



FIRST INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR OF THE PARLIAMENTARY FRONT FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD– NATIONAL CONGRESS OF BRAZIL

SECOND INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF THE HEMISPHERIC NETWORK OF LEGISLATORS AND FORMER LEGISLATORS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD

On

Building a Legal Framework for Public Policies on Early Childhood

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – FINAL REPORT

(The Final Report includes all presentations, agreements, and conclusions of the event).

31 May 2013

Brasilia, Brazil, April 16-18, 2013

The First International Seminar took place on April 16-18, 2013 in the Auditorium Narea Ramos- Chamber of Deputies and had as its purpose, to contribute to the building of a legal framework for public policies that guarantee sustainability, that are in line with new scientific discoveries, values and guarantees the most adequate comprehensive care for all children ages 0-6 of Brazil and the continent. In Brazil, early childhood public policies gained relevance in the last years through federal, state, and municipal programs.

The First International Seminar was convened by the Hemispheric Network of Legislators and Former Legislators for Early Childhood and the Parliamentary Front for Early Childhood of the National Congress of Brazil, in which deputies from nine political parties participated. It counted on the highest level of political support, represented by five federal ministers, congressional deputies, world level experts and legislators from: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, United States, Guatemala, Holland, Mexico, Panama, and Peru, who along with 500 governmental authorities, civil society and corporations of Brazil, developed an agenda, consistent with the objectives and expected results for the event.

The ministers and the technical, private, and academic authorities of Brazil agreed on legislation that guarantees progress after evaluating best practices in early childhood public policies in various sectors and different levels within the government.

Full support from the government of President Dilma Roussef was highlighted, with initiatives to care, protect, and educate children from 0 to 6 years of age, mothers, and most vulnerable populations.

Results from the group work are presented at the end of this report, their conclusions, and recommendations, which will serve as a guide in order to continue actions in Brazil and participating countries.

The presidency of the Hemispheric Network of Legislators and Former Legislators for Early Childhood convened the III Meeting of the Hemispheric Network in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico from October 22-26, 2013. Here, the country participants must bring forth all progress carried out since the agreements in Brasilia.

MAIN ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN

SPECIAL OPENING PROGRAM:

The president of the Chamber of Deputies of Brazil, Henrique Eduardo Alves, led the opening ceremony, along with Mrs. Lisa Jordan, Executive Director of the Bernard van Leer Foundation, Deputy Alberto Anaya Gutierrez, President of the Hemispheric Network of Legislators and Former Legislators for Early Childhood, and Deputy Osmar Terra, President of the Parliamentary Front for Early Childhood of Brazil.

Deputy Alves expressed that; “it is an urgent task for the State to create adequate conditions for Early Childhood. He pointed out that 2011 was very important because the **Parliamentary Front for Early Childhood of Brazil** was constituted, with the participation of nine parliamentary groups. Legislators from Brazil and Latin America, concerned about the health and education of children have been increasingly more attuned with this movement; all are contributing to the drafting of efficient legislation, seeking the commitment from legislatures of other countries to obtain the necessary instruments in order to strengthen Early Childhood”. Regarding the transformation of the legal framework proposal in the legislative initiative, it was manifested that this would take place without a debate in the chamber of deputies, given that the first step would be the creation of a “Special Commission for Early Childhood” that would take care of pushing forth a framework law before the end of the year; with the objective to create an Early Childhood Statute that complements the Child and Adolescent Statute.

For his part, Deputy Osmar Terra, President of the Parliamentary Front for Early Childhood of Brazil said that the Seminary will serve to identify progress and challenges of public policies for Early Childhood in Brazil and other countries, “We will share experiences which will contribute to the creation of a legal framework that will truly protect, foster, and stimulate all children universally, with the objective to articulate all the public education, social, and health services”. He announced that after the event, a special commission would be created in order to address policies directed to early childhood that will be the most advanced in the whole world. He also highlighted that, “we, together with other countries of Latin America, have a legal point of reference of Early Childhood to be the most efficient in the world and that can sustain and develop healthy children universally.

Mrs. Lisa Jordan, Executive Director from the Bernard van Leer Foundation, reflected upon her experience about the value of laws, their importance, their significance, and the responsibilities of those who represent the legislative power. She said that Brazil counts on a Constitution that guarantees social rights with 277 articles where children have rights to an education, health, and

protection. To conclude, she summarized the following, “legislation is always under construction for a social base, it must be an easier task, there should not be differences between the legislative text and its practice, it must be worked as a whole”. She also said that laws also require a budget in order to show that they guarantee their implementation, that is why the legal framework cannot remain only within the legislative phase, it must be transferred into mandates of law and policies that have success. She also mentioned examples of successful policy: “Chile Grows with Me”, “The Good Start” in Colombia, “Progress” in Mexico, “Better Early Childhood” in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. She concluded by underscoring the excellent opportunity that Brazil offered with the Seminar to reflect and verify if this is reflected in reality.

