

Supplementary report on

“Sexual Exploitation of Children in Cambodia”

to the combined fourth, fifth, and sixth periodic reports of Cambodia on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including the implementation of the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

Submitted by

and

APLE Cambodia and ECPAT International

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APLE Cambodia strengthens national social and legal mechanisms for the protection of children at risk of, or affected by, child sexual abuse or exploitation with the goal to create a community with robust social and legal justice in which all children are safe from child sexual abuse and exploitation. Currently, APLE runs four programmes: Criminal Justice Development, Court Support, Community Engagement, and Research & Advocacy.



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ECPAT International is a global network of civil society organisations working for the eradication of all forms of sexual exploitation of children. For the past 29 years, ECPAT has acted as the international watchdog, monitoring States' response to sexual exploitation of children, and advocating for robust international measures to protect children from sexual exploitation. ECPAT International currently has 109 network members operating in 96 countries.

Context of this Supplementary Report

1. In 2002 the Government of Cambodia (GoC) ratified the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (OPSC), thereby explicitly committing itself to combatting the sexual exploitation of children (**SEC**). Further, through the adoption of the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, the GoC has pledged to eliminate all forms of violence against children, including sexual abuse and exploitation.¹
2. The present report is supplementary to the combined fourth, fifth, and sixth periodic reports of Cambodia on the implementation of both the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the OPSC (UN Doc. CRC/C/KHM/4-6). The goals of this report are twofold: first, to serve as an update on SEC in Cambodia; and second, to offer concrete recommendations to the GoC in order to mobilize political will to combat SEC.
3. This submission is based on desk research conducted by APLE Cambodia and ECPAT International. The scope of this submission is limited to **SEC** and its different manifestations, including exploitation of children in prostitution,² online child sexual exploitation (**OCSE**), child sexual abuse materials (**CSAM**),³ child trafficking for sexual purposes, sexual exploitation of children in the context of travel and tourism (**SECTT**)⁴ and child, early and forced marriage (**CEFM**).

Status and Developments Regarding Sexual Exploitation of Children in Cambodia

Background of country conditions

4. Cambodia is a constitutional monarchy that operates within the framework of a parliamentary representative democracy. According to the latest available estimates, in 2016, the country's population was 15,762,000,⁵ of which 5,854,000 (37%) were children.⁶ Following two decades of strong economic growth, Cambodia reached the World Bank's lower middle-income status classification in 2015,⁷ a designation it still retains.⁸ However, more than 70% of Cambodians continue to live on less than \$3 a day, remaining vulnerable to falling back into poverty.⁹ Although school education is compulsory from grades 1 to 9 (approximately 15 years of age)¹⁰ and primary school enrolment rates are high (95% in 2016),¹¹ many children from poor rural families, ethnic communities and those with disabilities do not complete primary school.¹² In remote areas, children must travel long distances to reach school with limited transportation options, with this particularly affecting girls because of safety concerns when travelling between home and school. Moreover, even though the general minimum age of work is 15 years,¹³ or 12 years old for light work activities¹⁴ and 18 years old for hazardous work, children often have to leave school for financial reasons¹⁵ or because they are involved in labour: a 2018 UNICEF found that 35% of children aged 6 to 17 years reported engaging in labour to raise money for their family as the reason why they were out of school.¹⁶
5. Cambodia's child protection services remain weak due to insufficient budgeting and there being very few social workers trained to work with children.¹⁷ Such gaps in child protection services often lead parents to resort to placing their children in alternative care.¹⁸ Unfortunately, parents are not aware of the negative consequences this can have on their children. A lack of family and social support increases the risk of stunting the social, physical, intellectual and emotional development of these children.¹⁹ Moreover, the government's budget to monitor alternative care institutions is insufficient, resulting in children being at risk of unsafe and unhealthy conditions and being exposed to sexual exploitation.²⁰

6. Lack of education, poverty, and weak child protection and welfare services are all factors that make children vulnerable to sexual exploitation. Further, strong cultural values consider sexual abuse a taboo topic and stigmatise abused children,²¹ creating feelings of shame and guilt around reporting sexual abuse. This is especially true with regard to the 'sale of virginity' phenomenon. The demand for virgin girls in Cambodia is a big business that thrives due to cultural myths.²² Girls who have been abused, exploited or raped for their virginity will often not disclose it. Indeed, expectations of female chastity in Cambodia are revered and have been translated into a code of conduct and obedience known as *chbab srey* ('women's law').²³ Similarly, the sexual exploitation of boys is often misunderstood or ignored. Indeed, social and cultural norms assume boys to be strong, powerful and invulnerable.²⁴ Even boys themselves are not always aware of their vulnerabilities due to this socially constructed conception of maleness. Yet, boys who have been sexually abused and exploited experience high levels of shame and a loss of honour, fearing others finding out and alienating them. Moreover, when boys do receive attention, they are often portrayed as the exploiters or willing participants, and not as victims of sexual exploitation. Therefore, the sexual exploitation of boys has been a difficult phenomenon to recognise and address.²⁵ These traditional social norms contribute to a culture of silence surrounding sexual abuse and create an environment where child sexual exploitation can flourish, making Cambodia an appealing destination for child sex offenders.

Exploitation of children in prostitution

7. Historically, the exploitation of children in prostitution in Cambodia typically manifests through one of two avenues: establishment-based sexual exploitation of children or street-based sexual exploitation. Establishment-based exploitation is facilitated through brothels or other establishments (karaoke bars, massage parlours, beer gardens, etc.). This type of exploitation is favoured by Cambodians and other Asian nationals and mostly affects girls.²⁶ Alternatively, street-based sexual exploitation is generally facilitated in person by the offender who approaches children directly, or through intermediaries, in public places (streets, beaches, etc.).²⁷ This type of exploitation is favoured by foreign tourists or expatriates and mostly affects boys.²⁸ Cambodian men constitute the largest source of demand for children in prostitution, though men from elsewhere in Asia, Europe, the United States, Australia, and South Africa are known to travel to Cambodia to target children forced into prostitution, increasingly through the use of social media.²⁹
8. In a study of five Cambodian provinces carried out by APLE Cambodia, published in 2018, local authorities and NGOs indicated that they have witnessed and heard of cases of children in prostitution.³⁰ This includes cases of exploitation of children in prostitution arranged online and at physical establishments, including beer gardens and massage parlours. In the coastal city of Sihanoukville, where Chinese investment has led to increased development and tourism, local authorities reported the presence of establishments employing minors who were engaged in prostitution.³¹ The local authority advised that the threats to children posed by new Chinese businesses needs to be confronted.³² At the time of this report, there were no available reports on the scope of the exploitation of children in prostitution in the country as a whole.

