Report of the Africa Conference on Child Protection in Travel and Tourism
Moving forward from Recommendations to Commitments and Action
7 May 2018 | Durban, South Africa
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Introduction

On 7 May 2018, over 60 participants representing the private sector, government, CSOs, the UN and the media, gathered in Durban, South Africa, for the Africa Conference on Child Protection in Travel and Tourism. Amongst these were Ethiopian Airways, Air Mauritius, The World Airlines Club’s Association which also represented The International Air Transport Association (IATA), the Regional Tourism Organisation of Southern Africa (RETOSA), Accor Hotels, UNICEF, Save the Children, ECPAT Members from seven countries, and Childline South Africa. The conference was organised as a lead-up to the first International Summit on Child Protection in Travel and Tourism that took place in Bogotá, Colombia in June 2018. The conference was also a follow-up to the Global Study on the Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism (SECTT), the first ever consolidated effort to understand the global nature and scope of this crime.

The protection of children in travel and tourism is of particular concern for Africa. According to the UN World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), tourism in Africa has more than tripled in the last 20 years and the region is forecast to more than double its number of arrivals by 2030. The internet and mobile technology are becoming increasingly accessible in many African countries, which makes children increasingly vulnerable. In Sub-Saharan Africa 64% of the detected victims of trafficking are children (UNODC Global Trafficking Report, 2016).

The Global Study sets out recommendations that require concerted action from the UN, governments, NGOs, tourism marketing boards, police, hotels, bars, restaurants, tour operators, travel agents, online booking companies, airlines and many other travel focused businesses. The conference reflected on how to implement these recommendations in Africa.

The main objective of the Conference was to expand and strengthen political will and actions in protecting children in travel and tourism based on the Recommendations of the Global Study on SECTT, as a regional contribution towards achieving the SDGs.

The Conference therefore had the following sub-objectives:

a. To facilitate high-level dialogue with representatives of the tourism industry to enhance responsible business practices in protecting children in travel and tourism.

b. To share promising practices by leading travel and tourism companies in Africa with the view of providing a regional contribution to the International Summit on Child Protection in Travel and Tourism that will result in formulating global commitments.

c. To enhance regional cooperation to ensure child protection in travel and tourism.

A number of practical solutions and examples were provided by the participants representing various sectors. It was acknowledged that child protection has been an unfamiliar territory to some of the private sector who normally discuss numbers, new trends, new products etc. However, as much as tourism is an engine for economic growth, in every industry, there is a dark side just as there is a bright side. As shown by the Global Study, children are
more and more vulnerable in Africa and there is a need for urgent responses. Hence, we have to find ways of dealing with the dark side in a coordinated way and the conference was commended as a way of finding the solutions. The private sector and all stakeholders admitted that more needs to be done to protect children from exploitation and we can protect them when we come together as a network and movement, and agree to adopt a zero tolerance approach to SECTT, while keeping the child at the centre of programmes so that the child is not invisible.

Opening Remarks

In this session, moderated by Mr Barima Akwasi, the National Coordinator for Ghana NGO Coalition on the Rights of the Child (GNCRC) and Board Member for ECPAT-Western and Central Africa, participants were welcomed to the conference and the framework for recommendations of the Global Study was set.

In his welcome remarks, Mr Sibusiso Mngoma, Director of Tourism Services, Durban Tourism, acknowledged that child protection was an unfamiliar territory in tourism as normally the practitioners discuss numbers, new trends and new products. He acknowledged that in every industry there is a dark side just as there is a bright side, thus there is the need to find ways of dealing with the undesired consequences, and the conference was one of them. Reflecting on the findings of the Global Study on SECTT, he reiterated the need for a zero tolerance approach to end SECTT and stressed that

The question was how ready is the private sector, in particular small companies, to protect children from exploitation? This and other issues were discussed in sessions that followed.

The Masters of Ceremonies for the conference were Ms Julie Todd, Executive Director, Child and Family Welfare Society, Pietermaritzburg, and Ms Tangeni Kaulu, Manager, Trade Promotions, Namibia Wildlife Resorts.
child protection is a responsibility for all, including the government, communities and the private sector. Emphasizing the role of communities, he indicated that the tourism industry comprises various businesses and these are found in the communities. As such, without the involvement of the locals, plans to end SECTT can barely succeed. He therefore echoed the *Global Study* and the areas of interventions namely awareness, prevention, ending impunity, access to justice. He declared that Durban City understands that no country is immune and while accepting responsibility for what may be going wrong within the sector as far as child protection is concerned, the City commits to accept zero tolerance to SECTT by dealing with such crimes according to the law. He further emphasized the importance of the involvement of the business sector in addressing the situation since the element of business always seeks profits.

Mr Thomas Mueller, the Deputy Executive Director for Network Development, ECPAT International, provided the opening remarks. He highlighted the significance of having the conference in the month of May when the Africa’s Travel Indaba took place (8-10 May). Moreover, 17 May was the International Childline Day and 21 May was the International Missing Children’s Day, both of which were key to child protection. Hence, the month of May set the framework for what the conference sought to discuss. Mr Mueller narrated how the world has woken up to Africa being a fantastic tourism destination such that from both a business point of view and a marketing and image point of view, it sounds all very positive and promising. There are more and cheaper flights into and within Africa, and more people from around the world and from within the continent as well as domestically, will travel to see and experience the beauty of the region or for business, and even more people will explore and connect with people in Africa online.

This however also comes with very serious risks and ECPAT has observed it all around the world: when mobility and connectivity increase in contexts that are still characterized by high poverty rates, a significant divide between the rich and the poor and soaring levels of corruption, the situation provides the ideal breeding ground for exploitation and no one is more vulnerable than children. Speaking about ECPAT International, Mr Mueller explained that it is a global network of over 100 organisations in 92 countries, which collectively signed-up to fight against sexual exploitation of children (SEC) through four Change Goals namely:

1. **Putting victims and survivors of SEC at the centre of ECPAT’s work**
2. **Generating knowledge and evidence on SEC issues; researching, monitoring and reporting**
3. **Building, growing and strengthening a network to ensure this knowledge and capacity can grow and is put to use**
4. **Advocacy and campaigning to engage and mobilise the public and**
private sectors and other key stakeholder.

With these goals in mind, ECPAT understands that tourism is a fairly sensitive issue to discuss as it is closely linked with a country’s or a region’s image and reputation, and hence it is very personal and a matter of pride. It is also one of the main job creators in many countries. In total, Travel and Tourism generated US$7.6 trillion (10.2% of global GDP) and 292 million jobs in 2016, equivalent to 1 in 10 jobs in the global economy and 1 in 5 of every new job created. Tourism ensures tax revenue for governments, but also income for many families. Notwithstanding the positive aspect of tourism, it is also important to note that sexual exploitation of children is a crime, it ruins lives, destroys communities and leaves long-term mental and physical scars on the victims. No one wants their country to be associated with this, or to be perceived as enabling or ignoring exploitation. And very few people would prefer to spend their holidays in a destination associated with the sexual exploitation of children. As such, we all have a great responsibility to actively work against these crimes. Mr Mueller thanked the participants for their commitment to child protection and encouraged them to come up with strong commitments, pledges and decisions that will help keep tourism in Africa free from sexual exploitation.

