

“Towards the Systematization of Reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child”

The Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of Save the Children Sweden and the Inter-American Children’s Institute, a Specialized Organization of the OAS, have developed a joint regional project titled “Towards the Systematization of Reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child.”

This project is in line with the resolutions adopted by the IIN Directing Council in 2002 and 2003:

“...To request the IIN to coordinate reporting of children’s issues with other relevant international and regional actors in order to promote effective and efficient reporting.”

CD/RES. 17 (77-R/02) 77th Meeting of the Directing Council of the Inter-American Children’s Institute. May 13-15, 2002. Washington, D.C.

“...2. To entrust the Office of the Director General of this OAS specialized organization to make available – as a supplement to its support to member states on the systematization of national reports – its valuable technical advice to the members from the Americas as a contribution to their best performance.

3. To also request the Office of the Director General to forward, through the corresponding channels, the text of this Resolution to the OAS General Assembly and to the General Secretariat, as well as to the United Nations and, in particular, to the Committee on the Rights of the Child.”

CD/RES. 15 (78-R/03) 78th Meeting of the Directing Council of the Inter-American Children’s Institute. June 4-6, 2003. Santiago, Chile.

The ***objective*** of this project is to ***design, promote and support a methodology for systematizing information on progress made in the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to be used for preparing reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child.***

In 2002 and 2003, various activities have been carried out to consolidate the proposal, which was analyzed and enriched by the region’s participants involved in the preparation of reports to the Committee (coalitions of NGOs and government representatives), as well as by NGOs and international organizations working in this area.

Major activities carried out during this period:

- Cooperation Agreement between the Inter-American Children’s Institute and Save the Children Sweden, to develop a work methodology for

systematizing the information used in the preparation of reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child (April 2002, Montevideo, Uruguay).

- Analysis and evaluation of official and alternative reports presented to the Committee on the Rights of the Child by four countries of the region (March-April 2002, IIN).
- Preparation of the initial proposal (April-May 2002, IIN).
- Workshop for reflection and enrichment on progress made in the initial proposal, with the participation of the IIN, Save the Children's Regional Office for South America and national coalitions of NGOs responsible for overseeing the Convention and preparing reports to the Committee in Uruguay and Paraguay (May 2002, Montevideo, Uruguay).
- Workshop for reflection and enrichment on progress made in the initial proposal, with the participation of representatives of Uruguay's Governing Body on Child Affairs and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, directly involved in preparing reports to the Committee (September 2002, Montevideo, Uruguay).
- Workshop for reflection and enrichment on progress made in the proposal (September 2002, Lima, Peru). More than 10 countries were represented at this workshop, and participants included representatives of civil society and governments involved in the process of follow-up on the Convention in their countries and/or those responsible for preparing reports to be presented to the Committee, as well as members of the UNICEF Regional Office and the OAS.
- Workshop for reflection and enrichment on progress made in the proposal with the participation of the IIN, Save the Children's Regional Office for South America and national coalitions of NGOs responsible for overseeing the Convention and preparing reports to the Committee in Uruguay and Paraguay (December 2002, Montevideo, Uruguay).
- Presentation of the Methodology and the SMD tool to the Members of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, Americas Region: Dr. Marilia Sardenberg (Brazil), Dr. Rosa María Ortiz (Paraguay) and Dr. Norberto Liwski (Argentina). These Committee Members attended a working session with the Director General of the Inter-American Children's Institute, Lic. Alejandro Bonasso, and the Coordinator of the IIN's Information Program, Ing. Julio Rosenblatt (September 2003, IIN Headquarters, Montevideo, Uruguay).

As part of the project's activities, a Workshop was held on **December 9 and 10, 2003 in Lima, Peru** to carry out a detailed analysis of the tool and decide on the next steps to be taken in the development of its methodological use.

To initiate the process of implementing the Support for the Monitoring of Rights (SMD) system in Uruguay, a series of meetings were held in 2003 and 2004 with the aim of providing support to the government and civil society in compiling basic information to measure progress and violations of child and adolescent rights within the terms of Article 44 of the Convention.

In March 2004, a Training Workshop on the use of the SMD was held in Montevideo with representatives from Uruguay's government and civil society.

Specific objectives of the Workshop:

- a. To train relevant participants (the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Child Institute (INAME) and Civil Society) in the use of the Methodology and Information System—Support for the Monitoring of Rights (SMD).
- b. To provide assistance and technical support to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the INAME and Civil Society in all matters relating to the SMD.
- c. To support the Uruguayan government in the compilation and inclusion of information to be used in the governmental report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

In May 2004, the Methodology and Information System—Support for the Monitoring of Rights (SMD) was presented to the Members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva. The proposal was very well-received by the Committee Members. Agreements between the Committee and institutions involved are currently being implemented to promote the use of the Methodology and the SMD Information System.