

VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

(Adopted at the Fourth Plenary Session, held on September 20, 2017)

THE DIRECTING COUNCIL,

RECALLING:

The Declaration of the General Assembly of the OAS “Violence and exploitation of Children” AG/DEC. 76 (XLIVO/14);

Resolution AG/RES. 2828 (XLIV-O/14) “Prevention and eradication of sexual exploitation, trafficking and boys, girls and adolescents of both sex”;

Resolution AG/RES. 2887 (XLVI-O/16) “Promotion and Protection of Human Rights”;

Resolution AG/RES. 2894 (XLVI-O/16) “Strengthening of Democracy”;

Recommendations in the 2006 United Nations Study on Violence against Children;

The reports of the Inter American Commission on Human Rights regarding alternative care and systems for juvenile justice in the region;

The joint report of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Office of the United Nations on Drugs and Crime and the Special Representative of the Secretary General on violence against children and on prevention of violence against children in the juvenile justice system and how to respond to this kind of violence;

The General Comments of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, particularly comments on the right of the child not to be the object of any form of violence, protection from corporal punishment and other forms of cruel, degrading and unusual punishment and the rights of the child within juvenile justice systems;

The objectives and goals of Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations, including Goal 16 and specifically 16.2 to “End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children”;

The Unified Resolution of the XXI Pan American Child and Adolescent Congress CPNNA/RES. 1 (XXI-14) “Childhood and adolescence: building peaceful environments”;

Resolution CD/RES 03 (87-R/12) of the IIN Directing Council entitled “Juvenile Justice Systems”;

The Inter-American Cooperation Program for the Prevention and Erradication of Sexual Explotation, Trafficking and trade in Children and Adolescents of the Inter-American Children’s Institute; of Human resources and technical assistance to States Parties;

Resolution CD/RES. 11 (91-R/16) “Sexual Exploitation, Smuggling of and Trafficking in Children;

RECOGNIZING:

That despite efforts made by member states there still persists in the region , a high level of violence against children and adolescents in all its forms and in the different environments in which children and adolescents carry out their activities and socialize, and hence it is imperative to strengthen the implementation of public policies aimed at the prevention and elimination of all violence against children and adolescents;

That structural and economic factors can contribute to social exclusion and discrimination, and can contribute to an increased level of violence and harm to the development of children and adolescents who are in particularly vulnerable circumstances in this regard;

BEARING IN MIND ALSO:

The contribution made during the dialogue with Marta Santos Pais, Special Representative of the Secretary General of the UN on violence against children, at the 92^a Regular session of the Directing Council of the IIN,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm its desire to continue working to strengthen mechanisms to prevent and eradicate violence against children in all its forms and in the different environments in which children develop.
2. To promote actions aimed at transforming cultural norms, and strengthening best practices for educating children and promoting intergenerational relations without violence.
3. To express the relevance for eradicating unsanctioned violence in juvenile justice systems; of continuing to work for the promotion and implementation of alternative measures to court justice systems, including the use of preventive measures other than incarceration unless such measures cannot feasibly be adopted; and, in the case of responsibility for an offense punishable by law, that the penalties usually applied should be those which can be carried out without incarceration, using incarceration penalties only in exceptional cases.
4. To highlight the importance of sharing best practices and experiences of member states in this area, as a point of departure for discussion on determining further cooperation in this area, in particular regarding juvenile justice systems and prevention and eradication of all forms of sexual exploitation.