As the vulnerability of our children keeps on increasing, we can make a change when we come together as a network and movement. The key issue is to keep the victims’ voices at the centre of the work so that they are not revictimised.

Ms Gabriela Kühn, Head of Programme, Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism (SECTT), ECPAT International, made a presentation on ‘Setting the Framework for Recommendations of the Global Study in Africa’ in which she illustrated how the Global Study has generated collective commitments across multi-sector partners for the implementation of its recommendations in the two years following its launch. She indicated that all of the partners, including international and regional intergovernmental bodies, national governments, the private sector companies and NGOs continue to undertake actions in all parts of the world to address the situation by enhancing regional and international cooperation and ensuring that children are prioritized and protected within the Sustainable and Responsible Travel and Tourism agenda.

The key findings for the region reflect the global ones. The Regional Global Study Report, led by Child Frontiers in cooperation with a number of partners in Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, South Africa and Zambia, brought attention to specific findings for Sub-Saharan Africa. Based on the global and regional findings, the Global Study presented 46 recommendations addressing international and regional intergovernmental bodies, NGOs, law enforcement agencies, national governments and the private sector. The recommendations of the Study resulted in concrete commitments at global, regional
and national levels. The presentation provided an insight into the initiatives that have been ongoing around the world following the momentum generated by the Global Study.

As part of the implementation of the recommendations of the Global Study, ECPAT International is committed to monitor progress since the global launch of the Study and to bring together a wide range of decision makers and stakeholders worldwide for greater protection of children in travel and tourism. In 2017, a Meeting was hosted in Madrid by the UNWTO which focused on the implementation of the recommendations of the Global Study, and a number of influential stakeholders have since undertaken concrete commitments to fight SECTT. The very first recommendation of the Global Study called for the UNWTO ‘to advocate for the conversion of the Code of Ethics for Tourism into an international convention’. On 15 September 2017, the General Assembly in Chengdu, China, approved the transformation of the Code of Ethics for Tourism into the UNWTO Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics. Its articles refer to the promotion of the rights of children and in particular, to the protection of children from sexual exploitation.

A growing commitment has been observed on the part of the private sector. Major hotel and travel companies that have been standard bearers in the application of The Code of Conduct for the Protection of children in Travel and Tourism such as Accor Hotels, Hilton, Hyatt, Marriot hotels and Global Travel, and MICE Service Providers such as, Kuoni, RIU, TUI and Sabre Travel Network, have been joined by others, including non-traditional actors such as Uber. Major airlines, such as American Airlines and Volaris, have also joined The Code and successfully prevented cases of SECTT. Currently The Code has currently 284 members globally, with 142 implementing countries. In Africa, there are currently 37 members of The Code in Cape Verde, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique and South Africa, and it is hoped that this number will grow.

An unexpected and welcome development was the strong traction that the Study’s recommendations have received at the regional levels, for example:

- The South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children, SAIEVAC (an apex body of SAARC similar to African Union) has featured SECTT in their Regional Strategy Development (Action Plan);
- In Southeast Asia, the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) passed a resolution on strengthening legal frameworks to protect children from SECTT;
- GARA, a group of Latin American Ministries of Tourism committed to a regional Plan of Action against SECTT and provided a space in the last two annual meetings to update on the SECTT Study;
- A Middle East regional meeting concluded with the formulation of a draft Road Map for the implementation of the Study’s recommendations;
- In Europe, governments, law enforcement and civil society organisations joined forces to strengthen the multi-sector cooperation within the framework of the “Don’t Look Away!” campaign.
focused on improving reporting systems;

- The South African conference on SECTT that was organised in 2017 in Pretoria generated a shared commitment to promote child safe travel and tourism in Africa.

In addition, civil society partners, including ECPAT members, are doing their part to implement key recommendations of the *Global Study*. As the private sector has a key role in preventing SECTT, Industry Round Tables and Consultations on Advancing Responsible Business Practices on Child Protection from SECTT have been organized in Nepal, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Malaysia, Turkey and another one has been planned for India. In Africa, advocacy missions have been undertaken to various countries where the meetings were held with the travel and tourism industry, including hotel groups (i.e. Serena, Accor, Sheraton), various associations of hotels, Airline officials, and tour operators. ECPAT also participated for the first time in the Annual General Assembly of the African Airlines Association (AFRAA) and in the Annual World Tourism Conference, both of which were held in Rwanda and where interventions on child protection were made for the first time.

Ms Kühn acknowledged that other factors may have intervened to create the positive developments. However, the *Study* has clearly succeeded in bringing the issue of SECTT to the foreground and to the attention of key decision-makers all over the world. Child protection was included in the preamble of the final declaration of the ‘Global Conference on Jobs and Inclusive Growth: Partnerships for Sustainable Tourism’ that was organised to set a new collaborative framework for tourism moving towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The recommendations of the *Global Study* were presented during the Closing Ceremony of the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development 2017 at the Palace of Nations in Geneva to guide future actions on child protection in travel and tourism. ECPAT International participated in the High Level Panel ‘Tourism and the Sustainable Development Goals - The Way Forward’ together the Minister of Tourism of Kenya.

**Concerted efforts to protect children in travel and tourism are particularly timely, as the new international agenda for Sustainable Developments gives high attention to ending all form of violence against children.** Practically, all the SDGs and their targets are related to children and five focus on combatting sexual exploitation of children and developing sustainable and responsible tourism. The big challenge is to maintain this momentum and ensure further implementation of the *Study’s* Recommendations in all the regions, while at the same time scaling up to have a more sustainable impact on children together with the growth of travel and tourism.

**The Africa Conference on Child Protection in Travel and Tourism was therefore a demonstration of commitment from the governments, international bodies, the private sector and the civil society organisations in prioritizing this issue within the African region.** Ms Kühn acknowledged the strong energy in the room for contributions, sharing good practices and undertaking concrete commitments towards the protection of some of world’s most vulnerable children from SECTT. The presentation put the objectives of the conference into perspective.
This was a CEO’s Panel which discussed the International and Regional Perspectives on Child Protection in Travel and Tourism. The session was moderated by Ms Gugulethu Ndebele, CEO, Save the Children SA and the Panelists were Mr Abel Alemu, Regional Manager for Southern Africa, Ethiopian Airlines; Mr Maga Ramasamy, President, World Airlines Clubs Association (WACA) and Head of Corporate Social Responsibility, Air Mauritius; Ms Thembi Kunene-Msimang, Acting CEO, Regional Tourism Organisation of Southern Africa (RETOSA); and Ms Fa Correa, Human Resource Director for Africa, ACCOR Hotels.

