

REGIONAL STUDY ON VIOLENCE

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“Survey of regional progress and projections relating to the eradication of violence against children”

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BACKGROUND

To promote and guarantee the full enjoyment of the rights of children and adolescents are strategic lines that the international community has been currently committed to undertaking, based on the various human rights instruments emanating from the Inter-American System or the Universal System, covering different aspects, whether they are common to all persons or specifically applicable to children and adolescents, since the signing and progressive ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC¹). The Convention underscores the specialized and adapted human rights treatment for this evolutionary stage, and also determines the promotion of rights and comprehensive protection approach that must be adopted by the family, society and the State in all matters that affect children. These perspectives underscore children and adolescents' claim to citizenship as actors and holders of rights, from the perspective of the development of their capacities and connection with their settings, without losing sight of the special cases that require special protection, and of situations in general that violate or threaten rights.

New developments in the issue of the human rights of children and adolescents, and in particular the CRC, highlight the need to develop sustained information and awareness-raising strategies for the general public, in order to break away from the approach based on the notion of 'guardianship' or 'minority' that stigmatizes and coerces their real possibilities for development, and that is also a condition for the development of links with their peers and with adults, in different settings. Similarly, it is also important to generate knowledge and mechanisms for monitoring, prevention, reporting and providing timely care to the different forms of violation of the rights of children and adolescents, highlighting violence as a preponderant factor, which is historically and naturally assumed. The approach provided on the basis of the Convention offers this duality; on the one hand, to promote a paradigmatic change in viewpoints and relationships with children and adolescents, and on the other, to actively undertake the prevention, eradication and punishment of violence against them.

The scope of the Convention is also reflected in its coordination with other international human rights instruments and with global and regional development plans, thus establishing an international legal and regulatory body that endorses and strengthens national commitments to build equitable relations and protective links that promote the rights of children and adolescents. In this way, actions to harmonize regulations at the national level with the CRC are recognized and supported, as is the design of public policies that implement active development and comprehensive protection strategies.

From the point of view of public management, the perspective offered by the CRC promotes a specialized approach to quality and human rights, generating diversification that reveals the desire to promote comprehensive development. This is how public actions are being developed through programmes and projects that recognize children and adolescents as individuals in a special process

¹ The Convention on the Rights of the Child shall henceforth be referred to as 'The Convention' or as the 'CRC'.

of development, sensitive to their environments and able to exercise citizenship roles on the basis of active participation; which denotes the commitment and sustainability of their intent.

America is a vast and diverse continent, affirming the specific wealth and identity of each nation, but it also has traits that give rise to distance or gaps when it comes to human development. Cultural, linguistic and environmental diversity mainly generates a factor of uniqueness that is the basis for development, together with the recognition of the continent's republican history, the establishment of democracy and political commitments to respect individual and collective aspects. However, it is also a region with historic demands relating to access to justice, equity and institutional maturity. In these scenarios, the abuse of power and unequal relations increase and the violence that occurs in social, institutional and political ties is attested.

The naturalization of violence against children is a broad and multidimensional issue that is difficult to transform, often masked in everyday behaviours, under the discourse of 'love' and 'care', exercised mainly by adults in their main development settings. The latter has been aggravated by the global pandemic, where violence against children and adolescents in the privacy of their families or in parental care settings, and in virtual venues has been exacerbated, deepening isolation, the propensity to stress, and making poverty in general more severe.

The Inter-American System has been contributing to the follow-up, support and response to cases in States that are a part of it, in relation to the promotion and full protection of the rights of children. Specifically, monitoring and surveillance strategies are being generated for overcoming violence against children; committed and motivated also by Target 16.2 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: "End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children."

This report, based on the request made by the OAS General Assembly in its resolution AG/RES. 2961 (L-O/20) on the PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS,² seeks to give an account of a survey conducted among public representatives of the member States, representatives of civil society, experts on children and adolescents, and children and adolescents, through whom the study sought to recognize the elements that support the need, opportunity and relevance of having a specific inter-American instrument for the prevention, eradication and punishment of abuse and all forms of violence against children and adolescents, based on the recognition of the regional developments that the different States have engaged in; thus seeking a relevant justification for the validation and ratification of possible future commitments.

We shall begin with a brief introductory description of the problem of violence, describe normative and programmatic features developed by the member States that contribute to eradicating violence, and conclude with recommendations for the design of inter-American instruments that

² "To instruct the General Secretariat, in consultations with the member States and with the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN) and other OAS relevant bodies to conduct **a hemispheric analysis on prevention, eradication, and punishment of abuse and all forms of violence against children and adolescents with a view to, among other things, consider the necessity and importance of crafting a specific inter-American instrument on the subject using existing resources.** Said study will be referred to the General Assembly at its fifty-first regular session, through the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs." (emphasis added).

seek to strengthen initiatives and commitments. For information on the methodology used in the study, please refer to the Appendices.

I. A CHARACTERIZATION OF VIOLENCE:

1. Normative and conceptual definitions

It is almost universally understood that violence is any act, omission or negligent treatment that restricts or threatens the full exercise of rights and the development of children, including those carried out through virtual media (digital violence). Despite the fact that international human rights treaties in general, and those that specifically address children and adolescents, condemn all forms of violence, forms of physical and psychological abuse, corporal punishment, sexual and labour abuse, trafficking, unaccompanied or separated migration, cyberbullying, and others, still persist in practice. Consequently, the international community and especially the children themselves have been appropriating public platforms to make public calls against violence, and to advocate for mechanisms of comprehensive and specialized protection; even displaying organization and broad representativeness.

“We recommend that the executive, legislative and judicial branches safeguard the integrity of children and adolescents, guaranteeing their full development and equal opportunities, and eradicating all forms of violence against children and adolescents.”

“We urge all of the States of the Americas and the Caribbean to develop mechanisms to prohibit corporal punishment, and devise methodologies and strategies to guide healthy relationships between families and children.” (Recommendations 7 and 15)
Cartagena Declaration on Violence against Children and Adolescents of the Americas.
*Third Pan American Child Forum, Cartagena, Colombia, October 2019.*³

This quote reflects not only children’s capacity to intervene in discussions with their peers and with authorities, but their empathy with realities experienced by children and adolescents in different latitudes of the region and their knowledge of public structures and management. In the same Declaration of 2019, they mention the importance of strengthening national protection systems and the investment of resources in programmes to reduce abuse and eradicate all forms of violence, and that the actions emanating from the Organization of American States, the United Nations and the States, should focus on preventing violence and modifying the paradigms in society based on violence.

³ Available at: <http://sitiosiin.org/xxii-congreso/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Cartagena-Declaration-III-Pan-American-Child-Forum.pdf>

With a view to contemplating a basic conceptual definition, violence against children and adolescents can be recognized on the basis of the concept put forward by the World Health Organization⁴ and the comments made by the Committee on the Rights of the Child⁵ on this topic: “Any behaviour (action or omission), be it physical, verbal, psychological or an exercise of power, committed against oneself, or by another person or group, which threatens or results in any form of injury, or physical, mental/emotional or patrimonial abuse, deprivation or any form of exploitation” (IIN-OAS, 2019).⁶

To speak of different forms of violence is to speak of human rights and a multidimensional and complex phenomenon closely linked to individual and family-related factors, but also to environmental or situational factors related to settings and social aspects. Cultural, psychological, biological, economic and social dimensions are manifested in the different forms or types of violence; and all of its forms – even with their differences – have elements in common that need to change: a disregard of others in their dignity as a person, the discretionary exercise of power (which implies the existence, real or symbolic, of inequality) and the denial of the capacities of dialogue, understanding and discernment between human beings, whatever their condition regarding age, gender, ethnicity or any other difference (IIN-OAS, 2019). This is also how it is expressed by the WHO, as it notes that violence is a complex issue, that it has no single cause or solution, and requires mutually reinforcing measures, strategies and interventions (OMS; 2019).

At the same time, differentiating between areas and expressions of violence should not cause us to think that they function autonomously and are unrelated to each other. There is evidence of the existence of the so-called “spiral of violence”, according to which violence expressed in the private, institutional or public sphere is fed back and consolidates within the different areas and protagonists the idea that it is an efficient and legitimate form of conflict resolution.

Children who experience violence in the family setting are likely to be involved in episodes of violence in other settings, either as victims or as perpetrators. “Equally, qualitative studies on youth violence have consistently demonstrated the presence of domestic violence precedents among young people who participate in gangs” (UNDP 2013-14). UNICEF (2018) has studied the effects of so-called violent discipline on children in early education, verifying that those who were subjected to violent discipline in their family settings were prone to be violent with their peers.

Finally, we should also mention that violence has different effects (both in form and incidence) depending on different factors, such as age, ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic or cultural factors; generating a greater risk of exclusion and vulnerability.

⁴ WHO, 2002 “The intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment or deprivation.”

⁵ General Comment N°13: “all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse,”

⁶ <http://sitiosiin.org/xxii-congreso/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Focal-Point-1-Position-Paper.pdf>

Some data shed light on this issue:

“Violence has increased considerably in our region, presenting itself in its different forms (...) which have emerged making the lives of many children vulnerable, varying according to the socio-economic context in which we find ourselves” (Network of Child and Youth Correspondents, 2019).

