



INTER AMERICAN CHILDREN'S INSTITUTE ACTIVITIES REPORT NOVEMBER 2014 – OCTOBER 2015

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IIN-OAS ACTIVITIES

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Introduction

1. Introduction

The Director-General of the Inter-American Children's Institute, an OAS Specialized Organization (IIN-OAS), is pleased to submit his Annual Report on the Institute's activities to the 90th Regular Meeting of the Directing Council, as required by current regulations. On this occasion, the report includes activities that took place from 1 December 2014 to 15 October 2015. Also included is a mention of the activities anticipated for the last quarter of the year.

The IIN's work during this reporting period is marked by three fundamental highlights:

1. The celebration of 21st Pan American Child Congress, held in the city of Brasilia in December 2014, together with the 2nd Pan American Child Forum and the 89th Meeting of the Directing Council.
2. The process involving the election of the new Director-General and his subsequent installation, which took place on 19 April.
3. The process of drafting Action Plan 2015-2019, which attempts to reflect the surveys conducted among the States, organized youth and other OAS bodies.

This report outlines the activities carried out during the period on the basis of an organization which must be viewed as characteristic of a period of transition between the current Action Plan and the one being proposed; a transition which, in addition, takes place together with changes in the position of Director-General of the IIN. It is also a time of change for the OAS itself, with the start of the mandate of the present Secretary-General, Ambassador Luis Almagro.

The IIN's principal reference points for this period are the guidelines issuing from the resolutions and final documents of the 21st Congress and 2nd Forum, the need to reinforce the IIN's presence in the OAS, as well as its relationship with the United Nations system, and the development of feasibility conditions for a new action plan. This last item includes the strengthening of relations with strategic partners and efforts to choose lines of work and activities which are meaningful in terms of our institutional aims, while also being sustainable with the resources that are available.

1. The IIN's Bodies and its Relationship with OAS Departments

89th Regular Meeting of the Directing Council of the IIN

Held on 9 December in the city of Brasilia, thanks to the generous offer of the government of Brazil to act as host.

Twenty-six representatives of the delegations of OAS Member States which are part of the Directing Council of the IIN were present: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela.

The meeting was honoured by the presence of Ambassador Albert Ramdin, who was the Assistant Secretary General at that time. The meeting was chaired by Ms Zaira Navas, representative of El Salvador and President of the Directing Council of IIN-OAS, with the support of Mr Daniel Cento, representative of the United States of America and Vice-President of the Directing Council of the IIN-OAS. Also at the head table were Ms Angélica Goulart, representative of the Federative Republic of Brazil and Ms María de los Dolores Aguilar, who was then Director-General of the IIN-OAS.

The agreements reached at the 89th Meeting were:

- ➡ Elections of the authorities of the Directing Council of the IIN for the period 2014-2016. Ms Navas, the representative of El Salvador was elected President and Ms Elizabeth Lewis, representative of Saint Lucia was elected Vice-President.
- ➡ Elections to determine the three-candidate short list for the position of Director-General, as required by the regulations. The two candidates duly submitted and accepted were Ms Carmen Silveira de Oliveira (Brazil) and Mr Víctor Giorgi (Uruguay); the first received the support of 15 States and the second of 19. Pursuant to the Rules of Procedure, both candidates were submitted to the consideration of the Secretary-General for a resolution.

21st Pan American Child Congress

Held on 10, 11 and 12 December in the city of Brasilia, thanks to the generous offer of the government of Brazil to act as host.

Twenty-six delegations of OAS Member States which are part of the Directing Council of the IIN were present: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala,

Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela.

The key focus of the Twenty-First Congress was: Childhood: Building Peaceful Environments. In this respect, the thematic lines for discussion and reflection were:

- ➡ 25 Years after the Convention on the Rights of the Child
- ➡ Juvenile Justice
- ➡ The Sexual Exploitation of Children

The Civil Society Forum was also held as part of the twenty-First Congress and it led to recommendations which are being followed up in the draft of the Action Plan for 2015-2019.

Second Pan American Child Participation Forum

In compliance with the resolution arising from the 20th Pan American Congress held in September 2009 in the city of Lima, Peru, the Pan American Participation Forum is now part of the Pan American Congress. The aim of the Forum is to involve children in the process of reflecting on public policies for children, in keeping with the participation principle of the Inter-American Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Twenty-six delegations of children from OAS Member States which are part of the Directing Council of the IIN were present and participated in the 2nd Forum: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela.

The 2nd Pan American Participation Forum addressed the subjects of:

- ➡ Violence
- ➡ Juvenile Justice
- ➡ The Sexual Exploitation of Children

The Forum issued recommendations which were borne in mind in the drafting of Action Plan 2015-2019.

Reports were produced after these events, which were published and circulated in Spanish, English and Portuguese. They included the principal contributions arising from the conferences, experts' panels and round tables on experiences, as well as the final papers of the 21st Congress, the 2nd Forum and the Civil Society Forum. A digital version of these may be found at: <http://www.iin.oea.org/IIN2011/memoria-xxi/index.html>

Annual Report submitted to the Permanent Council of the OAS

In April, the President of the Inter-American Children's Institute, Ms Zaira Navas, together with the Director-General of the Institute, Mr Víctor Giorgi, submitted the Annual Report to the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States meeting in Washington, DC.

During their intervention before the Permanent Council, they presented the IIN-OAS's work with the Member States, the evolution of Action Plan 2011-2015 and the outcomes of the 21st Pan American Child Congress and the 2nd Pan American Child Forum.

The presence of these IIN-OAS authorities at the headquarters of the Organization provided an opportunity to hold working meetings with Amb Albert Ramdin, Assistant Secretary General, Ms Jane Thery, Director of the Department of International Affairs, Amb Francisco Lainez, Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the OAS, Amb Hugo Cayrus, Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the OAS, and others.

These interviews were of great use in order to assess the IIN's relationship with the OAS bodies operating at Headquarters and set the stage for repositioning.

