

26 December 2014

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**Policy development to integrate the mechanisms for protection of children, youth and family from risk factors**

The 7<sup>th</sup> National Health Assembly,  
Having considered the report on "Policy Development to integrate the mechanisms for protection of children, youth and family from risk factors"<sup>1</sup>

*Aware* that risk factors threatening children, youth and family today are numerous, complex and increasingly aggravating, with the result that affected children and youth cannot fully achieve their physical, mental, social and intellectual development, making it impossible to obtain real family wellbeing,

*Acknowledging* that significant risk factors threatening children, youth and family on a regular basis come in many forms: violence, gambling, narcotics, sexuality, unsafe and unconstructive media, children in distress, labor and trafficking in persons, disabilities, ethnicity, and children caught in the justice system,

*Noting and appreciating* that Thailand has taken action on children, youth and family in line with policy and international practice, that the National Health Assembly on separate occasions has come up with five resolutions from 2008 (the 1<sup>st</sup> National Health Assembly) to 2012 (the 5<sup>th</sup> National Assembly), and that there are several legal mechanisms designed to protect children, youth and family against risk factors through legally established agencies at national and local levels, but *finding* that there are still certain constraints and no mechanisms as a whole to monitor such protection work, thus making it difficult for national and local mechanisms to carry out the resolutions of the National Health Assembly,

*Concerned* that the attempts to resolve risk factors through national and local mechanisms will meet with a number of obstacles where there is no general monitoring of the protection work, that various agencies concerned are not clear with regard to their duties and responsibilities and how they can coordinate or connect with each other, that there are still problems of attitudes, values and lack of awareness about the rights on the part of government workers and the general public, and that in the legal sphere there are problems of legal interpretation while legal provisions are not in line with social risk factors that have changed with time,

*Realizing* that if a strategic plan is put in place to integrate mechanisms to protect children, youth and family against risk factors based on the knowledge and database of each community, and if efforts are made to create correct attitudes and values and to effectively manage and integrate mechanisms in such a way that all social sectors learn how to act to promote, develop, protect, support, help and monitor the situation systematically at national and local levels in mutual support, it will be possible

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<sup>1</sup>Document Health Assembly 7/Main 1

to provide protection for children, youth and family against risk factors in an effective and sustainable manner,

Has, therefore, passed the following resolutions:

1. Approving the draft proposal on “Strategy to integrate mechanisms for protection of children, youth and family from risk factors (2015-2017)” as attached in the annex<sup>2</sup>.

2. At national level:

2.1 Requesting the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security to establish by the end of 2015 a working group to integrate policy and supervise mechanisms to protect children, youth and family, the composition of which include secretaries to all the committees set up by legal requirements. Its duties are to provide policy connection to the work between agencies, committees and sectors concerned to ensure that they can deliver the results effectively, to supervise and ensure that children, youth and family can be protected against risk factors to the standard required by each law, to reduce duplicated work and reinforce mutual support between agencies and other activities carried out according to the policy of various committees concerned at various levels, and to monitor and evaluate the performances of the protection mechanisms to ensure their effectiveness and sustainability in line with the proposed strategy to integrate mechanisms for protection of children, youth and family from risk factors (see annex attached).

2.2 Requesting the Ministry of Interior, by way of the Department of Local Administration, to review and improve necessary laws and regulations so that local government organizations can act to support relevant networks from the public and civil society sectors, including Community Family Development Centers (CFDC), ensuring that these organizations can carry out their work in an efficient and effective manner and are equipped with adequate budgets according to the required standard as prescribed by each law concerned.

2.3 Requesting the Thai Health Promotion Foundation (ThaiHealth), Thailand Research Fund (TRF), National Research Council (NRC), National Health Security Office (NHSO), Health System Research Institute (HSRI), and Research and Development Fund for Broadcasting and Telecommunications for Public Good (FBTPG) to support the development of knowledge to fully integrate mechanisms to protect children, youth and family against risk factors at various levels.

3. At local level:

3.1 Requesting governors of every province, including Bangkok, to set up a working group to integrate mechanisms to protect children, youth and family at provincial level and to work together with representatives from agencies of the public, private and civil society sectors concerned, with provincial/Bangkok offices of social development and human security acting as secretariat. The working group’s duty is to develop a strategic plan for integration at provincial/Bangkok level to manage, monitor,

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<sup>2</sup>National Health Assembly 7/Resolution 1/Annex 1

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evaluate and enhance the efficiency of Community Family Development Centers (CFDC) in the urban and rural areas as well as the networks of the public, private and civil society sectors so that they can serve as local mechanisms to promote family entity and to prevent significant risk factors that may affect children, youth and family. These mechanisms will work with greater freedom in line with the proposed strategy to integrate mechanisms for protection of children, youth and family from risk factors (see annex attached).

3.2 Requesting the Department of Local Administration to take action to support the work of the networks from the public, private and civil society sectors concerned with the protection of children, youth and family, placing an emphasis in 4 areas: 1) promotion and development, 2) prevention, 3) surveillance of risk factors in children, youth and family in a comprehensive and effective manner, and 4) provision of assistance and care.

4. Requesting the Secretary-General of the National Health Commission to make a progress report to the 10<sup>th</sup> National Health Assembly.