Online child sexual exploitation (OCSE)

9. As in many parts of the world, Internet usage and connectivity has rapidly increased in Cambodia in recent years. As of 2017, there were a reported 116.04 mobile-cellular telephone subscriptions per 100 inhabitants and 34% of individuals were using the Internet.³³ Though conducive to innovation and development, this increasing telecommunications usage creates an environment where children are increasingly vulnerable to sexual exploitation. The misuse of available technologies allows perpetrators new avenues to groom and exploit children. Moreover, the anonymity of the Internet facilitates opportunities for offenders to share and disseminate CSAM.³⁴
10. A 2018 report by APLE Cambodia on the online child sexual exploitation of children in the country found that children and teachers generally display a high awareness level of OCSE-related issues, including live-streaming, grooming, distribution of pornography to children, and extortion of children using sexually explicit photos.³⁵ In Cambodia, Facebook and Facebook Messenger are the two main platforms on which OCSE-related materials are transmitted, and receiving either adult pornographic or child sexual abuse materials is the most commonly cited risk by children using these platforms.³⁶ Facebook Messenger, in particular, is utilized by offenders to groom and privately connect with children.³⁷ OCSE also occurs outside of these platforms over other multiple interconnected apps.³⁸
11. As of the date of this report, there has not been a nation-wide study on the prevalence of OCSE, so ascertaining the full extent of this crime is not possible. However, in a survey of 220 children in Phnom Penh, Siem Reap and Sihanoukville, 37 children (17%) shared at least one personal experience of OCSE-related risk.³⁹ 29 of those children reported described their OCSE experience as involving grooming or another form of sexual advance by an adult.⁴⁰ Moreover, online surveys with children report similar findings, with 16% of children saying they feel unsafe online due to people asking them to do “inappropriate things” and 32% saying they have seen sexual materials featuring children online.⁴¹ Additionally, the number of CSAM reports received by the U.S. Homeland Security Investigations has steadily increased in the last several years, with a dramatic increase (490% increase over the previous year) in the first 11 months of 2018.⁴² Of particular concern is that nearly a third of these reports may be of newly produced CSAM, indicating that the production of new materials is increasing.⁴³
12. Further research on the different manifestations of OCSE is recommended to better understand the nature and extent of this phenomenon in Cambodia.⁴⁴

Sale and trafficking of children for sexual purposes

13. Cambodia is source, transit, and destination country for children victims of trafficking for sexual purposes.⁴⁵ Children migrate to other countries, and increasingly the Middle East, for work, where they are then subject to sex trafficking.⁴⁶ Moreover, all of Cambodia’s 25 provinces are sources of human trafficking, with sex trafficking being largely clandestine.⁴⁷ Cambodian and Vietnamese girls who move from rural areas to cities and tourist destinations are subject to trafficking for sexual purposes in brothels and “clandestine sex establishments” such as beer gardens, massage parlours, and salons.⁴⁸ Vietnamese child victims of “debt-based coercion” have been known to be trafficked to Cambodia where they are subject to sexual exploitation.⁴⁹ Further, there have been reports of Cambodian orphanages ‘purchasing’ children from economically disadvantaged and

subjecting them to unsafe living conditions, increasing their risk of being trafficked for sexual purposes.⁵⁰ Cambodian authorities failed to issue guidance allowing undercover investigations of suspected anti-trafficking operations, negatively affecting the ability of officials to prosecute sex traffickers who often act clandestinely.⁵¹

14. Information from the International Justice Mission suggests that sexual trafficking has declined in the last decade, but as with other manifestations of SEC in Cambodia, the full nature and scope of trafficking of children for sexual purposes is not known because no comprehensive data exists on the issue.⁵²

Sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism (SECTT)

15. Cambodia remains a major destination for SECTT.⁵³ This is in part due to the low costs of travel to the country and the poverty that affects the local population. In particular, Special Economic and Free Trade Zones (FTZ) have been identified as hotspots for child sexual exploitation.⁵⁴ Indeed, the promise of economic opportunities within these areas have made them destinations particularly attractive to children and families from poor regions throughout Cambodia. As a result, FTZ's have become notorious for unsafe migration, trafficking, forced labour and child sexual exploitation among children living and working in these areas.⁵⁵
16. Despite the focus of the media and child protection efforts on western tourists, SECTT within Cambodia and the region appears to be dominated by men from Asian countries, particularly Chinese tourists.⁵⁶ According to the Global Study on Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism, information on offenders is often skewed due to the focus on western offenders who are 'more visible' and often repeat offenders.⁵⁷ The government and local media tend to highlight these higher profile cases rather than the ones involving Cambodian or other Asian nationals. The same problem appears in terms of data on the number of arrests by types of profiles. The number is likely to be slanted based on law enforcement priorities and approaches (e.g. whether the focus is on sex establishments or street-based prostitution).⁵⁸ Authorities reported the arrest of 8 foreign nationals in 2018 suspected of SECTT (compared to 5 in 2017 and 12 in 2016), but there was no information on whether any have been prosecuted.⁵⁹ Local organizations expressed concern over the government's continuing failure to effectively prosecute foreign nationals for SEC.⁶⁰ Men from other countries in Asia, Europe, the United States, Australia, and South Africa have been reported travelling to Cambodia to sexually exploit children.⁶¹
17. Additionally, Cambodia has been a destination for 'orphanage tourism' in recent years as increased tourist interest in volunteerism has led some orphanages to encourage poor families to hand over their children for care in order to offer 'volun-tourism' opportunities to tourists.⁶² According to UNICEF, the number of orphanages in Cambodia doubled between 2009 and 2014, despite the number of orphans decreasing. They are exploited by soliciting donations from the 'volun-tourists'.⁶³ Moreover, experience in welfare work is not a requirement for many residential care centres,⁶⁴ resulting in children in these institutions being at high risk of abuse and exploitation by unqualified staff and generally unsupervised volunteers whose qualifications, references and backgrounds are rarely checked.⁶⁵ Moreover, Cambodian orphans are vulnerable to exploitation through 'pseudocare work', a known tactic employed by travelling child sex offenders.⁶⁶