The panelists discussed the importance of child protection in the sustainable development of Africa’s travel and tourism sector and the policies that their companies or institutions adopted on child protection, if any. They looked at initiatives undertaken to protect children in the sector and RETOSA, as a member-based organisation, looked at the role of member based organisations in promoting child protection in travel and tourism. As all of their companies stretch across many countries, they looked at how they are strengthening regional cooperation to combat sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism. Key to the discussion was what can be done to strengthen awareness and improve the reporting systems for suspected cases of sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism. From a private sector perspective, they explained what they see as the role of governments in child protection in travel and tourism and the legacy of the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development, 2017. They then explained the commitments and actions that they envisaged to undertake on child protection within the sector.

Mr Ramasamy, who was representing the World Airlines Clubs Association and Air Mauritius, also spoke about IATA and Airline Ambassadors International. IATA, has over 200 members and CSR is a concept that must include a social aspect. As such, for IATA and Airline Ambassadors International, the concept of human trafficking as slavery is taken very seriously. Airline and airport
personnel are in a unique position to detect and discern human trafficking situations. Busy airports are natural distribution hubs for human trafficking. All airport personnel are in a unique position to detect and discern possible human trafficking situations as well as Business Travelers who fly frequently. The training looks at the extent and nature of trafficking (including common tactics used), its impact on the victims, why people don’t escape, the indicators of a victim, profile of traffickers and how to spot them, and what flight crew and ground personnel can do. This includes: asking; being observant of passengers, especially children and young women traveling alone, noting who accompanies them and if someone controls their movement; initiating pleasant, non-threatening conversation. The training also looks at what not to do and this includes not to cause alarm and not to try and rescue the victim but report discreetly to relevant authorities. For example, on American Airline’s daily flight from Moscow to Chicago, there were usually 4-5 teenage girls that had been told they were coming to the U.S. to be models or work on TV but they were trafficked into the sex trade. The girls did not speak English. International Flight attendant Sandi Fiorini called the Trafficking Hotline and an under-cover Customs Agent was assigned to monitor that flight. In 2018, a task force was put up whereby airlines have slowly begun to respond to see child protection as a competitive edge. The training curriculum for Pilots has a subject on human trafficking and The Code of Conduct is shared. They believe that employment in the tourism sector is not just about earning a salary but having a passion. IATA and WACA both have their secretariats in Montreal, Canada, so a good sector to get airlines to join The Code. Currently, they are working on how to engage different airlines to get involved and some airlines have expressed interest. The Association of Airlines Ambassadors provides training, one of which is anti-slavery, and the UK passed a Bill on anti-slavery so employees are well trained on this. If all governments can commit to this, children would be safe. Air Mauritius has a procurement policy that no contract is signed unless there’s a condition for no child labour and other forms of exploitation. The key to success is to put children at the centre, because if you do, you cannot miss them.

The Acting CEO for RETOSA, Ms Thembi explained that in 2015, the tourism Ministers decided to restructure RETOSA so that it is no longer involved in policy but marketing and development of the region as a vibrant tourism destination. The SADC Tourism Program Strategy is to be presented to the Ministers by August 2018 and she was excited to be at the conference as she had never been in a child protection workshop or event before so this was an inspiring experience for RETOSA, which as an organization was eager to learn more and was ready to act accordingly to ensure that child protection was part of the Institution’s Agenda.
She explained that in the development of its child protection agenda, RETOSA would draw a lot from the *Global Study* on SECTT. RETOSA, which works with members representing all countries in the SADC region, acknowledges tourism as a tool for economic growth and an economic stimulator. In view of this, South Africa, as one of the members, has robust activities on protection of children. The Departments of Social Development and Tourism sometimes have proven not to be working together or coordinating on issues that affect both sectors in relation to children. For example, South Africa adopted a law on unabridged birth certificates for children travelling to RSA but this resulted in unintended consequences because it had a negative effect on tourism. To avoid unintended consequences, RETOSA will engage with relevant stakeholders regionally and share lessons. Human trafficking, and in particular child trafficking as well as SECTT, will be articulated at the next meeting of SADC Tourism Ministers. Since the members already subscribe to the SDGs, the goals related to child protection will be looked at and strategies will be developed. Most spoke about spaces such as inclusive growth – economic growth in sectors where the poor work and live. It is not just about expanding national economies but include the most vulnerable. RETOSA therefore welcomes the initiative by ECPAT International and will push for commitments and actions on child protection in travel and tourism. As such, the Tourism Growth Plan for RETOSA, which will be adopted in November 2018, will include protection of children from SECTT.

Ms Fa Correa, Human Resources Director for Africa, ACCOR Hotels, explained that over 170 million customers yearly stay in Accor Hotels. Accor is committed to the fight against sexual exploitation of children because the Group understands that it is a crime punishable by national and extraterritorial laws, and that it is a moral responsibility, as taking no action means being complicit. As one of the key actors capable of concretely contributing to reducing this problem, ACCOR’s involvement is essential. ACCOR is a member of The Code and they also implemented the WATCH Programme. Every country where ACCOR has hotels has a Representative who assists in the implementation of the programme, i.e. by providing training to hotels representatives. The Hotel Representative is the entry point for hotel employees. He or she is expected to contact the Local Code Representative (LCR) of their country and identify key contacts (i.e. local police, Internal Security Service; NGOs working on the protection of children and / or social service officials for reintegration). The Hotel Representative must also contact partners (i.e. keep their phone number in case of emergency and facilitate the relevant intervention or care of the child in case of an incident). In addition, The Hotel Representative is also supposed to define and publish the Child Protection Policy and Reporting Procedure for the country, with the help of the LCR and identified partners.
To ensure that guests are sufficiently informed, every Hotel that has received training is required to provide a visual display (i.e. in elevators, hallways rooms) explaining that SECTT is illegal and that the hotel is against this phenomenon. They are also expected to create a specific communication for the country, with the help of the LCR or use an existing generic communication (flyers, posters, email signature, information in booking confirmation etc.). Training Programmes are organised every year and focus on building awareness, and enabling staff to identify and detect perpetrators. ACCOR has more than 4300 hotels in 84 countries. About 78% of the staff have been trained since 2013. Human Resource is key to ensuring that everyone is involved in fighting against SCETT as they work with all at different levels. With digital growth it is however not easy to identify and detect perpetrators. In Africa, 74% of the staff have received training on The Code and the WATCH Toolkit. ACCOR believes that if people don’t speak they become accomplices to the crime of SECTT. Everyone has to get involved and engaged.

From Ethiopian Airlines, Mr Abel Alemu, the Regional Manager for Southern Africa, explained that as someone who has mainly been in operations department, it was his first time to participate in a child protection conference. As such, this was an awakening moment that tourism does not always contribute to the socio-economic development of the country but also has a dark side. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is a contributor of preliminary economic development in the continent and not just for commercial contribution. The CSR strategy development has combatting human trafficking as an aspect of the programmes. Mitigation of risks that the strategy is contributing to the society. Training front desk staff on human trafficking and child protection. The conference has been an inspiring moment for Ethiopian Airlines and **the company will continue to take steps to ensure that children are protected from all forms of exploitation.**

During discussion time, participants asked the following questions:

- **What needs to be put in place to ensure that small actors such as taxi operators, Airbnb, who are usually unregulated operators in the travel and tourism industry, are not left out?** This question came about, considering that small players are many in terms of capacity and there is significant growth in unregulated service providers.
- **What mechanisms the RECs should put in place to make sure that child protection is on the agenda of their members?**
- **How can local stakeholders partner with hotel groups like ACCOR?**
- **What measures are in place for the private sector to ensure stability of**
CSR programmes by making it compulsory even in their international programmes and a priority considering that when business goes down, companies cut down on CSR programs?

