



PAPER 1  
SUMMARY OF 1st AND 2nd FORUMS  
WORKING PAPER FOR THE VIRTUAL FORUMS TO BE HELD AS PART  
OF THE THIRD PAN AMERICAN CHILD FORUM

## I. Background:

The **Pan American Child Forum** is part of the **Pan American Child Congress**. It was established by the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN) as a reflection of the interest of Member States in creating a venue where children and youth could make their voices heard and receive views and suggestions. Its purpose is to promote child participation through formal activities in which children exercise their right to give their views and be heard by the authorities responsible for the design and implementation of public policies for children in the region.

The **Pan American Forum** represents a joint synchronization effort on the part of children's various spokespeople and representatives in the Member States of the Organization of American States (OAS) and shows that **children's right to participation has a key role in the Pan American Child Congress**, as it positions children as rights-holders by disseminating their opinions and generating discussion with the authorities on subjects that involve the enjoyment of their rights.

Thirty years after the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, this third Forum aims to offer a preparatory stage which we have called "the virtual forums". These are online events that we hope you can join and participate in with your consultative council or organized group, by answering the trigger questions that we suggest in this paper.

Finally, before moving on to the questions for this preparatory and virtual forum, we invite you to review some aspects of the First and Second Pan American Forums, with the purpose of becoming familiar with the Forum's background and thus be better able to make projections for the future.

2

### Here is a time line for the Forums:



### Which countries took part?

1 <sup>st</sup> Forum	2 <sup>nd</sup> Forum
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Antigua and Barbuda</li> <li>2. Argentina</li> <li>3. Barbados</li> <li>4. Bolivia</li> <li>5. Brazil</li> <li>6. Canada</li> <li>7. Chile</li> <li>8. Colombia</li> <li>9. Costa Rica</li> <li>10. Ecuador</li> <li>11. El Salvador</li> <li>12. United States of America</li> <li>13. Jamaica</li> <li>14. Mexico</li> <li>15. Paraguay</li> <li>16. Peru</li> <li>17. Dominican Republic</li> <li>18. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines</li> <li>19. Saint Lucia</li> <li>20. Trinidad and Tobago</li> <li>21. Uruguay</li> <li>22. Venezuela</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Antigua and Barbuda</li> <li>2. Argentina</li> <li>3. Barbados</li> <li>4. Bolivia</li> <li>5. Brazil</li> <li>6. Chile</li> <li>7. Colombia</li> <li>8. Ecuador</li> <li>9. El Salvador</li> <li>10. Guatemala</li> <li>11. Jamaica</li> <li>12. Mexico</li> <li>13. Paraguay</li> <li>14. Peru</li> <li>15. Saint Lucia</li> <li>16. Suriname</li> <li>17. Trinidad and Tobago</li> <li>18. Uruguay</li> </ol>
<b>How many children took part?</b>	
<b>61</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>What issues were addressed?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An analysis of the enjoyment of child rights in the region. "Stocktaking and Challenges"</li> <li>• "Child participation in the construction of citizenship and its impact on public policy"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Violence</li> <li>• Sexual exploitation</li> <li>• Juvenile Justice</li> </ul>

### For the 3<sup>rd</sup> Pan American Child Forum...

The 3rd Forum will take place in **Cartagena, Colombia, from 28 to 31 October 2019**. We estimate that **70 adolescents between 12 and 17 years of age will take part, from all of the countries in the region that include participation experiences promoted by the region's governments and agencies**, as well as technical experts from the States and regional specialists.

### We now invite you to review a summary of the Recommendations arising from the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Pan American Forums:

- **What took place at the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Pan American Child Forums?**

During the Forums, **children and youth worked on drafting their final recommendations to be delivered to the delegations taking part in the Pan American Child Congress.**

- **Why is it important to become aware of these recommendations?**

We consider that you should review the recommendations arising from the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Pan American Forums, **in order to analyse and follow up on the challenges that persist to this day. Likewise, to generate an area for problem-posing, reflecting upon and working on the situation of children and adolescents and the promotion and protection of their rights.**

- **What did the children and youth of the Americas recommend with regard to child participation?**

The recommendations of the 1<sup>st</sup> Forum (2009), which were taken up again at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Forum (2015) and are included among the focal points for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Forum, are:

#### In relation to forms of participation:

- **Establish representative Consultative Councils, widely disseminated and with legal support, at local, regional, national and Inter-American levels, so that the words, opinions, needs and proposals of children, including children with special abilities and needs, should be incorporated in the design and implementation of public policies to be executed by the highest authorities.**
- **Promote the participation of persons with special abilities and needs.**