Child, early and forced marriage (CEFM)

18. Though child marriage in Cambodia has declined over the last thirty years, it is still occurring on a broad scale, and is particularly pronounced in rural areas.⁶⁷ Latest estimates from UNICEF for the period 2010-2016 report that 2% of girls in Cambodia were married by the age of 15, while 19% were married by the age of 18.⁶⁸ A 2014 Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey identified a higher prevalence of adolescent marriages in rural or remote areas such as Mondulakiri and Ratanakiri provinces.⁶⁹
19. As with other SEC manifestations in Cambodia, this phenomenon can be linked to poverty, with girls marrying young to reduce the economic burden on their family. Culture and traditions also underlie child marriages.⁷⁰ According to some ethnic cultures and social norms, young girls have more 'value' and men tend to view girls over the age of 18 as being too old to marry.⁷¹ Forced marriages can also, in some cases, be the consequence of a sexual abuse. When a girl has been sexually abused or raped, she is often forced to marry her aggressor in order to preserve the family's honour.⁷²
20. Child marriage can also result in other manifestations of SEC. For instance, child marriage is often associated with the 'selling of girls', which results in trafficking or forcing the bride into prostitution.⁷³ In Cambodia, CEFM manifests itself in other harmful ways, such as the trafficking of child brides from Cambodia's rural areas to South Korea or China.⁷⁴

General measures of implementation

Policy and overall strategy

21. In December 2017, the GoC announced its Action Plan to Prevent and Respond to Violence Against Children 2017-2021 ("Action Plan"). The content of the Action Plan stems from the Cambodia Violence Against Children Survey that the GoC conducted in 2013.⁷⁵ The Action Plan states that the "activities outlined...are designed to help support efforts in Cambodia to develop and implement effective child-friendly prevention strategies, as well as to improve service provision for all Cambodians, especially for children, both boys and girls, who experience violence."⁷⁶ Among the types of violence committed against children, the Action Plan includes sexual violence, child marriage, child trafficking, and online child sexual exploitation.⁷⁷
22. The Action Plan provides a number of activities relevant to combatting SEC, some of which include: developing and implementing a child marriage and teenage pregnancy prevention framework in ethnic minority communities (Activity 5.1.4); providing training for teachers and developing school curriculums to build online safety skills of children to prevent online grooming and OCSE (Activities 3.1.1 and 3.2.1); providing law enforcement with materials on OCSE (Activities 6.1.2 and 6.2.1); developing online hotline to identify platforms supporting OCSE (Activity 8.3.3); amending the Cyber Crimes Law to "ensure protection for victims of online child sexual exploitation, including sexual extortion, sexting, live streaming of child sexual abuse in real time, and online grooming". There are no activities in the Action Plan that address SECTT or children exploited in prostitution. The issue of child trafficking was not included in the Action Plan as it is addressed in the National Action Plan on the Suppression of Human Trafficking, Smuggling, Labour and Sexual Exploitation 2014-2018⁷⁸, highlighted below. Progress has been made on some of the above activities, including online safety awareness raising in schools and the drafting of a new law on cybercrime.⁷⁹

23. In order to strengthen efforts to combat human trafficking, including child trafficking, the GoC has adopted several plans of action and programmes at a national level. The National Plan of Action (NPA) on Counter Trafficking 2014-2018 was launched in 2015,⁸⁰ in line with the two previous NPAs against trafficking and sexual exploitation, which covered the periods of 2000-2004 and 2011-2013. The overarching goal of the NPA was to “to coordinate efforts of all sectors to address and eliminate all forms of human trafficking and labour and sexual exploitation of the Cambodian people in Cambodia and elsewhere.”⁸¹ The provisions within the NPA related to children include incorporating a Child Safe Tourism curriculum in primary and secondary schools (Outcome 2.1) and implementing child-friendly judicial procedures (Outcome 3.2). In the Mid-Term Review Report of the NPA in February 2017, there was no data available on the implementation of the Child Safe Tourism curriculum,⁸² but some progress was made on developing child-friendly judicial procedures, including training court authorities on interviewing children with their guardian present, not holding children for extended periods of time, and ensuring children have legal representation.⁸³ Further, there were reports of video interviewing being used, but lack of available technology prohibited wider practice.⁸⁴ There were no goals or activities in the NPA that dealt explicitly with the sexual exploitation of children, and at the time of this report there was no information on whether a new NPA would be promulgated for 2019 and onwards. A new NPA on Counter Trafficking, to cover 2018-2022, is in development with input being collected from various stakeholders.⁸⁵
24. A National Plan of Action for Child Development 2016-2018 was launched in January 2016. In August 2017, the CNCC organised a national workshop at the Ministry of Interior to promote the implementation of the NPA for Child Development among relevant government officials and to request the establishment of a working group for children with the Ministry of Interior. The NPA was being promoted at national and sub-national levels, and the CNCC has been able to mainstream the NPA into 9 ministries and 3 provinces.⁸⁶
25. Lastly, at the Abu Dhabi WePROTECT Summit of 16-17 November 2015, Cambodia reaffirmed and endorsed the Statement of Action of the London WePROTECT Summit of December 2014 and agreed to establish and develop a coordinated national response to online child sexual exploitation in accordance with the Model National Response.⁸⁷

Coordination and evaluation

26. The GoC has created several working committees and involved many existing ministries with the goal of combating trafficking. Among them is the National Committee on Counter Trafficking (NCCT), an inter-ministerial coordinating body chaired by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior. There are six working groups (WG) under NCCT: Prevention WG, Protection WG, Law Enforcement WG, Justice WG, International Cooperation WG and Migration WG.⁸⁸ In 2015, it provided training for more than 4,000 communal and provincial officials, law enforcement officials and judicial staff on a variety of anti-human trafficking topics (legislation, investigation techniques, etc.). The Cambodian National Police are also in charge of anti-human trafficking and juvenile protection units under the Secretariat for Anti-Human Trafficking at the provincial level.⁸⁹ Children who are victims of trafficking or sexual violence are referred by commune and district level police officers to these units.⁹⁰

