

## **The Children's Declaration is put into Action**

National Coordinators will be responsible for enabling the children to follow-up and monitor the international reactions to their declaration and action plan after the Children's World Congress.

A series of actions in different countries have already been organised to implement the Children's Declaration. And many events are planned for which will be a link to the follow-up Congress.

The Declaration is being disseminated at all the levels both at the national and at the international level to have the contents and the spirit of the Declaration included in the actions and programs of all international organisations.

The Declaration will also be sent to Presidents and Prime Ministers who are influential on the international scene as well as of those in the countries where the children were left out. Also all the organisations working against child labour would be contacted to present on their website the conclusions of the Congress.

It was discussed in Florence that a good opportunity to initiate activities to put the Children's Declaration into action would be the World Day Against child labour. Many regions on this occasion organised some event. Synopses of some of the events held are –

### **South Asia**

In South Asia the Declaration was translated in different languages and it was handed over to heads of the government the prime minister of those countries.

In Nepal, at that time there was a national meeting and consultation that was participated by government delegates, trade union members, teachers' organisation, employers' organisation and organisations working against child labour. Everyone appreciated and also agreed to whatever the children have said in the declaration. It was also decided to influence the government to implement its commitments into action. The media also gave a very good coverage.

### **West Africa**

The Declaration was translated into French and was sent to all the Francophone countries. A press release was to be released by all countries out on 12 June.

In Togo, on the 12<sup>th</sup> of June and 16 of June, which is the Day of the African Child, The official presentation of the Children's Declaration was held. The program was organised with the Minister of Tourism. The Declaration was read in front of many government representatives and also the Declaration was handed over to the Minister of Tourism to be given to the government and she accepted it.

### **Europe**

#### **Romania**

The two children who participated in the World Congress from Romania are the most important persons to spread out the messages including the Declaration so, a National Forum of children was organised together with other NGOs with children coming from 15 places in Romania. Both the children who participated in the Congress told the other children what they did at the Congress, what were the messages, and they also read the Declaration. One day all the 200 children worked on the Declaration, they started to prepare the Declaration based on the national situation.

Then after another month the first meeting of the National Committee for the Elimination of Child Labour took place in its new formal structure because this national committee though existed since 1999 it was institutionalised now. It is a governmental institution including also NGOs in its structure. These 2 child had the opportunity to present before this Committee members - to the representatives from the government and NGOs what they had in the Congress and what is the message and how a March can be organised in Romania. After a week of this meeting a March was organised in Bucharest aiming to multiply what was done in Florence. This March was quite a good success as many important TV channels and newspapers wrote about the March and about the problem of child labour in the CEE region. Now the plan is to build new projects together with ILO in Romania.

### **South America**

To mark the World Day Against Child Labour a high level meeting with the president of UNESCO, UNICEF, ILO and the Minister of Labour was organised in Chile. There was a meeting with all children including the 3 delegate of the Congress. The Declaration was read in the meeting and the children asked many direct and hard-hitting questions to all the leaders.

Other follow-up activities are planned for August and then in November. The anniversary of the Chilean Congress that framed the convention on child rights will fall in November and then there will be activities with children like reading of the Declaration at different levels national Congress i.e deputies and senates and the local government.

Before the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre next year, there will be a children's forum where children from South America and Central America will take part. This will be the opportunity to spread the message of the Children's Declaration at the regional level.

### **North America**

Two of the American delegates have started a monthly Children's Newsletter that aims to build a network of children from all over the world who intend to act on ending child labour and to achieve education for all. The newsletter is like a watchdog over the actions by governments and international organisations. The newsletter is prepared in totality by children.