- How can Ethiopian Airlines be used as a case study to work with other airlines?
- Is child protection going to be a condition for membership in IATA, and how can more airlines be involved, considering that The Code has no binding effect?
- How do you deal with big customers like diplomats who pay more?
- Are there measures in place to cater for deaf children as they are more vulnerable to exploitation?

A comment was made that it falls upon airlines and big companies to include CSOs in developing child protection policies so that they take advantage of the technical expertise from the CSOs. As such, for sustainable and substantive policies to be developed, there is need to partner more closely, as well as educate and train smaller actors so as to avoid unintended consequences of good intentions.

Participants were encouraged to share experiences on training on child protection in travel and tourism and what it is linked to, and also in policy change to know how perpetrators are treated in other countries. In this regard, a recommendation was made for ECPAT to create a platform for sharing information.

In response, the panelists said that the Airlines are trying their best to make sure that safety standards for children are adhered to, but more needs to be done to ensure that staff are always up to date with child protection standards to be able to identify, detect and use reporting mechanisms in a direct manner, regardless of who they are dealing with. There is need for a seat to be reserved for airlines on The Code Task Force. As such, more awareness needs to be raised with all stakeholders including the RECs and regional mechanisms to attract more airlines to join The Code. The smaller operators need to get capacitated, it is the role of membership-based organizations to market the regions or countries they operate in by promoting a safe brand which includes child protection. As such, capacity building workshops are an opportunity for small actors to come and participate and child protection should be part of the institutional agenda. Specifically, RETOSA, being a member-based institution, called upon ECPAT to help it with identification of relevant speakers in each member state who can be part of capacity building workshops and speak on child protection and pledged to also get the Tourism Business Council of Southern Africa and Tourism Boards in SADC in training. Furthermore, RETOSA indicated that they are developing the SADC Tourism Strategy which will be presented to SADC Tourism Ministers in August and committed to include a chapter on child protection. Participants were reminded that everyone is influential in their own spaces and we need to use the institutions that we participate in to raise awareness on child protection. To this effect, tourism was commended as a field which presents an opportunity to engage with all sectors including the education sector and early childhood development. As such, cross sharing of best practices should be promoted and the sector should continue to advocate and push governments to move beyond
frameworks so we have instruments with accountability measures.

The panelists stated the need for incentives for CSR, so that it should be considered a strategy and not a cost for the company and that it is important that people who work in the industry have a passion. In addition, education in schools is key to raising awareness on child protection in travel and tourism. An example was given of the CSR portfolio for Air Mauritius which includes sensitisation in schools to help them include street children in their programmes. ACCOR indicated that it usually works with local partners but based on trust and have to enter into prior agreement. The private sector stated that cooperate interventions that are based on needs assessments help avoid unintended consequences.

It was acknowledged that there are weaknesses in the systems as there are shortcomings on airlines to communicate with deaf children hence they are indeed vulnerable. This would of course work if stakeholders commit to putting children at the centre and if we start with them, we will not lose sight of them.

Round Table Discussion - A Multi-Stakeholder Approach to Addressing Child Protection in Travel and Tourism

The session was a Round Table Discussion and it was moderated by Dr Amanda Melville, Child Protection and Social Policy Officer, UNICEF.

Lieutenant Mvuyama of South African Police Services (SAPS) made a brief intervention, reflecting on the role of law enforcement in child protection in tourism, sharing what they do at the Indaba. She indicated that there is always the constant need for capacity building of police officers on child protection issues and planning workshops ought to be organised before the Indaba or any major conferences or tourism activity to look at challenges and how to overcome them. In most cases, the police work in a reactive way but there is need to be proactive. Thus, a multidisciplinary approach must be adopted that always ensures that SAPS is involved. She raised the importance of involving children in schools by sensitizing them about child exploitation and what they can do if anyone attempts to take advantage of them or exploit them. SAPS works with other stakeholders like Childline South Africa, Child Welfare Pietermaritzburg, the Department of Education, the Department of Social Services. However, following the discussions in the workshop, there is need for the private sector to also be incorporated in child protection initiatives so that no sector is left out. Likewise, the media has a critical role to play in raising awareness. Communication is very important between parents and children.
Ms Ana Lemmer, Programme Development Manager, Fair Trade Tourism, shared experiences on travel and tourism sector standards on child protection. Anna explained the work of Fair Trade Tourism (FTT), and its project on The Code (2010 – 2016), during which period it had funding, as well as the role of standards and certification bodies. Fair Trade Tourism criteria which includes fair wages and working conditions, fair purchasing, fair operations, equitable distribution of benefits and respect for human rights, culture and environment. The FTT certification scheme however incorporates all elements of global best practice, including a clearly defined certification protocol, third party verification of information and auditor reports separated from decision to issue certification. In 2010, FTT started collaborating with The Code as official Local Code Representative (LCR), launching The Code in South Africa tourism in the run up to the 2010 Soccer World Cup in partnership with the ILO and UNICEF. In 2014 to 2015, FTT implemented a research project together with ECPAT Netherlands where for the first time valuable information from a tourism perspective was analysed. In 2016, FTT also embarked again on another project with ECPAT Netherlands building from the previous project where 500 relevant staff in the value chains were identified and trained across 20 destinations of Southern Africa.

Ms Lemmer said that in a multi-stakeholder approach in addressing child protection in travel and tourism, the role of codes and standards cannot be underestimated, and there is need to enhance capacity in tourism business and coordinate action along the value chain. Essentially industry standards originate from two questions, namely, what's the best way of doing this, and how can this become mainstreamed?

Henk Wenholt, of Abang Africa Travel, one of FTT’s members and a top member of The Code said: “Just like with Fair Trade Tourism certification, we do it because we believe in The Code and what it stands for... we also believe the two goes hand in hand. Fair Trade Tourism gives us a framework through which to then tackle and expand on key criteria that we feel strongly about and want to associate/implement on more... we view it very seriously and as a tour operator we know we have a key responsibility to educate both our clients and our service providers...”.