Approximately 3 out of 4 children aged 2 to 4 are routinely subjected to some form of violent discipline by their caregivers (300 million), of whom about 6 out of 10 are subjected to physical punishment (UNICEF, 2017).⁷

In Latin America, corporal punishment reaches 40 per cent, severe punishment reaches 4 per cent, while psychological aggression reaches 53 per cent and every 7 minutes a teenager dies from an act of violence; about 15 million adolescent women from the age of 15 have been victims of forced sexual intercourse at some point in their lives; just over 1 in 3 adolescents between the ages of 13 and 15 experiences bullying; and 732 million children and adolescents live in countries where corporal punishment in school is not completely prohibited (UNICEF, 2018).⁸

Globally, in 2012 alone, the number of homicide victims under the age of 20 reached 95,000, nearly 1 in 5 homicide victims per year. About 1 in 3 students between the ages of 13 and 15, worldwide, reported having participated in one or more fights in the past year. Nearly 1 in 3 students between the ages of 13 and 15, worldwide, were systematically harassed or intimidated. Almost half of the world’s 15- and 19-year-old girls (some 126 million) believe that husbands or intimate partners are sometimes justified in beating or assaulting their spouses (UNICEF, 2014).⁹

Between January and June 2021, the Inter-American Children’s Institute conducted an Open Survey¹⁰ among adolescents in the Americas in order to identify their perceptions of the violence that afflicts them, as well as their opinions on the possibility of having an inter-American instrument for the eradication of violence. Results were worrying, as they showed that violence is present in their closest settings (family and school), perpetuated by the people who should constitute their principal intergenerational bonds of protection (and love) (fathers and mothers) and their peers; these persons resort mainly to physical, psychological, gender and sexual violence. Similarly, they expressed concern about virtual environments, perceiving them as unsafe areas where they distrust the people they interact with.

⁷ Available at: [UNICEF Disciplina Violenta.pdf](#)

⁸ Available at: [UNICEF Disciplina Violenta.pdf](#)

⁹ Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/ecuador/media/2436/file/Ocultos%20a%20plena%20luz.pdf>

¹⁰ The questionnaire was drawn up in two versions, one in Spanish and one in English, with the purpose of including the views of teenagers between the ages of 12 and 17 who live in OAS member countries and have access to the Internet. A total of 412 adolescents participated, of whom 379 responded to the Spanish version and 33 responded to the English version. The survey was conducted within the context of this Hemispheric Study on Violence.

It is also very interesting to note from their responses the multidimensionality that violence acquires when mixing in different factors that might constitute exclusion: gender, sexual orientation, disability, poverty and homelessness.

2. Meaningful international and regional instruments for the eradication of violence against children

We should note that in addition to the general instruments issued by the Universal System on Human Rights to address the eradication of violence, in particular, against children and adolescents, the Inter-American System has also produced a set of regional tools with varying legal content and effects. The following chart shows a schematic sample of the tools that are most significant for this study.

Similarly, we shall provide a brief description of some of the main contributions of the Inter-American System in relation to the eradication of violence against children.

INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM

The American Convention on Human Rights **Articles 5, 6, 17, 19.**

Additional Protocol or Protocol of San Salvador **Article 16.**

Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará).

Inter-American Democratic Charter. **Articles: 7.**

General Assembly of the OAS

-AG/DEC. 76 (XLIV-O/14) **“Declaration on Violence against and Exploitation of Children”**

The Pan American Child Congress

-CPNNA/RES. 1 (XXI-14) **“Children and adolescents: building environments of peace”.**

-CPNNA/RES. 1 (XXII-19) **“Promotion and Comprehensive Protection of the Human Rights of Children and Adolescents in the Americas”**

Second Pan American Child Forum (2014).

-Recommendations

Third Pan American Child Forum (2019).

-Cartagena Declaration on Violence against Children and Adolescents of the Americas.

IIN-OAS Directing Council:

- CD/RES. 14 (93-R/18) **“End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children”**

- CD/RES 03 (87-R/12), CD/RES. 07 (90-R/15), CD/RES. 10 (90-R/15), CD/RES. 11 (91-R/16), CD/RES. 12 (91-R/16), CD/RES. 08 (92-R/17), on issues related to **violence, gender, juvenile justice systems, sexual exploitation, smuggling of and trafficking in children, migrant children.**

Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

Some thematic reports:

- Ensure the Rights of Children and Adolescents (2017).
- Violence, Children and Organized Crime (2016)
- Human Mobility; Inter-American Standards (2016)
- Violence against LGBTI Persons (2015)
- Report on Justice for Women Victims of Sexual Violence: Education and Health (2011)
- Juvenile Justice and Human Rights in the Americas (2011)

Inter-American Children's Institute:

Some tools and intervention models:

- Model Standard Paper on the Prohibition of Corporal Punishment.
- Technical Guidelines to end Violence in Juvenile Justice Systems.
- Protecting child rights from sexual violence.
- Inter-American Cooperation Programme for the Prevention and Eradication of Sexual Exploitation, and Smuggling of and Trafficking in Children.
- Guidelines to Prevent and Handle Institutional Violence within Juvenile Justice Systems.
- “Impacts and Challenges of Laws Prohibiting Corporal Punishment in the Region”

UNIVERSAL SYSTEM

Convention on the Rights of the Child **Articles 2, 19, 27, 32, 34, 36, 37.**

- Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict.
- Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography.
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on a communications procedure

Committee on the Rights of the Child

- General Comment No.8 on “The right of the child to protection from corporal punishment and other cruel or degrading forms of punishment”
- General Comment No. 13 “Freedom of the child from all forms of violence”
- General Comment No. “The rights of the child in the juvenile justice system”

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Goal 16 “PEACE AND JUSTICE”, target 16.2, **“End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children”.**

- Report by the independent expert for the **United Nations study on violence against children.** (2006)
- Joint United Nations report on **prevention of and responses to violence against children within the juvenile justice system.** (2012)
- United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the **Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.** (2014).

It is only since 1991 that the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) has addressed the issue of the right to a life free of violence against children and adolescents in its annual reports. Prior to that, it limited itself to mentioning progress in State legislation that included minors (without making a distinction between children and adolescents) and matters affecting children and adolescents (without referring to the concept of violence and its eradication). Undoubtedly, the CRC also marked a milestone that resulted in changes in the Commission's next interventions. In the General Assembly of the same year, the OAS adopted resolution AG/RES. 1112, on the Strengthening of the OAS in the Area of Human Rights, in which, among other matters, it recommended that the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights should: "*g. [...] give special attention to and report on the observance of the rights of minors, women, the handicapped, and minorities, and on racial discrimination in the hemisphere*".

Thus, in Chapter V of the IACHR's 1992-1993 Annual Report, reference is made to the "Status of the rights of minors in the hemisphere".¹¹

- It highlights the fact that the rights of children have been a constant concern of the inter-American system and notes sections that refer to them in the following instruments: American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man (Art. VII), ACHR (Chapter II, Art. 4, Art. 18, Art. 19), Protocol of San Salvador (Art. 16), CRC.
- It refers to extreme poverty, marginality, abandonment, lack of resources, murder, torture, exploitation, sexual abuse, neglect, organ trafficking, sale, prostitution, malnutrition, high illiteracy rates, drug addiction, drug dependence, the phenomenon of "street children", armed conflict, police involvement in the death of minors, children with parents who are victims of enforced disappearance, clandestine adoptions.
- It notes the existence of violations of human rights, the right to life and the right to physical integrity of minors.

Over the following years, issues related to children and adolescents would begin to be highlighted in other human rights monitoring reports, such as the effects of poverty, the prison situation, the rights of indigenous peoples, education, and special protection. In 1998, the Office of the Rapporteur on the Rights of the Child was set up, in order to study and promote activities to assess the situation of children in the Americas and propose effective measures to be taken by member States.

By early 2000, the promotion of the rights of children and the provision of care in more specific situations of violence had become more prevalent, which gave rise to specific recommendations for States parties. In the 2013 and 2015 Annual Reports, Annexes were submitted with more extensive studies on violence; on the one hand, the risks of institutionalization in the face of the loss of parental care, and on the other, the issue of organized crime. Both papers are more powerful and specific; added to the reports received by the IACHR, all of which emphasizes its concern for the serious situation of violence in the region, a symptom of the abuse of power underpinned by gender, cultural and age differences.

In 2017, in its Annual Report, Annex "Towards the Effective Fulfilment of Children's Rights: National Protection Systems", the IACHR recognized the need to promote social and cultural transformations,

¹¹ <http://www.cidh.org/annualrep/92eng/chap.5.htm>

for which end it is imperative to disseminate children's rights, promote knowledge of them among children and adolescents themselves, and raise the awareness of society about the particular challenges they face in the exercise of their rights and the effects of the various forms of violence. This paper is also very relevant to this study.

In its 2019 Annual Report, the IACHR addresses violence against women, girls and adolescents, in addition to listing good practices, which demonstrates the importance of generating multidimensional interventions that can generate increased precision about the nature of violence. In its report, the IACHR affirms the need to address the causes of gender-based violence against girls in all its manifestations, using intersectionality as a concept to understand levels of discrimination. Discrimination perpetuates and increases risk through multiple factors such as machismo, patriarchy and the prevalence of sexist stereotypes, historic discrimination and social tolerance of violence against women and girls in all of its dimensions.