Finally, Deputy Alberto Amaya, President of the Hemispheric Network of Legislators and Former Legislators, underscored the importance of counting on legal frameworks that support and provide sustainability for early childhood policies. He underscored three tasks to reach such expectations: i) In order to legislate in favor of early childhood, we must consider starting from pre-conception and prenatal stages (between the 8th and the 12th week of pregnancy), that way, problems can be prevented, starting from the development of the brain; ii) we have to face the challenge to increase awareness to the political class and society, including parents and organizations; iii) we must “fight” for a sufficient budget. I congratulate the Congress of Brazil because it is a country with high degree of early childhood development.

1. - VIDEO CONFERENCE: “The economy of investing in young children, implications for policy and legislation in early childhood”. James Heckman, Noble Prize in Economics, 200 (USA).

The economist Heckman supported, in a consistent manner, the rationale for early childhood policies, and mentioned that policies must be wiser, and takes research results from science on which to base them and must be well planned in order to transfer capabilities. He highlighted that the investment in early childhood public policies, starting from the youngest age groups, prevent and improve the welfare state and the approach to the potential of the human being, which have an impact in the reduction of chronic illnesses in young children, in their social, cognitive, emotional skills, and in the performance and production during all their lives.

He presented a different approach to poverty and social inequity; he identified it with a focus based on the capabilities of the human being. He said that the capabilities are capacities to function in a multitude of tasks in life and that these can be acquired starting in early childhood since the human being is more flexible, more malleable and skills, are matters of education, therefore one has to give the families tools, so that as a basis of the capabilities that the child develops, he or she can perform better in school. He proposed a unified, holistic approach those points to all problems, using the strategy of human development.

He drew attention to those who wish to strengthen the economy, and how they must make a solid investment in early childhood. As proof that these are effective means, he presented the results of research completed in the United States through the Perry Preschool Program, showing that the experience of quality, early childhood programs for disadvantaged children, can change them into healthier adults, reduce percentages of crime and social burden to the government with an annual return on investment of 7-10%, increase the levels of schooling and professional performance. After analyzing research such as the Abecedarian Project of North Carolina and the Nurse Family Partnership in the US, and the Intervention in Jamaica (Caribbean), their contributions can be summarized as follows:

- Invest in less advantaged children is a public policy that promotes, in the long run, social justice and productivity in the economy and society.

- Early interventions have a higher return than later interventions, even though there is an overinvestment in later stages and an underinvestment in earlier years. The programs directed to early childhood are more effective than the programs for adolescents.
- It is important to sustain timely interventions, given that beneficial environments for children have the greatest impact if monitoring occurs with learning experiences in later periods.
- The modern state must go beyond transferring money to its population. It must make a different approach to poverty and inequity. It must worry about the capabilities and skills of the individuals.
- Investing in the education of young children (0-3 years) is a benefit for all their lives. “It is best to invest in early childhood than to save money”.
- Cognitive gaps start early among the most vulnerable groups. These affect the development and the behavior of children.
- The family is a decisive factor, the most important one for the development of children. Children from poor families see their skills reduced. Therefore, it is important to educate good families, who can educate and raise good sons and daughters. Necessary tools must be provided for them to educate their children.
- Finally, he concluded with how policy must learn from science, it must take it into account.

The participation of Deputy Eduardo Barbosa, Parliamentary Front of Brazil (Moderator)

Barbosa stressed the importance of the role of the family and the specific laws for the development of this age group. “We must provide nutrition, stimulation, and affection for early childhood”. If this is translated into public policies, we have the expected result. This is the way,” he underscored.

4

He also highlighted the importance of interventions for this age group. This would be done through the articulation of sectorial, early childhood policies, the creation of adequate environments that should be given to a person under development.

“Children in favorable environments who receive some sort of support, will be more competent in order to face the daily problems of tomorrow, and are more productive for the country,” he pointed out.

As has been informed, economists show that investing in children generates economic production that is ten times greater than investing in any other age group.

Lastly, he reiterated that the need for strategic policy would also improve the development of the nation. “To invest in early childhood, also provides a greater quality of life in the future, making the country more developed”.

2. - PRESENTATION OF THE HEMISPHERIC NETWORK OF LEGISLATORS AND FORMER LEGISLATORS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD, progress, challenges, and work plan

A video on the Hemispheric Network of Legislators and Former Legislators was presented.

2.1 Deputy. Osmar Terra, President, Parliamentary Front for Early Childhood of Brazil. Reiterated the progress made in Brazil regarding legislative matters. Mentioned that the Seminar is a result of the Work Plan 2012-2013 that was approved in the city of Campeche, Mexico. He said that public policies and laws in defense of children’s rights are being revised in order to propose a

new legal framework, along with an early childhood federal law. He mentioned the need to establish legislation according to new scientific discoveries of value and guarantee the comprehensive care to children in Brazil and all of the Americas.