Similarly, the South African National Department of Tourism has acknowledged that the initiative by FTT together with The Code presented a huge opportunity for further partnerships within the tourism sector to create awareness on the Tourism Child Protection Code of Conduct, and to encourage service providers within the identified tourism value chains to sign The Code, which would assist the country in prosecuting perpetrators in tourism regardless of their origin, while at the same time assisting the industry in fulfilling the objectives of the Bill of Rights as contained in the South African Constitution.
Mr Sam Ikwaye, Executive Officer – Coast, Kenya Association for Hotel Keepers and Caterers (KAHC) spoke on the importance of child protection in the sustainable development of Africa’s travel and tourism, focusing on the initiatives of the KAHC. He explained that KAHC is a Company Limited by Guarantee. It is the Principal Umbrella Association for Hospitality Service Providers and it draws membership from over 220 hotels, restaurants, specialty caterers, casinos, private clubs, pubs & entertainment spots. It aims to maintain Kenya as the preferred tourist destination. Mr Ikwaye provided a background to SECTT in Kenya and the legal and policy initiatives undertaken by the government, including the 2002 Kenya Children’s Act, and the 2006 Sexual offences Act, which among other things criminalise child prostitution, child pornography, child trafficking, and child sex tourism. In 2006, Kenyan Tourism Ministry along with the Kenya Association of Hotel-Keepers and caterers introduced the International code of conduct for the protection of Children from Sexual exploitation in travel and tourism. A local NGO was contracted to monitor the implementation of the code among other issues related to SECTT and SEC at the coastal resorts.

Mainstream hotels represented by KAHC signed The Code of conduct to protect children from all forms of sexual exploitation in travel and tourism industry and through association mechanisms, faithfully adhere to the tenets of The Code. They trained staff and suppliers in compliance with The Code and invested in branded material conspicuously displayed to warn perpetrators. They advocated and influenced the existing laws on child protection, and included principles of The Code in the association’s code of ethics for all members.

KAHC continues to undertake measures aimed at ensuring best practices among members that include adherence to the principles of The Code. Reports indicate non-compliance among alternative accommodation providers the majority of which are neither members of KAHC or signatory to The Code (Villas and home stays). There are also some staff or employees who operate as agents who connect tourists to victims for all forms of exploitations. The Tourism Act of 2011, established the Tourism Regulatory Authority (TRA) as well as the Tourism Professional Association (TPA), through TRA regulations to monitor the industry. The TPA will register all Professionals and practitioners in the industry, check for adherence to the codes, involve them at individual levels, with clear sanctions and accountabilities. Currently, steps are underway to conduct empirical studies to establish new baselines, and to strengthen industry professional and practitioners' association in Kenya once the TPA is established. The TPA will profile and register ALL alternative accommodation service providers in the country for collective accountability.
Mr Osondu Ekeh, Consultant, Trafficking in Persons Unit, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), spoke about strengthening regional cooperation for the protection of children in travel and tourism. Acknowledging the data from UNWTO that tourism in Africa has more than tripled in the last 20 years, and SECTT may be increasing, although empirical data is lacking, Mr Ekeh explained that increasingly diverse modes of travel and tourism attract visitors to once remote locations, and foreign direct investment is bringing in unaccompanied male workers. The region will see a 20-fold increase in mobile usage by the end of the decade. Meanwhile, traditional norms continue to pose risks for children, particularly their low social status and child marriage. Many countries have ratified relevant international conventions, but commitments have not translated into meaningful action for children and only a small percentage of child victims receive the help they need. International tourism in Africa has seen a 2% increase in 2014, which amounts to one million arrivals, adding up to 56 million tourists in total. This figure is predicted to surge to 134 million by 2030. The UNODC report ‘Trafficking in persons: Global patterns’ (2006), reveals that children make up 60% of trafficking victims in Africa; and 98 out of 113 cases list sexual exploitation as the motive for trafficking. The problem is noticed mostly in Gambia, Cape Verde, Senegal, Nigeria, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire and Benin. The push and pull factors include poverty, lack of social protection, lack of social welfare, inadequate law enforcement, low birth registration, socio-cultural factors, international organised crime.

To deal with this problem, the ECOWAS Commission uses international and regional instruments as well as its Regional Plan of Action and other Strategy Documents, such as ECOWAS Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons especially Women and Children, 2001 extended to 2007, and later reviewed and extended to 2018 – 2022; the ECOWAS Support Procedures and Standards for the Protection and Reintegration of Vulnerable Children on the Move and Young Migrants, 2015 (Reference Tool in ECOWAS for the care of vulnerable children on the move); and the ECOWAS Strategic Framework for Strengthening National Child Protection Systems to prevent and respond to Violence, Abuse and Exploitation against Children in West Africa, 2017. The Strategic Framework for Strengthening National Child Protection Systems to prevent and respond to VAC in West Africa is built on the premise that strong child protection systems provide the surest safeguards against the various risks and vulnerabilities that children face.

ECOWAS though the West African Network for the protection of vulnerable children on the move (WAN) has identified and reunified more than 7000 vulnerable children with their families. Membership of WAN is drawn from the NGOs, the State actors and the ECOWAS Commission. Plans are underway to establish a Regional Child Observatory, and a Regional Working Group on Child Protection by the ECOWAS Commission and
Development Partners has been developed. In addition, a regional Graphic Signage for Child Protection by the Experts/Directors of child protection from the ECOWAS Member States was adopted and approved by the ECOWAS Commission. The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism has been adopted by 24 private businesses, mainly hotel groups and travel agencies in the region.

Despite these efforts, there are some gaps remain in the Member States, namely, lack of awareness and understanding of sexual exploitation of children; lack of adequate laws to protect children and to prosecute child sex tourists and traffickers; enforcement of laws by the Police and the Community; and lack of effective child protection mechanisms and participation by the tourism industry. It is therefore recommended that at the continental level, the AU needs to formulate a policy against SECTT. In addition, the ECOWAS model of partnership should be encouraged and emulated by other RECs. At the national level, policies on strengthening child protection systems should be developed and implemented in all countries, and the tourism industries should be involved in developing child protection programs that concern children in travel and tourism.

Ms Driekie Havenga, Group Ethics Officer, Nedbank spoke on the private sector’s role in child protection in travel and tourism. She explained that businesses exist because of the environment in which they exist, and no business can be successful in a failing environment. With this in mind, Nedbank has developed programmes and successfully made a business case for child protection. The purpose is to facilitate economic activity through investments, the National Development Plan for the country, and Sustainability Development Goals. With such an approach, Nedbank seeks to be a company that adds stakeholder value and addresses the needs of the environment.

Nedbank believes that ethical leadership is like stewardship, and we need to look at our fiduciary duty, which involves looking at the best interests of the company hence that of the stakeholders. Nedbank uses several benchmarks for CSR, such as the Human Rights and Business Principles; and the Child Rights and Business Principles (CRBP), and it has developed a Children’s Rights Pledge, which businesses must adopt before they enter into agreement with Nedbank. Nedbank is also part of CRES – Corporate Responsibility to Eliminate the Sale of Children, through which businesses can be closed down if linked to the sale of any material that is related to child exploitation, as the bank stops all transactions and refers them to Interpol. In implementing a zero tolerance approach, Nedbank has been proactive and approached the Joint Stock Exchange (JSE) to include a child protection requirement for companies that list so they can also focus on child protection.