45th General Assembly of the OAS

On the occasion of the 44th General Assembly of the Organization of American States, the Director-General had the opportunity to attend a meeting with Secretary-General Luis Almagro, during which progress was made in mapping out lines of inclusion for the IIN-OAS in the major projects to be undertaken by the Organization, particularly in areas related to human rights. Similarly, a working agenda was agreed with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, with a view to coordinating the actions of both organizations in the area of unaccompanied migrant children, child rights and the media, and children who lack parental care.

Also on the occasion of the General Assembly, the Director-General had a meeting with Dr Carmen Moreno, Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM). During the meeting, plans were initiated to include the gender approach and issues related to violence against girls and making men responsible for raising and caring for children, in coordinated actions involving the CIM and the IIN.

With the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), it was possible to agree on lines of action involving the IIN-OAS in drug abuse prevention among the teenage population, highlighting the rights-based perspective as a reference point in policies on this issue and bringing to the fore the need to reduce demand by working with groups of potential consumers.

A further meeting opportunity was with the Head of the Art Museum of the Americas, Mr Andrés Navia. Agreements reached included the IIN-OAS's participation as sponsor and joint organizer of a drawings and posters exhibition, the *Missing Children Poster Contest*, which was carried out together with the Department of Justice of the United States. These posters were produced by fifth-grade children as part of a campaign to raise awareness of and prevent this crime against children. The Director-General of the IIN took part (online) at the opening of the exhibition.

2. Actions on the subject of Early Childhood

Further to the line of work on Early Childhood, the following actions were carried out:

Support for the technical team of the nursery schools run by the municipality of Córdoba, Argentina. This task focuses on transferring to the technical team the necessary tools for the promotion of participation at the nursery schools and linkage with families and communities.

Technical assistance for Paraguay's Early Childhood Plan. In support of the National Early Childhood Commission (CONPI) and the National Plan, the IIN participated in the evaluation of the first year's work. Strengths and weaknesses were identified and a roadmap was agreed in order to consolidate this cross-sectoral area.

3. Actions on the subject of Violence against Children

Pursuant to points 2 and 10 of the Unified Resolution on the Twenty-First Pan American Child Congress, with regard to adjusting domestic regulations to international standards, with a view to, among other things, seeking the elimination of violence against children, including corporal punishment in all settings, the Office of the Director-General reviewed the legislation of several States in the region in order to determine which bodies of law best comply with this requirement, and to propose a model text that could help the States in the amendments they perform in keeping with the resolution that they themselves adopted at the Twenty-First Pan American Congress.

A project was created, "Growing Free from Violence", which includes the eradication of violence in everyday settings from the beginning of life. This made it possible to initiate coordination efforts with various strategic partners.

In this respect, the IIN-OAS took part in a meeting of the Hemispheric Network of Legislators and Former Legislators for Early Childhood, and attended work meetings with the Network's authorities. An agreement of cooperation was signed which enables the IIN to work with groups of legislators who are willing to promote the creation of regulatory instruments for the eradication of corporal punishment.

Likewise, the IIN-OAS attended the Seventh Regional Consultation of Child Helplines in the Americas and the Caribbean, particularly the workshop on measuring the impact of the work with the helplines for children performed from 22 to 24 September in the city of Managua, Nicaragua. Also participating were Alejandro López Sole, regional representative for America and the Caribbean (Blue Line, Uruguay) and Cecilia Calvo Castañeda, Head of the Promotion Department (Fonoinfancia, Chile). Daniel Claverie, IIN-OAS specialist in child rights and public policies participated as presenter and joint coordinator of the workshop.

The consultation was organized by the Ministry of Families, Adolescence and Childhood (MIFAN) of Nicaragua and Child Helpline International, with the support of Plan International Inc. and World Vision.

The purpose of this activity was to provide an opportunity for discussion and analysis of helplines for children in the region, with a view to increasing the network of helplines engaged in child protection.

On this occasion, the roadmap agreed some time ago by the IIN and Child Helpline International was revisited and the mutual commitments undertaken in it were updated for the IIN's new Action Plan.

4. Actions related to the Inter-American Cooperation Programme for the Prevention and Eradication of Sexual Exploitation, and Smuggling of and Trafficking in Children

The Inter-American Programme is organized in three working areas, in the context of which the following activities have been performed:

- 1) Compilation and systematization of meaningful and updated SEC-related information, with particular emphasis on material produced in the region, and placing it at the disposal of states, organizations and other interested parties.

Maintenance tasks continued on the Programme's website, www.annaobserva.org, in all of its sections (Observatory, Training, Publications and Events and Activities).

In order to make it increasingly dynamic (and to carry out the remaining activities) joint work is performed with a network of technical liaison officers, which currently includes 20 active States.

In addition, there is a database of close to 300 contacts, connected on the basis of the activities they develop, with whom the outputs of the Programme are shared.

- 2) Production of knowledge and tools to boost the States' capacity to address the sexual exploitation of children.

Work continued on the production and dissemination of quarterly Issues Notes, with the following content:

- *Issues Note Nº 3/14 - An overview of national plans against the sexual exploitation of children, on the basis of the comments made by the Committee on the Rights of the Child.* Provides an analysis of national plans against CSEC on the basis of the comments of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the IIN's experience, in relation to three focal

points: 1) Interinstitutional coordination and linkages in the overall child protection system; 2) Regular means of assessment for plans and programmes and data gathering; 3) Training and awareness-raising.

- *Issues Note Nº 4/14 - An overview of national plans against the sexual exploitation of children, on the basis of the information provided by member States of the Inter-American System.* Gathers the principal conclusions and recommendations arising from the Fourteenth Annual Report to the Secretary General of the OAS on National Action Plans to address SEC.
- *Issues Note Nº 1/15 - 21st Pan American Child Congress. Second Pan American Child Forum. Subject addressed: the sexual exploitation of children in the Americas.* A compilation of the work and agreements reached in relation to SEC during the 21st Pan American Congress and 2nd Pan American Child Forum (Brazil, December 2014).
- *Issues Note Nº 2/15 - Monitoring and Evaluation of Public Policies.* An approach to addressing CSEC, based on the National Action Plans of the States in the region. A first approach to basic concepts of monitoring and evaluation, while showing how these are reflected in national action plans to address CSEC in the States in the region.

