The members of the Child Rights Coalition Asia (CRC Asia) based in Cambodia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam, during the Organizational Capacity Assessment/Planning and Annual Members' Meeting held in Pasay City, Philippines from 24 to 30 June 2016, declare that:

We are urging the governments of concerned countries, whether directly or indirectly affected by the refugee situation, to join the efforts to respond to the needs of the refugees, particularly the children. We ask the governments to address the causes of the forced migration, such as armed conflict and discrimination. We are reminding the State Parties that ratified the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child to fulfill its obligations to the refugee children under Article 22. We strongly urge the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and other countries in Asia to sign The 1951 Refugee Convention.

We are appealing to the country leaders, not only of the United Kingdom and European Union, but also of the rest of the world, to take action against discrimination and intolerance which may lead to further marginalization of migrants, especially women and children. We appeal to the country leaders to consider the repercussions of political and economic developments on the issues of children. We ask the leaders to promote policies and apply the principles of inclusivity, sensitivity, and mutual cooperation in all decisions.

We are appealing to the new leadership of the Philippines to uphold human rights in fulfilling its promise of a better life to its citizens, especially those in the margins of development; and to institute safety nets and mechanisms that will monitor abuses, especially to children, that may be arise due to the administration’s zealous campaign to end criminality.

We are appealing to The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers to recognize the global children’s rights and children’s welfare community and to protect the children in cyberspace by ensuring that the “.kids” internet domain will be child-friendly as stated in the reconsideration request of DotKids Foundation.

We recognize the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure by Thailand and Mongolia; the adoption of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence against Children; the ratification of the ASEAN Convention against Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children; the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by Brunei Darussalam; and the decisions of Indonesia and the Philippines to accept refugees onto their lands.

As we continue to pursue our vision, we remain committed to advocate for the promotion and protection of the rights of children, to build the capacities of children and other stakeholders, and to develop and disseminate information based on the experiences and reflections of children and child rights advocates.

We remain steadfast in our efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against children, to promote online child protection through the #SafeWeb4Kids campaign, to advance child participation in decision-making processes, to increase the public investment in children, and to promote the implementation of the rights of the child during adolescence.
We look forward to intensifying our work to address the present and emerging issues of stateless children, children in indigenous communities, sexually abused and exploited children, trafficked children, abandoned children, children in street situations, children separated from their parents, children with disabilities, and children in emergencies. We look forward to contributing efforts to address early pregnancy and to eliminate physical and humiliating punishment of children.

Finally, we acknowledge the need to improve our organizational capacity as a regional network of child rights and human rights organizations, and to build partnerships with other coalitions, groups, and individuals in order to realize our vision of children in Asia fully enjoying their rights.

SIGNED on 29th day of June 2016 in Pasay City, Philippines

Child Rights Coalition Asia (CRC Asia) members:

Cambodia NGO Coalition on the Rights of the Child
Hong Kong Committee on Children’s Rights
Sahabat Perempuan dan Anak Indonesia
Yayasan KKSP – Center for Child Rights Education and Information
Yayasan SEJIWA
Protect and Save the Children
Equality Myanmar
Mindanao Action Group for Children’s Rights and Protection
The Life Skills Development Foundation
Vietnam Association for the Protection of Children’s Rights
Terre des Hommes-Germany