

“INTEGRAL PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF CHILDREN IN THE AMERICAS”

(Approved at the Second Plenary Session of Heads of Delegation, held on October 31, 2019)

XXII PAN-AMERICAN CONGRESS ON CHILDREN,

CONSIDERING:

That the Pan-American Congress on Children is an inter-American ministerial meeting that has the purpose of promoting the exchange of experience and knowledge among the peoples in the Americas on the issues within the competence of the Inter-American Children’s Institute and of proposing the relevant recommendations;

RECOGNIZING:

The commitment of OAS Member States to the promotion and protection of the human rights of all children in the region, seeking to ensure that these rights are implemented and exercised;

HIGHLIGHTING:

The fundamental role of family as the main environment for the promotion, protection and exercise of the human rights of children, established in articles 5 and 18 n° 1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

BEARING IN MIND:

The Recommendations made by the II Civil Society Forum prior to the XXII Pan-American Congress on Children;

CONSIDERING IN PARTICULAR:

Presentations made by the Member States during the various panels held at the XXII Pan-American Congress on Children, the exchanges held, and the contributions made by the representatives at the 3rd Pan-American Child Forum;

i. “Towards the eradication of all forms of violence and exploitation (SDG Goal 16.2)”

RECALLING:

OAS General Assembly Declaration AG/DEC. 76 (XLIVO/14), on “Violence and Exploitation of Children”, as well as other resolutions approved by the General Assembly on violence against children in general, and in other environments and in specific areas;

The Unified resolution of the XXI Pan-American Congress on Children CPNNA/RES. 1 (XXI-14) "Childhood and Adolescence: Building peaceful Environments", and the recommendations of the II Pan-American Child and Adolescent Forum, especially those related to the eradication of all forms of violence and exploitation;

Resolutions of the IIN Directing Council contained in, CD/RES. 11 (91-R/16), CD/RES. 08 (92-R/17) and CD/RES. 14 (93-R/18), on violence against children;

The Inter-American Program of Cooperation for the Prevention and Eradication of Sexual Violence and Exploitation, Trafficking and Trade in Children and the Resolution of the IIN Directing Council contained in CD/RES. 11 (91-R/16), on the sexual exploitation, trafficking and trade in children;

The Resolution of the IIN Directing Council, CD/RES. 07 (90-R/15), "Unaccompanied Migrant Children";

General Comments of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the reports of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and other studies and recommendations formulated internationally and by the Inter-American system on this topic and applicable to the system;

Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 16 and goal 16.2 "To end the ill treatment, exploitation, trade and all forms of violence and torture against children.";

HIGHLIGHTING:

The initiatives and advances in the region and implementation of public policies, the assignment of resources and other actions aimed at eliminating violence against children in all environments; many of these experiences having been the subject of dialogue and information exchange at this Congress;

CONSIDERING:

That despite the progress highlighted here, there is still a high degree of violence against children, hence it is necessary to continue with and strengthen the work of the Member States in the normative, programmatic, budgetary and cultural areas, in order to prevent and eliminate violence against children,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm its commitment to prevent and eradicate all forms of violence and exploitation against children in the Americas.

2. To encourage Member States to work on comprehensive proposals, which take into account all dimensions of this issue, and contemplate all the regulatory, programmatic, budgetary and cultural issues, so as to establish regulatory frameworks and effective public policies for the adequate protection and promotion of rights in the face of all forms of exploitation and violence; and to inspire cultural transformation leading to intergenerational relationships without the use of violence.

3. To invite Member States to develop programs and actions to strengthen the capacity of children to exercise all the rights that have been recognized to them by the Convention of the Rights of the Child, especially to identify, denounce and be aware of their right to a life free of violence and abuse, and to promote dialogue and intergenerational conversation.

4. To highlight the importance of responsibility shared by the State, society and family, ensuring the integral protection of the rights of children; so it is essential to incorporate their participation in the actions that are promoted, as well as, children`s participation.

5. To also invite Member States to strengthen all action and mechanisms, whether national or regional, being implemented to prevent the sexual exploitation of children, in all its manifestations.