In addition, special mention should be made of the 22nd Pan American Child Congress and the Third Pan American Child Forum.

Bearing in mind that despite the progress made in the region, there is still a high degree of violence against children and adolescents, the 22nd Congress recognized that it is necessary to continue and strengthen the work of the member States in its normative, programmatic, budgetary and cultural dimensions, for the prevention and elimination of violence against children and adolescents, and resolved to reaffirm its commitment to the prevention and eradication of all forms of violence and exploitation against children and adolescents in the Americas, encouraging States to work on comprehensive proposals and develop actions aimed at strengthening the capacities of children and adolescents to fully exercise their rights, and in particular, to identify, denounce and be aware of their right to a life free of violence and abuse, and to promote cross-generational dialogue and listening.

At the same time, the Third Pan American Child Forum, and its "Cartagena Declaration on Violence against Children and Adolescents of the Americas", 2019, represent the most powerful and valid moment related to the approach to the issue of violence, highlighted by the prominence of the adolescent delegations present. In this document we should note that:

- The State, as a guarantor of children's rights, must raise awareness and educate families for a coexistence free of violence, through internal agreements.
- The State must fight to create a safe setting in children's homes, guaranteeing the right to education, health and an environment free of violence. Policies should be designed focusing mainly on the prevention of violence, providing clear and concise knowledge, with alternatives to change the paradigms in society that are based on violence. Children and adolescents should be involved in these plans to eradicate violence.
- States party should include family violence control in their legislation, and foster awareness-raising by implementing public policies targeting households and creating a specialized group to monitor compliance.
- Institutions responsible for ensuring that the rights of children and adolescents are fulfilled must have sufficient and appropriate professionals to provide support and follow-up to children and adolescents who have been victims of some type of violence.

- Aggressors should be punished, seeking their re-socialization in order to avoid recidivism. A ‘zero’ tolerance policy against all forms of punishment of children should be in place.
- The executive, legislative and judicial branches should safeguard the integrity of children and adolescents, ensuring their full development and equal opportunities, and eradicating all forms of violence against children and adolescents.
- National protection systems, and regional and local governments should be strengthened and they should generate programmes for the inclusion, protection and promotion of the rights of children and adolescents, in order to raise awareness in their regard, reduce child abuse and thus eradicate domestic violence.
- Technical commitments, and commitments relating to assistance and follow-up to the conclusions should be undertaken; together with civil society representation, the IIN-OAS and with the adolescents themselves.

For its part, since 2015, the Inter-American Children’s Institute (IIN) has been carrying out sustained programmatic action for the elimination of all forms of violence against children and adolescents, in compliance with international agreements for the promotion and comprehensive protection of rights, and in full compliance with the mandates of the Directing Council. Thus, its Action Plan 2019-2023¹² proposed the continuity of its main lines for the promotion of rights, but placing particular emphasis on consolidating actions that support member States in the prevention, eradication and mitigation of violence.

The accumulation of specific experiences is extensive; in general terms it can be classified into the following key levels of intervention and thematic lines:

- Promotion of rights and protective environments. This focal point includes a strong belief in child and youth participation through various peer networks and cross-generational dialogue; parental and extended family care; promoting safe Internet use, and early childhood policies. It is important to highlight support for the strengthening and readjustment of Comprehensive Protection Systems (SIPPINNA for its acronym in Spanish).
- Eradication of issues with or violation of rights. The IIN is strongly committed to and is steadfast regarding the eradication of all forms of international abduction (ICA), sexual exploitation and trafficking (SEC), ill-treatment and corporal punishment. It should be noted that SEC and ICA were also Inter-American Programmes prior to 2015.
- Violence prevention and response to cases in vulnerable groups. Some of the actions include working on family separation, human mobility and juvenile criminal liability.

We should also note the strengthening of the IIN’s participation, cooperation and coordination with various civil society organizations and networks working on behalf of children’s rights.

- Technical liaison network of governing bodies for comprehensive child protection systems.
- Network of Child and Youth Correspondents (CORIA Network)
- Thematic Discussion with Child Participation Liaison Officers: (CEPIA)
- Central American Children and Youth Network (RENACEM)
- Mercosur Southern Children and Adolescent Network (RED SURCA)

¹² Adopted at the 94th Regular Meeting of the Directing Council, Colombia 2019.

Technically, the IIN has been implementing actions to strengthen the capabilities of the States, seeking to reverse views that consider violent practices natural, from a comprehensive perspective (ecological approach). Among its main strategies is to provide Technical Assistance, analysis and dissemination of significant practices, research and dissemination of knowledge, HR training, support for the management of public programmes, communication processes and public advocacy, creation of specialized public networks, relationship with civil society, youth participation, and other more specific measures.

This is how the IIN has demonstrated over time its capacity to monitor and support the promotion and fulfilment of the rights of children, maximizing resources allocated and fostering specific partnerships. Hence, strong links and sharing opportunities have been maintained with the Directing Council, Pan American Forum and Congress and with the States; technical liaison networks have been consolidated, as well as the organization and development of subregional forums, the strengthening of links with civil society, coordination with the IACHR, IACtHR and ICW, and the relationship with the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

II. INTERVENTION INITIATIVES

Public policies on children and adolescents are evidence of commitment to the principles enshrined in the Convention, and the improvement of institutionality and public management, based mainly on indicators of universality, comprehensiveness, intersectionality and intersectorality. Shedding light on the existence of these policies, promoting their synchronization as a system, in coordination with civil society, and their qualitative advances will make it possible to observe regional gaps or deficiencies and thus project agreements that can reinforce and sustain, or complement and warn.

Inspired in the regulatory harmonization urged by the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the incorporation of the principle of respect for the best interest of the child in all matters affecting them, and the comprehensive vision of rights that the intervention of many sectors and disciplines entails, it is possible to mention the preponderance of public policies as a direct demonstration of these commitments.

“The IACHR has noted that while most of the countries of the region have a legislative and conceptual framework for a systematic approach to guaranteeing the rights of children, in practice the national systems face challenges. Among the main challenges and weaknesses, the IACHR notes the following: weaknesses in the operation of the institutional framework associated with a lack of leadership, which could be read as a

lack of political will; the persistence of the earlier institutional framework, paternalistic and welfare-oriented, and of practices and procedures from the previous paradigm for protecting children; the need to develop new capacities, methods, skills, and processes with a systemic logic; and the insufficient allocation of resources, (...)"

Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. "Towards the Effective Fulfilment of Children's Rights: National Protection Systems". November 2017.¹³

2.1 Regulatory Implications of the Convention (CRC)

The harmonization of the Convention refers to the synchronizations that must be carried out so that the different normative instruments of the States parties, which have direct or indirect effects on ensuring the rights of children, consider the full scope of its arguments, as well as its subsequent optional protocols, and the follow-up structure that follows from it.

In particular, article 41 defines the reverse situation when the law of the State party or of the existing international spectrum already contains provisions that advocate for children and adolescents. In this way, it is possible to understand the different levels of ownership of the CRC among States and also the main points aimed at by their enduring commitments over time and through different governments.

That said, different ways of reconciling the Convention can be observed in the commitments made by the States Parties, which at the same time constitute guidance and possible interpretation of what each has implemented in its national policies. For further details, please see Appendix 1 related to all international regulations regarding violence against children ratified/signed by the member States of the Inter-American System.

- a) The Convention emerged in an international scenario favourable to the promotion of human rights, where we can also place the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1965) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979). Perhaps the latter has the most impact in illustrating the natural differences between human beings from an inclusive, specialized, and equitable view and in defending against harmful practices that originate within those the same differences. This Convention is one with a large number of accessions among the States Parties of the Inter-American System, similar to the CRC. From another perspective, the parallel features of these Conventions could strengthen the focus of more specialized agreements to address problems that span the variables of gender and age/generation, such as the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (the Palermo Protocol – November 2000), which has been accepted by all OAS States Parties.

¹³ <https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/reports/pdfs/FulfillmentRights-Children.pdf>

The signing of the Convention legitimizes and provides a greater degree of specialization to subsequent international instruments. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was signed in 2006; it also focuses particularly on the situation of children and adolescents, referring to them in its background information. In addition, two specialized optional protocols have been produced under the Convention since its signature. The first relates to the involvement of children in armed conflict and the second to the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (2002).

The Convention creates and determines the functions of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. Articles 42 and 54 mention the importance of disseminating the Convention, and especially of providing information on the country in relation to the guarantee of rights, and of supporting the various studies that may reinforce the recommendations made by the Committee to States Parties and to the United Nations General Assembly. International cooperation is also encouraged, as well as the involvement of specialized organizations (ILO, WHO, UNESCO and UNICEF) and civil society organizations. In relation to this, the Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour was signed in 1999, an instrument promoted by the ILO, which has the full accession of all States parties.

