

## **PARTICIPATION OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS IN THE DIRECTING COUNCIL**

(Approved at the Special Session held on November 25, 2025)

**THE DIRECTING COUNCIL,**

### **CONSIDERING:**

Whereas Article 6 of the OAS Democratic Charter establishes that citizen participation in decisions concerning their own development is a right and a responsibility. Furthermore, that it is a necessary condition for the full and effective exercise of democracy, and that promoting and encouraging various forms of participation strengthens democracy.

Whereas Article 19 of the American Convention on the Rights of the Child establishes that every child has the right to the protection measures that their status as a minor requires from their family, society, and the State.

That Article 7 of the Statute of the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN) establishes 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."

Article 10 of the aforementioned Regulations provides that, in full exercise of their rights, children and adolescents may join the official delegations to both the Pan American Child Congress and the Directing Council, to express themselves, advise their delegations, and share their experiences in their countries with different groups of children and adolescents. Such participation should be facilitated by States to the extent possible to provide the Council with a new and constantly renewed perspective on the reality of children in the region.

Resolution CD/RES. 10 (92-R/17) requested that the General Directorate of the IIN "develop guidelines and a methodology to promote the participation of children and adolescents in the regular meetings of the Directing Council and other institutional forums."

That Resolution CD/RES. 07 (93-R/18) approved the "Approve the Methodology for the Participation of Children and Adolescents in the meetings, proceedings, and activities of the Inter-American Children's Institute.."

Resolution CD/RES. 07 (93-R/18) recognizes "the progress made in the Region in exercising the right to participation of children and adolescents, among other ways, through the consolidation of Advisory Councils, Networks, and other organizational forms."

Taking into account that since 2017, participatory spaces have been created for children and adolescents in the Americas, such as the Network of Child and Adolescent Correspondents (RED CORIA), the Network of Children and Adolescents of Central America, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic (REDNNACEM), and the Organized Thematic Groups (GOT), as actions and proposals that seek to strengthen and prioritize the promotion of child and adolescent participation, promoted and accompanied by the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN) in recent years;

That, since the 93rd Regular Meeting, this Directing Council has maintained a space for exchange with children and adolescents, taking note of their opinions and recommendations.

That, at the 96th Regular Meeting of the Directing Council, held the first intergenerational dialogue at the intergenerational technical tables, of this Council, to take into account what has been expressed in future actions and activities to be developed by the Institute, and to consider them as possible inputs for the development of public policies on the promotion and protection of rights.

Taking into account that the General Assembly of the OAS has established clear mandates for the promotion of participation within the States and in the OAS itself - AG/RES. 3029 (LIV-O/24) STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY - section xii. "CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS: PARTICIPATION."

Highlighting that on June 4, as part of the commemoration of Children and Adolescents Day in the Americas (June 9), the Network of Child and Adolescent Correspondents once again participated in the session of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States. On this occasion, it was noteworthy that some adolescents spoke from the Council floor, sharing their time with the permanent missions of their countries, Colombia and Paraguay.

Finally, it should be noted that, for the first time, an adolescent participated in the recent 55th General Assembly of the Organization of American States, representing the 4th Pan-American Forum for Children and Adolescents, sharing the floor time of the Director General of the IIN.

**RESOLVES:**

1. To request that the General Directorate of the IIN, prior to future meetings of the Directing Council, consult with children and adolescents from national advisory councils or other participatory spaces, in addition to the networks and groups coordinated by the IIN, for the purpose of proposing the topic of one of the technical tables to be held.
2. To entrust the General Directorate of the IIN with promoting the participation of children and adolescents, recognizing the different levels of participation, understood as: informative, consultative, leading, and incidental, ensuring a progressive transition toward scenarios of real influence in decision-making.
3. To entrust the IIN with continuing to develop guidelines and methodologies that promote the functioning of Intergenerational Technical Tables in institutional spaces, including the Directing Council.
4. Invite the participation of children and adolescents from the delegations of the States at the central table of the Directing Council, at the intergenerational thematic tables, and in other relevant instances. For its operation, the General Directorate of the IIN is requested to generate the relevant methodologies and coordination to support the delegations of the States, as well as to define differential participation criteria, considering the characteristics and particularities of children and adolescents in each country.
5. Request that the General Directorate of the IIN, in the design of the next Directing Council, Pan American Congress, Pan American Forum of Children and Adolescents, Centennial activities, and other relevant instances, duly take into consideration the opinions and agenda proposals shared by children and adolescents, promoting their autonomy and guaranteeing their representation in participatory processes through networks, councils, and other organized groups.
6. Request that the General Directorate of the IIN to establish intergenerational and interinstitutional mechanisms for follow-up and monitoring of the proposals and resolutions made in the different regional exchange spaces, including the Directing Council, the Pan American Forum, and the Pan American Congress on Children and Adolescents.