

“CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD”
(Approved at the Second Plenary Session of Heads of Delegation,
held on October 31, 2019)

THE XXII PAN-AMERICAN CONGRESS ON CHILDREN,

AWARE:

Of the commemoration, in November 2019, of the 30th anniversary of the approval of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by the General Assembly of the United Nations;

BEARING IN MIND:

That the Convention on the Rights of the Child, together with the Inter-American Convention on Human Rights for those Member States of the Inter-American System that are State Parties to those instruments are basic instruments of the corpus juris relating to children in the region;

RECALLING:

Resolution AG/RES.1951 (XXXIII-O/03) Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Children in the Americas, which reaffirms “... the fundamental importance of the promotion and protection of the human rights of children for the future of the Hemisphere”, and also urges “Member States to consider, as necessary, ratification or adherence to the international or regional treaties on protecting the human rights of children, and also to develop, when necessary, legislation, laws, policies and national practices to implement their international legal obligation, and to be guided by international norms in the adoption of national measures in this area.”;

Resolution AG/RES. 2941 (XLIX-O/19) The Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, which resolves “To welcome with pleasure the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and to urge Member States to renew their commitments to guarantee, protect, and promote the rights of children and adolescents; to generate the conditions to enable them to demand compliance; and to reinforce action to combat violence against children and adolescents in all its forms.”;

The other resolutions of the OAS General Assembly on Human Rights and on the specific issue of the rights of Children and Adolescents;

The Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography; on the involvement of children in armed conflict; and, on a communications procedure;

Resolution CPNNA/RES. 1 (XXI-14) of the XXI Pan-American Child and Adolescent Congress: building peaceful environments”, in which Member States are invited to renew their efforts to promote and protect the rights of Children and Adolescents in accordance with the national commitments and international obligations assumed by State parties on ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child;

CONSIDERING:

That the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child implied a change of paradigm for States that have signed and ratified it, and represents a minimum floor of child´s rights that must be guaranteed, serving as a basis for progressive evolution of their recognition and protection; and, as they assume their commitment to generate the necessary conditions to permit all children, without any discrimination, access to the effective exercise and enjoyment of their rights;

That with these premises the States of the Inter-American System, have been making important regulatory, institutional and programmatic changes, incorporating a new view of childhood and adolescence, as titular subjects of rights, and not as objects of protection;

RECOGNIZING:

That despite the progress made by the States in the 30 years which have passed since the adoption of the Convention, there are still factors existing in the region which limit the exercise of the rights of children, compounded by the latest migratory flows placing some groups of the population in particular vulnerability, and hence the distance which still separates us from the full enjoyment of rights is a major challenge for States, society and family in the region,

DECLARES:

1. To reaffirm its unshakeable commitment to the exercise and protection of the Human Rights of Children, in the framework of the different international human rights instruments, especially the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, in the case of those States which have signed and ratified the Convention, and in its internal normative frameworks.

2. To invite the Member States of the Inter-American System which have signed , and ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to strengthen the implementation of this Convention, and all States to express their commitment, as previously indicated, by signing and this Declaration.