

**OPENING CEREMONY OF THE WORKSHOP OF CAPACITY BUILDING OF
SOCIAL WORKERS ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOUR**

Speech of the head of staff of the first lady's office

September 16th-17th, 2013

HOTEL CÔTE D'ABIDJAN

September 16, 2013

Mr. The Minister of State, Minister of Employment, Social Affairs and Vocational Training, Chairman of the Interministerial Committee for the Fight against the trafficking, exploitation and child labor; Madam the Minister of Solidarity, Family, Women and Children, Vice – Chairperson the Interministerial Committee for the Fight against the trafficking, exploitation and child labor

Excellencies Ambassadors and Representatives of diplomatic missions;

Mr. Deputy Prefect of Bingerville, representing the Prefect of Abidjan;

Distinguished representatives of the Organizations of the UN system, of National and international NGOs, involved in the fight against the worst forms of child labor;

Distinguished representatives of Cocoa and chocolate companies,

Dear Partners;

Distinguished Members of the National Oversight Committee for the Fight against the trafficking, exploitation and child labor;

Distinguished Chiefs;

Dear Sisters of women's associations;

Dear Social Workers Friends, specialists of Social of protection and of the support of vulnerable groups;

Ladies and gentlemen of the Media;

Dear guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

I would like, first of all, send you the warm greetings of Mrs. Dominique Ouattara, First Lady of Côte d'Ivoire and President the National Oversight Committee of Actions of Fight against Trafficking, Exploitation and Child Labor.

She would have liked to be present at this important ceremony but **reasons beyond her control have** not given her the opportunity. That's why she asked me to send her thanks to the Minister of State Mr. Moussa DOSSO, President of the Interministerial Committee for his availability to work tirelessly in synergy with the National Oversight Committee for the Elimination of worst forms of child labor in Côte d' Ivoire.

The First Lady, Mrs. Dominique Ouattara , also instructed me to send her thanks to her sister, the Minister Anne Désirée OULOTTO, Vice President of the Interministerial

Committee for allowing the holding of this workshop, whose beneficiaries are Social workers, professionals mostly under her administrative responsibility.

The thanks of the First Lady also go to our partners namely the Organizations of United Nations system, the cocoa and chocolate industries, as well as national and international NGOs involved in the fight against the worst forms of child labor.

Thank you to all guests who honor by their presence this ceremony.

Ladies and gentlemen, this capacity building workshop is part of a dynamic committed in the context of the implementation of the 2012-2014 National Action Plan of fight against trafficking, exploitation and child labor.

The goal is to enable all actors in the intervention chain, to have the tools and necessary capabilities to optimize their actions.

Thus, the National Oversight Committee and the Interministerial Committee, in collaboration with their partners, initiated since 2012 a program to strengthen the operational capacities of the different actors in the remediation chain.

This was the case in September 2012 in Yamoussoukro, for the Capacity Building Seminar of the Prefects. This seminar aimed to inform, educate and involve the Prefects in coordinating local actions for a territorial network coherent initiatives to fight against the worst forms of child labor.

This was also the case in July 2012, for the Capacity Building Workshop of Communication Managers of line Ministries members of Interministerial Committee and some partnered Structures. The objective of this training was to enable these communication professionals, to better relay information within their respective structures.

Last August, it was the turn of the elements of the Brigades of the National Gendarmerie and the Sub – Branch of Criminal Police for the fight against trafficking and juvenile delinquency, to enjoy a capacity building session to fight against the worst forms of child labor.

It should also be mentioned that several Partner organizations in the private sector have also conducted trainings on child labor issues against for other players.

Ladies and gentlemen, these capacity building workshops of players, far from city mundane activities, are prerequisites for effective conduct of remedial actions.

For what would be the point of a tool as powerful as it is, in the hands of a practitioner who ignores how to use it? Or what would be the point of an elaborated strategy in the hands of a person who doesn't master at all its operation?

This is why building the capacities of players holds a special place in the activities included in the National Action Plan. In this dynamics, training of Social workers, professional at the forefront of the early warning arrangements and response, are central in the chain of players in the care system of child victims, remains a crucial activity.

Ladies and gentlemen, child labor, especially in its worst forms, is a denial of their rights, a

denial of their freedom and dignity as being human.

Indeed, millions of children worldwide are often compelled to work under conditions that jeopardize their health, their education, physical, mental development and survival. The situation of these children offers no perspective for a better future, thus perpetuating the cycle of poverty.

Our individual and collective ethical responsibility should commit us wholeheartedly to fight this scourge, creating around our children a protective environment capable to guarantee their full development.

For the First Lady, Mrs. Dominique Ouattara, remains convinced that if we can pool our efforts and strengthen our collaboration to facilitate monitoring and coordination of our sectorial initiatives, we will realize rapid and significant progress in our campaign against the worst forms of child labor in our country.

That's why she wants through my voice to invite you all dear Partners, dear Social Workers to be more committed at her side to definitely remove this scourge of our country.

Thank you.