THE FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CHILDREN’S INSTITUTE

(Adopted at the Second Plenary Session, held on October 27, 2016)

THE DIRECTING COUNCIL,

CONSIDERING:

It is important for the Member States to work on protecting human rights, including the human rights of children;

The Member States conduct valuable and ongoing work protecting and safeguarding the human rights of children in the Americas;

The need for Member States to continue strengthening their promotion and protection systems to improve the exercise of the rights of children and adolescents in the region;

That in such work, the support of the Organization of American States, especially through the IIN, as the agency specializing in the human rights of children, is particularly significant, considering its programs and activities to support Member States, in order to strengthen their capacity to promote and protect the rights of children, and respond to the interests and requirements that Member States, have expressed in the Directing Council of the IIN;

The IIN’s Action Plan 2015-2019, adopted by 22 Member States at the 90th Regular Meeting of the Directing Council, which reaffirms the indissoluble link between the strategic mission of the OAS and policies for children, and expresses the impossibility of establishing policies in the four main focal points – human rights, democracy, integral development and multidimensional security – without taking children into account;

RECALLING:

Article 19 of the American Convention on Human Rights and 16 of its additional protocol, which refers to child rights and measures of protection appropriate to their condition;

Article 27 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which refers to the promotion of democratic values among children;

Resolution CD/RES. 09 (85-R/10) of the Directing Council of the IIN, which refers to the budgetary situation of the Institute;
General Comment No. 19 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, which refers to public budgets devoted to ensuring the realization of child rights;

BEARING IN MIND:

That the current economic scenario in the region demands that there be a greater attention on children, inasmuch they are exposed to greater violations of rights in situations of economic crisis;

That the Organization of American States faces multiples challenges regarding prioritizing and strengthening its activities, and is considering budget cuts for the years 2016-2017, in the region of 14%;

That according to the Statutes of the IIN its financial resources include a Regular Fund from the OAS as well as Specific Funds;

That in its 46th regular period of sessions, held in the Dominican Republic in 2016, the Organization of American States, taking into account, the demographic characteristics of the sub-region and the activities established by the authorities of the region in children’s rights matters, in the IIN's Action Plan 2015-2019, resolved, inter alia:

[...]“To contribute to the implementation of policies that guarantee all children the necessary conditions, from birth, for them to fully develop their personality, their cognitive, emotional, and bonding potential, and their aptitudes for co-existence and the full exercise of their rights and citizenship. To this end, efforts shall be made to promote horizontal and cross-sector cooperation models, as well as strategies for strengthening family care and childrearing that encourage gender equality” [...] AG/RES. 2881 (XLVI-O/16) ADVANCING HEMISPHERIC INITIATIVES ON INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT;

[...]“1. To assist in strengthening the promotion and protection systems to ensure the full exercise of the rights of the child in the region, promoting universal and inclusive public policies, with special attention to groups traditionally excluded and/or vulnerable groups. 2. To encourage educational and communications actions to promote a culture of rights with the firm belief that the approaches of guaranteeing and restoring the rights of the child, promotion of equality, and the gender-based approach are inseparable from the consolidation and deepening of democracies as a lifestyle respectful of the dignity of all persons over and above their differences. [...] AG/RES. 2887 (XLVI-O/16) PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS;

[...] “1. To promote the participation of children and adolescents and the exercise of their freedom to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas and, at the same time, to develop among authorities, political actors, and adults in general the capacity and attitudes necessary to listen to and respect the opinions and proposals of children and adolescents. 2. To promote inter-generational dialogue through peaceful co-existence based on democratic values that respect diverse opinions and encourage gender equality, equity, and nonviolence, and peaceful conflict resolution.[...] AG/RES. 2894 (XLVI-O/16) STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY,
RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm the priority that the investment, promotion, protection, effective exercise and guarantee of child rights should have for the Member States, which should be reflected in the agencies they are members of, such as the Organization of American States.

2. To reaffirm the importance of the support provided to the Member States, to strengthen their systems to promote and protect the human rights of children, by the Inter-American Children’s Institute, as an agency specializing in the human rights of children.

3. To express its concern that due to the financial crisis impacting all OAS entities, the IIN may not have in the future sufficient resources available in its Regular Fund to maintain its management capacity and the support it offers the States in the region through the implementation of actions programmed in its Action Plan and the mandates entrusted to it by the General Assembly of the OAS.

4. To express the will of the IIN to fall in line with the budgetary reduction of the OAS, adjusting its budget by the same percentage reduction which will be applied to the overall budget of the Organization. This implies that the IIN may have to make strategic decisions about its activities based on available resources and taking as a reference the IIN’s 2015-2019 Action Plan.

5. To reaffirm the importance of working through strategic alliances with key actors involved in this issue, where appropriate, to fulfil the IIN’s mandate and avoid the duplication of efforts, respecting the specific mandate of each organization.

6. To instruct the Directorate-General to continue the activities it developed in order to raise specific funds as a complement to the IIN’s regular funds, request the active participation of States to join efforts to obtain the necessary resources for the implementation of the Action Plan 2015-2019 and also to instruct the Directorate-General to maximize efforts to optimize these resources.

7. To request the Director General to forward this resolution to the Secretary General and to the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States.

This additional note is not part of the text of the resolution.- The Resolution was voted on at the Second Plenary Session of the 91st Regula Session of the IIN, with the presence of the Representatives of Twenty Member States. It was approved by Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, El Salvador, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Saint Lucia and Uruguay. Canada and The United States abstained.

Canada cannot join consensus on this point as it is of the opinion that IIn cannot determine the percentage of reduction to its budget that may be applied by the OAS.