2.2. Congresswoman Leyla Chihuan Ramos, Peru. Pointed out that, “It is very important to work for a legal framework to benefit early childhood in the region. For my part, concerned about early childhood, I have presented a project on the Law of Food and *Nutrition during Pregnancy*, which seeks to provide nutritional supplements and fortified foods to pregnant women of low economic resources. Poor nutrition during pregnancy can cause effects to the newborn that can affect him or her for life. For this reason, it is important to solve a problem that affects the most vulnerable populations,” pointed out the congresswoman.

2.3 Dr. Enrique Ku Herrera, Executive Secretary of the Hemispheric Network, Mexico. Presented the developments on the main agreements made since the First International Meeting of the Network of Legislators and Former Legislators for Early Childhood, from August 16-17, 2012:

- To convene this First International Seminar of the “Parliamentarian Front for Early Childhood of Brazil”
- Expand the organization of state networks for early childhood in Mexico (Nuevo Leon, 2011 and Michoacan 2012, among others).
- Expand the Hemispheric Network to other countries.
- Information exchange between PARLACEN, the Dominican Republic, Chile, Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Panama, Uruguay and other countries.
- Support and organize joint activities among with networks of entrepreneurs and legislators, among these: Colombia, Brazil, Campeche, Puebla and Michoacan in Mexico.
- Production of the Hemispheric Network video.
- Promote the drafting of legislation to benefit children, women, the family, against violence and child abuse, the support of minorities, the indigenous, the fight against bullying, among others.
- The institutionalization of the Hemispheric Network in Mexico.
- La asociación de esfuerzos como parte de la sociedad civil en los organismos internacionales.
- The creation of the Hemispheric Network website: www.redhpi.org and the publication of progress made on: www.redem.org

5

2.4 Deputy Alberto Anaya, President of the Hemispheric Network of Legislators and Former Legislators for Early Childhood, Mexico. Underscored that to invest in early childhood is the best investment against organized crime, and as has been said in the interventions made by the scientists in this event, the earlier, the better. He made an invitation to the III Meeting of the Hemispheric Network, which will take place in the city of Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico on Oct. 23-27, 2013.

After presenting the objectives and goals of the Network, he summarized the **Work Plan for 2013-2014:**

- Integrate and strengthen the Hemispheric Network.
- Continue with the integration of national networks in each of the 34 member states of the OAS and consolidate the national and state networks that have been created.
- Promote and disseminate the rights of the child, agreements, and international provisions, laws and practice standards for the protection and comprehensive development of early childhood. Unify and apply legislative progress made in the countries.
- Carrying out diagnostics on the situation of the countries, in as much as legislative matter as public policies and significant actions. To promote comparative legislative studies and an inventory of existing laws in favor of early childhood. Collect studies on

the fulfillment of laws through the analysis of existing services in the following sectors: health, education, health-nutrition, social development, human rights.

- Spread information on successful experiences of the governments, countries, NGOs, and international organizations.
- Continue to advocate and support the efforts made by the countries to achieve universal early childhood education, to come to fruition as a state policy, and for it to have priority in the structure of educational systems.

Deputy Darcisio Perondi, President of the Commission on Health of the Congress of Brazil (Moderator): Commented that he considered that private investment is too insignificant. "\$150 millions is too small for a savings of \$2 000 millions". He argued that more than the search for private resources, their needs to be a bigger emphasis in volunteerism. "That feeling of love for others must be wished", he said. He also mentioned that, according to the Parliament, longevity is increasing in Brazil, and there are many older people as well as the search for older people to participate and stay healthy. Finally, he reminded all that there is an urgent need for a judicial framework for early childhood, given that the development of the human brain is fastest during the first three years of life.

3. - PANEL: "Achievements and Challenges of Legislative Initiatives and Actions in favor of Early Childhood in Countries of the Hemisphere"

3.1 Deputies of the Association of Legislators and Former Legislators for Early Childhood with a Priority in Early Childhood of Michoacán, Mexico:

Deputy Rosa Maria Molina Rojas. Stressed the importance of timely, relevant, and quality early childhood education. She pointed out that as deputies, they are seeking to prioritize it. As the first step for social mobility, they will try to apply public policies in an efficient manner. She highlighted that in Mexico, they already have federal law for the protection of the rights of children and adolescents.

Invited all to the International Congress on Early Childhood that will take place from Sept. 26-27, 2013 in Morelia, Michoacán, Mexico, an event organized by deputies.

Dip. Laura González Martínez. Emphasized that the development of effective skills and language, along with a healthy physical development that includes proper immunizations and nutrition during early childhood, will represent, for the countries, children, youth, and adults who are more competitive, with better and more affectionate family and work relationships.

Spoke about the program, "Opportunities" and the experience of having coordinated the program in Michoacán, providing services to 360,000 families, which benefited 1.2 million people, where the main challenge was to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty. Recognized that poverty hurts because it is inherited from parents to children. Said that the challenge in Mexico, regarding early childhood is: to make it known, promote it, and force for specific budgets to be designed.