- b) The Convention at the Inter-American level. Within the Inter-American System of Human Rights, it is observed that the American Convention and the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man refer in several articles to the rights of children. Subsequently, the Inter-American Court and Commission on Human Rights decided to take up the definition of a child provided in the Convention, resolving in its Advisory Opinion No.17 (2002) that a child is a person who has not reached the age of 18 years, in addition to adopting the Doctrine of Comprehensive Protection to monitor the rights of children and adolescents. It is important to highlight this process of harmonization with the Convention, given that it has served as a beacon for dealing with complaints and restoring the rights of children in the region. The Inter-American Court of Human Rights has clearly referred to the existence of an international corpus juris composed of, among other treaties, the CRC and the American Convention on Human Rights, and has considered that the norms of the CRC establish the scope of the “protection measures” contained in article 19 of the American Convention on Human Rights.

Likewise, in the region, significant human rights-related conventions have been produced; the Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture (1985, prior to the CRC), the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women “Belém do Pará Convention” (1994), the Inter-American Convention on International Traffic in Minors (1994), the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (1999) and the Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Forms of Intolerance (2017). Just as occurs at the international level, only Canada and the United States have not signed the Belém do Pará Convention, although it is one of the treaties with the most signatures. The other Conventions have been ratified mainly by the Latin American countries.

- c) The CRC and regulatory harmonization in the member countries of the Inter-American System. All legislation transfers and synchronizations with the Convention up to this point determine the set of international commitments that each State has undertaken regarding safeguards for the rights of children. At the national level, it is the Children's Codes (Acts) that aim to "establish substantive and procedural rules on the comprehensive protection of children and adolescents in order to ensure the exercise, or the restoration, of the fundamental rights and freedoms accorded to them by international human rights instruments, the Constitution and the law. Such guarantee and protection shall be an obligation of the family, society and the State."¹⁴ However, in the region, not all countries have these Codes or Acts, and provisions of child-related laws and statutes coexist (see table).

Brazil was the first State to consolidate its Statute after the Convention (1990); however, there are States that have undergone subsequent constitutional changes and have not made the relevant updates to their Codes. Similarly, it is still necessary to make further progress in domestic transformations and adaptations in Criminal, Civil or Family Codes (Acts). It should be noted that, at the time of writing, Chile has submitted draft laws to amend its legislation (See Appendix 2 for an account of national legislations).

In this regard, a recent UNICEF study on normative compliance with the CRC remarks that "*Latin America led the ratification process and less than a year later, in record time, the Convention was already entering into force. In the region, this coincided with the consolidation of the processes of transition to democracy, leaving behind the dictatorial regimes and the massive violations of human rights that tragically characterized the previous decades.*"¹⁵

Returning to the significance of the CRC and bringing national legislation into line with its principles and rights, it should be noted that as a global convention on the rights of children and adolescents it contains basic and general elements to protect the exercise of each of them, but not necessarily with the sufficient depth or diversification that might be required to cover all angles. Similarly, over the years since its entry into force, elements or variables that it did not cover have emerged, for example, in the case of violence related to the virtual world. Hence the relevance of the Committee's Concluding Observations in interpreting or expanding its scope, which can then be reflected in the drafting of national legislation and public policy.

¹⁴ Objective of the Code. Principles and definitions. Act No. 1098 of 2006 Government of Colombia.

¹⁵ *La adecuación normativa a la Convención sobre los Derechos del Niño en América Latina: Avances y deudas con la niñez* (Regulatory Compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child in Latin America: Progress and debts owing to children). United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF, Panama).

TABLE OF CODES, STATUTES OR ACTS ON CHILDHOOD AND ADOLESCENCE		
OAS MEMBER STATE	Codes, Statutes or Acts on childhood and adolescence ¹⁶	YEAR
Antigua and Barbuda	Children Act	1987
Argentina	Comprehensive Protection of Children Act	2005
Bahamas	Status of Children Act	2002
Barbados	Child Care and Protection Act	1997
Belize	Families and Children Act	1998
Bolivia	Children Code	2014
Brazil	Child and Adolescent Statute of Brazil	1990
Canada	Commissioner for Children and Young Persons in Canada Act	2012
Chile	No specific legislation. There is recourse to the Criminal Code, the Civil Code and the Juvenile Act (1967); and recently, to the National Action Plan 2018-2025.	2018
Colombia	Child and Adolescent Code	2006
Costa Rica	Child and Adolescent Code	1998
Dominica	Children and Young Persons Welfare Act	1970
Ecuador	Child and Adolescent Code	2003
El Salvador	Comprehensive Protection of Children and Adolescents Act	2009
United States of America	Protect our Children Act	2008
Grenada	Status of Children Act	1991
Guatemala	Comprehensive Protection of Children and Adolescents Act (PINA)	2003
Guyana	Protection of Children Act	2009
Haiti		
Honduras	Child and Adolescent Code	2013
Jamaica	Child Care and Protection Act	2010
Mexico	General Act on Child Rights (LGDNNyA)	2014
Nicaragua	Child and Adolescent Code	1998
Panama	No specific legislation. There is recourse to the Civil Code, Family Code*, Adoption Act, etc.	1994*
Paraguay	Child and Adolescent Code	2018
Peru	Child and Adolescent Code	2000

¹⁶ Table produced by the authors for this study.

Dominican Republic	Code on the Protection System for the Fundamental Rights of Children and Adolescents (CNNA)	2003
Saint Kitts and Nevis		
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Status of Children Act	1980
Saint Lucia		
Suriname		
Trinidad and Tobago	Children Act	2010
Uruguay	Child and Adolescent Code	2004
Venezuela	Constitutional Law for the Protection of Children and Adolescents (LOPNNA)	2015

2.2 Towards National Systems for the Comprehensive Protection of Children and Adolescents

Through consultations with States parties¹⁷ and civil society, it was possible to access and systematize certain information related to the various public initiatives for the eradication of violence against children and adolescents, seeking to highlight those with the greatest coverage, political support and values including broad participation and comprehensiveness in their services or strategies. As a result, some elements of the experiences have been highlighted in order to project trends in their main characteristics. This classification does not imply that any experiences lack the aforementioned elements; we have sought to go from the most general or broad, to the most specific.

- A. Comprehensive social and family welfare systems that incorporate children and adolescents, and National Plans for the Comprehensive Protection of Children and Adolescents: central policy support, national frameworks and organizational forms for the promotion of rights that include guidelines for the eradication of violence.

The central commitments urged by the CRC refer to the adaptation of national regulations and legal instruments that include the perspective of children and adolescents, in accordance with the mandates of International Law, but also seeking the establishment of institutional frameworks that advocate comprehensively for the promotion and protection of child rights; a political scaffolding that is both the essence and a call for intersectoral coordination and partnership building.

¹⁷ For this study, fifteen States submitted information through the Systematization Guide.

Under any of these perspectives, policies on children and adolescents must acquire a high, multidisciplinary hierarchical rank, which contemplates child and adolescent development comprehensively, in different environments and levels; in addition to attending to or seeking to eradicate forms of violence or situations that violate their rights. These guarantees began with the first appearance of Child and Adolescent Codes, but to date they have made progress towards a Systemic (institutional and procedural) vision of Comprehensive Protection.

For example, in Argentina, it is as from the amendments to Law 26.061 (2005) on the Comprehensive Protection of the Rights of Children and Adolescents, a law that amounts to the modernization of the Children's Code, that the National Secretariat for Children, Adolescents and the Family (SENAF) supports provincial agencies in the implementation, adaptation and strengthening of these lines. A similar modification is occurring in Ecuador through the COPINNA project, which seeks to create a Constitutional Code for Comprehensive Protection that would replace the 2003 Code on Children and Adolescence, in order to give it greater importance and breadth.

For this report, the States of Bolivia, Colombia and Paraguay have charted the incorporation of the generational approach and the rights of children and adolescents into national systems and mechanisms for development, and social and family welfare. The Bolivian experience shows the synchronization of Comprehensive Development Plans, Economic and Social Development, and the Plurinational Plan for Children and Adolescents within the Comprehensive State Planning System (SPIE). The Sectoral and Intersectoral Coordination Council for children and adolescents establishes specific public policies, with a comprehensive approach; paying particular attention to coordination and support for the Plans of the Autonomous Territorial Entities (ETAs)

Through its National Family Welfare System (SNBF 2015), Colombia incorporates the formulation of national and population-wide action plans and policies; among which, in particular, the "Zero to Forever" Plan to address early childhood (2016), Childhood and Adolescence (PNIA 2018), with comprehensive road maps for territorial action, and Support and Strengthening of Families, since 2009.

"¡Vamos!", the Paraguayan Protection System, SPP, also includes the strategic lines of early childhood, and childhood and adolescence, integrating the family and community approach; focusing attention on vulnerable sectors. More specifically, in its Strategic Framework of SPP Objectives and Actions (2019-2023) there is a set of mechanisms and tools for following up on data, monitoring and evaluation which also refers to quality public management. It is the macro-System that provides the basis for the National System for the Promotion and Comprehensive Protection of Childhood and Adolescence of Paraguay, which is the great national agreement that convenes, coordinates and supports all institutions in improving their interventions.

These macro-dimensional visions with demographic and decentralized features also coexist with or are reinforced by the coordination of Comprehensive Protection Systems for Children and Adolescents (SIPPINNA), initiatives that have been reinforced by international requirements, an account of which has been provided by this very report. These SIPPINNAs determine the need to

synchronize not only the institutions involved, but also the design of national and intersectoral collective guidelines. In this sense, these systems can themselves constitute national guidelines for comprehensive protection for a State, or an inter-agency platform or modality that builds and endorses different National Action Plans.

