



PRESS RELEASE

**The Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN),
Specialized Organization of the Organization of American States (OAS),
will present its ACTION PLAN 2007-2011 during the
82nd Regular Meeting of its Directing Council**

The 82nd Regular Meeting of the Directing Council of the IIN –its political organ composed of the government representatives of the 34 OAS Member States– will be held next 26 and 27 July in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia. The Institute is the Specialized Organization responsible for the promotion and protection of children's rights in the region through a family and community-based approach.

This Meeting's agenda particularly emphasizes the presentation of the Action Plan 2007-2011 to be submitted by the Director General's Office for the consideration of this political organ, with Ms. Sara Oviedo from Ecuador acting as President and Ms. Kirsys Fernández de Valenzuela from the Dominican Republic as Vice President. This Action Plan was designed within the framework of the Strategic Plan 2005-2008 as approved by the Directing Council, and is based on the mandates received from the organs of the OAS and of the Institute itself.

Likewise, Ms. María de los Dolores Aguilar Marmolejo, who assumed the position of Director General last 16 April, will submit a Report covering the period from November 2006 –when the last Regular Meeting took place in Montevideo– through June 2007.

The presence of the OAS Assistant Secretary General, Ambassador Albert Ramdin and high-level authorities of the host country has already been confirmed, including that of the Vice President of the Republic, Francisco Santos; the Minister of Social Protection of Colombia, Diego Palacio; the Mayor of Cartagena de Indias, Nicolás Curi Vergara, and the Director General of the Colombian Institute for Family Welfare and Delegate to the IIN Directing Council, Ms. Elvira Forero. A significant number of government delegations of the OAS Member States will attend the Meeting, as well as Observer Countries and organs of the OAS, members of international organizations and civil society entities that have established strategic alliances with the Institute, in their capacity as observers.

The IIN, based in Montevideo, Uruguay, was established on 9 June, 1927, and consequently its 80th anniversary will be celebrated this year. During its eight-decade life the IIN was a pioneer on child and family-related issues, cooperating with the governments of the Member States and incidentally with other agencies in the Inter-American System, international institutions, and civil society entities, for the purpose of developing activities and technical instruments contributing to child integral protection in the Americas through a family and community-based approach and the promotion of social responsibility.