Deputy Cristina Portillo. Spoke about the law approved by the government of Michoacán, for the protection of children and adolescents. Through this law, a state council for the protection of children has been created, as well as a program that reaches the municipal councils, where all children are protected, including children with disabilities, AIDS, cancer, and other problems such as sexual or work exploitation, among others. The challenge they wish to solve is to count on a database with important issues, as were highlighted in the report.

Deputy Sarbelio Molina. Spoke about the law that he pushed forth, in order to prevent school violence, remembering that this, starts in the family, and children grow up believing that is

the normal way families live together; moreover, he stated that ways will be sought for schools to be free of violence, in environments of peace and no violence. At the same time, he informed about the creation of a council against school violence that will be implemented in the 113 municipalities of the state.

For early childhood years to be full, it was pledged to reduce the educational gap that exists between the elite classes and those least favorable, for those who do not have access to education and care from early years.

Deputy Fernando Gonzalez. Spoke about child care centers (estancias infantiles) and explained that the Law for the Provision of Services of Attention, child care and development, intended to put the law and regulations homogeneously for early childhood centers to safeguard the integrity, growth, and comprehensive development of children with nutrition, health, balanced meals, health, and quality education services, promoting gender equity. He highlighted that minimum requirements in educational issues, health, and protection have been established for the opening of new childcare centers; and that these will be public, private, and both.

3.2 Congresswoman Karla Schaefer Cuculiza, President of the Health Commission and Population of the Republic of Peru, Presidency of the Network of Legislators and Former Legislators for Early Childhood. Schaefer Cuculiza reflected on some issues that pertain to the reality of Peru: i) 12.5% of female adolescents from ages 15 to 19 are already mothers or are pregnant for the first time. ii) Only 4 out of 10 female adolescents from rural areas (43%) finish a secondary education; iii) The greatest percentage of adolescents who are mothers or are pregnant, represent women without education or with only a primary education (19,7% and 33,9%, respectively); iv) For year 2010, there still exists a rate of 19 deaths of children under 5 years of age for every one thousand children born. In 1990, the rate was 78 deaths; v) the rate of child mortality of children under 1 year of age was, in 2010, 15 for every one thousand who live. In 1990, it was 55; vi) The rate of neonatal deaths (within the first 28 days of birth), up to 2010, was 9 for every one thousand who were born alive; vii) The rate of births is almost 600,000 boys and girls per year.

Schaefer Cuculiza shared the approved laws: i) extension of the obligation to the establishment of breast-feeding spaces (lactarios) not only in public entities, also in private ii) increase in maternity leave when it involves multiple births or children with disabilities; iii) promotion of the implementation to the right of food in favor of children and the mother; iv) legislation against family violence and against women, same laws are being revised to be improved; v) a law that declares a national holiday against human trafficking, (68% of victims are children); vi) screening to prevent pre-eclampsia in pregnant women.

Mentioned as pending: i) the timely access of comprehensive health services; ii) education within better comprehensive conditions for the development of children; iii) the strengthening of families with a shared responsibility between mother and father in regards to their children; iv) the empowerment of women and the community; v) the protection of children during the gestational stage and during their first years of life; vi) the respect to cultural diversity; vii) the necessary budget to fulfill policies, plans, and programs.

3.3 Luis Morales Solis, Deputy of Ecuador. Morales Solis referred to the new Political Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador and said that it strengthens the harmonization between national legislation with an emphasis on rights and systems labor, immigration, border, environmental, social, educational, cultural and public health according to principles of progression not regression.

He mentioned that among the approved laws: the “Solidarity Bonus” (bono solidario) for single mothers, the presence of the father during the birth and the 10 days of vacation to accompany the mother and the child. Similarly, he manifested his commitment to promote, primarily,

comprehensive development and to ensure the full exercise of the rights of the child, with equality and no discrimination, above all.

3.4 Rosa Alma Cruz, Rapporteur of the Commission for the Family, Childhood, Adolescence, and the Adult. Deputy of El Salvador. She informed about the progress and the process of implementation for the rights of children for 32% of their population (boys, girls, and adolescents). There exists a national policy for children and adolescents, which passed through a consulting process, in which 55 of 262 municipalities of the country participated, including a total of 5135 girls and boys. Also, she informed the national system of protection is being strengthened, and that to this date they count on the design and mechanism for the national and local coordination, in which public and private institutions participate.

She highlighted that in 2010, a law for the comprehensive protection of children and adolescents with social and judicial mechanisms was approved. The government has invested significantly in social programs: Program for Nutrition and School Health (PASE), the Glass of Milk (vaso de leche), as part of a plan of action for education, since good health is part of a good well being.