27. The Cambodian National Council for Children (CNCC) is a national coordination mechanism for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all policies and programmes related to Cambodian children. However, it lacks the necessary human, technical and financial resources to fulfil its role.⁹¹ The CRC Committee expressed its concerns in 2015 that the coordinating functions of the CNCC and the NCCT overlap, therefore undermining the capacity of Cambodia to effectively implement the OPSC.⁹² No updated information was available at time of submission. Commune Committees for Women and Children have been established across the country to ensure child protection at the local level, although they are often unclear on their roles and responsibilities. They also lack adequate funding to fulfil their mandates and have limited capacity in designing budget plans or expertise to identify the most vulnerable children in their Commune.⁹³ Despite the recent increase in capacity building activities at the national and sub-national levels, the capacity for budget planning and mobilizing resources remains low, particularly at the sub-national level.⁹⁴
28. The Ministry of Tourism is entrusted with the power to manage and control the tourism sector.⁹⁵ Despite some measures taken to prevent and protect children from SECTT (training on and promotion of the Law on Tourism and research study on SECTT), its mandate in fighting SECTT is restricted.⁹⁶ A sub-decree on the Establishment of the Tourism Police Department of the Ministry of Interior establishes the duties of the Tourism Police Department when cooperating with other competent institutions to combat SECTT, child trafficking and the dissemination of CSAM. However, these duties are very limited and overlap with those of the Anti-Human Trafficking and Juvenile Protection Department.⁹⁷ Additionally, in 2001, the Ministry of Tourism established a Child Safety Committee in the Tourism Sector, wholly dedicated to the prevention and protection against SECTT. Its networks are present in 24 capitals and provinces in order to strengthen the effectiveness of its actions towards the prevention and elimination of SECTT.⁹⁸ As of the date of this report, the Child Safety Committee continues to operate, but lacks a clear focus on SECTT and rarely takes concrete action.⁹⁹
29. In March 2017, Sub-Decree No. 34 moved the management of state child care centres from the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans, and Youth Rehabilitation to the Department of Social Affairs, Veterans, and Youth Rehabilitation and the inspection of NGO children's homes to the District Offices for Social Affairs.¹⁰⁰ Sub-Decree No. 34 also prescribed the need for communes to develop and train professional social workers.¹⁰¹
30. The establishment of the above institutions has yet to translate into a coordinated child protection system that can identify and respond to children at risk.¹⁰² The factors contributing to this include ineffective identification and referral pathways, stigma around sexual violence, lack of clarity among stakeholders as to their roles and limited social work capacity.¹⁰³ Additionally, there is no dedicated governmental body to combat the sexual exploitation of children.

Prevention of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (art. 9 (para. 1 and 2) OPSC)

31. The GoC, child rights NGOs, international organisations and the private sector have developed and implemented a number of preventive measures in Cambodia, particularly targeting SECTT and trafficking of children for sexual exploitation.
32. During its last reporting cycle, the GoC indicated that it disseminated and provided training on the OPSC. The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports has also integrated the CRC into school

curricula, disseminated preventive measures and a plan against human trafficking to students at schools and universities. It also implemented a programme that monitors the safety of children at school and another one that educates communities in order to enhance their understanding, vigilance and protection of children from trafficking. At the same time, the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation disseminated the Convention into the social work training curriculum.¹⁰⁴ However, the CRC Committee noted in 2015 that not all offences relating to SEC are covered by these training activities and only a limited number of trained social workers carry out preventive activities at the communal and local levels.¹⁰⁵ APLE Cambodia provides trainings on SEC and SECTT to law enforcement officers and public officials, focusing particularly on grooming techniques, victim identification and investigation of SEC, to about 6,000 people including children, parents, local authorities, caretakers, NGO staff, and law enforcement.¹⁰⁶

33. In 2017, the Ministry of Tourism held workshops for hotel staff and government officials on the prevention of SEC in the hospitality industry.¹⁰⁷ Despite this positive development, the GoC still devotes a disproportionate amount of resources towards combatting foreign involvement in sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism, rather than the involvement of local offenders in SEC who constitute the main source of demand.¹⁰⁸
34. Civil society has also contributed to efforts made to prevent SEC. The Cambodia Against Child Trafficking Coalition (Cambodia ACTs) is a network of 14 Cambodian NGOs working together to fight child trafficking, child exploitation and sexual abuse in provinces and municipalities across the country. Cambodia ACTs works within local communities and with service providers to strengthen their capacity to protect against child exploitation. This includes, for example, Training of Trainers on child's rights and anti-trafficking. The network also undertakes public information campaigns to raise awareness on the risks of trafficking (12th December Campaign and the Village-Safety Net Program) and develops collaborative community programmes to improve knowledge sharing and prevent local children from becoming victims of trafficking.¹⁰⁹ The Child Rights Coalition Cambodia (formerly the NGO Coalition on the Rights of the Child) is an alliance of 53 local and international NGOs who monitor the implementation of the CRC in Cambodia.¹¹⁰ Its activities include preparing alternative reports for United Nations bodies, awareness raising on the CRC within Cambodia, and building the capacity of its NGO members.¹¹¹ In March 2019, they organized a working group to discuss recommendations made in the UPR related to children's rights and plans to address these recommendations.¹¹² Two local NGOs affiliated with Friends International, Mith Samlanh and Kaliyan Mith, have established a number of prevention initiatives for children, including outreach programs for children in street situations, encouraging youth employment, and operating the 24/7 ChildSafe Hotline.¹¹³ In 2017, collectively the organizations worked with over 15,000 children to provide education, link children with employment opportunities and reunite children with their families. Lastly, the local level M'Lo Tapang works on child protection issues in Sihanoukville as part of the ChildSafe Movement, including on issues of the sexual exploitation of children.¹¹⁴
35. Despite an increasing number of initiatives, preventive measures remain inadequate and scattered. The CRC Committee expressed its concerns in 2015 that the underlying root causes and contributing factors leading to vulnerability to sexual exploitation are not sufficiently addressed.¹¹⁵ Several manifestations of SEC are still not specifically targeted by prevention strategies, such as CSAM, OCSE, and the exploitation of boys in prostitution. Further, the sale of virgins is a crime that requires specific research and preventive measures.

