

# **KATHMANDU DECLARATION**

**of**

## **1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Inter-country Adoption**

**March 11-13, 2007**

We, the delegates of the 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Inter-country Adoption, organized in Kathmandu, Nepal, from March 11-13, 2007,

Reaffirming the commitment to the purpose, principles and objectives of United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children, 1989,

Recognizing the values enshrined in The Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Inter-country Adoption, 1993 that children, for their full and harmonious development of her or his personality as dignified citizens of free society, should be able to grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere that is child friendly, full of happiness, love, affection and understanding with respect to her or his fundamental rights,

Deeply concerned about the inadequacy of Nepali legal system which is not in line with the internationally developed standards primarily laid down by The Hague Convention,

Considering the elaborate discussion and deliberations on international legal instruments, national laws and practices and concluded that Inter-country Adoption

offers a permanent family to children who do not have any other family-based care alternatives in her or his country of origin,

Having taken into account the best interest of children is a paramount principle before taking any decision relating to children, the conference agrees upon the following:

1. All delegates show solidarity and agree upon that they extend the cooperation to the Government of Nepal to initiate reform regulating Inter-country Adoption and for the overall development of Nepalese Children.
2. All delegates appeal to the Government of Nepal to ratify The Hague Convention, 1993 and thereby :
  - To formulate laws and regulations according to the norms and values of The Hague Convention.
  - To establish and operationalise a central authority to regulate and facilitate the processes and exercises of Inter-country Adoption accordingly.
  - Request to have clear provisions for licensing institutions, organizations and agencies working in adoption, and also to set up an effective system of monitoring such agencies and to take concrete measures to prevent irregularities and malpractices.
3. All delegates realize the need for an accessible National Information Centre on adoption for sharing the information and making the entire process transparent and reconvene on similar happening periodically.