



CPNNA/RES 1 (XXI-14)

**UNIFIED RESOLUTION ON THE TWENTY-FIRST PAN AMERICAN CHILD AND ADOLESCENT CONGRESS**

**“Childhood and adolescence: Building peaceful environments”**

**(Submitted by the Delegation of the Federative Republic of Brazil and the Republic of Chile)**

**Approved at the First Session of Heads of Delegation**

**The XXI Pan American Child and Adolescent Congress,**

**HAVING SEEN:**

The resolution adopted by the Directing Council of the Inter-American Children’s Institute (IIN) CD/RES. 05 (88-R/13);

The resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) AG/RES. 2836 (XLIV-O/14);

The OAS General Assembly declaration “Violence and exploitation against children” AG/DEC. 76 (XLIV-O/14), adopted during its 44th ordinary session held in Paraguay, and welcoming the inclusion of the subject of violence and exploitation against children in the UN General Assembly open working group report on the Sustainable Development Goals;

The resolution adopted by the Directing Council of IIN CD/RES 03 (87-R/12);

The OAS General Assembly's resolutions on this issue, particularly resolution AG/RES. 2828 (XLIV-O/14) "Prevention and Eradication of Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Smuggling of, and Trafficking in, Minors", in addition to other resolutions adopted in previous years by the General Assembly on sexual exploitation, smuggling and trafficking in persons;

The resolution adopted by the Directing Council of the IIN, CD/RES. 04 (85-R/10), establishing the Pan American Forum of Children of the Americas, as part of every Pan American Child and Adolescent Congress;

The recommendations made in the 2006 United Nations World Report on Violence against Children and the strategies recommended in the 2012 joint report of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNDOC) and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on violence against children (SRSV-VAC) “Prevention of and responses to violence against children within the juvenile justice system”;

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The report of the Inter-American Human Rights Commission “The Right of Boys and Girls to a Family. Alternative Care. Ending Institutionalization in the Americas”;

The General Comments of the Committee of the Rights of the Child No. 8, on the right of the child to protection from corporal punishment and other cruel or degrading forms of punishment; No. 10, on children’s rights in juvenile justice; and No. 13, on the right of the child to freedom from all forms of violence;

The 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the 2000 Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography; the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children; and the 2006 Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime;

The outcomes of the four OAS meetings of national authorities on trafficking in persons and the 2008 Rio de Janeiro Declaration and Call for Action to Prevent and Stop Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents;

The recommendations made during the II Forum of Civil Society prior to the XXI Pan American Child and Adolescent Congress on the topics of violence against children and adolescents, juvenile justice system, and sexual exploitation of children and adolescents;

#### **RECOGNIZING:**

That the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child has resulted in legislative and institutional transformation in many of the States in the Inter-American System, and the incorporation of its guiding principles in national legal frameworks, as well as in political and academic circles, and in some aspects of daily life;

The progress achieved by Member States in the Inter-American System in updating their regulatory frameworks and public policies to confront the different forms of violence against children, using the United Nations Secretary-General’s 2006 World Report on Violence against Children as an indispensable reference, as well as the current efforts to fulfil its recommendations;

#### **CONSIDERING:**

That it is imperative to maintain and increase efforts at coordination and cooperation to strengthen the progress being made in the Americas, where children continue to be those most affected by violence, which prevents the recognition and full exercise of their fundamental rights and freedoms;

That the Inter-American Democratic Charter is an instrument that promotes the values of the democratic system, peace and the development of the nations of the hemisphere, and which reaffirms the relationship between democratic consolidation and guaranteeing human rights, including those of children;

That within the scope of the Inter-American Human Rights System, the OAS has played a leading role in fostering a culture of peace and the prevention of violence in the region, within a framework of respect for the tenets of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Inter-American Democratic Charter and other regional and international human rights instruments;



That the efforts and initiatives of Member States and regional and international organizations to eradicate all forms of violence against children have both made headway and encountered significant challenges in the region with regard to legislation and the implementation of public policies, especially those related to the prohibition of corporal punishment and to the recognition and incorporation of the right of children to participation and voice;

That in order to prevent violence against children in juvenile justice systems, it is essential that Member States in the region should continue to work on the implementation of alternative measures to criminal prosecution, as well as alternative penalties to deprivation of liberty, specialized systems and the establishment of mechanisms of coordination and articulation of the responsible public institutions and private organizations;

That child trafficking and sexual exploitation, one of the serious forms of violence that significantly continue to affect the region, is one of the principal activities of criminal organizations, whose existence represents a threat to democracy, making it necessary to advance towards its immediate eradication;