The 14th Report to the Secretary General of the OAS on the actions undertaken by member States to combat the commercial sexual exploitation of children in the Americas (2014) was produced and disseminated under the title of: *National Action Plans against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children implemented by the States in the Region*. The purpose of the study was to analyse public policies to combat the commercial sexual exploitation of children in the region through national action plans. The ultimate aim was to derive lessons from experience and arrive at recommendations to enable the States to strengthen their capacity to promote and protect the rights of children from the different forms of sexual exploitation and its related events (trafficking, the sale of children, gender violence).

Some of the conclusions reached in the report were: the absence of monitoring and evaluation, both in the plans themselves (with some exceptions) and in the specific actions carried out within their framework. With this in mind, and in the understanding that evaluation is essential, both to discover the effects of the actions implemented and to derive lessons which will make it possible to improve the planning of new actions and handle limited resources appropriately, we decided to focus the Programme's knowledge production area over the course of 2015 on these issues.

3) Training human resources and providing specialized technical assistance to States Party.

With regard to training, the 2015 edition of the blended course on The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children was delivered, with the attendance of seven States: Chile, Ecuador, El

Salvador, Guatemala, Panama, Peru and Uruguay, and a total of just under 200 persons registered. The online stage of the course was delivered by the IIN simultaneously to all of the participants between July and September. From September to November, each State is holding its face-to-face stage according to a working plan submitted to and approved by the IIN.

With regard to technical assistance provided to the States, we should note the revival of the IIN's participation in the fortnightly meetings of the National Committee on the Eradication of Commercial and Non-Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CONAPES) of Uruguay, acting as advisor, as established in the decree that gave rise to the Committee.

In addition, the IIN was called upon by the Ministry of Justice of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to take part in the International Seminar: *"Developments and challenges in the fight against trafficking in and smuggling of persons; an overview from the perspective of the best interest of children and criminal prosecution"*, organized by this ministry in its capacity as Chair and Technical Secretary of the Plurinational Council against Trafficking in and Smuggling of Persons (La Paz, September 2015).

On this occasion, in addition to participating as speakers at the seminar, we attended a meeting with a number of authorities and technical experts from the Ministry of Justice: Mr Raúl Escalante, Director-General for Children and Senior Adults, Ms Ana Bazán, Head of Mainstreaming Child Rights (Under Secretary for Equal Opportunities) and Ms Ximena Fajardo, Head of the Trafficking in and Smuggling of Persons Area (Under Secretary for Justice and Fundamental Rights). Different areas for possible joint work were discussed during the meeting, mainly with regard to early childhood and sexual exploitation.

The IIN also participated in the *2nd International Meeting on the Prevention of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism and the 8th Meeting of the Regional Action Group for the Americas* (Bogotá, October 2015). In addition to taking part as speakers at the event, coordination with GARA is being attempted with the aim of planning joint actions, particularly in relation to specific training for tourist sector operators.

Finally, we should note the coordination maintained with ECPAT International in order to carry out joint activities over the course of 2016, for the commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the "Stockholm Declaration", which was issued at the First World Congress against Sexual Exploitation.

5. Actions on the subject of Juvenile Justice

In this line a continuation of the training of human resources through the 2015 edition of the online course, attended by 32 persons from 7 States: Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, Paraguay and Peru.

On the other hand, the Ministry of Social Development of Uruguay invited the IIN-OAS to join the Inter-Governmental Advisory Commission on the Juvenile Justice System. The purpose of the

Commission is to achieve the agreement of a greater number of public and private institutions and synchronize cross-cutting policies in support of the rehabilitation programmes of the Juvenile Justice System (SIRPA). The Commission is formed by: the Ministry of Education and Culture, the Central Board of the Public Education Administration, the Ministry of Public Health, the State's Health Services Administration, the Ministry of the Interior, the Children's Institute of

Uruguay, the National Sports Secretariat, the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, UNICEF, UN - Office of the Resident Coordinator, a representative of ANONG and the Inter-American Children's Institute.

The workshop on "An approach to building and strengthening community support networks at the service of the juvenile justice system", was developed, organized by the Social Welfare Secretariat (SBS) of the Presidency of Guatemala.

Since 2013, the Institute has been working with the SBS (Guatemala) on the issue of juvenile criminal liability and particularly on the promotion of non-custodial measures.

6. Actions on the subject of the Right to Participation

An online course on participation was held, with 29 students from 8 States: Argentina, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay.

Online meetings were held to coordinate follow-up actions for the Pan American Participation Forum. Among them, the consultation on drafting Action Plan 2015-2019.

Participation at the Children's Meeting in Asunción, Paraguay, during the President's accountability proceedings. At this event, the IIN-OAS was able to provide support to the reflections of the children of Paraguay on 2014-2015 management issues, as part of the agreement with the Presidency of Paraguay and with children's organizations. The event had the presence of the President Horacio Cartes, the Minister of childhood and adolescence Dr. Carlos Zárate, the Vice Minister Dr. Ricardo González Borgne, among other members of the government cabinet.

A Memorandum on Technical Assistance was also signed, in order to provide training in the promotion of child participation in Paraguay, an activity to be carried out in 2016. It should be noted that a campaign for the promotion and protection of rights will be conducted with the support of IIN-OAS material, particularly the videos on rights. These video films will be translated into Guaraní and sign language on base with an agreement between the IIN, the National Childhood and Adolescence Secretariat and the Organization of Ibero American States (OEI) providing to the inclusive policy that the State of Paraguay has been developing.

7. Institutional Strengthening Actions and Relations with Strategic Partners

A. Institutional Communications Strategy

We are convinced that because the IIN is the body which specializes in children within the Inter-American System, it must buttress its communications with the promotion of the enjoyment of child rights, shedding light on technical and political contributions in relation to the current historical and regional context since the beginning of the new administration a re-design of the communicational strategy has been worked.

In this respect, the new communications strategy will:

- Strengthen the dissemination of conceptual material produced by the IIN, by the States in the region, and by organizations of recognized trajectory in the defence of childhood through our websites and the social networks.
- Strengthen the dissemination of significant experiences and practices that are implemented by member States, strategic partners and civil society organizations.
- Shed light on every regional action, particularly those that lead to agreements and consensus regarding a variety of subjects related with the Mission of the IIN.
- Disseminate detailed accounts of every specialized event occurring in the States in the region, be they promoted by the States or by non-governmental organizations, particularly if the voices of children are included.