Prohibition of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (arts. 3, 4 (2) and (3) and 5-7 OPSC)

Exploitation of children in prostitution

36. Cambodia's Law on Suppression of Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of 2008 (TIPSE Law) provides a comprehensive definition of the exploitation of children in prostitution.¹¹⁶ "Child prostitution" is defined as "having sexual intercourse or other sexual conduct of all kinds between a minor and another person in exchange for anything of value".¹¹⁷ This definition is fully compliant with article 2 of the OPSC. Moreover, the criminalisation of the exploitation of children in prostitution is far-reaching as the element of the offence relating to the "exchange for anything of value" includes the provision or promise of provision of anything of value, either to the child or an intermediary, a parent, a guardian or any other person who keeps the child under his or her supervision or control.¹¹⁸ Penalties for the "purchase of child prostitution" under the TIPSE Law are 2 to 5 years imprisonment when the child is 15 years or older, and 7 to 15 years imprisonment when the child is under 15. The TIPSE Law criminalises other offences relating to exploitation in prostitution, including the procurement of prostitution, management of a prostitution establishment and the provision of premises for the exploitation of children in prostitution. The Law explicitly exempts children from criminal responsibility and punishment for prostitution related offences (e.g. solicitation).¹¹⁹ Thus, children exploited in prostitution are considered by law to be victims and not offenders.
37. The Cambodian Criminal Code (2010) addresses the exploitation of individuals through prostitution under a section entitled "procuring."¹²⁰ The act of attempting to commit an offence under this section carries the same penalty as if the offence had been committed.¹²¹ Further, "procuring" carries a heavier penalty if the "person engaging in prostitution is a minor."¹²² Under the Criminal Code, a minor is considered to be a person under the age of 18 in terms of criminal responsibility, though a minor aged 14 years and over can be held criminally liable "if warranted by the circumstances of the offence or the character of the minor."¹²³ It is unclear whether this definition extends to child victims.¹²⁴
38. The adoption of provisions criminalising the exploitation of children in prostitution in two different legal instruments creates challenges in interpreting the law. The Criminal Code explicitly states that its provisions take precedence over previous legislation.¹²⁵ Therefore, if the provisions of the TIPSE Law and the Criminal Code are identical, then the provision from the Criminal Code supersedes the TIPSE Law as it is the older enactment. However, if the provisions are different and can be interpreted to define different crimes, then those provisions are complementary and can co-exist. This may result in variations in charges pressed and inconsistencies in sentences, affecting the deterrent effect of prosecutions.¹²⁶

Online child sexual exploitation (OCSE)

39. The criminal provisions related to online child sexual exploitation are prescribed in the Law on Suppression of Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation. Article 40 defines "child pornography" as "a visible material such as a photograph or videotape, including a material in electronic form, depicting a minor's naked figure which excites or stimulates sexual desire".¹²⁷ According to the explanatory note from the Ministry of Justice, such "visible material" include photographs, drawings, texts, videos and movies in any physical or electronic form, and may also contain audio

content that is pornographic in nature.¹²⁸ This definition is still only partially compliant with the OPSC as it fails to provide a comprehensive definition of “child pornography.” The law does not include in the definition images of the sexual parts of a child’s body for primarily sexual purposes, nor does it cover child sexual abuse material (CSAM) in the form of written materials.¹²⁹ Moreover, the law is unclear concerning virtual child sexual abuse images.¹³⁰

40. Under the TIPSE Law, making CSAM available by distributing, selling, leasing, displaying, projecting or presenting it in a public place is punishable with imprisonment from 2 to 5 years and a fine from 4,000,000 to 10,000,000 riels (1,000 to 2,500 USD). Possessing, transporting, importing or exporting CSAM for the same purpose is liable to the same penalty, whereas producing CSAM carries an offence punishable by 5 to 10 years, and 10 to 20 years when the material is produced in order to make it available.¹³¹ However, the TIPSE Law does not contain any provisions criminalising the offence of possessing CSAM without the intent to distribute.¹³² Likewise, article 41 of the TIPSE Law does not address the distribution, sale, lease, displaying, projection or presentation of CSAM in private places, nor the intentional consumption, access and viewing of such materials through the use of communication and information technologies. Finally, the law does not prohibit the online solicitation of children for sexual purposes (online grooming), which creates a major legal gap in to the growing space of OCSE in Cambodia.
41. The Cambodian Government is currently examining the draft of a cybercrime law, which would address not only the offence of online grooming, but also the issue of CSAM, by criminalising the possession of CSAM in a computer system or on a computer-data storage medium.¹³³ However, it is unclear if civil society organizations will be able to provide feedback on the draft before it is finalised.¹³⁴
42. As of the date of this report, Cambodia has no laws, policies or practices requiring Internet service providers to report cases of CSAM or provide related material to law enforcement.¹³⁵ However, Cambodia has an online reporting mechanism, set up by the local NGO APLE and associated with the INHOPE Foundation. The INHOPE Foundation develops national hotlines across the world to fight against child sexual abuse material online. It prioritises countries such as Cambodia where CSAM is being facilitated, produced or distributed.¹³⁶ The hotline in Cambodia is limited to receiving online reports of suspected child sexual abuse materials,¹³⁷ and APLE refers these reports to the Anti Cybercrime Department for investigation.¹³⁸
43. Additionally, to tackle OCSE and arrest offenders, Cambodia has established an Information and Technology Office under the Anti-Human Trafficking and Juvenile Protection Department and an Anti-Cyber Crime Unit under the Criminal Investigation Department.¹³⁹