- **Create or improve early stimulation opportunities to foster participation in children of between 0 and 5 years of age.** *Beyond these settings, there is agreement that participation between the ages of 0 and 5 is almost non-existent. At this stage, children are very dependent on adults. Experiences at these ages involve care rather than participation.*<sup>1</sup>
- **Implement public areas suitable for the participation of all children, contributing to recreation, culture, play and self-expression / communication.**
- **Establish Student Councils with the participation of children, parents and members of the community in general.**

#### Participation as Cross-Generational Discussion:

- **Educate and raise the awareness of persons connected with children and youth with regard to child rights and the promotion of participation.**
- *Some of us think this is related to adults' lack of capacity to listen or to pay attention to our points of view. Instead, they choose to 'impose', rather than promote or encourage.*
- **The State should provide family aid and develop campaigns using appropriate methodology, in order to promote a more open attitude in parents. They should listen to children and allow them to give their views on subjects that affect them and their families.**
- *Organize time better in order to contribute to an exchange of ideas.*

5

- **What recommendations did children and youth make in relation to Violence?**

- **Prohibit all forms of corporal and psychological punishment in families, schools and society.**
- **There are border conflicts which affect the protection of child rights. We recommend halting investment in weapons and promoting peace.**
- **The States should draft laws to ensure that children are protected in border areas sensitive to child sexual exploitation, generating detection and control systems at points where children are most vulnerable, watching particularly over their movements in these places.**
- **Establish eighteen years as the minimum age at which criminal punishment such as deprivation of liberty may be imputed and implement restorative justice measures.**

<sup>1</sup> Verbatim recommendations are in *italics*.

- **With regard to Education, what did the recommendations say?**

- **Guarantee transport in remote areas so that children with limited financial resources can attend school.**
- **States must increase investment in education.**
- **Child rights should be included as a school subject and should be taught by means of experiential methodology.**
- **We need guidance programmes on sexual education.**
- **Teenage mothers should not be restricted in their right to education.**
- **We do not want memory-based education, but education based on our experience.**
- **Food programmes should be broadened and improved and associated with urban, suburban and rural schools.**
- ***We call upon all authorities to put an end to border conflict and give priority to children's education, in order to generate a culture of world peace. MORE SCHOOLS, FEWER WEAPONS.***

6

#### **Other Issues:**

- **There is a need for agreements between national agencies, with the purpose of coordinating work on children's issues.**
- **We demand that governments' budgets for children's issues should not be reduced, should progressively increase, and should be devoted to projects protecting children from different types of violence.**
- **The States should set up agreements internationally and between national agencies, with the purpose of coordinating work on children's issues.**

#### **Commitments undertaken by children and youth:**

- **Share child participation experiences carried out in our countries.**

- We adolescents have great interest in supporting the proposals drafted in this Forum, even together with the youth groups who come after us.

**If you wish to learn more about the recommendations arising from the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Forums, please visit the following links:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Forum:** [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1d\\_vZNM-uMt9Xor4otDcgZdZxROkUK0qt/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1d_vZNM-uMt9Xor4otDcgZdZxROkUK0qt/view?usp=sharing)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Forum:** [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zUbgVc\\_YxxAfOAqLZOwhlx31HPBxjG9h/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zUbgVc_YxxAfOAqLZOwhlx31HPBxjG9h/view?usp=sharing)

### Questions to consider for the virtual forums:



The virtual forums will be held on three dates, bearing in mind the three American sub-regions<sup>2</sup> where children and youth from consultative councils and/or organized groups will take part, as well as the Network of Child and Youth Correspondents (The CORIA Network).

CENTRAL AMERICA FORUM – 9 JULY

NORTH AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN  
(ENGLISH SPEAKING) FORUM – 16 JULY

SOUTH AMERICA FORUM – 23 JULY

7

Below we suggest some trigger questions that you can answer within your consultative council or organized group, with the purpose of organizing the evolution of the virtual forums:

<sup>2</sup> : **9 July** (countries in Central America, Mexico and the Dominican Republic, **16 July** (Canada, USA, and the English-speaking Caribbean), **23 July** (South America).

**1. Do you consider that the recommendations and issues arising at the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> FORUMS are still valid?**

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**2. What recommendations or commitments, other than those already mentioned, would you add with regard to these issues?**

- Child Participation**
- Cross-Generation Discussion**
- Education**
- Violence**
- Investment and budget for childhood and adolescence**

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**3. Thinking about the Third Pan American Child Forum: Would you add any other recommendations to any of the following actors: the States, civil society, families, IIN-OAS, others? What subjects would you touch upon in these recommendations?**

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**4. What other matters related to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Pan American Forum do you wish to share with us?**

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**5. What commitments would you be willing to undertake regarding these issues? (Participation and Violence)**

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