3.5 Deputy Corina Morales Miranda, Commissioner on the Affairs of Women, Children, the Family, Credentials of Health. Representative of Women from the Indigenous Peoples, Congress of Panama. She highlighted the legislative progress made in favor of early childhood: the approval of the law for food allowances through 18 years of age; the reception to the project and Pilot Plan, “Ann Sullivan” for children with autism, with the slogans: “I want to live happily in my country” and “Together we can make possible the impossible”. Similarly, she informed that currently there are projects for adoption laws, which address people and pedophilia.

At the end of the presentations, the moderator, Dr. Gaby Fujimoto, summarized the following:

- In all the countries, there exists consensus about the importance of counting on legal frameworks, which will facilitate the good intentions, expressed by the legislators.
- All the countries work around the answers to the needs of the child, the mother, the family, and those most vulnerable.
- There is sensitivity among the legislators to legislate in favor of the demand for early childhood.
- There exists concern in the region, given that the care of children requires to be a multi-party task in the Congresses.
- There is a process that shows evidence for the need to provide a follow-up to the networks of legislators regarding material on early childhood, which also includes the follow-up of adequate budgets for the programs and actions.
- There needs to be legal frameworks to provide sustainability to the progress made in policies, programs, and services for early childhood.

4. Panel: “Municipal political commitments and results regarding the rights of children and their comprehensive care during the earliest years”.

Deputy Elida Rasino, Former Minister of Education, Santa Fe Province, Argentina.

Former Secretary of Social Promotion of the city of Rosario, Argentina. Presented the plan of action from the Ministry of Education and comprehensive management experience for early childhood in the municipality.

From the Ministry of Education, actions with a strong component in the formation of teachers were highlighted, with a strong emphasis on play, multiple languages, and the philosophy with children; a service of professionals who work with the educational problem of the child

articulating the family and school as the experimental proposal from the school which combines play in open spaces in the neighborhood and regulations, as much for pregnant women as all childhood and adolescence.

The municipal proposal is an experience developed from 1995 to 2001, which was highlighted for: approaching the problem of poverty creating bonds and networks in a preventive manner and from pedagogical programs. This program expressed all the resources and services of the Secretary for Social Promotion through three intervention levels: 1- the area with socio-educational care for all ages (educating habits and skills in nutrition, auto-production of meals, natural medicine, the caring of a child and child rearing, family organization, projects between neighbors and complete academic inclusion in the first basic level. 2- attention to special cases: violence, abandonment, critical situations; and 3- construction of inter-institutional networks to strengthen bonds between state/civil society.

The diagnostics, she commented, highlight that there exists inequality as an economic system; and that violence exists as a culture of survival, public policies lack a systematic vision and do not resolve the cause of the problems; fragment the subject; replicate social fragmentation; and are centralized and unidirectional.

This will allow managing budgetary resources with superior efficiency, given that in the period 1995/2001, with the same budget, previous structure expenses were created and settled. Moreover, 56 new institutions were created ad hoc in the Secretariat for Social Promotion. All these institutions counted with professional personnel (preschool teachers, agro technicians, anthropologists, and family counselors.

From there, early childhood was addressed with budgets for education and promotion directed to the family group. This project had 5400 families as direct beneficiaries and 130,000 indirect beneficiaries from impoverished neighborhoods.

Starting from the premise that inequality is inherent to the economic system and it derives from a culture of surviving, in occasions with violence, the speaker advocated for policies that address the early childhood problem in a systematic way, making it the center point within families. Also, she highlighted the need to prevent to copy social fragmentation with formulas that are highly focused in the poor population, and showed that comprehensive policies guarantee the greater result for human development and optimize budgets.

In this sense, the city of Rosario, Argentina framed the policy of the Secretariat for Social Promotion with comprehensive actions for early childhood, from outstanding care in public health, passing through an urban transformation with the centerpiece of the public space to a sociocultural dynamic based in peaceful coexistence (*convivencia*) and participation. Among the multiple actions, the city adhered to the Italian pedagogical project, Francesco Tonucci named, "City of Children". It created Children Councils in order to plan out the city; and by municipal ordinance, established a day dedicated for play and peaceful coexistence (*convivencia*).

Working Groups: Coordination: Gaby Fujimoto, Hemispheric Network/USA and Vital Didonet, Legislative Consultant of the Chamber of Deputies/Brazil

The participants of the event were divided between two groups:

1. Group 1 of Brazil: under the coordination of Mr. Vital Didonet. Carolina Drügg and Renata Martins recognized contributions to this issue.
 - i) Group 2. Consisting of delegations and conference speakers from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, United States, Guatemala, Holland, Mexico, Panama and Peru, who worked under the coordination of Drs. Gaby Fujimoto, Alberto Anaya,

and Enrique Ku, with the support from the rapporteur committee: Juana Shedan from Peru and Bernardo Aguilar/Rosalio Tabla from Mexico.