Mexico and Guatemala reported on the synchronization between their National Systems and Programmes for the Comprehensive Protection of Children and Adolescents, in which the administrative and political architecture of the Systems enables the generation and implementation of National Policies and Plans through coordinating bodies or executive secretariats. Further to and complementing these approaches, El Salvador and Peru reported on National Action Plans that are temporary fractions of national policies or guidelines, with strategic objectives and results.

For its part, Chile has started progressively establishing a System of Guarantees for the Rights of the Child, through reforms such as the formulation and implementation of its first National Action Plan and the creation of the National Service for the Specialized Protection of Children and Adolescents, 'Mejor Niñez' (Better Childhood), which will begin to operate as from October 2021. All of these modifications stem from the State's commitment to compliance with the Convention, and from the various recommendations received from international bodies.

B. Comprehensive mechanisms for the eradication of violence: intersectoral coordination, intervention at different levels; with central and territorial development.

If the matter is viewed from the perspective of comprehensive protection as a generic whole that must contemplate in its implementation the governance necessary for the promotion of rights, it is possible to find objectives, strategies, mechanisms that address the violence that affects children and adolescents. Similarly, through tools also of equal range or breadth, it is possible that their provisions take particular account of levels of prevention, care, sanction and restitution of the exercise of rights. Finally, there are more specific initiatives for dealing with cases and restoring rights that also have a structure that is broad in scope or hierarchy in itself, and are aimed at addressing a particular problem.

We have observed during the Study that there are national tools that establish general lines for the eradication of violence, contemplating prevention through the promotion of protective factors, but mainly providing care, punishment and restitution of rights to victims. Paraguay, Colombia and Mexico reported on National Plans for the eradication of violence against children. These plans have been established on the basis of strategies of equal or greater rank to promote the full exercise of rights, coordination with national bodies, and responses to international commitments and with territorial application. It is worth mentioning that these three States are part of the *Global Partnership to End Violence against Children* (2016), to which we shall refer below.

In particular, Paraguay's Country Action Plan to eradicate violence against Children and Adolescents (CONAPREA – 2016/2030) has all of the features mentioned above, and, we should note, also includes a National Commission for Prevention and Comprehensive Care, with the participation of adolescents.

In the case of Colombia, we have also observed linkage with higher levels of planning, which demonstrates the country's response to national and international agreements (National Alliance). As part of the "Pact for Colombia, Pact for Equity", objective 3, "Girls and Boys First", provides for the implementation of a strategy against violence and violations of rights that affect children, from which the National Action Plan against Violence against Children and Adolescence 2021 is derived. On this basis, increasingly territorial levels have been established, encouraging the implementation of action protocols, attention to cases of trafficking, sexual violence, restitution of rights, early childhood, guidance for the identification, documentation and dissemination of good practices and lessons learned, etc.

For its part, Mexico has defined its 2019-2024 Action Plan, which has lines of action organized into four focal points: Public safety and social participation of children and adolescents; Protection of human rights of victims of violence; Prevention of violence in environments and territories; and Eradication of gender-based violence for substantive equality.

With a greater degree of technical autonomy, the States of Argentina and Uruguay have strategies with a systematic profile, since they convene and coordinate the implementation of care protocols (Roadmaps) with several institutions. In Argentina, Resolution No. 1712 (2014) implements the Unified System of Line 102, as a federal tool for the prevention, promotion and protection of rights. On that basis, action plans and prevention, awareness, care and reparation programmes are formulated under legal decree; with strong intersectoral coordination and territorial projection. For its part, Uruguay has a Comprehensive System for the Protection of Children and Adolescents against Violence (SIPIAV), which is an inter-agency territorial model for providing care and restoring rights to children in situations of violence. This System coordinates the intersectoral National Committee (Health, Education, Development, Prosecutor's Office); and a National Coordination Team; and their respective Local Committees.

Guatemala possesses systematic coordination or operations, but without being defined as such. Thus, in practice, the National Adoption Council, the National Commission for Children and Adolescents, the Departmental Development Councils, the Presidential and various National Commissions are coordinated through round tables and working meetings. For its part, Canada is on track to build a Roadmap to End Violence against Children (2019) that provides an overview of the problem, including the nature, prevalence and impacts of violence. It also examines existing legislation, policies and programmes to prevent and respond to violence against children, based on strengthening healthy behaviours and positive upbringing, with a territorial trend.

On the other hand, there are States that reported that they had national instruments that pay special attention to or focus on the treatment (reporting, attention and restitution of rights) of forms of sexual violence; this being the issue most frequently mentioned.

Bolivia placed it within the Plurinational System of Comprehensive Protection of Children and Adolescents (SIPPROINA) for the protection and care (restitution) of victims of sexual violence. This enables them to develop protocols and inter-agency strategies to combat sexual violence in

territories (critical route). Ecuador included it in its Agenda for Cross-Generation Equality 2017 – 2021, which seeks to promote the protection and specialized care of children in the justice system; it has also been working on the prevention and eradication of sex crimes and violence, in particular in the education system, the family and other daily-life settings. Finally, Peru included the eradication of violence in outcomes 14, 17, 20 and 21 of its National Plan of Action for Children and Adolescents 2012-2021 (PNAIA), particularly sexual exploitation and abuse, trafficking (sexual, labour, begging), in education and family settings. It also encourages the establishment of monitoring and evaluation systems, the formation of working commissions, regional (departmental) plans and increased resources.

In the Open Survey conducted among adolescents, half of them perceived that the States make the eradication of violence a priority; however, almost two thirds believed that they do not have access to channels or mechanisms for reporting violence, either because they do not know how the system works or because they believe that it is not effective; and they also perceived that the State only addresses one third of the existing problems. When asked about policies encompassing comprehensive protection, at least half were unaware of public programmes, and one third considered that the laws are insufficient.

C. Links with other systems for the eradication of violence: gender, comprehensive development, family, citizenship.

Although this report has given an account of the macro dimension of social welfare policies for the population, from which initiatives for the rights of children and adolescents are linked or derived, there are also macro levels of attention to forms of violence that target the population in general, and in which the perspective of children has been included. Public efforts express the need to maximize resources and intersectoral coordination, as well as a strong territorial projection.

Many of the States reported on policies that are associated with the prevention and eradication of gender-based and sexual violence, and within them, specific chapters or strategies include or focus on children and adolescents.

Argentina reported the incorporation of the generational approach in the sub-system for the prevention and prosecution of gender and sexual violence (Law 26,485 -2009), in addition to making other modifications or incorporations into public sectors; for example, the amendments to the criminal code (1999) “Offences against sexual integrity”, the National Programme for Comprehensive Sexual Education (Law 26,150-2006), Law 26,338 (2008) on Child Pornography, and Law 26,904 (2013) on Grooming. Colombia has a similar approach in its Coordinating Mechanism for a Comprehensive Approach to Gender and Sex-Based Violence against Women, Children and Adolescents (2020). This Coordinating Mechanism is structured through a national coordination and management body; the national technical operational body (Committee on promotion and prevention, comprehensive care, protection/access to justice, and information system), and the Territorial Committees.

For its part, Ecuador mentioned the National Plan for the Prevention and Eradication of Violence against Women, Girls and Teenagers which calls for the comprehensive management of the State

and links with the Comprehensive National System for the Prevention and Eradication of Violence against Women (SNIPEVCM).

There are also macro-dimensional initiatives that advocate for a ‘specific violence’ or theme, incorporating gender, generational and territorial perspectives. El Salvador referred to a National Intersectoral Strategy for the Prevention of Pregnancy in Girls and Adolescents (ENIPENA); Honduras to the National Policy for the Prevention of Violence against Children and Youth, which includes forms of citizen violence (use of weapons, gangs, etc.) and the promotion of a culture of peace; and Nicaragua reported developing a State Policy for the Strengthening of the Family and Prevention of Violence, which includes six specific strategies: (1) Prevention, (2) Care, (3) Inter-agency coordination, (4) Institutional strengthening, (5) Territorial and community coordination, and (6) Communication. Finally, Honduras and Nicaragua also incorporate normative and programmatic initiatives to combat trafficking in persons, which include the perspective of children and adolescents.

D. Specific programme initiatives to address specific forms of violence.

If we were to consider strategies for eradicating different forms of violence in isolation, without including systemic relationships and cross-sectoral linkages, we could come up with a long list of public initiatives, in which all member States participate with sustained proposals of a high standard of quality and investment. We shall organize them according to the thematic trend or central ‘issue’ that they seek to address, in order to promote an inter-American view of common agendas.

On the whole, the public programmes that are most well-developed are those that seek to eradicate violence or sexual abuse, which also includes commercial sexual exploitation, prevention of early teenage pregnancy, and sexual violence in virtual and educational settings. Actions that seek to improve different levels of intervention for the eradication of violence can also be included, whether they address care, judicialization or restitution of rights in crimes against sexual integrity.

Other initiatives listed relate to child and adolescent abuse or lack of protection in child labour, recruitment for armed groups, and family separation and/or institutionalization.