Companies are to use their leverage to change the world. Thus the Framework for Businesses requires that clients pass through a Business Sustainability System, whereby they have to be monitored around the world. With the development of a Conflict Minerals Statement, Nedbank has adopted a
firm stand not to invest in countries where there is conflict. As such, the bank needs to know where the products that a potential client uses come from and based on that decide whether to continue with business. In Sub Saharan Africa, Nedbank has 33,000 employees in 9 countries. All staff are required to acknowledge and commit to the Children’s Pledge, and there is 97% commitment right now. This goes with training every year. **It is therefore an absolute business imperative to ensure child protection.**

Ms Justa Mwaituka, Executive Director, Kiwohede, Tanzania, and Board Member, ECPAT International, shared on the role of CSOs in promoting child protection in travel and tourism, focusing on the work of ECPAT Members. Most Members of ECPAT in Africa are engaged in efforts to combat SEC and its various manifestations including SECTT, using different approaches, means and methodologies which depends on the type of the projects funded, resources mobilised, policies and their strategic plans. **Most members have integrated SECTT priorities into their main programmes and they engage in awareness raising, knowledge building, skills building and advocacy amongst different sectors.**

In the area of raising awareness, approaches have included engaging the media, hosting workshops and conferences, and conducting one on one discussions with hotel owners and others in the tourism industry. For example, in **Zambia, the Children in Need Network (CHIN),** which in 2014 was supported by ECPAT Netherlands to implement a project on reducing violence against women and girls, including in travel and tourism, is currently working with an association of hotels and lodge owners in the Copperbelt Province, one of the areas where tourism is high, and the aim is to get them committed to the cause by signing up to The Code. **The Youth Net and Counselling (YONECO),** in Malawi, embarked on a project in 2017 on Making Travel and Tourism Free from Child Sexual Exploitation, which seeks to contribute towards the elimination of child sexual exploitation in travel and tourism through the creation of a safe and violence free community through progressive elimination of child trafficking. Raising awareness on ending sexual exploitation of children in the travel and tourism industry is one of the project’s strategies, and targets the following stakeholders: hotels, lodges, guesthouses and rest houses; travel agents; car hire companies; construction industry; and the Ministry of Tourism and Culture. The outputs so far include hosting the Fourth Pan-African Conference on Parenting which was organized with support from AVIS Car Hire targeting over 70 participants across the region. In addition, YONECO has produced and aired 30 jingles on the protection of children from various forms of exploitation including SECTT, with support from Countrywide Car Hire. Further to this, 30 drivers from AVIS Car Hire and Countrywide Car Hire have been trained on child protection in travel and tourism. During the 2018 Malawi Tourism Expo, YONECO distributed IEC materials and held 25 one-on-one meetings with various companies on issues of travel and tourism and SECTT. **Forum on Sustainable Child Empowerment**
(FSCE) in Ethiopia, has fighting SECTT as one of its thematic programmatic areas. Since FSCE started a partnership with ECPAT, it has been registering remarkable achievements in this regard in its operational areas in Ethiopia, one of which is located in Oromia Regional State, in the city of Adama and other towns – Modjo, Bishoftu and Dukem, located on the high way that connects Addis Ababa, the capital of the nation, to Djibouti. These locations are known for their industrial hubs hosting various business organizations, their number being increasing from time to time. In Adama, there are large number of hotels, bars and restaurants and other small liquor houses where young women are working thereby facing sexual exploitation. FSCE learnt that poverty coupled with lack of awareness among stakeholders chiefly contributed to the sexual exploitation of girls and young women in tourism and travel. To change this context, FSCE provides awareness to government decision makers – judges, police, persecutors, brokers and business owners. In Ghana, the Ghana NGO Coalition on the Rights of the Child (GNCRC) informs and engages with key officials in the private sector to discuss child protection issues including CSEC, child labour, forced labour and more generally on working conditions in the apprenticeships. GNCRC Members have also been working with the private sector, especially hotels and bars, to create synergies among different partners and government agencies and departments towards a successful working relationship to educate staff and management on issues related to child labour, CSEC, welfare and protection of children. They facilitate workshops and seminars for some private sector companies on child protection. GNCRC initiated a working relationship with the Chamber of Commerce to build their members’ capacity on gender based issues including child protection.

On building knowledge, research for the Global Study was done in Ghana, Kenya, South Africa and Zambia out of which a Regional Report was also produced. The Zambia Country Report for the Global Study was launched by CHIN in 2016, following which the organisation was invited to several forums to explain how SECTT was affecting then nation, including an event organized by the Ministry of Tourism where they discussed how to work together in the fight against SECTT. In November 2016, GNCRC launched the country report on the Global Study on SECTT in Ghana, to coincide with the Global Survivor’s Forum. Participants from various sectors patronized the launch. The unique platform to discuss the issue of SECTT was welcomed by the participants and the efforts being made by government, civil society organizations, development partners, religious bodies, traditional bodies, and the private sector to eliminate SECTT were discussed. The report has been a catalyst for knowledge on SECTT in Ghana, including amongst the media. The Regional Report on SECTT was launched by the Minister of Tourism in Zimbabwe. The Zimbabwe National Council for the Welfare of Children (ZNCWC), which has Observer status with the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) is also a member of the Child Rights Network for Southern Africa (CRNSA) and is pushing to make sure that SECTT issues are covered during the formulation of the SADC Protocol on Children and Young People. Kiota Women Health and Development Organisation (KIWOHEDE) in Tanzania conducted research to explore the extent and magnitude of SECTT in Tanzania (2015). KIWOHEDE also engaged in open
distance learning education through Bunju Multipurpose Center with various rehabilitation and trauma reduction, educational, health, social and economic services, to the children and youth victims and survivors of CSEC. In Malawi, YONECO is planning to conduct a national study on sexual exploitation of children in travel and tourism this year and will seek the technical support of ECPAT.

**On skills building**, in Zambia, CHIN has been training the survivors of SECTT in life skills depending on the interest of the individual, equipping them with small business development skills. **Kiota Women Health and Development Organisation (KIWOHEDE)** in Tanzania, together with other partners in East Africa, received three-year funding from OAK Foundation to conduct trainings to combat the sexual exploitation of children, including SECTT, in 2015 and 2016. KIWOHEDE, worked with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, hotels, airlines, travel agencies, tour operators, trade unions who committed to supporting companies that have made a stand against the exploitation of children by becoming members of The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism. In Ethiopia, FSCE has conducted awareness raising workshops with other stakeholders, for creating alternative gainful employment opportunities with associations and micro enterprises to girls who were vulnerable to CSEC and CST. FSCE’s contribution, particularly in the provision of vocation skill training through networking with organizations that can facilitate vocational education to victims of violence has been enormous. In Zimbabwe, ZNCWC has engaged the transport sector, especially long distance truck drivers, through their umbrella body, the National Employment Council for the Transport Operating Industry (NECTOI) to promote child protection programs, preventing road travellers and ground transporters from exploiting children. Four Trainings have been conducted with NECTOI site agents and truck drivers on how they can identify children victims of sexual exploitation and refer them to support services, and sensitising the truck drivers that sexual exploitation of children is a crime. The NECTOI site agents are now responsible for identifying children in SECTT especially in the transport industry and referring them to the department of Social Welfare. **Together with government**, ZNCWC rescued 54 girls from sexual exploitation, offering accessible and wide-ranging referral services for immediate support for child victims. The girls have now been reunified with their families. ZNCWC is now paying school fees, school materials and other basic materials for these 54 girls.

