



**91<sup>a</sup> IIN OEAOAS**  
Reunión Ordinaria del Consejo Directivo del Instituto  
Interamericano del Niño, la Niña y Adolescentes  
**Santiago, Chile**  
27 y 28 de Octubre de 2016



CD/RES. 12 (91-R/16)

## MAINSTREAMING A GENDER APPROACH IN THE COMPREHENSIVE PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

(Adopted at the Fourth Plenary Session, held on October 28, 2016)

### THE DIRECTING COUNCIL,

#### WHEREAS:

Executive Order No. 16-03 of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS), issued on 7 March 2016 by the Secretary General of the OAS, Dr Luis Almagro, adopted a document on *“The General Secretariat’s Institutional Policy on Gender Equality, Diversity, and Human Rights”*;

The Inter-American Children’s Institute’s Action Plan 2015-2019, adopted at the 90th Regular Meeting of the Directing Council, held in Antigua, Guatemala, in November 2015, includes among its Approaches for Action, the promotion of gender mainstreaming, in the understanding that: *“The child rights perspective and the gender approach are inseparable from the consolidation and strengthening of democracy, not only as a form of government, but as a style of life that is respectful of the dignity of all, irrespective of differences”*;

The various regional meetings and forums, at which children have expressed concern regarding discriminatory conduct based on gender differences and have called for the need to promote equality and mutual respect among individuals without regard to age and gender;

#### BEARING IN MIND:

Gender equality is based on the international standards established by the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) signed by OAS Member States;



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The OAS has an Institutional Policy on Gender Equality, Diversity, and Human Rights that commits to applying a gender mainstreaming approach to all of its functioning, including its special committee and Council;

The existence of gender-based discrimination, gender stereotyping and an unequal distribution of power between women and men, girls and boys. This injustice especially affects the lives of girls and women from infancy to adulthood. It contributes to high infant and childhood mortality, to low educational achievement, teenage pregnancy and to failures to protect children from harm. It also affects the economic survival of families and the participation of children and young people in family and community decisions. Many violations of children's rights have their roots in gender-based inequality, exclusion and injustice;

Society is paying increased attention to gender issues, thus offering opportunities to reflect on culturally deeply-rooted notions on gender norms. This presents an opportunity to revise and deconstruct these notions with the view to promote the human rights of all individuals without distinction of any kind;

A gender approach permits for an analysis of the varying, socially constructed roles of men and women and the relations of power at both micro and macro social levels. That this opens up the possibility of an analysis of the sexual division of labour, differences in access to and control of resources, the socio-economic factors and social issues which affect women and men differently, different forms of subjective interpretation and participation in decision-making including sexual and reproductive decisions, among others;

The experience gathered while working for child rights in the region, which confirms that gender issues are not limited to the "adult world", but appear at the very beginning of life, when children are the target of expectations related to gender roles and, at birth, they are received by a group of human beings organized in keeping with these models;

### **BEARING IN MIND, FURTHER, THAT:**

The conviction that a critical review of these models, and involving men in the responsibilities of childcare and parenting are inescapable elements in child protection policies with a rights-based perspective;

The special significance of a differential analysis of risk, violations of rights and strategies to restore rights in areas in which the IIN works, such as: violence in general and gender-based violence in particular, migrant children, trafficking and smuggling of children, and protection during natural disasters;



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Gender analysis also involves systematic research into the different impact that development models have on women and on men, as well as on girls and boys and individuals with non-binary gender identities,

### RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the General Directorate of the IIN to work in coordination with the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) and civil society to mainstream the gender approach as a tool to be used in all phases of project cycles, as well as in evaluations and assessments related to the guaranteeing of rights of children and adolescents.
2. To promote the effective integration, of mainstreaming of the gender perspective in all phases of the actions of the existing system for the comprehensive protection of children in the region.
3. To promote exchanges of best practices and technical assistance as mechanisms which facilitate strengthening the work carried out by the IIN and Member States in gender perspective to guarantee child rights.
4. To continue strengthening the training of its technical team in the gender perspective and moving towards the inclusion of the issue in courses offered as part of the Inter-American Training Programme carried out by the IIN.