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My thanks to each of the countries belonging to the Organization of American States and to the institutions present today, for joining forces and conducting this Congress in pursuit of the best interest of policies for children and adolescents.

Since the Convention on the Rights of the Child came into being, great achievements have been possible, recognizing children as holders of rights and making adults duty bearers. Challenges have also arisen, such as: transforming recommendations into actions, making visible the acts of social activism carried out by children and adolescents, having accurate information on children and adolescents, making children active agents in the area of political participation at local, national, regional and international levels. It is not enough just to be heard; without action there is no participation.

We perceive the recommendations generated in previous Congresses to be the key that enables children and adolescents to open the way towards the establishment of projects and programmes that contribute to the solution of the issues that affect them. This key must be used if it is not to lose its meaning; for recommendations to be viably acted upon, they must be monitored and evaluated from their inception until they are put into practice. The key is not an opportunity, but an act of fulfilment. This key means working on aspects that so far have been very difficult to achieve; it means prioritizing children who have been invisible and silent. This key means listening to and including children and adolescents in decision-making issues and ensuring that they have mechanisms to hold their leaders accountable when commitments are not translated into action. This key means going into action, generating change, and I now want to hand it over to the first lady.

In conclusion, I would like to say that for this reason, today, children and adolescents are committed to being spokespersons for the CRC and the SDGs, to empower children and adolescents around the world in the knowledge and defence of their rights. For this, we need the adult world and its institutions so that the commitments made here, spread and become real where they are most needed, in the territories where children experience precarious situations of vulnerability; this is the time to make reality the words "no child left behind".