WEBSITES

The following aspects are being addressed during this period:

- The IIN's website is being redesigned in order to update its appearance.
- Greater visibility for the States will be provided on the website.
- A virtual area will be created on the site, called: Culture and Rights. It will provide an area in which to share artistic and cultural content from the States, our strategic partners and civil society organizations.
- A prominent virtual area will be devoted to our strategic partners: the World Movement for Children and the Hemispheric Network of Legislators and Former Legislators.
- The Twitter widget is to be inserted on the website.
- The News window will be relocated, giving it a more prominent position.
- The various areas of the website will be monitored by means of Google Analytics.
- The contents of the specialized sites undergo constant updates (Anna Observa, the Legal Database - BADAJ, International Child Abduction - SINNA/ICA).

How the IIN's website users and visitors behave

Variable	August 2011 / May 2015	June to September 2015	TOTAL
Session: The period during which a user interacts with the website, application.	31,178	6,976 + 18.28%	38,154
Users	24,914	5,804 +18.97%	30,581
No. of pages viewed: Total number of pages visited, including repeats.	51,747	9,184 +15.07	60,931
Average length of session	00:01:51	00:01:12 -	00:01:43
% New sessions	79.91%	81.24% +1.33%	80.15
Bounce Rate: Percentage of visits to a single page; that is, visits where users arrive at the home page and leave without interacting with it.	68.60	79.39 -	70.57

*Creation of website 2011

SPECIALIZED SITES

Ongoing updates of content on the different specialized sites, as well as the necessary adjustments to make browsing easier.

Specialized content is made dynamic through the use of the social networks, by providing links to pages, within the modular thematic organization generated in order to organize content and how it reaches our followers/subscribers/fans.

Our specialized sites are:

- ➡ Anna Observa ➡
- BADAJ
- ➡ ICA (SINNA in Spanish)
- ➡ Our Voice in Colours
- ➡ Twenty-First Pan American Congress

SOCIAL NETWORKS

According to the new communication strategy:

- ➡ The criterion will be followed of organizing our presence on a daily basis and on fortnightly thematic modules.
- ➡ Two daily publications on the institution will be shared (publications, projects, courses, visits, meetings, missions), as well as various news items on the OAS and our strategic partners.
- ➡ Our network of contacts has been expanded to include institutions and private individuals.

- ➡ We have linked our social network accounts and our websites in order to increase traffic and scope.
- ➡ We have designed institutional templates in order to project our presence on the social networks with a new image.
- ➡ Daily monitoring is performed and all the comments and questions we receive are answered.
- ➡ The IIN's category on Facebook has been modified from "Person" to "Organization".

FACEBOOK	2011 to May 2015	June to September 2015	New
<i>Likes</i>	2826	3014	+278
<i>Fans</i>	2912	3074	+162
Total Range: Number of people who saw the publications	452	1605	+1153

TWITTER	2012 to May 2015	June to September 2015	TOTAL
<i>Tweets</i>	900	+118	1018
<i>Followers</i>	886	+95	981

YOUTUBE

- ➡ We have uploaded six videos in Portuguese and nine with sub-titles in English.
- ➡ We have increased our list of subscribers and subscriptions.
- ➡ Videos have been shared on Facebook and Twitter.

YOUTUBE	2012 to May 2015	June to September 2015	New
<i>Followers</i>	17	30	13
<i>Views</i>	1300	2190	890

B. Strengthening our Relationship with the Committee on the Rights of the Child

One of the proposed targets during the second semester of 2015 was to get closer to the Committee of the Rights of the Child as a United Nations System referent. In this frame, the Institute has developed a project to provide the States with support and guidance in fulfilling Article 44 of the Convention ("Regular Reports") and to take better advantage of the reporting

process and of the comments made by the Committee, as an opportunity to initiate countrywide dialogue and give feedback to the public policies that are being developed for children's issues. The said project was shared with the Committee of the Rights of the Child "CRC" and endorsed by it.

In relation to this proposal and as a first step, an analysis and systematization of the recommendations of the Committee after the last reports submitted by several of the States in the region was performed, on three subjects: violence, juvenile criminal liability and sexual exploitation. This allowed ordaining the observations by its frequency and taking them into account for the concretion of the processes of Technical Assistance to those states that ask for it.

In addition, contacts were established with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) – which, pursuant to the mandate of the General Assembly (resolution 68/28 of April 2014), is to promote a programme for the strengthening of treaty-bodies, among them the CRC – in order to find partnerships that will enable this project to develop.

In the frame of this relation we made a work meeting in the IIN's offices with presence of the commissioned members of the Committee Sara Oviedo, Vice President of the Committee of the Rights of the Child (Ecuador) and Jorge Cardona Llorens (Spain). From this talks we agreed actions that will be performed jointly soon:

- ➡ Involving the IIN-OAS in reviewing the General Comments. In relation to this, the IIN-OAS received the draft of the General Comment Nº 19 on Public Spending, in order to make contributions and comments on it.
On this agreement in particular, we can report that the IIN-OAS has sent to the Committee on the Rights of the Child a paper drafted by the Institute's working team, in which recommendations are made on General Comment Nº 19 on Public Spending. These were welcomed by the Committee.
- ➡ The Director-General will be invited to attend the Committee's debates.
- ➡ Inclusion in the recommendations to the States of requests for the IIN-OAS's technical assistance on relevant issues.

C. Office of the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Violence against Children

With the invitation of the Special Representative, on behalf of the Director-General of the IIN, Ms Anne Marie Blackman attended the High Level Cross-Regional Meeting on the Protection of Children from Sexual Violence held in Strasbourg in June of this year.

During this event it was possible to strengthen the IIN-OAS's contacts and join efforts in action against trafficking in children with the purpose of sexual exploitation and against the sexual exploitation of children, with international organizations such as CARICOM, the European Union,

the African Union, and civil society organizations involved in issues related to violence against children.

D. Strengthening the Directing Council

Certain actions were carried out with the purpose of strengthening the Directing Council and increasing the participation of the States in the IIN's activities:

Updating the list of representatives of each State and formalizing accreditations, in accordance with regulations.