**In Mauritius, Halley Movement**, which also has consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) works in partnership with the private sector, governmental institutions and other international and national organisations. Amongst its activities, Halley Movement has conducted training and advocacy sessions and workshops with the community of counsellors and volunteers on combatting CSEC. In 2017, it launched a training campaign on Good Digital Parenting in Mauritius, aimed at educating parents on violence on the internet and online dangers, on how to become good digital citizens, and the measures that should be adopted by parents in order to keep their children safe while browsing the internet. The launch ceremonies in numerous regions of the country were graced by various stakeholders.
including the Chairman of the Mauritius Duty Free Paradise Co Ltd and other companies, the Chairman of the Business Parks of Mauritius, government representatives, the Deputy High Commissioner of the South African High Commission, and representatives of the Airports of Mauritius Ltd. In September 2017, Halley Movement partnered with other local NGOs and organised the Mauritius Colloquium on Internet and Child Trafficking, focused on providing information and data on child trafficking. The tourism industry in Mauritius, which is flourishing, was regarded by the participants as one of the main causes leading towards child trafficking. The participants at the Colloquium showed a great interest in understanding the risks and showed concern on the laws and unwritten agreements that are the cause of child trafficking. In Nigeria, the Women’s Consortium of Nigeria (WOCON), conducted Training of Trainers on protecting children from sexual exploitation for the staff of the international hotel chains ACCOR in 2015, and on establishing procedures for reporting suspected cases in their hotels. The Training was conducted by ECPAT Luxembourg and as a follow up to this, WOCON plans to localise ECPAT Luxembourg’s Training of Trainers for more tourism actors in Lagos and Ogun States who are not part of the ACCOR Group.

In terms of advocacy, following awareness raising and the launch of the SECTT report in 2016, CHIN is working on bringing the Zambian government on board and build on concerted efforts. The Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Sport Youth and Child Development have taken keen interest in the report and are now in discussion with CHIN on how they can take this fight forward. In Sierra Leone, Defence for Children International (DCI) has mostly engaged with the private sector at local level with small and medium businesses lobbying for policies that protect children from child labour, sexual exploitation and also those that enhance job opportunities for young people. In 2014 and 2015, DCI-SL worked with local councils and entertainment centres in two districts (Bo and Kenema) to develop a policy that restricts children from attending and working in entertainment centres. The initiative was based on the growing practice of entertainment centres of using children to attract customers. Since there was no law prohibiting such practice, DCI resorted to lobbying local authorities and entertainment business owners to address the issues using the authority of local councils to regulate business enterprises in their jurisdiction. DCI provided technical support and after the policy was adopted, DCI organized trainings for staff of entertainment centres to raise awareness on the policy and design an implementing and monitoring mechanism. During the pilot phase of the policy implementation, four entertainment centres identified over 50 vulnerable children in three months and referred all of them to appropriate authorities for support and services. Some of the entertainment centres also contributed funds for providing services to children.

In Zimbabwe, as regards The Code implementation and establishment of clear policy regarding procedures and guidelines against sexual exploitation, in December 2017 the Government of Zimbabwe established a National Task Force on Ending Sexual Exploitation of Children. ZNCWC is part of the task force representing the child rights sector and participated in the ongoing review of the Zimbabwe National Tourism
Policy and raised the issues of the protection of children from SECTT. ZNCWC established a working relationship with the Minister of Tourism and Hospitality Industry and continuously engages with the ministry. In March 2018 ZNCWC engaged the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare with regards to SEC issues and made plans to ensure that the National Taskforce on ending SEC meets regularly. ZNCWC conducted national research and has engaged UNICEF for possible funding on some activities using research findings.

The engagement of ECPAT members with the private sector is however not without challenges. There is significant progress on the part of ECPAT members in their engagement with the private sector and their work on SECTT. The launch of the global SECTT report in various countries helped to bring awareness amongst policy makers, the private sector and the general public. The involvement and inclusiveness of multiple stakeholders (Government, drivers’ associations, trade union, hotels) has proven to be a viable approach. However, although resources and fund mobilisation strategies have also attracted some of the private sector partners to support initiatives, the members face funding gaps to work on SECTT. The need for training on how to engage with the private sector on child protection is evident across the members and there is need to extend this to the RECs as they engage in economic policy of which the private sector is a key stakeholder. In addition, the Members need to ensure coordinated action amongst various stakeholders to implement the recommendations of the Global Study on SECTT which called for policy makers, the private sector and civil society organisations to work together. Further to this, the members need to ensure that they effect strong linkages with global processes even when dealing with the private sector, especially the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which presents a unique opportunity to reverse this pattern and make all forms of violence against children part of our distant past.
Moving from Recommendations to Commitments and Action — Conclusions from the Africa Conference on Child Protection in Travel and Tourism

The session was moderated by Dr Musavenga Chibwana, Regional Coordinator, Child Rights Network of Southern Africa (CRNSA).

Mr Joseph Henkeman, Product Manager, Abang Africa Travel, provided a summary of the main points that came up during the discussions. It was observed that as shown by the Global Study, the vulnerability of our children keeps on increasing in Africa, and there is a need for urgent responses. It was also acknowledged that Child Protection has been an unfamiliar territory to some of the private sector. As much as tourism is an engine for economic growth, in every industry, there is a dark side just as there is a bright side. We have to find ways of dealing with the dark side and the conference is the way of finding solutions. The private sector and all stakeholders admitted that more needs to be done to protect children from exploitation and we can protect them when we come together as a network and movement. A number of practical solutions and examples were provided by the participants representing various sectors. Emphasis was put on the fact that we have to adopt a zero tolerance approach to SECTT and keep the child at the centre of programmes so that the child is not invisible.

Following this summary, Dr Violet Odala, Regional Specialist, Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism, ECPAT International, highlighted the recommendations and commitments for action that were made during the conference, summarised as follows:

1. Adopt explicit corporate policies on child protection, one of the examples being The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism. This entails implementing child protection policies at the core of business policies.

2. Adopt a multidisciplinary approach as child protection is a responsibility for all and we need coordinated action to avoid unintended consequences. The input from Governments must not be left out and the private sector must involve CSOs in developing child protection policies.

3. Human Resource Departments are key to ensuring that everyone is involved in fighting SECTT as they work with all staff hence the private sector must use the departments to ensure that staff at different levels are involved.

4. Corporate Social responsibility (CSR) — as key to contributing to promoting
development in the continent and not just for ensuring commercial growth. As such, the private sector must ensure sustainability of programmes by considering CSR as a strategy and not as a cost for the company.

5. **Training and Knowledge Building:** Standards and tools that enable businesses to adhere to the commitments made e.g certification processes should be developed and/or implemented. In addition, capacity building workshops for the travel and tourism industry provide an opportunity to engage with the ‘small fish’ and alternative accommodation providers, hence the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) as well as the private sector, pledged to put child protection on the agenda of these workshops.