Sale and trafficking of children for sexual purposes

44. Cambodia has adopted specific legislation on child trafficking (including trafficking of children for sexual purposes) and adopted legal provisions that include a comprehensive definition of child trafficking in compliance with the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children (Palermo Protocol) and the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. Further, the TIPSE Law expressly addresses trafficking offences in 12 of its 30 articles. It prohibits all forms of trafficking and prescribes sentences of 7 to 15 years, and up to 20 years when aggravating circumstances are present, for sex and labour trafficking.¹⁴⁰ However, gaps remain in the law. Under Article 12, the recruitment of children for

the purpose of exploitation is unlawful only if it is done by means of deception, abuse of power, confinement, force, threat or any coercive means.¹⁴¹ This is not consistent with Article 3 of the Palermo Protocol, which criminalises the recruitment of children for the purpose of exploitation regardless of the means used. Moreover, the TIPSE Law does not include any provision insulating victims from liability for acts committed while they were being trafficked. Article 24 on the other hand, exempts minors from punishment for the offence of “soliciting”, defined as “willingly soliciting another in public for the purpose of prostituting himself or herself”. The Criminal Code criminalises “soliciting” more broadly, without the stipulation that something of value be exchanged.¹⁴²

45. The TIPSE Law also criminalises the “sale of a person”, defined as the “unlawful delivery of the control over a person to another, or the unlawful receipt of the control over a person from another, in exchange for anything of value including any services and persons”.¹⁴³ Article 12 adds “the act of unlawful recruitment in this law shall mean to induce, hire or employ a person to engage in any form of exploitation with the use of deception, abuse of power, confinement, force, threat or any coercive means”. This definition is not compliant with the OPSC, and the Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2015 expressed its concerns by stating that an element of force or other forms of coercion, such as the use of deception, abuse of power, confinement or threat, should not be required.¹⁴⁴

Sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism (SECTT)

46. Cambodian law does not contain provisions defining or explicitly criminalising the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism.
47. However, there are administrative laws that can be utilized to fight against SECTT.¹⁴⁵ The 2009 Law on Tourism stipulates that tourists or travellers who partake in activities related to sexual human trafficking and confinement, child trafficking and sexual exploitation/prostitution, disseminations of pornographic pictures and materials, shall be “subject to a nullification of entry-visa and shall be expelled or may be banned on staying the Kingdom of Cambodia for a specified period of time not exceeding five years or permanently”.¹⁴⁶ Article 56 of the Law on Tourism also prohibits minors to enter premises of adult entertainment sites, and Article 57 requires managers of adult entertainment centres to ban and take reasonable measures to ensure that no minors are present in the premises.¹⁴⁷ This last provision has been reinforced by a 2014 sub-decree on the management of tourist entertainment centres for adults.¹⁴⁸

Child, early and forced marriage (CEFM)

48. Cambodian law forbids child marriages, setting the minimum age for marriage without parental consent at 18, and the legal age for marriage with parental consent at 16 for both genders.¹⁴⁹ The Ministry of Women’s Affairs, with the support of UNICEF, has developed the Provincial Action Plan to Prevent Child Marriage and Teenage Pregnancy for Ratanakiri province. Activities aim at reducing child marriage and promoting safe behaviours among adolescents.¹⁵⁰ The plan is currently being implemented.¹⁵¹

Extraterritorial jurisdiction and extradition

49. The Criminal Code provides for territorial jurisdiction over SEC related crimes committed on Cambodian territory (Article 12), as well as for extraterritorial jurisdiction for crimes committed

by Cambodian nationals abroad (Article 19) or when the victim is a Cambodian national (Article 20).

50. The Criminal Procedure Code states that “the extradition of a foreign resident who is arrested in the territory of the Kingdom of Cambodia shall be governed by provisions of international conventions and treaties ratified by the Kingdom of Cambodia”.¹⁵² In case there is no international convention or treaty, the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code apply.¹⁵³

Protection of the rights of child victims (art. 8 and 9 (3) and (4) OPSC)

Role of law enforcement

51. Prior to the judicial handling of a victim’s case, the first step should be referral to the police and law enforcement officials, who are also in charge of their protection. However, in practice, victims are often first introduced to NGOs.¹⁵⁴ In order to improve investigation and prosecution of SEC cases, the GoC developed several databases to gather information on sexual abuse, sexual exploitation and trafficking cases. However, these databases not only tend to focus primarily on trafficking, but are also insufficiently linked to each other and are not accessible at the provincial and municipal levels.¹⁵⁵ Reports indicate that law enforcement continues to lack the financial and human resources needed to conduct thorough investigations.¹⁵⁶ This greatly restrains the reach of law enforcement and only a small number of victims are identified.
52. NGOs work with the Cambodian police to train and share up-to-date investigative techniques on how to handle sensitive situations, such as child grooming and child abuse materials online. APLE Cambodia provides a training of trainers to maximise sustainability and disperse knowledge further.¹⁵⁷ In March 2017, a comprehensive training programme to strengthen understanding of the essentials of cybercrime investigation was conducted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime jointly with the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children.¹⁵⁸ Various criminal justice officials improved their skills and knowledge of strategies to successfully investigate and prosecute cases of child sexual exploitation, including OCSE.¹⁵⁹
53. As outlined elsewhere in this report, there is a lack of understanding of sexual abuse of males overall and often, a lack of empathy for boy victims during the investigation stage, especially from authorities. Cambodian society, like others, considers boys to be invulnerable and able to protect themselves, and it spreads the idea that even if boys are abused, they do not require support.¹⁶⁰ In recent years, a specialist NGO supporting males has emerged, providing training for social welfare practitioners and law enforcement.¹⁶¹

National complaint mechanisms

54. Judicial mechanisms for child victims to seek justice are limited. The paucity of judicial resources often prevents prosecutors and investigating judges from pursuing all the cases referred to them by the police.¹⁶² There have also been recent reports of prosecutors and judges accepting bribes in exchange for acquittals and charges to be dismissed.¹⁶³ Moreover, corrupt officials will derail trafficking investigations and court cases where the offender has economic, political or criminal ties to the government.¹⁶⁴

