METHODOLOGY TO ENABLE CHILD PARTICIPATION AT MEETINGS, AND IN BODIES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CHILDREN’S INSTITUTE

(Adopted at the Fourth Plenary Session, held on October 3, 2018)

THE DIRECTING COUNCIL,

CONSIDERING:

That Article 7 of the IIN Statutes determines that “Children younger than 18 years of age from all member states, through their representatives, as provided for in the Rules of Procedure of the Institute” may take part in the Institute’s activities;

That Article 10 of these Rules of Procedure establishes that “children less than 18 years old from all member states, in the full exercise of their rights, may, through their representatives, become members of the official delegations of the member states to the Directing Council and Pan American Congress on Children, so that they may be heard on all matters concerning them and advise their respective delegations accordingly.” And that “Member states shall, to the extent feasible, seek to facilitate the participation of children in the Institute, so that those children can provide the Council with a new and constantly updated view of the reality of children in the region”;

That Resolution CD/RES. 10 (92-R/17) resolved “To request the Director General to develop guidelines and a methodology to promote the participation of children and adolescents in the Regular Meeting of the Directing Council and other institutional forums”;

RECOGNIZING:

The progress made in the Region as regards the enjoyment of children’s right to participation, among other ways, through the consolidation of Advisory Councils, Networks and other forms of organization;

RECALLING:

That through resolution AG/RES. 2894 (XLVI-O/16) Strengthening Democracy, the OAS General Assembly resolved, regarding the promotion of child participation “(...) To promote intergenerational dialogue
through peaceful co-existence based on democratic values that respect diverse opinions and encourage gender equality, equity, and non-violence, and peaceful conflict resolution. (…)"

That through resolution AG/RES. 2905 (XLVII-O/17) Strengthening Democracy, the OAS General Assembly resolved “(…) To support the actions being pursued by the IIN to promote the participation of children and adolescents and the exercise of their right to seek, receive, and disseminate information and ideas, keeping in mind at all times the best interests of the child, and to encourage authorities, political actors, and adults in general, to listen to and respect the opinions and proposals of children and adolescents (…)”; and reiterated what it had resolved in its resolution of 2016 cited above.

BEARING IN MIND:

The series of actions and proposals that the Inter-American Children’s Institute (IIN) has been promoting in recent years, in order to strengthen and prioritize child participation;

The establishment of CORIA – the Network of Child and Teen Correspondents – formed by children and youth aged up to 17, who, after successfully completing a distance course tutored by the IIN, undertake to submit one article per month, addressing different topics that they are interested in;

The formation of GRAPIA – a Regional Child Participation Advisory Group – composed of young people between 18 and 25, selected on the basis of their extensive experience in participatory processes;

The operation of CEPIA – Thematic Discussions with Child and Teen Participation Liaison Officers – including the technical liaison officers responsible for participation programmes and projects from 12 States party, who hold monthly discussions on their practices, progress and challenges, coordinated by IIN;

HAVING SEEN:

The methodology proposed for promoting child and youth participation at the meetings of the Directing Council and in other entities and activities of the Institute, as submitted by the Director General of the IIN;

BEARING IN MIND PARTICULARLY:

The views expressed by the children and adolescents participating in the cross-generational discussion event and subsequent sharing of views with the members of the Directing Council of the IIN, which took place at the meeting, referring to them as defenders of human rights,
RESOLVES:

1. To thank and express our appreciation to the children and youth present for their participation and the discussions held with the Directing Council of the IIN.

2. To take note of the opinions and recommendations provided during that discussion, entrusting the IIN with their analysis and study, with the purpose of bearing them in mind in future actions and activities to be carried out by the Institute and, when appropriate, to consider them as possible input when drafting public policies related to the promotion and protection of rights.

3. To adopt the child and youth participation methodology at meetings, in entities and in activities of the Inter-American Children’s Institute.

4. To instruct the Director General of the IIN to prepare a code of conduct to establish and ensure minimum criteria regarding the conduct of the IIN-OAS team and associated staff, in any personal or professional performance that includes children and youth, in actions and activities carried out by the IIN-OAS, or any in which children’s participation is related to their connection with the IIN-OAS.

5. To request that the Director General of the IIN consult the opinion of children and youth when drafting this document.

6. That the guidelines that are being commissioned shall be incorporated as an annex and function as an integral part of any cooperation or working agreements entered into by the IIN.