Requesting all the States to appoint a technical reference point in addition to their principal and alternate representatives, in order to address any relevant discussions.

The IIN, represented by its principal specialist, Ms Anne-Marie Blackman, carried out a mission to the Caribbean, with opportunities for several fruitful work meetings.

From 9 to 25 September 2015, the visit was to Barbados, where the UNICEF Office for the Eastern Caribbean is located, which made it possible to coordinate and exchange information.

The IIN was also received by authorities and agencies involved in child-related issues, such as the Hon Steven Blackett, Minister of Social Care, Constituency Empowerment and Community Development, senior officials and the Director of the Child Care Board, Ms Joan Crawford, principal delegate of Barbados to the Directing Council of the IIN-OAS. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs was also informed of the IIN's work and of significant forthcoming events.

Thanks to the invitation of the Vice-President of the IIN-OAS, Ms Elizabeth Lewis, during this mission to the Caribbean, the IIN attended the proceedings of the workshop organized by CARICOM for the development of a regional strategy for the prevention of violence against children, sponsored by the government of Saint Lucia from 22 to 24 September 2015. Information was shared during the workshop on national programmes for the prevention of violence, which will be used to build a regional strategy, the final paper on which will be available in 2016.

These actions are in line with the commitment undertaken by the Director-General with regard to strengthening the IIN's links within the Caribbean.

In addition, the IIN-OAS worked on a proposal to amend Article 6 of the Statutes, in order to reinforce the position of the representatives and increase their presence between meetings. This proposal will be discussed at the 90th Regular Meeting of the Directing Council.

In this context, bilateral meetings have been held with childhood authorities from different States in order to promote increased participation at the IIN's events. Some of these were from Bolivia, Nicaragua, Barbados, Panama, Colombia and others.

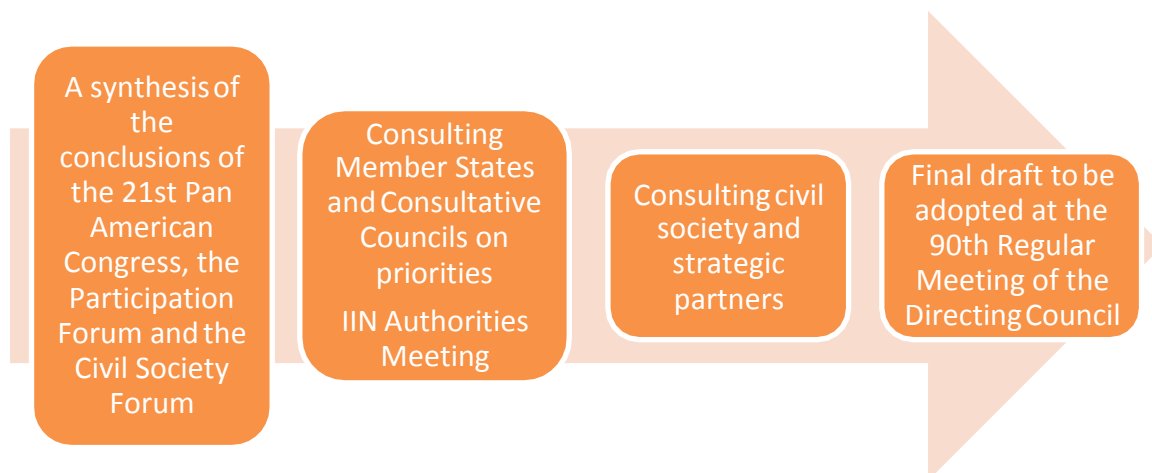
Drafting Action Plan 2015-2019

In accordance with the mandate of the Secretary-General of the OAS, Dr José Miguel Insulza, based on the nominations submitted by the Directing Council of the IIN-OAS during the 89th Regular Meeting held in Brasilia, Brazil, on 17 April, Mr Víctor Giorgi became the Director-General of the Inter-American Children's Institute for the period 2015-2019.

Soon after, work began on the drafting of Action Plan 2015-2019, with the active participation of the members of the Directing Council, thus providing the General Directorate with a work plan based on the priorities established by the States in the survey and on the four pillars of the Organization of American States

In the awareness that the right to participation is a principle of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and, therefore, a gateway to the enjoyment of all rights, work was done with children's Consultative Councils in order to include their voices in the IIN-OAS's Action Plan 2015-2019; an effort that enables us to improve our promotion of the well-being of children in the Americas and the Caribbean. In addition, Action Plan 2015-2019 received contributions from Organized Civil Society, in keeping with the recommendations of the Civil Society Forum during the 21st Pan American Congress.

The process of building the draft to be adopted at the 90th Regular Meeting of the Directing Council was as follows:



The process began with a work meeting attended by the President of the IIN, Ms Zaira Navas, the Vice-President, Ms Elizabeth Lewis and the Director-General, Mr Víctor Giorgi. The meeting took place in San Salvador, El Salvador and led to agreements on a roadmap to follow while drafting the plan, as well as on the methodological criteria to be used for its structure and for subsequent discussions with the Directing Council.

E. Participation at Events Organized by Member States

Argentina:

- ➡ At the invitation of the National Childhood Secretariat (SENNIAF) of the Republic of Argentina, the Director-General attended the National Meeting on “Ten Years after the Comprehensive Protection of Child Rights Act”. On this occasion, he took part on the panel on “The Regional and International Human Rights System”.
Buenos Aires, September 2015.

Colombia:

- ➡ At the invitation of the Government of Colombia, the IIN participated in the *2nd International Meeting on the Prevention of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism and the 8th Meeting of the Regional Action Group for the Americas* (Bogotá, October 2015). In addition to taking part as speakers at the event, coordination meetings were held with GARA, with the aim of planning joint actions, particularly in relation to specific training for tourist sector operators on the subject of SEC.

On the opportunity of the Mission to Colombia, a work meeting was held with the Director of the ICBF Ms. Cristina Plazas Michelsen, Mr. Ember Estefan Director of childhood protection and Ms. Diana Saens Deputy Technical Director. This meeting allowed the advance of the programming of action in the frame of the new Action Plan.

