



CD/ RES. 04 (88-R/13)

PROMOTING FAMILIES' ATTENTION GIVING AND CHILD-REARING CAPACITY IN RELATION TO EARLY CHILDHOOD

(Adopted at the third plenary session, held on September 17, 2013)

THE DIRECTING COUNCIL,

CONSIDERING:

That for the States Party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, this international instrument and the contents of the Committee on the Rights of the Child's General Comment N^o 7, "Implementing child rights in early childhood", which emphasizes the fact that children in early childhood should be acknowledged as holders of all the rights enshrined in the Convention, are central references in the definition of their policies;

That there is a great deal of scientific evidence that shows the effects of affective bonds and of children's surroundings during the early stages of their lives, on the development of their biological and brain systems, which will enable them to develop learning capabilities and skills for life;

That the IIN's Action Plan 2011-2015 includes early childhood among its priority workstreams, and that a working group composed of 12 States was formed to address the subject;

That at the initiative of the Government of Colombia, in the working group on early childhood held on March 23rd, it was agreed to produce a document containing general guidelines for the promotion of positive parenting skills and child-rearing capacity in families, in relation to early childhood;

RECOGNIZING:

That public policies to strengthen families contribute significantly to the integral development of children in early childhood, because the family is the first environment in which they are socialized.



That according to the definition of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the term "family" refers to a "variety of arrangements that can provide for young children's care, nurturance and development, including nuclear family, the extended family, and other traditional and modern community-based arrangements, provided these are consistent with children's rights and best interests" responsible for caring for and overseeing the development of young children, and that the term includes nuclear families, extended families and other traditional and modern forms based on the community, so long as they abide by the rights and best interest of the child;

That the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the specialised health agency of the of the Inter-American System and which serves as the Regional Office for the Americas of the World Health Organization (WHO), actively advances child health in the Region. In 2012, Member States of PAHO endorsed a Strategy and approved a Plan of Action for Integrated Child Health that aims to promote the development of policies, plans, programs, and budgets, with a view to creating conditions for scaling up integrated child health interventions.

That in addition, PAHO supports the development of integrated technical guidelines and tools to facilitate implementation of the Strategy and Plan of Action. A key tool developed by PAHO in 2012 is the "Monitoring Child Development (0-6) in the Integrated Management of Childhood Illness Context.

That the international community agreed to the Education For All Goals at Dakar, Senegal in 2000, including Goal 1 which aims to expand and improve comprehensive early childhood care and education, especially for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children.

That in processes to strengthen capacities, the value and potential of all population groups must be recognized so as to generate appropriate attention and enrich the proposals with their own knowledge as well as to promote their contribution to the formulation of policies and programs aimed at their own well being.

That in recent decades, the States in the Inter-American System have made significant technical, political and financial efforts to implement public policies for the comprehensive protection of early childhood, and that an analysis of these policies shows the need to act directly on the issue of families, which are children's immediate environment, strengthening the capacity of significant adults to provide settings that promote development, as a means to bolster and enhance the effects of actions carried out in wider social areas,



Resolves:

1. To call upon the States to continue to move forward, progressively and according to their possibilities and capacities, in the implementation of long-term policies, plans and programmes in strengthen of families in caring for and bringing up children, in order to promote healthy, safe and protected learning environments that contribute to the comprehensive development of children in early childhood.
2. Invite the States to develop proximity strategies with the families to address the strengthening of child care and childrearing capabilities that eliminate the gap between the services for children in early childhood (early education, health) and the family environment.
3. To recall that the implementation and sustainability of comprehensive policies, and plans and programs designed to address early childhood require the sustained investment of funds aim specifically at this group.
4. To reaffirm that the policies directed at early childhood from the rights perspective must be comprehensive. This requires inter-sectorial strategies based on clear agreements about responsibilities of each institution; and the will to overcome conflicts “in the best interest of the child.”
5. To agree that in this process, member states should bear in mind certain essential elements to ensure the timeliness and relevance of their actions in support of families with children in early childhood, such as:
 - Fostering the implementation of procedures with a differential approach, bearing in mind ethnic, cultural and especially gifted individuals or disabilities or gender-based diversity, or specific situations involving rights violations, such as being the victims of different types of violence or negligence.
 - Encouraging actions aimed at strengthening family capacities, placing emphasis on the use of their own resources and with the use of methodologies which allow participation, knowledge-sharing, reflection and the recognition or transformation of parenting and child-rearing practices.
 - Working deliberately to strengthen the bond between parents and their children by re-thinking gender stereotypes and the responsibility of males in childrearing.



- Promoting actions to train those in charge of providing training and support to families.
 - Attempting to ensure that activities involving family settings are closely linked to the networks of services targeting early childhood, in keeping with guidelines and quality standards that have been duly established and evaluated.
 - Promoting a sub-system for follow-up and monitoring that includes the action directed at the strengthening of the families, to achieve a constant improvement in the action taken for early childhood.
6. To urge the States, multilateral organizations and strategic partners to promote horizontal activities to share "good practices" and training for professionals working with families and support the States in the process of implementing policies or programs focused on the family environment..
7. To entrust the Inter-American Children's Institute with the task of supporting and articulating efforts carried out by the States in the region, to consolidate integral policies in order to the strengthen work in the area of early childhood in the family context.. In this regard the IIN will seek to coordinate with other agencies of the Inter-American System (Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO)- Executive Secretary for Integral Development SEDI)