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Today, the anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, ECPAT launches **Five Years After Stockholm**, its fifth annual report on implementing the Agenda for Action of the First World Congress against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC), held in Stockholm in 1996.

Together with last year's report, **Five Years After Stockholm** highlights the work that has been accomplished since 1996. The silence barrier has been broken in many countries; stronger laws and measures have been taken and CSEC is now on the international political and humanitarian agenda; research studies have improved understanding of CSEC; awareness is growing every day; and better cooperation is taking place at national, regional and international level. But we have only scraped the surface. Political commitment as well as resources are still lacking in too many countries, too many children are still sexually exploited, and not enough solutions for their protection and rehabilitation have been found. It seems we have only seen the tip of the iceberg. **This is no time to slow down action against CSEC.**

In five years, less than a third of the 122 countries who adopted the Stockholm Declaration and Agenda for Action have complied with its provisions. In the last two years, only 4 new national plans of action against CSEC have been developed by the participant countries of the Stockholm Congress. **ECPAT is appealing for renewed commitment to the fight against the commercial sexual exploitation of children.**

An unprecedented number of states, some represented at the highest level, gathered in Stockholm in August 1996 at the First World Congress Against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children. Together, they pledged to have national plans of action in place by 2000 as an important step towards eliminating this contemporary form of slavery.

On the eve of the Second World Congress to be held in Yokohama from 17 to 20 December 2001 we ask how strong is that commitment today and how is it being translated into effective action to protect children?

How many more cases of sexual abuse and exploitation of children will have to appear in the press before governments honour the commitments they made in Stockholm?

ECPAT's **Five Years After Stockholm** provides up-to-date information on progress in implementing the Stockholm Agenda for Action in nearly 150 countries. This year, the Report also includes special contributions from **Mrs Ségolène Royal**, French Minister of the Family, Childhood, and the Handicapped, **Kelly Hill**, Executive Director of Hawaii's Sisters Offering Support and winner of the 2001 "Do Something BRICK Award" for America's Best Young Community Leader; and **Hamish McCulloch**, Assistant Director, Trafficking in Human Beings Sub-Directorate of Interpol. **Five years after Stockholm** clearly shows the impact of the Agenda for Action against CSEC has been positive in the last five years. But without commitment to implementation, this important document will be no more than words.

Today, we have to face the fact that the commitment made in Stockholm has only partially been fulfilled. But we have also to acknowledge that efforts are going in the right direction. ECPAT is more determined than ever to end the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

We urge all governments to reaffirm their commitment and join forces with NGOs, international organisations, the private sector and young people to eliminate CSEC !

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