The directions for the group work were the following: Define the building of a legal framework for early childhood public policies. What does a legal framework mean? What do we recommend, what important components can be part of this legal framework? Which strategies do we need to carry this into practice? After the plenary, both groups worked their proposals with greater detail. See Attachment 1 and Attachment II.

5. - Final plenary session/ event closure

Presided by Dr. Osmar Terra, President of the Parliamentary Front for Early Childhood of Brazil, he thanked the organizing team and assistants of Brazil for having carried through the Seminar. He thanked the Governing Council of the Hemispheric Network of Legislators and Former Legislators for Early Childhood. The president, Alberto Anaya, the Executive Secretary, Enrique Ku Herrera, and Gaby Fujimoto, Technical Secretariat for International Affairs, presided.

Dr. Gaby Fujimoto commented on the results of Group 2 and Mr. Vital Didonet, with Carolina Drügg and Renata Martins, shared the results from Group 1 (See Attachments 1 and 2).

The Work Plan for the Hemispheric Network was approved and an invitation was made for the III Meeting of the Hemispheric Network of Legislators and Former Legislators for Early Childhood, to take place in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico during October 24 – 25, 2013.

Deputy Alberto Anaya led the closing of the Seminar, reiterating the invitation to the III Meeting of the Hemispheric Network.

ATTACHMENT 1

Results from the Work Group of Brazil, coordination by Mr. Vital Didonet, Legislative Consultant, Brazil. Contributions recognized by Carolina Drügg and Renata Martins.

These suggestions and proposals are presented as a subsidy of the National Congress, particularly to the deputies of the Parliamentary Front for Early Childhood, who have presented their wish to compliment and improve the legal framework for early childhood in Brazil.

The parameter followed by the group was that children, in this country, have their rights guaranteed. This objective implies a careful look geographic inequality, cultural and social economy, and the historical exclusions of ethnic groups, among these, particularly children.

New problems emerge with economic progress, with technological development, with the progress in communications. Legislation and public policies must be attentive to these, placing adequate and efficient measures to prevent and when prevention fails, correct and minimize the pain caused to the life and development of children.

The group expressed the expectation that the federal legislature could receive these suggestions, making the clarification that could come as a legislative matter and that which relates to the political field and administrative decisions, considering that, in the latter case, can serve as inspiration for legal measures.

| ISSUE | AREA, SUGGESTIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS |
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| PUBLIC MANAGEMENT | |

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| Inter-sectoral Focus and global actions | Investment in inter-sectoral actions that assign special importance between the shared management between correspondents of co-responsible policies for early childhood, integrity in the care and multidisciplinary in the formation of groups. Use of social and emotional indicators, not just cognitive indicators. |
| Cooperation between the three spheres of the government | Inclusion of the Law for Early Childhood in the Organic Law of Municipalities Regulation of Article 23 da CF, which addresses the cooperation between the Union, the states, and the municipalities, clearly defining the competencies of each sphere |
| Territorializacion | Coordination of actions within the territory, increasing capacity to increase efficiency. Attention to the capacity to increase initiatives for early childhood care. |
| | Promoting actions that prioritize differences between the 0-3 and 3-6 age groups and solving problems associated to the cut in these groups' age. Sensitive attention to the “excluded from the excluded”. For example: a child with disabilities, children of parents with disabilities, indigenous, border river towns, “quilombolas” (populations of African descent). |
| Planning | Guideline for the legal framework with parameters from the National Plan for Early Childhood. |
| Financing | Estimation of the exclusive financing to be invested in actions directed towards early childhood in the areas that correspond this phase, within the three spheres of government. Reserve resources without linking them to a determined sector of organism within the government, rather place them in a single instance to allow shared management. Ensure predictable funding for early childhood budgets within the general budget of the union, the state, the federal district, and the municipalities. Strengthening of funds for children and adolescents to be more effective in the financing of policies and plans for children and adolescents. |
| Capacity building in early childhood education (DIT) | |
| Preschool formation, graduation from universities | Include issues related to capacity building for early childhood education in the plan of studies, among different professionals who work with early childhood children. |
| Managers of public policies | Training for managers in specific courses of short duration, with the purpose of updating the science of investigation of early childhood. |
| Field professionals | In-service training for professionals who work with early childhood, regardless of their educational level. Example: teachers, counselors, community health workers. Definition of the profile for people who work with early childhood children. |
| Judicial system operators | Training in DIT, social protection networks, and other issues in areas regarding judges, prosecutors, and attorneys who are interested in working in the field of children's rights. |
| ACTION INSTRUMENT | |
| | Adoption of the “PNPI” plan as a reference instrument for the conception of the child and childhood, for purposes of management, management duties and actions; for being a |