E. Subregional and global initiatives and international cooperation: INSPIRE, NIÑ@SUR.

There are global and sub-regional initiatives in which member States intervene, either from a broad perspective of promotion and comprehensive protection of rights, or specifically for the eradication of violence in general. These forms of coordination are also proof of public commitment and international cooperation that in turn enable the development of partnerships with other public sectors and with civil society, and the maximization of resources.

The Global Partnership to End Violence against Children - 2016¹⁸ is a global initiative focusing on following up on Sustainable Development Target 16.2 “End all forms of violence against children by

¹⁸ Available at: (<https://www.end-violence.org/>)

2030". It is a unique coalition of more than 600 organizations, including governments, UN agencies, research institutions, international NGOs, foundations, local CSOs, private sector groups and religious networks. In particular, the INSPIRE initiative, which offers seven strategies to end violence.

Through the reports provided by member States, we observe different forms of appropriation and coordination with the Global Alliance and its strategies. For example, Colombia and Mexico reported on the recreation of INSPIRE strategies in their national programme instruments; Peru highlighted opportunities in the exchange of good practices; and Canada underscored cooperation links with other States based on the initiative. Other States that have adhered to the Global Partnership are Brazil, Jamaica, Honduras, El Salvador and Paraguay. For its part, UNICEF also mentioned the provision of assistance to the States involved, through courses and materials.

Other initiatives or forms of coordination highlighted and mentioned in this survey conducted among the States are those that take place within Mercosur; more specifically, through the Niñ@sur Permanent Commission; and the Southern Network of Children and Adolescents of Mercosur States Parties and Associates (Surca Network). Niñ@sur is the group of governing bodies of Mercosur member States, in which guidelines and exchanges are generated that benefit the Human Rights agenda of this Subregional System. Similarly, the Surca Network is a coordination of networks of child and youth organizations; an initiative that also extends to Mercosur guest and associate States. Both Argentina and Uruguay reported intervention in these initiatives, which denotes technical advances in this area; such that the two States also highlighted the prominence and participation of children as part of their programmatic successes.

F. Addressing the promotion of adolescent participation and early childhood as specific generational models.

On the promotion of child and youth participation, many States display some form of participatory modalities; from the most essential or subsidiary, to the most prominent, representative and political. The main examples of the most political participation are to be seen in South America, Mexico and El Salvador, through the existence and operation of Consultative Councils; an initiative that is promoted as a result of the conclusions of the First Pan American Child Forum (Lima, 2009). Argentina, Ecuador, El Salvador, Peru and Uruguay reported on the existence and intervention of these Councils, and Ecuador, Paraguay, El Salvador, Mexico and Uruguay reported on processes leading to their creation, with a strong territorial component, and on consultation methodologies for the formulation of initiatives aimed at eradicating different forms of violence.

On the other hand, initiatives related to Early Childhood display more comprehensive, cross-sectoral visions or approaches and with strong responsibility or protagonism of the States' central institutions. Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Guyana reported on these policies as emblematic or model processes, highlighting particular elements within them. For example, in Guatemala the initiative is led and convened by the governing body, in Honduras it is managed by an inter-agency committee (CIAPI), in Nicaragua it is part of the Ministry of the Family, and, finally, in Guyana, it is the establishment of day and night care centres that is most striking.

III. Regional Opportunities and Challenges

Through the surveys conducted among the States, Civil Society and experts, we also sought to assess the preponderance or importance of public policies targeting the eradication of violence. The criteria used to make this assessment were related to the degree or hierarchy of these policies, seeking to identify their strength in generating political support and the broad participation of many public and private sectors. Likewise, to grade their management capacity, prioritizing governance and decentralization. Finally, the multiple or comprehensive factors included in the public policies were also an asset to be highlighted in interventions, seeking to respond to their intersectional value.

3.1 Level of prioritization in Child and Adolescent Policies linked to comprehensive protection with a particular focus on the eradication of violence

- A. Existence of national frameworks to ensure the comprehensive protection of the rights of children.

Overall, we observed the progress of States parties in generating increased strength and substantive reforms in the formulation and instrumentalization of policies aimed at the eradication of violence against children; also, in seeking to achieve quality standards in the structuring of their processes and management. The main developments are to be found in the creation and improvement of programmatic strategies for the eradication of violence, and to a lesser extent, in coordination with other sectors of social protection. The latter confirms the importance not only of providing for actions aimed at the child and adolescent population, but also of seeking to mainstream the Convention and its mandates at other levels of social intervention, involving the family, school and citizens.

Among actions most directly focusing on children, there have also been developments in management or governance. On the one hand, the creation of central programmatic tools that provide central and hegemonic features, with National Plans standing out as the most frequently used. These also reflect or bolster political response in support of these processes to safeguard rights. While some display global interventions or encompass many forms of violence, programmatic actions aimed at eradicating sexual violence are also supported, which is also related to other public sectors (women, mainly).

Secondly, great efforts have been made to generate levels of governance that seek to give rise to multisectoral and technical, broad and cross-cutting bodies for various public sectors, including civil society and adolescent representation; but also with a strong executive character, with monitoring and follow-up of the agreed policy lines (Plans). Within these executive forms, consultative or thematic intermediate bodies have also been provided for, aiming to give shape to the guidelines, within a temporal level and the scope of the goals.

Finally, all these central efforts also have support at the territorial level, seeking to achieve support and technical assistance for the creation of local governance models and the establishment of tools at scale. The latter also reinforces the capacity for diversification and autonomy of local authorities, which are the privileged and protagonist place of contact for the realities of children and adolescents.

- B. International correspondence with initiatives to promote the rights of children and adolescents, mainly to improve national strategies and respond to international monitoring systems.

There is a group of States parties and members of civil society involved in international processes that seek to strengthen the promotion of rights and the eradication of all forms of violence against children and adolescents. Adherence to these initiatives has led to the strengthening of national proposals, the appropriation of intervention strategies and methodologies, and the sharing of experiences developed by other States and organizations. These forms of strengthening generate greater common and diversified approaches to respond to the international and subregional community, and to international human rights mandates and agreements.

Specific lessons can be observed regarding the applicability of inter-American instruments relating to the eradication of violence against women (Belém do Pará), and adults or the elderly. From this coordination and technical cooperation, it is also possible to move forward in the detection and care of cases of online violence, and in sharing information that can be provided by different entities.

There are also the responses based on the recommendations or decisions handed down by the Committee on the Rights of the Child (United Nations), and by the Inter-American Commission and Court of Human Rights (OAS), which encourage the rapid review and restructuring of public initiatives, and shifts in strategies that may incur in the violation of other rights within the same institutional operations and their national instruments.

Both initiatives, beyond providing substantive information to make interventions more active and direct, also seek public empowerment to create their own processes for monitoring and transparency. Hence, most of the responses given in the surveys appeal to the importance of having monitoring, follow-up and evaluation systems in place; both for cases (data building), as well as for their own management processes.

From the Open Survey among adolescents, we should highlight the importance of citizen information (training), in relation to the Inter-American Human Rights System and the functioning of its bodies, as well as the entire international and regional legal framework that promotes comprehensive protection and eradication of violence against children; since the vast majority of the young people were unaware of them.

Finally, it is very important to consider the importance of inter-agency participation (public and civil society) and the protagonist role of children and adolescents, which not only increases the more significant incorporation of all voices, but also encourages the continuity, organization and legitimate recognition of their status as citizens.

C. Achieving levels of decentralization and territorial management.

All States Parties recognized the importance of seeking a direct approach to the population, to the situations experienced by children and adolescents; and on that basis, provide for rapid and effective responses. But with equal intensity, they also mentioned the need to support the specific development of the territories, seeking to approach and adapt to national and international guidelines. These actions are seen as an opportunity to sustain the agenda for the promotion and comprehensive protection of the rights of children.

In particular, they point to the needs or demands that must be met in a cooperative manner for the improvement of local public policies in the territories. These include:

- ✓ Ongoing training and professionalization of staff involved in devising and implementing actions in the territories, seeking to adapt the patterns adopted centrally, but mainly in direct contact with the people.
- ✓ Improving routes, protocols and/or mechanisms for dealing with cases of violations of rights, both in terms of information and training, and also in terms of direct contact with or response to children and their families.
- ✓ Advancing in local coordination that brings together other social actors, civil society, and mainly families and children themselves.
- ✓ Improving the resources implemented.

3.2 Comprehensive public responses for the eradication of violence

A. Progress in systematic interventions to eradicate violence.

This is based on member States' capacity to respond in order to strengthen their safeguards to eradicate violence against children and adolescents, and to establish mechanisms for dealing with

cases in territories, which take into account the multidimensional nature of violence, thereby providing legitimate comprehensive protection.

There has been improvement and progress in the institutionalization of roadmaps or protocols for dealing with cases, which include levels of prevention and restitution of the exercise of rights. Institutionalization is observed in the improvement of the legal frameworks that regulate interventions, either at a cross-cutting or a focused level; in the ability to generate agreements and coordination with other public and private sectors for the implementation of the protocols, and in the possibility of intervening at each of the stages necessary for the full eradication of violence.

Regarding the dimensions included in these 'case management' protocols, we noted in particular efforts to record cases, judicialization and the reparation or restitution of rights. To a lesser extent, there was mention of prevention or the promotion of positive behaviours to develop bonds that encourage the recognition of holders of rights.