6. To invite Member States to strengthen action to protect the rights of migrant children, with particular emphasis on those who are unaccompanied, those who have been separated, or those who, due to migration procedures, may be in even more vulnerable circumstances

ii. “The Challenges of child and adolescent participation for the different actors. From submission to intergenerational dialogue”

RECALLING:

The Inter-American Democratic Charter, and particularly that the Charter states that “The participation of the citizen in decisions relating to their own development is a right and a responsibility. It is also a necessary condition for the full and complete exercise of democracy. Promoting different forms of participation strengthens democracy.”;

Resolution AG/RES. 2894 (XLVI-O/16) and AG/RES. 2905 (XLVII-O/17) of the OAS General Assembly, “Strengthening of Democracy” with regard to the right to participation of children;

The final recommendation of the First and Second Pan-American Forum of Children, in particular recommendations on the exercise of the right to participation;

BEARING IN MIND:

That for the States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the right to participation is one of the principles for the implementation and exercise of the rights contained in the Convention;

The right and capacity of children as active members of society with rights and responsibilities, to participate and to express their opinions in all matters affecting them, including with respect to the functioning and dynamics of society and the State;

That children’s access to meaningful participation is a basic and fundamental component to improve the relationship between adults and children;

HIGHLIGHTING:

The various kinds of action and proposals which the Member States of the Inter-American System have been developing, as have regional and sub-regional organizations for the promotion and protection of the right to participation of children,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm the commitment to promote child participation, and to promote progress in generation of regulatory frameworks, spaces, mechanisms and activities, which would mean opening up genuine opportunities for children to participate freely and with real capacity for impacting family, community and different environments and government agencies.

2. To receive the recommendations of the 3rd Pan-American Child Forum, as important reference points for the Member States, to analyze and consider them in function of internal regulatory frameworks and their domestic context.

3. Promote activities to follow up the resolutions and recommendations of the 3rd Pan- American Child Forum and the XXIII Pan-American Congress on Children, with the meaningful participation of organized networks of children.

iii. “Consolidating national protection systems. Progress, challenges and lessons learned”

RECALLING:

Resolution AG/RES. 2908 (XLVII-O/17) of the OAS General Assembly, “Promotion and Protection of Human Rights”, particularly with regard to the commitment to strengthening comprehensive systems for strengthening and promoting the rights of children in the region;

Resolution CPNNA/RES. 1 (XX-09) approved by the Pan-American Child and Adolescent Congress, principally with regard to strengthening integral child and adolescent protection systems;

Resolution CD/RES. 12 (93-R/18) of the Directing Council of the Inter-American Children’s Institute on “Integral Protection Systems for Children;

The report of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights “Towards effective guarantee of the rights of children and adolescents: National Protection Systems”;

Regional experiences and the debates and conclusions of the two Inter-American Forums on Integral National Protection Systems for Children, held in Mexico in 2017 and in Uruguay in 2018;

CONSIDERING:

The responsibility of the State, to take appropriate measures, to establish institutions with clear functions and competencies, with different grades of specialization, to ensure efficiency and the articulation of institutions at all government levels, ensuring the promotion and integral protection and the exercise of the human rights of all children without barriers or discrimination;

BEARING IN MIND:

For that purpose, participation of family and society is essential for the promotion and protection of children’s human rights, and thus it is necessary to strengthen mechanisms of alliance and participation of these actors, in the process of definition, execution, monitoring and evaluation of policies for childhood;

HIGHLIGHTING:

The advances of several States in the region as they strive to ensure, both at the national level and at the local level, a system for the Promotion and Protection of child rights,

RESOLVES:

1. To encourage Member States to strive for Systems for promotion, protection and the integral exercise of the rights of children.

2. To consider the recommendation made by the IIN Directing Council by means of its Resolution CD/RES. 12 (93-R/18) to Member States to build or strengthen “in keeping with the international standards they have undertaken to follow and their domestic regulatory

frameworks, harmonized inter-agency and cross-sectoral institutions at the various levels of government existing in each State, and within sub-systems and levels of specialization, with clear roles and responsibilities, in order to ensure the promotion, comprehensive protection and exercise of the human rights of all children, including groups that have traditionally been excluded and/or live or may live in vulnerable situations.”

3. Invite Member States to consider endowing their National Protection Systems and the associated institutional frameworks with the specific and progressive Budgetary allocations needed to ensure their adequate operation; with corresponding monitoring systems and indicators that allow each Member State to know the impact on the promotion and integral protection of child`s rights and also, to strengthen participation of children, family and civil society as a whole, including academic and private sectors in these systems.

4. To encourage Member States to continue to hold Inter-American Forums on National Systems for the Integral Protection of Children, as a regional meeting mechanisms that allows to promote capacity building, exchange of successful experiences and proposals towards systems improvement; and to request, that the General Directorate of the IIN-OAS give technical assistance to these Forums.