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| <p>National Plan for Early Childhood (PNPI)</p> | <p>political, technically comprehensive, and long-term document, approved by CONANZA and confirmed by the government (SDH) for inter-sectoral actions in the realm of children's rights (through six years of age).</p> <p>Creation of a legal mechanism that determines the formulation of state and municipality plans for the rights of children up to six years of age, within the guidelines of the PNPI</p> |
| <p>FAMILY</p> | |
| <p>Strengthening Family Competencies</p> | <p>Support from the state for families, through initiatives that prioritize the greater role and care and education of children.</p> <p>Support from the states for families made up of young parents, starting from pregnancy.</p> <p>Clarification on prenatal care, with approaches that promote not only the physical and emotional aspects of pregnancy, but also to include issues that include the care of children, the building of boundary limits, among others.</p> <p>Promote initiatives that favor the participation of parents/couples. For example: work assignments that make possible the follow-up of prenatal doctor visits, delivery, and postpartum visits.</p> <p>Creation of a mechanism that keeps the child and mother together until the child is six months old, guaranteeing the minimum lactation time, and the creation of a bond and family life.</p> <p>Indication of a prenatal protocol with information on various areas of child development (improvement of the children's book).</p> |
| <p>Responsible Parenthood</p> | <p>Ensure six months of maternity leave for private-sector working women, contributing the major presence of the child with his or her family and the guarantee of exclusive breastfeeding.</p> <p>Legal authorization for the father to follow-up on prenatal exams.</p> |
| <p>COUNCILS OF RIGHTS</p> | |
| <p>Guardian Council</p> | <p>Improves work conditions among the Councils: space for meetings, IT, secretariat support, technical and legal support, vehicles, etc.</p> <p>Pre-service and in-service training.</p> <p>Inter-sectoral action.</p> <p>Revision to the number of councils depending on the population size.</p> <p>Guarantee the presence of advisors regarding early childhood issues.</p> |
| <p>Children and Adolescents' Rights Council</p> | <p>Guarantee the representation of early childhood concerns (advisors for this age group)</p> <p>Improve the work conditions of the Councils: space for meetings, IT, secretariat support, technical and legal support, vehicles, etc.</p> <p>Training for inter-sectoral/integrated performance.</p> |
| <p>ADVOCACY</p> | |
| <p>Legislative material on the sciences of DIT</p> | <p>Promoting actions to mobilize and increase awareness on the importance to invest in DIT. For example: Day of the Baby, the Week of the Baby/Child</p> <p>Increase the wide dissemination and easy understanding of laws related to the protection,</p> |

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| | care, and education of children in early childhood. |
| HEALTH- HEALTHY NUTRITION | |
| At school and with the family | Strengthening of initiatives for the promotion of good health in early childhood establishments, centers of daily care, public preschools, and those associated with early childhood (school health programs in preschool education, health, nutrition, and healthy eating habits in the family). Preventive care in the area of pediatric dentistry and the development of language. |
| PROTECTION | |
| Accident Prevention | More stringent and specific legal measures in order to prevent accidents at home, in traffic, in motor vehicles, at amusement parks and playgrounds. |
| Advertising | Regulations on advertising and marketing geared to children. |
| THE RIGHT TO PLAY | |
| Within public spaces | Determination that master city plans must provide and guarantee spaces for courtyards and parks, their maintenance and security. Promoting “play” as a public, compulsory activity by the government for the citizens and children. |
| EVALUATION OF POLICIES AND ACTIONS | |
| Parameters and indicators | Establishment of minimum, quality parameters for the DIT programs. In the ECA, define criteria for approving and evaluating children programs and services. |
| CHILD PROTAGONISM | |
| Participation | Inclusion of children’s voices within the early childhood framework. Explicit mentioning in the legislation, of the right of the child to participate in the defining and application of all things that concern him or her. |
| STUDIES AND RESEACH | |
| Incentives | Create incentives for the investigation and studies in the area of children’s rights, childhood development, and the impact of actions directed towards children. |
| Dissemination of Information | Determination that the media, as far as public concession, discloses information to parents, research data, studies, and evaluations regarding early childhood development and that they transmit practical guidance regarding topics of interest for the protection, care, and education of the child. |

ATTACHMENT 2

RESULTS FROM GROUP 2: AGREEMENTS, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS. PROPOSAL FOR THE BUILDING OF A LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD.

The work group, consisting of delegations and speakers from *Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, United States, Guatemala, Holland, Mexico, Panama and Peru*, who worked under the coordination of *Drs. Gaby Fujimoto; Alberto Anaya and Enrique Ku*, with the support from the rapporteur committee consisting of: *Juana Shedan, Bernardo Aguilar y Rosalio Tabla*.