55. Further, child victims are often reluctant to file a complaint due to lack of confidence in law enforcement and judicial authorities. Several reasons explain this lack of trust. First, criminalisation of victims is frequent. Prosecutors accuse child victims of wrong-doing or, in some cases involving foreign perpetrators, the child victims are accused of bringing false complaints in order to extort money from the foreigner.¹⁶⁵ Second, sentences are sometimes reduced based on circumstances (suspension of prison time, parole, etc.), or convicted foreign child sex offenders are sometimes not deported because of corruption and a lack of understanding on recidivism. Moreover, deportation (ban on stay penalty) is not mandatory, but at the discretion of judges.¹⁶⁶ This lack of conviction can discourage children from speaking out about the abuse.
56. Legal proceedings are also often delayed, resulting in a deterrent effect as child victims are often not willing to stay involved over the years. Moreover, in some cases, they are dependent on the offender's financial support and do not want to file a complaint or reverse their testimony once in court.¹⁶⁷
57. In 2014, the Coalition on the Rights of the Child, in a report to the UPR Working Group, noted that there was no independent mechanism to receive and address complaints from children concerning violations of their rights in Cambodia.¹⁶⁸ In theory, the CNCC should function as a national focal point for receiving complaints and referring violations of children's rights to the appropriate authorities, but in practice it has not focused on these facets as of yet. Instead, its priorities are on coordinating, training and developing policies based on the Convention.¹⁶⁹ However, the Internet Hotline Cambodia, run by APLE Cambodia, offers a web-based hotline for the public to anonymously report instances of CSAM.¹⁷⁰

Child-sensitive justice

58. Article 49 of the TIPSE Law prevents the media from publishing or disseminating information revealing the victim's identity to the public. The Law on the Press Regime prohibits the press from publishing information, photographs or drawings that could facilitate the identification of a child victim.¹⁷¹
59. Certain policy documents and guidelines provide instructions for law enforcement and justice institutions to ensure that child protection measures are implemented. The CNCC issued a Decision in December 2007 on Guidelines for the Protection of the Rights of Trafficked Children, stating that in all actions concerning child victims, whether undertaken by police, courts, an administrative authority or a legislative body, the best interest of the child shall be the primary consideration.¹⁷² At the investigation stage, it states that the investigation must not be made known to the suspect and confidentiality of the child's identity should be maintained.¹⁷³ The child victim must be brought to a safe environment including referral to social services organisations.¹⁷⁴ Moreover, they have the right to receive all information that affects them and to express their views freely on all matters that affect them.¹⁷⁵ The Guidelines provide recommendations on how to conduct child sensitive interviews, how to ensure the security of child victims and witnesses, and how criminal proceedings are conducted.¹⁷⁶
60. If there is no assistance from NGOs, many victims do not receive legal counselling during the legal process. In a study by UNICEF, a majority of children (65%) were living in an NGO shelter at the time of the court process and many families saw NGO support as vital.¹⁷⁷ Children have very limited time with lawyers, sometimes meeting them for the first time on the steps of the court.¹⁷⁸

Organisations such as Cambodia Defenders Project, Protection of Juvenile Justice and Legal Aid of Cambodia offer legal services in order to provide victims with access to legal representation. The Bar Association of Cambodia also provides legal assistance, with the funding of the Royal Cambodian Government to ensure the poor have free access to legal representation.¹⁷⁹

61. The Ministry of Justice issued an Instruction in the Prosecution and Punishment of Persons Who Commit Offences of Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation, giving recommendations on how to implement principles of international law relating to the protection of victims and juvenile justice procedures.¹⁸⁰ The Ministry also issued a *prakas* (regulation issued by a Ministry) in 2008, with instructions on the use of screens and TV-linked testimonies for child victims and witnesses in the provincial and capital courtrooms of five courts of first instance.¹⁸¹ Further, it produced instructional videos for child victims and child witnesses regarding the role of different criminal justice actors. However, such equipment is not often used to help children feel less vulnerable during the legal process.¹⁸²

Access to recovery and reintegration

62. In 2015, the CRC highlighted the absence of state-run rehabilitation and reintegration programmes in Cambodia. Moreover, Cambodia does not have a comprehensive law to protect children from all forms of violence or exploitation as required by Article 19 of the CRC.¹⁸³ However, some initiatives and guidance exist. For example, Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans, and Youth Rehabilitation has established the Anti-Trafficking in Persons and Reintegration Office under the supervision of the Department of Social Welfare, to accept and reintegrate victims of human trafficking from Thailand and Vietnam to return and live with their communities.¹⁸⁴ For the years 2014-2018, the Ministry also launched a strategic plan to promote the fight against human trafficking and assist victims through rehabilitation and/or vocational training.¹⁸⁵ Further, since the promulgation of the 2008 Minimum Standard of Alternative Care for Children, alternative care institutions (e.g., kinship care, foster care, pagoda-based care, group homes, and boarding schools) have been an increased avenue through which children have received access to recovery and reintegration services when they could no longer live with their family.¹⁸⁶
63. In 2011, the CRC stressed the fact that “psychosocial rehabilitation services and shelters for children of sexual abuse and exploitation are mainly concentrated in the capital and run by non-governmental organisations”.¹⁸⁷ In 2015, it reiterated its statement, adding that recovery and reintegration measures are limited to trafficking victims and do not take into account the needs of child victims of offences covered by the OPSC, owing to a lack of resources and insufficient number of adequately trained staff.¹⁸⁸ Further, though there have been positive developments in helping boy victims,¹⁸⁹ more effort needs to be put into increasing supporting services for male victims.

Access to compensation

64. In the TIPSE Law and Penal Code, the penalties for a SEC offence are often stated in terms of both prison time and financial compensation for the victim. Additionally, Article 46 of the TIPSE Law states that “a person who obtains enrichment without a legal cause knowing that the enrichment has been obtained from the act of selling/buying or exchanging a person or sexual exploitation shall be liable for restitution of the whole unjust enrichment along with accrued interest”. Thus, a child victim can claim restitution in addition to damages. However, there is no legal way to

enforce payment, and therefore, no guarantee that the offender will indeed pay.¹⁹⁰ In the 2014 UNICEF study, only one of the 54 respondents said that they received a portion of the officially awarded compensation from the offender. None of the other victims had received any compensation money.¹⁹¹

65. The Criminal Procedure Code stipulates physical imprisonment as a form of remuneration if the convicted person does not provide compensation and damages to the victim. However, this remedy is only available at the civil party's request and after proof that he/they have used all means of enforcement provided in the law (e.g. seizing personal or real properties).¹⁹²
66. If financial compensation is awarded to the victim, the offender is not obligated to pay the money until he/she finishes the jail term.¹⁹³ As a result, victims have to sometimes wait for years before receiving compensation. Such a rule is, once again, not in accordance with the standards of the OPSC, which states in Article 8 (g) that State parties again, not in accordance with the standards of the shall adopt appropriate measures to protect the rights and interests of child victims, by "avoiding unnecessary delay in the disposition of cases and the execution of orders or decrees granting compensation to child victims". This is not in compliance with Article 8(g) of the OPSC, which states that state parties must avoid "unnecessary delay in the disposition of cases and the execution of orders or decrees granting compensation to child victims."
67. There also exists a practice of 'out-of-court settlements': an offender, exploiting the child's needs and the needs of their family, may negotiate an extra-judicial, unofficial settlement. Most of the time, this results in the victim dropping all charges against the offender and receiving less financial compensation than they are entitled to by law.¹⁹⁴
68. Because the above procedures are not viable solutions for protecting children, Cambodian law is not in compliance with Article 9 of the OPSC.