Three central strategies were discussed in relation to 'case management': methodologies that strongly incorporate family involvement; the participation of children and adolescents, and their organizations and networks, and the development of information and awareness-raising campaigns.

These initiatives are to be seen in the different interventions implemented to respond to various problems. As mentioned above, the issue that most frequently appears is the response to sexual violence and trafficking; either through specific initiatives put in place by governing bodies for policies on children and adolescents, or through cross-cutting strategies to address gender-based violence. The second issue that is also well recognized involves comprehensive policies on early childhood; in addition, finally, to various problems such as loss of parental care, corporal punishment, child labour and juveniles in conflict with criminal law. In particular, civil society members consulted also focused on the problem of corporal punishment and degrading treatment; and on adolescence, where rates of homicide and suicide have increased. Regarding this group, most interventions have sought to increase punitive sentences against them. Also mentioned with concern are phenomena associated with high human mobility (migration) and the effects of the pandemic, which have led to higher levels of violations of the rights of children.

B. Challenges to overcome in public agendas.

Mention was made of the importance of strengthening the implementation of the territorial system for the comprehensive protection of children and adolescents, linking central governing bodies and local, public and private bodies, with special attention to vulnerable or historically excluded groups. The preponderance of the local approach leads to the possibility of reconstructing violence in the different environments of coexistence of children and adolescents, as well as those of greater exposure to other violence; and in this way favour more specific public responses and the closing of gaps that are insurmountable with only national and international commitments.

The importance of incorporating gender-based perspectives was also highlighted; gender-based violence, the impact of domestic violence and femicide; situations that greatly condition the ways

in which links are established with children in different environments. These reviews could improve responses not only to issues involving extreme violation of rights, but in general, for the promotion of rights at all levels.

A commitment undertaken to ensure this increased and improved approach to the population includes the improvement of mechanisms to survey, systematize and monitor data (cases), since this constitutes the gateway to understanding, recognition and willingness to intervene. At the same time, it is also important to continue generating opportunities for the dissemination and sharing of good practices, as well as for strengthening the capacities of the officials and operators involved.

Last but not least, it is important to continue promoting awareness-raising among the population as a whole, with regard to comprehensive protection.

3.3. Relevance and opportunity in the Inter-American System to promote the eradication of violence against children

A significant occasion in the consultation process, mainly with States parties, and then with representatives of civil society, experts and indirectly, with adolescents, was the reflection on whether they thought it appropriate to design an Inter-American Instrument (Convention) for the eradication of violence against children; and if feasible, to determine what aspects should be contemplated in its establishment within the inter-American setting, seeking to specify or clarify its central objective.

A. Regional overview for coordination and cooperation towards the eradication of violence against children.

Many of the observations of the States parties involved in the survey have identified various levels of regional coordination and cooperation conducive to the eradication of violence against children; ranging from links with human rights issues, exchanges with global organizations and bodies, subregional modalities and internal coordination within the Inter-American Human Rights System itself.

They mentioned that the Inter-American System coexists with other International Human Rights Systems, on the basis of which synergies and complementary features can also be encouraged; mainly highlighting the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR). Although both give indications in the shape of technical recommendations, it is also necessary to incorporate the Inter-American Court, which has handed down decisions for the States to enter into commitments to restore the enjoyment of rights; this

institution was mentioned in previous chapters. The States also mentioned the presence of the IIN-OAS, UNICEF and UNHCR (refugees) as bodies that can provide support and follow-up to the human rights agendas of children and adolescents.

These bodies also convene other global and regional organizations related to human development that incorporate guidelines or policies in the field of children and adolescents; for example, international cooperation with the ILO is mentioned in relation to the eradication of child labour, as well as the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), and general protection through ECLAC.

More precisely, on follow-up and support for the child and youth Human Rights agenda, the States also mentioned that within the Inter-American System, the most technical and specific linkages can be created on issues of democracy, human rights, health, education and security in general, which can incorporate the generational approach. There was also a particular focus on coordination to address problems such as trafficking, migration and gender-based violence (Belém Do Pará), which could lead to national initiatives and processes.

We should mention the technical role assigned to the IIN-OAS for intervention through cross-cutting programmes that encourage national improvement and international coordination.

Particularly with regard to international cooperation that may occur between nations, it is important to put into practice commitments undertaken in relation to Human Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), seeking to promote strategies for collaboration and sharing experiences, as well as to generate coordination mechanisms between institutions for monitoring and comprehensive protection of the rights of children and adolescents, encouraging the strengthening of regional technical networks. Further to this suggestion, we note the participation of subregional systems such as CARICOM and MERCOSUR in the development of initiatives to promote rights; highlighting mainly the strong commitment to the active participation of adolescents, whether representative, consultative or protagonist. Particular mention was made of the importance of consultative roles for adolescents in decision-making that affects them; hence the strength of initiatives such as Niñ@Sur (Mercosur) and RedSurca (South America), and the recently created REDNNACEN (Central America, Mexico and the Dominican Republic).

In this regard, members of civil society also pay particular attention to the protection of other rights that must be enjoyed when child and adolescent protagonism is envisaged; therefore, forms of association, peaceful protest, and the construction and maintenance of promotional areas for the exercise of expression and listening must be reviewed.

The States also repeatedly mentioned the importance of participating actively in the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children; underscoring its value as an international initiative that encourages strategic intervention to eradicate violence, as well as promoting cooperation and access to resources with international agencies.

Finally, there is an emphasis on the fact that all these forms of cooperation and international coordination to monitor the human rights of children and adolescents, of protection bodies and

mechanisms, must encourage and reach the most internal and territorial areas of the countries; as well as on the importance of consolidating the participation of children and adolescents, without losing sight of levels of diversification and autonomy for territorial management. Once again, the intervention of the IIN-OAS at these levels of development and strengthening of initiatives was underscored.

B. Perception of an Inter-American Convention to Eradicate Violence against Children.

Regarding the possibility of creating an inter-American treaty such as an Inter-American Convention to eradicate violence against children and adolescents, which can cover or reinforce progress made through other instruments, including the CRC, most of the responses sent by the States participating in the Survey indicated their agreement to the creation of an instrument of this nature, mainly pointing out reasons or potential. Some of them highlighted their support for an inter-American instrument if certain conditions are contemplated. Finally, a few did not categorically refuse to consider an instrument of this nature, but warned against seeking further revisions or scope prior to its definition.

Among the directly affirmative responses, the importance was highlighted of an inter-American instrument that would help to strengthen and contribute to compliance with the guidelines given by the CRC, its protocols and monitoring mechanisms in the field of violence. Such an instrument could contribute to the regional adaptation, strengthening and updating of the CRC in this field and reinforce the measures necessary to prevent violence, promote rights and protect all children and adolescents in the region. All these views resemble the similar one on violence against women (Belém Do Pará), as a platform for interaction and bilateral agreements for comprehensive protection, which can generate synergies with other instruments and bodies of the Inter-American System of Human Rights, and the acquisition or improvement of skills and capacities for technical assistance and support in the protection of rights.

In this regard, from the survey conducted among members of civil society and experts, we also note that while it is important to continue making progress in strengthening international regulatory frameworks and that there are advantages in approaching the Inter-American System, the political dimensions must be assessed in establishing and subsequently instrumentalizing such a treaty. Specificity can contribute to compliance and to an impact on daily life, but at the same time it can also generate too much detail that will end up excluding or preventing its adaptability. Hence, it is also important to evaluate whether it is appropriate to conceive it as a protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights, and to ponder the importance of delving into technical issues such as training, coordination, and resource improvement.

More specifically, there were remarks regarding the fact that this instrument could advocate for achieving intersectional and intersectoral indicators aimed at improving public policies, moving towards the recognition of new forms of violence, their typology and the multidimensionality of violence against children and adolescents with greater vulnerability or levels of exclusion.

There was also mention of more technical contributions that could be defined as ‘obligations’ that enable and require countries to generate actions to address violence, without contravening national constitutional safeguards. Because of this, an increase in legislative measures was indicated, as well as legal standardization and programmatic protection, with greater investment; mechanisms for collection, monitoring of cases and restitution of rights; as well as accountability and systematization of national data.

It is precisely with regard to the matter of national sovereignty that at least two States involved in the survey mentioned that all international instruments for the promotion and comprehensive protection of rights are positive, but also considering national regulatory frameworks and the realities surrounding coordination and autonomy of and within their territories. This perspective is linked to issues we discussed above in the initial part of this paper, on the harmonization of the CRC, for some States parties. Hence, the importance was highlighted of an inter-American instrument, if it should include obligations according to criteria that are no longer contained in national policies for the protection of children and adolescents against violence. This is apparent in some of the States’ cautious responses, when they noted that discussions should be continued on whether to endorse or justify the creation of such an instrument, which is linked to the CRC, while recognizing regional gaps, and addressing existing social issues such as poverty, marginalization, etc.

C. Main needs or priorities to be resolved by inter-American instruments to eradicate violence against children.

This last section of the study seeks the most precise or meaningful definition of a priority issue that should be developed or addressed through an Inter-American Convention, or that such a convention must contain. Once again, we shall organize our remarks from the general to the specific.