Bolivia:

- ➡ In addition, the IIN was called upon by the Ministry of Justice of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to take part in the International Seminar: *“Developments and challenges in the fight against trafficking in and smuggling of persons; an overview from the perspective of the best interest of children and criminal prosecution”*, organized by this ministry in its capacity as Chair and Technical Secretary of the Plurinational Council against Trafficking in and Smuggling of Persons (La Paz, September 2015).

Chile

- ➡ The Director General of the IIN was invited to the International Conference in commemoration of the 25 years of Cooperación Opción. This event allowed carrying out different work meetings with authorities from the State of Chile and share concerns regarding the recent report presented by Chile to the Committee of the Rights of the Child and the received observations.

October, 2015. The IIN is invited to attend the monthly meeting of the National Observatory on Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents. The invitation was sent by SENAME, and within the frame of the meeting, the face-to-face phase of the course on Sexual Exploitation 2015 will take place.

Ecuador:

- ➡ The IIN participated on September 28 and 29 of the workshop “Application of the Inter American Agreement and the Hague on International Children Abduction; Advances and Challenges” organized by the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion of Ecuador, in the frame of the “Inter American Program of Cooperation to Prevent and Repair International Children Abduction by one of its parents” and the technical assistance driven by the IIN on the subject.

On the occasion of the Mission to Ecuador, the IIN met with authorities of the Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Cult from Ecuador and the National Council for the Inter generational Equality to interchange on the advances of Ecuador in matter of juvenile criminal liability and the possibility to generate of horizontal cooperation with other states of the Region with the participation of the IIN.

Guatemala

- ➡ On 27, 28 and 29 of August the IIN participated of the workshop “Approximation to the construction and strengthening of community support to the service of the juvenile criminal liability system”, organized by the Social Wellness Secretariat (SBS) of the Presidency of Guatemala. From 2013 the institute is working with the SBS on the Subject Juvenile Criminal Liability and specially on the promotion of no deprivation of liberty measures.

Honduras

- ➡ The IIN participated on 26 and 27 October of the workshop organized by the National Direction of Childhood Adolescence and Family on "Application of the Inter American Agreement and the Hague on International Children Abduction; Advances and Challenges" organized in the frame of the "Inter American Program of Cooperation to Prevent and Repair International Children Abduction by one of its parents" and the and technical assistance driven by the INN on the subject.

Mexico:

- ➡ The IIN, through its Director-General, attended the International Congress on the Family, held in the city of Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico, on 17 and 18 November. He spoke on the subject of: "The rights and well-being of children in the family".

Nicaragua:

- ➡ In the frame of the priority of the eradication of violence as an action line the IIN participated of the Seventh Regional Consultation of Child Helplines in the Americas and the Caribbean, particularly the workshop on measuring the impact of the work with the helplines for children.

Paraguay:

- ➡ At the invitation of Paraguay's Childhood Secretariat, the IIN took part in the Children's Meeting in Asunción, Paraguay, on the occasion of the Accountability event. The Director-General participated in the work with children and at the event when President Horacio Cartes received the adolescents' comments and suggestions.

F. Relations with Civil Society

Global Movement for Children

The Director-General attended the meeting of directors of the Global Movement for Children held in Panama on 8 and 9 July.

This made it possible to:

- ➡ Review the GMC-LACC's and the IIN-OAS's common working areas.
- ➡ Present the development of the Institute's Action Plan 2015-2019.
- ➡ Incorporate in the IIN-OAS's working environment the recommendations of the Civil Society Forum during the 21st Pan American Congress, in particular those related to

violence, non-violent forms, and the deinstitutionalization of children lacking parental care.

The GMC-LACC is formed by: The ANDI Network, REDLAMYC, Defence for Children International, IIN-OAS, SOS Children's Villages, the YMCA, Plan International, Save the Children, UNICEF, World Vision, the Platform for Investment in children in Latin American and the Caribbean.

Hemispheric Network of Legislators and Former Legislators for Early Childhood

The IIN took part in a meeting of the Hemispheric Network of Legislators and Former Legislators for Early Childhood held in Brasilia, in Brazil.

Progress was made on that occasion on laying the foundations for an agreement to join efforts in a line which is a priority for the IIN. This agreement includes:

- The development of legislative initiatives for the comprehensive care of early childhood, with priority on the prohibition of corporal punishment and all forms of violence.
- Development, implementation and dissemination of projects involving
 - Joint research.
 - The exchange and dissemination among institutions of specialized bibliographic material on the comprehensive care of children in early childhood and other papers and information of specific interest to both parties.
 - Joint organization and celebration of meetings and events to promote training, specialization, professional development, experience sharing and cross-sectoral cooperation, by means of courses and other educational activities in areas of interest to both parties. Among them, an annual international meeting on early and preschool education, in association with CENDI/SE/NLs (child development centres), which have the necessary infrastructure and experience.
 - The development and implementation of internships to foster educational, legal and academic exchanges and professional mobility. Joint activities together with the CENDI/SE/NLs in areas involving research, educational practice, educational models, quality, etc.

International Seminar on the 25th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Opción Corporation

In celebration of the 25th anniversary of the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by Chile and the 25th anniversary of the foundation of the Opción Corporation, an International Seminar was held, which was attended by the Director-General of the IIN, who spoke on the Panel on Human Rights and the Social Protection System. 13 and 14 October, Santiago, Chile.

Latin American Children Regional Forum

The Latin American Children Regional Forum organized by the South Network Coalition, ended after a productive work of three days in Uruguay. Children and adolescents who participated in this activity came from different States of the region to share their experiences and generate proposals that promote the defense of their rights.

Adolescents continued exchanging ideas and proposals about the enforcement and promotion of their rights, which resulted in the elaboration of a document that was delivered on Monday October 12 to Mr. Víctor Giorgi, Director of the Inter-American Children's Institute. This activity took place in the district of Casabó in Montevideo, where the work and activities carried out there by the Uruguayan delegation was shared.

Among the regional authorities that accompanied the participants during the Forum were: Mrs. Marisa Lindner, Director of the Institute of the child and adolescent of Uruguay (INAU); Ms. Ana Olivera, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Development (MIDES) and Psic. Víctor Giorgi, Director-General of the IINOEA.