Child, victim and survivor participation

69. The CNCC although not composed of children, is a coordinating body that provides comments to the Government on work related to child survival, development, protection, promotion of welfare and child participation in implementing action plans relating to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.¹⁹⁵ In 2019, the CNCC held two events with children: a Children's Forum where child participants were invited to voice their opinion on policies and issues affecting them,¹⁹⁶ and a consultation meeting with children on the production of educational messages on child protection issues.¹⁹⁷ Additionally, Plan International Cambodia and its partners work with children's clubs and networks to establish effective monitoring mechanisms. The programme has also been collaborating with the CNCC at the national level. Since 2004, over 200 children's clubs and 120 children's councils have been created to promote and raise awareness on children's rights in schools and communities.¹⁹⁸

International assistance and cooperation (art. 10 OPSC)

70. Cambodia has made efforts to improve multilateral and bilateral cooperation by signing several Memorandums of Understanding with neighbouring countries (Vietnam, China, Thailand, Malaysia) to cooperate in combating human trafficking and protecting victims. Moreover, Cambodia has established strong collaboration with law enforcement agencies from Western

countries, such as the US Immigration and Custom Enforcement to counteract SECTT and the production, possession and dissemination of CSAM. Australia and Sweden have signed formal cooperation agreements with Cambodia to address SECTT. The agreement with Sweden was signed in July 2017 for law enforcement cooperation to combat trafficking of children for sexual purposes.¹⁹⁹

71. The majority of these regional cooperation agreements are centred on trafficking or SECTT, and as a result, other manifestations of SEC (e.g., CSAM, exploitation of children in prostitution, and CEFM) are given less priority, even if they are becoming increasingly prevalent in the region.

Recommendations

General measures of implementation

- Amend the Action Plan to Prevent and Respond to Violence Against Children 2017-2021 to include measurable outputs and activities to combat the issues of sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism and children in prostitution;
- Increase the human and financial resources of the Cambodian National Council for Children;
- More clearly delineate the responsibilities of the CNCC and National Committee on Counter Trafficking so that their roles and responsibilities do not overlap;
- Allow greater coordination between government entities and NGOs, and engage NGOs more fully in shaping policies around the sexual exploitation of children;
- Provide explicit activities and policies on combatting online child sexual exploitation and the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism, rather than just tying these manifestations to human trafficking broadly.

Prevention

- Expand preventative measures and programmes to cover children in rural communities;
- Ensure that preventative measures address underlying root causes of sexual exploitation of children, such as poverty and unemployment;
- Expand preventative measures and programmes, such as safeguarding initiatives, comprehensive sexual education in schools and community-based initiatives, to cover all manifestations of sexual exploitation of children;
- Implement a prevention campaign focused on the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism;
- Raise awareness on issues related to the sexual exploitations of boys.

Prohibition

- Sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure;
- Harmonize the provisions of the Law on Suppression of Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of 2008 (TIPSE Law and the Criminal Code to establish uniform charges and sentences against offenders, while ensuring that offenders receive appropriate punishment;

- Amend the TIPSE Law to criminalise online grooming, mere possession of child sexual abuse materials, and knowingly accessing these materials through the use of information and communication technologies;
- Amend Article 12 of the TIPSE Law to ensure that the recruitment of children for sexual exploitation is prohibited regardless of the means used, in line with Article 3 of the Palermo Protocol;
- Include in the definition of “child pornography” virtual or suggestive representations of children and ensure child sexual abuse materials includes written materials;
- Finalize and enact the draft Cybercrime law addressing all forms of online child sexual exploitation and child sexual abuse materials;
- Amend the relevant laws to ensure mandatory deportation of convicted foreign child sex offenders;
- Standardize child-friendly policies and practices across the law enforcement and judicial sectors;
- Harmonize Cambodian law with relevant policies and declarations adopted by ASEAN;
- Enact legislation prohibiting the sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism.

Protection

- Develop a comprehensive national database on sexual exploitation to monitor progress on child protection, and ensure that information is shared with child rights organisations;
- Allocate adequate financial resources to law enforcement agencies to conduct high-quality investigations;
- Encourage travel agents and tourism agencies to sign the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism;
- Establish child-sensitive procedures and standards at all stages of the judicial process, such as providing free legal counselling to all children and the option of remote witness testimony for children;
- Train law enforcement on child-sensitive approaches to dealing with child victims and witnesses;
- Ensure adequate medical, psychological, and legal services are available to all child victims of sexual exploitation throughout the entire country;
- Implement measures to guarantee all child victims have access to adequate procedures to seek compensation from either the victim or a general fund, while simultaneously discouraging the existing practice of out-of-court settlements;
- Encourage organizations working with children to implement background checks on all current and potential employees;
- Involve children in the development, implementation, and monitoring of policies and programs related to children’s rights.

International assistance and cooperation

- Contribute to strengthening existing international police and judicial cooperation through multilateral, regional and bilateral arrangements, especially with neighbouring countries, to improve prevention, investigation, prosecution and punishment of trafficking and sexual

exploitation of children in travel and tourism, and develop mechanisms to coordinate the implementation of such arrangements (e.g., intelligence sharing, exchange of evidence, victim identification);

- Promote and develop regional cooperation mechanisms to tackle specific forms of sexual exploitation such as online child sexual exploitation and exploitation of children in prostitution, which are increasingly prevalent in the region.
- Promote the use of and ensure effective response to Interpol's Green Notice.

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