We begin by mentioning the importance of aiming at the commitment and political will to ensure the implementation and full compliance with current international frameworks and mechanisms, mainly those related to the CRC. From that point, particularly, attempt to contribute to national systems and the international cooperation of legislative and programmatic mechanisms aimed at the eradication of violence against children.

Such an instrument should seek to promote, strengthen and improve relationships and ties with adults in their settings, and between children and adolescents, for which the complementarity of the gender and generational approach; the intersectoral and territorial focus should prevail. Similarly, the principles of non-discrimination, progressive autonomy, specialized treatment of vulnerable groups, participation, the development of a culture of peace and good treatment should be strengthened.

For their part, adolescents considered that in order to eradicate violence it is important to promote the rights of children, and, in particular, to inform them about reporting channels; educate families about violence and their roles; and adults in general who have a relationship with them (Open Survey, June 2021)

One element frequently mentioned as a priority is the generation of a typology or classification of violence in the light of social changes, international provisions and those referred to by the CRC. On that basis, progress must be made in establishing mechanisms for diagnosis and surveys on violence, with follow-up and monitoring through specific instruments for each form of violence; which will make it possible to obtain data and statistics that encourage research and intervention.

There is concern about the use of digital areas as a highly vulnerable feature; whether for social networks, the use of and access to the Internet and the media. Special attention is also paid to sexual violence, child marriage, domestic violence (femicide) and infanticide.

There is also a focus on the promotion of policies aimed at early childhood, mental health, parental care and the creation of protocols to provide care for cases and restitution of rights.

In order to illustrate the various types of violence, a list (which is not exhaustive) of types referred to by the CRC and other international provisions, presented by Mexico, is supplied in an appendix, showing minimum criteria that should be included in a regional instrument for the eradication of violence against children and adolescents.

IV. Conclusions

1. This study is a partial reflection of the major developments that 15 States parties and global and regional civil society organizations have engaged in with the aim of eradicating violence against children. The analysis responds to systematic, normative and programmatic criteria that reflect a regional panorama; in addition to serving as a starting point to justify any regional initiative that may be carried out within the Inter-American Human Rights System.
2. The CRC is the normative and historic milestone that determines a paradigm shift for intervention linked to the promotion of the exercise of the rights of children. It is complemented by its protocols, and also joined by other normative instruments in the field of global human rights, which shows the existence of a general universal normative framework.
3. In the region, there is a history of implementation of regional instruments for the promotion and protection of rights applicable to specific population groups, such as the Belém do Pará Convention and the Inter-American Convention on the Protection of the Human Rights of Older Persons. However, there are no specific instruments relating to the rights of children and adolescents in general or to violence in particular.
4. The opinions of our interviewees are added to other voices that indicate the existence of gaps between the international commitments made by the States, their incorporation in internal

legislation and the effective implementation of policies in accordance with these commitments. This suggests that the usefulness of an inter-American instrument would be conditioned by the effective commitment of the States to its implementation and monitoring.

5. Our survey of plans, programmes and actions shows that there is concern in the region about the way in which violence permeates the living areas of children and adolescents. However, violence in its different forms continues to be present as a central component in any violation of rights. Among its main settings, these forms of violence against children and teenagers take place in the family itself, educational institutions and public venues.
6. Among the persons consulted, concern was expressed at the lack of monitoring and systematic, comparable information that would allow for a differential analysis of population groups and geographical areas. This constitutes an obstacle to the monitoring and evaluation of the policies implemented and their eventual revision on the basis of evidence.
7. Among the different actors consulted, the conviction was expressed that the eradication of violence against children and adolescents must entail the commitment and responsibility of the States as a whole, and therefore, must be part of comprehensive protection systems with inter-agency, intersectoral and territorial synchronization.
8. Among the measures proposed, the following stand out: the need for awareness-raising and training for all those who work with children and adolescents in their different roles, as well as for caregiving adults and children and adolescents themselves; thus reaching all community and territorial levels. There was also an emphasis on improving national routes, protocols and/or mechanisms for dealing with cases.
9. In relation to initiatives that transcend the national level, it is evident that there are sub-regional experiences and international cooperation initiatives between States and promoted by civil society, which seek to promote the eradication of violence, or some of it, and in general, the promotion of the rights of children. These forms of cooperation include training, technical assistance or the provision of resources.
10. Plurality in the region demonstrates the same breadth and diversification of comprehensive and specific policies for the eradication of violence. Especially important are the creation of large-scale national programmatic instruments (National Plans) that can explicitly define actions to detect, act and restore rights in situations of violence; that provide guidance and are comprehensive in their territorial adaptation.
11. There is a high rate of intersectoral attendance and participation, as well as the creation of intermediate consultative and executive bodies and concern regarding the inclusion of international and national civil society, and the participation of children and adolescents.
12. There is also concern for the identification and recognition of the new forms of violence, mainly in virtual and sexual environments, as well as for intervention in territorial areas closer to the

population. Similarly, concern is expressed about addressing violence with consideration for its multidimensional factors, with a particular focus on groups with greater vulnerability and exclusion.

13. The Inter-American Human Rights System offers opportunities for rapprochement, with the use of instruments and mechanisms that can follow up on provisions that seek the eradication of violence against children and adolescents; prioritizing the promotion of protective factors to prevent the occurrence of violence, the creation of follow-up mechanisms, technical assistance and support for protection, taking into account the mission of IACHR agencies such as the Inter-American Court and Commission of Human Rights, and the IIN-OAS, and technical cooperation responses among country parties.
14. An inter-American instrument (Convention) for the eradication of violence could contribute to a specific or diversified definition of commitments, to the visualization of regional demands and to encouraging cooperation processes that can encompass the eradication of violence comprehensively. However, these same visions are contemplated by the CRC itself, but addressed more broadly and in a way that engages the States and elicits their response directly to the Committee. A regional instrument would be an intermediate form that could complement the CRC and also assign roles and technical commitments to the different bodies of the IACHR (IACHR, I/A Court), including the IIN-OAS, for its fulfilment.

To conclude, we should underscore the interest in and concern for the problem of violence on the part of all of the different actors involved, who agree, beyond their diversity, in the need and opportunity to generate mechanisms that complement and enhance those that already exist, and attempt to bring rights that are universally enshrined into the daily lives of children and adolescents in the region.

Institutions Consulted

The following institutions submitted information and/or participated in the virtual discussions organized for the study.

Member State institutions whose authorities are members of the Directing Council of the IIN.

The survey was forwarded to all 34 Member States and replies were received from:

- **ARGENTINA**
Secretaría Nacional de Niñez,
Adolescencia y Familia de la Nación
Ministerio de Desarrollo Social de la
Nación.
- **BOLIVIA**
Viceministerio de Igualdad de
Oportunidades
Ministerio de Justicia y Transparencia
Institucional.
- **CANADA**
Centre for Health Promotion
Public Health Agency of Canada.
- **CHILE**
SERVICIO NACIONAL DE MENORES
(SENAME).
- **COLOMBIA**
Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar
Familiar (ICBF).
- **ECUADOR**
Consejo Nacional del Igualdad
Intergeneracional (CNII).
- **EL SALVADOR**
Consejo Nacional de la Niñez y
Adolescencia (CONNA).
- **GUATEMALA (SBS)**
Secretaria de Bienestar Social de la
Presidencia de la República.
- **GUYANA**
Ministry of Human Services and Social
Security.
- **HONDURAS**
Dirección de Niñez, Adolescencia y
Familia (DINAF).
- **MEXICO**
Sistema Nacional de Protección Integral
de Niños, Niñas y Adolescentes
(SIPINNA).
- **NICARAGUA**
Ministerio de la Familia, Adolescencia y
Niñez.
- **PARAGUAY**
Ministerio de la Niñez y Adolescencia.
- **PERU**
Ministerio de la Mujer y Poblaciones
Vulnerables.
- **URUGUAY**
Instituto del Niño y Adolescente del
Uruguay.

Agencies of the Inter-American, United Nations and Subregional Systems.

- **Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.**
Rapporteur on the Rights of the Child.
- **Inter-American Commission of Women.**
MESECVI Technical Secretariat
- **Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children**
- **UNICEF**
Office for Latin America and the Caribbean.
- **General Secretariat of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)**
- **MERCOSUR**
Instituto de Políticas Públicas en Derechos Humanos del MERCOSUR (IPPDH).

Organizations, Society, Group for the Eradication of Violence of the Global Movement for Children Latin America and the Caribbean chapter MMI-LAC and other civil society actors.

- **BICE**
- **ChildFund**
- **CIPRODENI**
- **Sara Oviedo**
- **Save the Children**
- **University of the West Indies**
- **Viva Latin America and the Caribbean**
- **World Vision**

Appendices

The appendices are in their original language.

[APPENDIX 1: TABLE OF INTERNATIONAL AND INTER-AMERICAN INSTRUMENTS](#)

[APPENDIX 2: TABLE OF NATIONAL REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS](#)

[APPENDIX 3: LIST OF TYPES OF VIOLENCE - MEXICO](#)

[APPENDIX 4: SYSTEMATIZATION OF STATE AND CIVIL SOCIETY GUIDES](#)

[APPENDIX 5: METHODOLOGICAL DESIGN AND GUIDES FROM FOCUS GROUPS TO CIVIL SOCIETY AND EXPERTS](#)

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