The legislators, convened by the Parliamentary Front for Early Childhood of Brazil and the Hemispheric Network of Legislators and Former Legislators for Early Childhood, gathered in Brasilia, during April 16-18, 2013, agreed, in order to define the building of a legal framework for public policies for early childhood, to the following:

THE FRAMEWORK MUST:

- Respect, as a reference framework, the agreements among the countries, which ratified the Convention on Children's Rights, the General Commentaries 7, 9, 11 and 13; and the signed agreements from different international forums and in the countries, in order to harmonize and make adequate the existing laws in each country.
- Notwithstanding the existence of international agreements and laws in the countries, elaborate a specific national policy law in each country, that allows them to comply with international and national commitments; and considers the child as a subject of rights, from preconception, gestation, birth, postpartum, and through their comprehensive development until the age of six.
- Consider all boys and girls from 0 to 6 years of age, the ones who must be neither subjects of comprehensive character geared towards their full development; with no distinction nor discrimination of ethnicity, religion and gender, socio-economic condition.
- Ensure the principle of integrity and inter-sectorality in early childhood care, given that in the present, this care is provided in a fragmented manner.
- Prioritize the protection and care of children in vulnerable situations, the most excluded who live in poverty, those with disabilities, displaced, those living in the street, the indigenous, those who live in indigenous zones, afro-descendants, border town dwellers, and others.
- Ensure that all national policies incorporate the participation of the family, civil society, corporations, councils, among others.
- Guarantee the highest quality in the presentation of programs, services, and actions for the comprehensive care of boys and girls ages 0 to 6 years.
- Ensure the allocation of adequate budgets in order to carry out actions of comprehensive care, protection, and care for early childhood and develop shared actions among sectors, from the national level through the state and municipal sector.

14

The components, programs, activities of the legal framework, according to the reality of each country, can be:

- The early childhood situation diagnosis (profile) of each country, starting from the analysis of education and indicators of comprehensive care of children in their early years, particularly from 0 to 4 years.
- The diagnosis of the situation of early childhood in each country (profile), starting from the education analysis and indicators of comprehensive care of children in early childhood, particularly from 0 to 4 years of age.
- Comparative legislative studies on development and early childhood care in the hemisphere.
- Public awareness programs and training of local and national legislators from various realms, through an offer for a Master's or certification programs, designed according to the needs of the legislators.

- Public awareness programs and training for fathers, mothers, and educational agents who respect the right to play and the creation of public spaces for this objective.
- Information systems with guidelines, criteria and quality standards and defined evaluation mechanisms to monitor and follow-up compliance with the children's rights and the quality of programs and services for early childhood care.
- An inter-sectoral curriculum elaborated, specifically to holistically care for the child or the modification of some programs by specialty within the field of social careers (medicine, social work, education, etc.).
- Studies that include the revision and enrichment of legislation that addresses issues on protection, maltreatment, revictimization, abuse, childhood violence, and bullying against boys and girls in early childhood, especially from 0 to 3 years. Information systems with revised indicators for mistreatment, violence, child labor, abuse, and prevention of organized gang formation.
- Advocacy and protection laws that promote and prioritize early childhood, in particular those to benefit children from 0 to 3 years.
- Laws to promote responsible parenthood and the fulfillment of maternity leave and mothers' right to work.

ACTION PLAN TO IMPLEMENT THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK, IT WAS RECOMMENDED, AS STRATEGIES:

- Agree, at an international level, supported by the Hemispheric Network and the Parliamentary Front, what the Legal Framework entails, define the stakeholders, the responsibilities and the process to follow in each country.
- Bring up for consultation to the national, state, and local congresses (particularly in the case of Mexico) all that was agreed in the current meeting, convened in Brazil (April 16-18, 2013). Bring up for popular consultation all progress made in early childhood. Carry out to referendum, advances in early childhood issues.
- Organize work groups and commissions of legislators within their respective countries and congresses in order to carry out the agreements from this meeting.
- Create an Advisory National Council and Early Childhood Rector or an Early Childhood Secretariat that integrates public and private institutions, civil society, and authorities from the Ministries of Economy and/or Housing, in order to facilitate the integration of policies and programs in response to the distinct dimensions of the child. This Council will define the rectory of national policy for early childhood and facilitate its implementation. The Advisory Council will have its departmental, state, or provincial councils, as well as municipal councils.
- Create networks to establish mechanisms that facilitate inter-sectoral and territorial articulation and stated policy between the different government levels (national, state, and local).
- Convene organisms and international institutions that support: all organism of the United Nations, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Organization of American States, and others.
- Outline a road map to reach the legal framework, starting with the diagnosis of the early childhood situation in each country. Define coherent budgets with proposed actions, starting from the diagnosis (in each sector of the national government through the local government) and according to dimensions of child development.
- Consider the creation of a follow-up and monitoring system and evaluation of policies to make known progress made by the countries.
- Search for alternatives to exchange curricula from teachers and professionals from social careers, which is adequate to the demands of early childhood.

- Search for alternatives to change curricula of teachers and professionals of social careers that are appropriate to the demands of early childhood.

Prepared by Dr. Gaby Fujimoto

Technical Secretariat for International Affairs

Hemispheric Network of Legislators and Former Legislators for Early Childhood

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NOTE: This report is open for changes by the participants. Send contributions to: proyectos@innovacd.com and gfujimoto46@gmail.com