



**CD RES. 06 (96-R22)**

**Promotion and Protection of the rights of children and adolescents**

**Submitted by the State of Colombia**

**WHEREAS,**

That, the recognition of children and adolescents as an individual or collective issue that plays a leading role in social processes, with the right and capacity to receive information, form opinions, and express them in an adequate and timely manner, leads us to ask ourselves about how they see, live and think about the realities in which they are immersed.

That, in consultations with children and adolescents of the IIN's networks has been determined that there is a need to improve the addressing of mental health services, given that they many adolescents suffer mental health problems, including depression, anxiety, emotional breakdowns and suicide idealization.

That, in consultations with children and adolescents of the IIN's networks; they also point out the existence of various problems affecting children, including violence in different stages of their lives, especially within their family and educational institutions; the lack of dialogue and availability of adults to listen to them; and the need for comprehensive sexual education to prevent adolescent pregnancies and reduce the mortality rate due.

That, the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated effects had a special impact on adolescents, affecting the relationships with their peers and adult referents which has resulted in the increase of mental health conditions.

That, the transition between childhood and adulthood, characteristic of adolescence is especially difficult in social contexts with great inequalities, leading to exclusion, and fewer opportunities to enter the adult world from entities that respect the dignity and rights of individuals. In this regard, the children and adolescents from the IIN's networks emphasize that: adolescence is an important stage in itself, not only a transition to adulthood, but also a time of psychological and physical changes that require special attention.

That, among the relevant concerns found in some countries of the region are: child marriage, early forced unions, and adolescent pregnancies, which directly impacts on the possibilities of personal development and fulfillment of children and adolescents which are strongly associated with school dropout, educational backlog, which contributes to accentuate social, economic and health inequalities.

That, child and adolescent pregnancies often occur in the context of abuse, exploitation, and other violence's.

That, the vulnerable situation of adolescent mothers and fathers affects the quality of the exercise of their parental roles, which compromises the development conditions of



themselves, the children and adolescents during the initial stages of their lives, affecting their human development

That, in view of this situation, the children and adolescents participating in this intergenerational technical table point out: the need to generate more public policies that provide security to adolescents, along with an accessible and decentralized psychological support.

#### **RESOLVES<sup>1</sup>:**

1. To call upon the governments of the States to continue advancing progressively and in accordance with their possibilities and capacities in the implementation of policies, plans, and programs sustained in the long term, oriented to ensuring healthy, safe and protected environments for adolescents, which contribute to their comprehensive development, including sex education, prevention of child pregnancies, protection and support, to promote the comprehensive well-being of adolescent mothers and fathers and their children "in accordance with the provisions of the regulatory frameworks of each state".
2. Reiterate that public policies, strategies, plans, and programs addressed at adolescents should consider, in all phases of their design, plan, and delivery the active participation of adolescents at all stages of their implementation, listening to and taking into account their points of view.
3. To call on states to address the increased reported rates of child and adolescent mental health issues across the Americas by strengthening policies, programs, and frameworks that are aimed at protecting them.
4. Ti urge States to ensure that policies, plans and programs consider trauma-based and strengths-based approaches, including support for the families and/or caregivers of adolescent parents that build on the existing strengths of adolescents and their families, to provide adolescent parents with parenting skills, tools and resources that enable them to provide adolescents with the necessary support in their parental role<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Guatemala and Colombia abstain.

<sup>2</sup> Paraguay and El Salvador reaffirm their firm will to comply with their obligations and commitments acquired, both at the Inter-American and Universal levels, in the field of human rights, especially the protection of early childhood, childhood and adolescence. Paraguay and El Salvador establish reservation to any interpretation or application of the terms contained in this Resolution that, by their nature and scope, conflict with Constitutional principles and the internal legal system. Likewise, those that, in the legal scope, are not in accordance with public policies oriented to favor early childhood, childhood and adolescence, or that tend to modify language agreed in international treaties ratified by the country. El Salvador ratifies its commitment to the full application of the Constitutional principle of Equality and Non-discrimination of persons and compliance with the obligations derived from the principles of the best interest of the child, the progressive development of their faculties and in sum the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child that are applicable to national legislation and reaffirms its responsibility to continue working in an articulated manner, to prevent adolescent pregnancy and promote a comprehensive education considering the fundamental and primary role of the mother, father and family.



5. To call States to exchange experiences and good practices on the prevention of adolescent pregnancy, prevention of early sexualization and the responsible exercise of sexuality to provide opportunities for the improvement and adoption of policies, programs, and plans that consider comprehensive sex education in accordance for each age group under the provisions of the regulatory frameworks of each state.<sup>3</sup>
6. To take the opinions and recommendations made at the intergenerational technical table held during the 96th Meeting of the Directing Council, to entrust the IIN with its analysis and study to take them into account in future actions and activities to be developed by the Institute, and, eventually, to consider them as possible inputs for the development of public policies for the promotion and protection of rights.

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<sup>3</sup> Brazil notes that, with regard to the "responsible exercise of sexuality", one must consider preventing the early sexualization of children and adolescents, which stems from inadequate stimuli to the level of development of this group, that promote and encourage the adoption of risky sexual behavior, which can result in unplanned pregnancy, contamination by sexually transmitted infections, naturalization of risky behavior, abuse and multiple violence, among other problems. Currently, it has been increasingly frequent, the offer of sexualizing content to children and adolescents, either through the Internet, children's literature, games, music, TV, among others, which has led children to start their sexual lives earlier and earlier, resulting in damage to their healthy development.