlop Phloytabtim)
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Social Development
and Human Security**

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM**



**(Lieutenant-General Le The Tiem)
Vice Minister of Public Security**