G. Agreements Signed

Organization	Actions to be Performed
Committee on the Rights of the Child	Technical assistance to the States in the Inter-American System, to improve the production and presentation of national reports on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and implementation of its recommendations.
National Childhood and Family Secretariat of Paraguay	A Memorandum on Technical Assistance to provide training in the promotion of child participation in Paraguay.
Organization of Ibero-American States – OEI	Cooperation agreement for the training of human resources and translating into Guaraní and into sign language the videos produced by the IIN, as material to help in promoting children's rights.
Hemispheric Network of Legislators and Former Legislators for Early Childhood	<p>The development, implementation and dissemination of joint research projects.</p> <p>The exchange and dissemination among institutions of specialized bibliographic material on the comprehensive care of children in early childhood and other papers and information of specific interest to both parties.</p> <p>Joint organization and celebration of meetings and events to promote training, specialization, professional development, experience sharing and cross-sectoral cooperation, by means of courses and other educational activities in areas of interest to both parties. Among them, an annual international meeting on early and preschool education, in association with CENDI/SE/NLs (child development centres), which have the necessary infrastructure and experience.</p> <p>The development of legislative initiatives for the comprehensive care of early childhood, with priority on the prohibition of corporal punishment and all forms of violence.</p> <p>The development and implementation of internships to foster educational, legal and academic exchanges and professional mobility.</p> <p>Joint activities together with the CENDI/SE/NLs in areas involving research, educational practice, educational models, quality, etc.</p>

Organization	Actions to be Performed
Uruguayan Chamber of Books	Technical, cultural and/or recreational material developed as a result of the strategic action of the Uruguayan Chamber of Books and the IIN-OAS, in audiovisual and electronic format and of publishable quality.
GARA	Technical Assistance for the eradication of the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents in Trips and Tourism.
ECPAT - AMERIPOL	On tramit.

8. The IIN's Human Resources Training Programme

Every year, the IIN offers its online courses¹ with the objective of helping the States to develop their public policies and improve their capacity to design and implement them from the perspective of promoting, protecting and respecting child rights in the region. As from 2013, the IIN requests the States to send a list of their governing bodies' officials, technical experts and professional practitioners who can receive online training. Thus, the staff and officials of the governing bodies of a number of States in the region received training on various subjects:

- ➡ An Update on Rights, in Spanish and in English
- ➡ Early Childhood
- ➡ The Sexual Exploitation of Children
- ➡ The Right to Participation
- ➡ International Child Abduction
- ➡ Juvenile Justice Systems
- ➡ Disaster Risk Management

In 2015, 403 people from 19 Member States were trained: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Belize, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Panama, Peru, Saint Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay.

Contacts have been made with the Portal of the Americas, with the purpose of strengthening the IIN's training programme. Work is under way on an agreement which will enable the courses offered by the IIN to be publicized on this Portal.

As a new initiative, a pilot experience was carried out to transfer educational skills to the State of Peru.

This experience was coordinated with the Children's Board, which governs the National System for the Comprehensive Care of Children and Adolescents, in representation of the Ministry for Women and Vulnerable Populations (MIMP), and in coordination with its line managers.

The IIN's technical assistance included providing an online technical training platform containing the resources and information of the course on An Update on Child Rights, which is regularly delivered in the region. This content was reviewed and information was added regarding the situation of children in Peru and the government's range of programmes, with the collaboration of the Ministry's technical team. In addition, eight officials were trained, in order to enable them to take on the role of tutors in

¹ The course delivered as part of the Programme on The Prevention and Eradication of Sexual Exploitation, Smuggling of and Trafficking in Children is blended. It is organized in two phases: one is a distance stage (online) delivered from the IIN for all State participants simultaneously. The second, face-to-face stage is organized and delivered by each of the States willing to join the proposal, according to local features and priorities.

the course, which was delivered for the first time in September. The IIN provided follow up during this period and at the end of this implementation will share the accreditation of the course with the MIMP. After this, the Ministry will have the human resources and educational material needed to replicate the course.

There will be a similar experience in 2016 with Paraguay's SNNA, in this case to train facilitators in juvenile participation.

In view of existing demand in the Caribbean region on the subject of risk management in natural disasters, the relevant course is being adapted and translated into English, and will be delivered in 2016.

Coordination with the Portal of the Americas

At the initiative of the IIN's President and Vice-President, and further to the conversations initiated in Washington by the Director-General of the IIN-OAS, the Institute's Communications Area has established contact with the Portal of the Americas, with a view to sharing and determining outputs which can reinforce our action.

As a first step, we have sent the text of the IIN-OAS's Inter-American Training Programme "For a Culture of Rights", in the understanding that the Institute's courses for 2016 will be publicized on the Portal.

For the future, we shall make progress on a mutual exchange of courses and explore the possibility of combining some of the courses, subjects or modules, thus enhancing them and even providing joint certification.

In addition, the Institute is developing a new aesthetic design for the Programme and for each of the courses, in order to strengthen their identity and increase their dissemination, as we shall soon be sending them to the Portal.

9. Other Priority Issues:

Restitution of Rights / International child abduction

Within the framework of Component One of the Inter-American Programme of Cooperation to Prevent and Remedy Cases of International Abduction of Minors by One of Their Parents – AG/RES. 2028 (XXXIV-O/04) – the IIN has developed with the Central Authorities of Ecuador (Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion) and Honduras (Childhood and Family Directorate) an analysis of the application of the conventions in each country and a procedures and care handbook for both Central Authorities in cases of parental abduction. In addition, communications material was produced with each State, with the purpose of raising awareness on the issue and explaining the procedures to follow in the case of abduction or wrongful retention.

The IIN's website on the subject is updated on an ongoing basis.

A survey was conducted with a view to updating information on Central Authorities, as well as on the development of abduction proceedings in which the Central Authority has intervened, acting for the requested State.

An online training course was delivered on the subject, attended by 36 persons from 9 States: Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay.

Unaccompanied migrant children

Follow-up to Advisory Opinion OC-21/14 of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights on Rights and Guarantees of Children in the context of Migration and/or in need of International Protection.