6. **The RECs and member-based organisations** can play a key role in ensuring wide range adoption of child protection policies as the RECs are avenues for penetrating the regions. In view of this, ECOWAS made a special call to ECPAT to collaborate better and more strongly, while RETOSA committed to put child protection on the agenda of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Tourism Strategy; and Kenya Association of Hotel Keepers and Caterers (KAHC) committed to train and register alternative accommodation providers.

7. The **smaller actors and the informal tourism sector** needs to be incorporated. For example, the taxi industry is used as a channel in the trafficking industry and staff need to be sensitized and equipped with knowledge and tools for curbing trafficking or exploitation of children in the industry for whatever purpose. All stakeholders need to be aware of the reporting mechanisms for incidences of child exploitation or trafficking. When people who are on the sexual offending register travel, this must be flagged and they must be monitored.

8. **Training on child protection** should involve all the stakeholders. Thus, there is need to develop a standardised training model to ensure a unified approach. Participants requested for ECPAT’s support in providing training materials and identifying experts to conduct trainings.

9. ECPAT International is to ensure continuous exchange of information on child protection and SECTT to the network.

10. ECPAT should ensure that the momentum created by the conference does not end there but should continue, if possible with the hosting of annual conferences where more can attend and participants can take stock of the progress made in implementing the recommendations from the previous conferences.

It was agreed that no business can be successful in a failing environment, and where people do not speak out, they become accomplices to the perpetration of SECTT. Therefore, everyone has to get involved.

The closing remarks were provided by Ms Gyan Dwarika – Social Work Policy: Child Exploitation, Department of Social Development (DSD), South Africa. She explained that the SA DSD and Designated Child Protection Organizations are responsible for all children in SA including non SA children. SA is a human rights based
country hence the Bill of Rights in the SA Constitution places great emphasis on the rights and responsibilities of children.

There are various pieces of legislation that would ensure the care, safety and protection of all children and like many other countries, South Africa has signed the UNWTO Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, which is not only addressed to governments, but also the travel industry, communities and tourists. The Global Code of Ethics aims to help maximise the sector’s benefits while minimising its potentially negative impact on the environment, cultural heritage and societies across the globe. As such everyone is responsible to ensure that children are sufficiently protected in the tourism industry. Ms Dwarika then asked why we are failing our children and allowing them to fall through the cracks? She explained that it could be because we are working in silos, or that people are ignorant of what has to be done when we find a child who is exploited. However, as per the discussion during the conference, whereby a common trend had been coming through in all presentations and discussions, all of us in our own spheres have the responsibility to understand what child exploitation is and what has to be done when a child is found as a victim. She reckoned that the participants shared the same sentiments that we need to care for and protect children. We all have specific mandates in terms of respective pieces of legislation in terms of the care, safety and protection of children. As we move forward in a multi-stakeholder approach to child protection in travel and tourism, it is also important to ensure that there is a common understanding of terminology. Intersectoral collaboration and a unified information management systems are therefore key to implementing the policies and other commitments made on child protection and the private sector must not be left behind. It is recommended that children are not left out in the process, and where capacity gaps exist, stakeholders must not hesitate to invest in training and capacity building.

A vote of thanks was given by Mr Thomas Mueller, Deputy Executive Director at ECPAT International, who thanked all for attending the conference and expressed gratefulness to all for the lively and substantive discussions that went on during the conference. He encouraged participants to ensure that they implemented what they had committed to and to take personal responsibility in promoting child protection in travel and tourism, knowing that, as indicated by Nedbank, no business thrives in a failed environment. Speaking to the private sector, Mr Mueller said that as much as Human Resource Departments are important in taking forward child protection programmes, it was equally important to also put commercial or business departments at the centre of the implementation of the programmes because often times they are left out of the process and yet they are the ones who deal directly with clients.
Bios of speakers

Bios of speakers can be downloaded under this link.

Summary of ECPAT Members work

The summary can be downloaded under this link.

List of participants

Abel Alemu, Regional Manager for Southern Africa, Ethiopian Airlines

Adeshini Naicker, Childline KZN

Amanda Melville, Child Protection and Social Policy Officer, UNICEF South Africa

Ana Lemmer, Programme Development Manager, Fair Trade Tourism

Anita Achieng Nyanjong, Programme Officer, End Sex Trafficking, Equality Now

Barima Akwasi, National Coordinator, GNCRC

Beauty Makhanya, Maphithini Events

Driekie Havenga, Group Ethics Officer, NedBank South Africa

Dumisile Nala, CEO, Childline SA

Epson Kasuto, Namibia Wildlife Resorts

Fa Correa, Human Resource Director for Africa, ACCOR Hotels

Gabriela Kühn, Head of Programme (SECTT), ECPAT International

Gugulethu Ndebele, CEO, Save the Children SA

Gyan Dwarika, Manager, Social Work Policy, Department of Social Development, South Africa

H. Nyembezi, SANDA KZN

Inge Dykman, WESGRO

Joseph Hankeman, Product Manager, ABANG Africa Travel

Julie Todd, Executive Director, Child and Family Welfare Society of Pietermaritzburg

Justa Mwaituka, Executive Director (Kiwohede) and Board Member, ECPAT International

Lizelle Henze, General Manager, City Lodge Hotel Group

MacBain Mkandawire, Executive Director, YONECO

Madeleine Cronje, Sales Manager, Namibia Wildlife Resorts

Maga Ramasamy, President, World Airline Clubs Association and Air Mauritius
Marga Wilson, Business Development Manager, Corporate Traveller
Maxim Murungweni, Programmes Manager, NCWC
Sgt. Mbathe, SAPS
Megan Alves, Director, African Chapter
Michelle Cross, General Manager, ACCOR Hotels
Nadia Livingston, Office Manager, ACCOR Hotels
Nash Mughoo, Assistant Team Leader, Corporate Traveller Ushaka
Nirmal Busgopaul, Head of Halley Movement ECPAT Mauritius
Nivashni Nair, Journalist, Sunday Times and Times Select
Sgt. Ngonyama, SAPS
Nondumiso Mabaso, SAPS
Nonjabulo Mntungwa, Journalist, SABC
Olukunle A. Adeogun, Director, WOCONEC
Osondu Joseph Ejek, TIP Advisor, ECOWAS
Patrick Mashaba, SANDA KZN
Peter Williams, SA Police Service
P. N. Mzobe, SANDA KZN
Adv. Rusi, National Prosecuting Authority
Sibusiso Mngoma, Senior Manager, Durban Tourism
Sam Ikwaye, Executive Officer, Kenya Association of Hotel keepers and Caterers
Tangeni Kaulu, Manager: Trade Promotions, Namibia Wildlife Resorts
Thembi Kunene-Msimang, Acting CEO, RETOSA
Thomas Muller, Deputy Executive Director for Network Development, ECPAT International
Thuli Mvuyana, Acting Head, Tourism Services, South African Police
Tom Beah, Programme Manager, DCI Sierra Leone
Violet Odala, Regional Specialist, Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism (SECTT), ECPAT International
William Gombe, Social Worker, Childline SA
ECPAT International acknowledges the funding support for the Africa Conference on Child Protection in Travel and Tourism from the Human Dignity Foundation (HDF).