That the Second Pan American Child Forum provided continuity for the incorporation of the voices and opinions of the children of the region, within the context of the celebration of the Pan American Child and Adolescent Congress, through a comprehensive process promoted by the IIN and the governments of Member States, with the support of international agencies;

## RESOLVES:

1. To invite Member States to renew their efforts to ensure that their domestic legislation best protects children and their rights, in accordance with their national commitments and international obligations, including under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, 25 years after its adoption, and to advocate for childhood in venues where it is not yet viewed as a priority.
2. To encourage Member States to adjust internal norms with international standards or to consolidate those internal norms as may be required, and to assign the necessary resources to develop plans, projects and programmes to prevent, combat, and eliminate violence against children, including that related to corporal punishments in all environments (family, education system, and institutions dedicated to providing attention and care).
3. To encourage Member States to follow up and implement the recommendations of the UN Secretary-General's 2006 World Report on Violence against Children and the joint report of OHCHR, UNODC and SRSO-VAC on "Prevention of and responses to violence against children within the juvenile justice system" and the "United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice", and full compliance with applicable regional and international agreements to ensure the effectiveness of plans, projects and programmes to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in children and adolescents for the purposes defined in the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

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4. To advance towards the implementation of policies and actions to prevent and combat violence against children in juvenile justice systems, by favouring alternative measures to criminal prosecution and non-custodial alternatives to deprivation of liberty, by promoting specialized systems that give priority to social re-education measures, and by promoting networks and judicial and administrative systems which are duly articulated to ensure reintegration of adolescents into society with real opportunities for their development.
5. To encourage Member States to promote comprehensive actions in health and education, with a view to prevent violence associated to the use, abuse, consumption of, and dependence on, psychoactive substances.
6. To encourage Member States to advance or strengthen comprehensive proposals, with a view to prevent teenage pregnancy, child, early and forced marriage and unions, and other conditions of vulnerability and associated violence, including awareness, violence prevention, health and education public policies for children and adolescents, taking into account their progressive autonomy and empowering adolescents to take informed decisions.
7. To invite Member States to establish permanent mechanisms to generate information and to raise awareness on different forms of violence against children, in all the environments where they may occur, particularly with regard to:
  - a) Sexual exploitation and trafficking
  - b) Juvenile justice systems
8. To urge Member States to prioritize actions against sexual exploitation of children and adolescents, in all its manifestations, through the creation and strengthening of specialized actions and services at institutional and inter-institutional levels both with national and international reach, for the implementation of prevention mechanisms and the harmonization and effective coordination between administrative and judicial systems, and for comprehensive restoration of the rights of children and adolescents, in particular of those who are most at risk or affected.
9. To urge Member States to strengthen regional and national mechanisms to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially children and adolescents, for the purposes defined in the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.
10. To urge Member States to strengthen mechanisms against the use of violence, threats, and physical punishments in educational systems and other institutions for the care and attention of children and adolescents.
11. To encourage Member States to promote awareness campaigns, as appropriate, among society on the harmful effects of violence and physical punishments in the education of children and adolescents and to promote an educational environment free of violence, both physical and emotional.
12. To encourage Members States to develop projects and programs that promote family living for children and adolescents, recognizing the exceptionality of the institutionalization and giving due consideration, when applicable, to the Guidelines for Alternative Care of Children, welcomed by the United Nations in 2009, and the study “The Right of Boys and Girls to a Family – Alternative



Care. Ending institutionalization in the Americas”, of the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights.

13. To promote cooperation among Member States, especially horizontal, south-south and trilateral cooperation, as well as with international organizations, by fostering the production of systematic studies, opportunities for sharing good practices and the training of human resources in order to strengthen their capacity to develop peaceful environments and eradicate the different forms of violence against children, with an emphasis on the areas previously mentioned.
14. To invite Member States that have not yet done so, to consider signing and ratifying, or acceding to, international human rights instruments, in particular those related to fighting violence against children in its most serious forms, such as sexual exploitation and trafficking, especially the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols, and the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols thereto.
15. To highlight the importance, in the framework of the Pan American Child and Adolescent Congress, of the Pan American Child Forum and the Civil Society Forum.
16. To consider the recommendations and contributions of the II Civil Society Forum prior to the XXI Pan American Child and Adolescent Congress regarding the subjects covered in this Congress and the II Pan American Child Forum as important references for Member States, which provide the perspective of children on violence and its most common forms, and suggest lines of intervention for the design and implementation of public policies on the subject.
17. To entrust the Inter-American Children’s Institute with the follow-up on this resolution and providing technical assistance to those Member States that may require it.