A seminar was held in Montevideo on 16 and 17 September 2015, with the principal purpose of analysing the impact of the Inter-American Court's Advisory Opinion OC-21/14 one year after it was issued, on the area of rights, education, culture and health in relation to migrants and children.

The activity was organized by the Institute of Solidarity and Development (ISODE) and the Observatory for Public Policies on Human Rights of the MERCOSUR (IPPDHM), the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN-OAS) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay (MRE). The Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN-OAS) hosted the second day's meetings at its headquarters.

An initiative was launched which brings together different collective actors in order to follow up on the recommendations of OC-21/14, with the purpose of working jointly in favour of decent treatment in keeping with the full enforcement of the human rights of migrant children.

The seminar concluded with a declaration: “Declaration of Montevideo to follow up and support Advisory Opinion OC-21/14, for its effective implementation”.

The OC-21/14 as well as the Declaration of Montevideo constitute significant instruments for the protection of the rights of unaccompanied migrant children, since they focus on the full enjoyment of rights, that these rights should not be affected by their status as migrants, and on the resulting responsibilities of the States in protecting them.

Natural Disaster Risk Management

The relevant course on the subject is being delivered. The course began on 10 September and is scheduled to conclude on 5 November.

Attending are 28 students from 11 States in the region: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay and Peru.

We are working on translating and adapting the contents of the course for its delivery in English over the course of 2016.

10. Financial Progress Report

Funds for the Inter-American Children's Institute derive basically from two sources: **1) The Regular Fund** and **2) Specific Funds**.

For 2015, funds were as follows:

Allocated Funds – 2014	Amount in USD
Regular Fund – Obj. 1	791.400
Regular Fund – Obj. 2 to 9	282.400
Sub-Total Regular Fund	1.073.800
Sub-Total Specific Fund	5.000
Total Funds	1.078.800

Regular Fund

The 48th Special General Assembly approved a budget of U\$S **1.073.800** as the Regular Fund for 2015.

- ➔ The budget allocated to objects 2 to 9 is U\$S **282.400**
- ➔ Object 1 represents “Staff”, with a total of U\$S **791.400**

Budget USD	Allocated Obj. 1	Budget USD Allocated Obj. 2 to 9	Approved Budget – USD
791.400		282.400	1.073.800

Specific Funds

The following chart shows the distribution of the amounts covered by the Specific Fund.

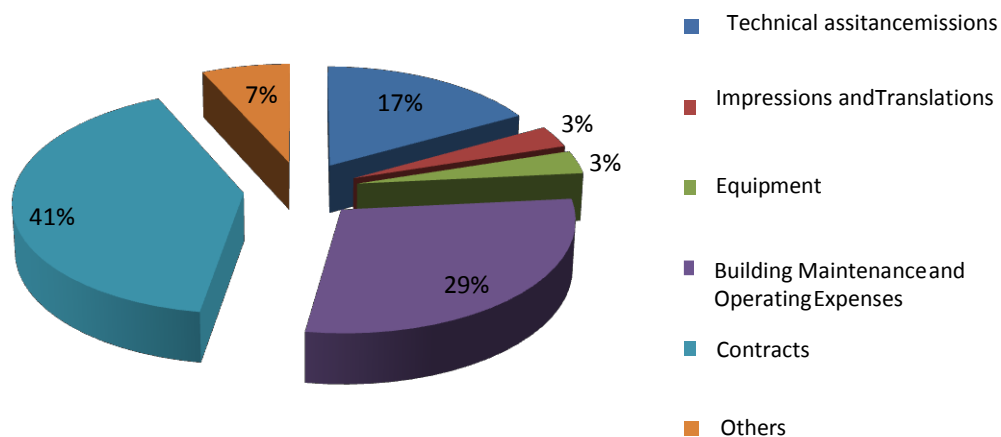
Fund	Period	Cooperating Agency	Thematic Area	Amount (USD)
Funds received in 2015		Argentina	International Child Abduction	U\$S 5.000
TOTAL				U\$S 5.000

The total amount of the Regular Fund and the Specific Fund allocated to the IIN in 2014 and used to administer objects 2 to 9, was **USD 282.4**, which was distributed as follows.

Category		Amount – USD
Technical missions	assistance	47.700
Impressions and Translations	and	9.000
Equipment		9.500
Building Maintenance and Operating Expenses		82.000
Contracts		115.000
Others		19.200
Total		282.400

The proportional distribution of the IIN's budget for objects 2 to 9, for both the Specific and the Regular Funds is as follows:

Distribution of Expenses byCategory



Source: IIN

Note: Objects 2/9- Period covering January to December (projected)2013

Technical assistance funds without the transfer of financial resources to IIN, USD 14.000 (approximate figure)

Activity	Estimated Amounts in USD
Invitation to attend the “High Level Cross-Regional Meeting on the Protection of Children from Sexual Violence”; United Nations Work meeting attended by the President, the Vice-President and the Director-General; El Salvador. Contribution to infrastructure and logistics	2600
Invitation to the 25th anniversary of the Opción Corporation; Chile	2300
Participation at the meeting of the Gara Group; Colombia	1600
Support for the IIN’s participation at the International Congress on the Family, held in the city of Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico, on 17 and 18 November.	900
Contribution to the International Seminar on OC-21/14	2600
	5000
Total	14,000

Capital Funds

The IIN’s Capital Funds (ASG-IAC/026), which have not been used during this period, amount to **USD 76,900.85**.

Final Considerations

As we mention in the introduction, the present report informs of one phase of the transition marked by the beginning of the management period of a new Direction General, the elaboration of an Action Plan for the period and the transformations that the OAS is processing.

In this frame the task was to continue the lines of action of the current Action Plan looking to harmonize with the new proposals expressed in the documents of the 21st Pan American Congress, the 2nd children and adolescents Forum, and the Forum with Civil Society. In parallel efforts were made to construct the Action Plan that will be submitted to the approval of the Directing Council and the positioning of the IIN within the OAS, before strategic partners and before the United Nations System as a way to provide multiple synergies that increase the capacity of the impact in the different lines of action in a limited recourse scenario.

Inter-American Children's Institute presence

