



# EDITORIAL

*By the Director General of the Inter-American Children's Institute, Mr. Alejandro Bonasso.*

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**A** Consultation Seminar on "Violence and Aggressiveness in Children and Adolescents" was held on August 26 and 27, 1999 in Montevideo, Uruguay. This event was co-organized by the National Institute for Minors (INAME) and the UNICEF Office in Uruguay.

I clearly recall that 1999 (the year in which my term of office as President of the INAME came to an end) was a year of intense work to address the various problems of children and adolescents in Uruguay.

On that occasion, the Board of the INAME convened experts from the various fields of expertise on violence and aggressiveness in children and adolescents; these experts presented their experiences and generated an in-depth discussion geared to clarifying positions and outlining solutions about something that questions our societies.

In my opening address, I mentioned that the objective of the Seminar may be synthesized in the word "insight." This English word is made up of "in," conveying the idea of interior, and "sight," meaning the ability to see. At that time, I said that the work of those who have an institutional, academic, or any other type of responsibility, would be to make their contributions and reach internal knowledge, a deep perception, an enlightening vision – an "insight" to appropriately approach something as delicate as this.

Today, in my position as Director General of the Inter-American Children's Institute (IACI), the commitment to children and adolescents – particularly those who are rejected, underprivileged, excluded and unappreciated – gains a dimension with extended frontiers, because it covers children living in the 34 Member States of the OAS.

And it is precisely for this reason that we saw it fit and advisable to disseminate the "insight" made up of the analysis and reflection by that choice group of experts at the Consultation Seminar, throughout the region, through our Bulletin. Personal points of view are included, and although they are not necessarily shared by everyone, they do go beyond mere improvisation in an attempt to find answers to widespread public concern in the region about violence and aggressiveness in children and adolescents.

From their various standpoints, these papers present conclusions and recommendations that may be followed or serve as inspiration to those responsible for planning and implementing public policies, designing and implementing new plans and programs for children and adolescents, or adjusting existing ones.

This is another opportunity for the IACI to commemorate the Inter-American Year of Children and Adolescents.



The purpose of this publication of the Inter-American Children's Institute (IACI) is to disseminate, for the users' network, the documents that emerged from the Consultation Seminar on "Violence and Aggressiveness in Children and Adolescents," which took place on August 26 and 27, 1999 in Montevideo, Uruguay, co-organized by the National Institute for Minors (INAME) and the UNICEF Office in Uruguay.