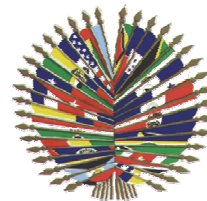




SPECIALIZED ORGANIZATION OF THE OAS



*1927 - 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - 2007*

## **ACTION PLAN 2007-2011**

*(Document including the recommendations made by the Commissions  
during the 82nd Regular Meeting of the Directing Council of the IIN)*

María de los Dolores Aguilar Marmolejo  
Director General  
August 2007

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### **Annex 1. Strategic Plan 2005 - 2008**

(See: [http://www.iin.oas.org/Strategic\\_Plan\\_2005\\_2008.pdf](http://www.iin.oas.org/Strategic_Plan_2005_2008.pdf))

## I. Introduction

I am pleased to make available and submit for your consideration the text of the Action Plan 2007-2011 of the Director General's Office of the IIN as adopted at the 82nd Regular Meeting of the Directing Council held on 26-27 July in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia.

The new wording includes the amendments and contributions made by the Commissions. This task adhered strictly to the recommendations made and approved by consensus, while also trying to maintain the consistency with and the framework of the Action Plan adopted through Resolution CD/Res.11 (82-R/07) at the fourth plenary session held on 27 July, 2007.

As you are aware of, this Action Plan will enter into force on the thirtieth day following its adoption "so that the Member States represented in this Meeting will be able to verify that it reflects those already approved contributions made by the Commissions."<sup>1</sup>

Experience has been always present throughout the IIN history, either by promoting social pediatrics, specialized legislation, birth universal registration, care of children with different capabilities, drug-addiction prevention, juvenile justice, inter-American conventions on such matters as abduction, alimony, or adoption, besides a long list of issues and approaches, or accompanying and often anticipating new child-related scenarios in the Americas.

At present, this historic legacy of ongoing innovation challenges us and emphasizes, more than ever, an institutional turning point under circumstances where the diversity and depth of problems affecting our children should take us to search for practical and effective solutions.

We are convinced that the promotion of children's rights, democracy, respect for the rule of law, social justice and economic development will ensure the democratic governance of our peoples – they key element of our collective inter-American agenda.

Likewise, our work proposal for the next four years is based on the conviction that participation processes and experience within the family and the community are essential for the construction of full citizenship.

Therefore, the Guiding Principles of this Plan are those arising from international human right instruments where the following are prioritized:

- **A Right-based Approach** pursuant to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and other provisions on human rights within both the universal and the inter-American systems.

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<sup>1</sup> CD/RES. 11 (82-R/07)

- **A Family and Community-based Approach** in accordance with the guidelines emerging from the XIX Pan American Child Congress, focused on the family as the key group within society and on its role in child development, right protection, and well-being.
- **A Governance Approach** based on the OAS Inter-American Democratic Charter.

This Action Plan, designed to cover the 2007 – 2011 period of the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN), is based on the mandates approved by the Directing Council of the IIN and the XIX Pan American Child Congress, as well as on the Resolutions adopted by the Organization of American States (OAS), and particularly those specifically related to child affairs. The endorsement of such mandates by the Delegates of the OAS Member States to the Directing Council of the IIN confirms their significance, relevance, and applicability. At the same time, the Action Plan intends to address the universe of assumed pledges and prioritize those that are responsive to the current reality and situation of the Region, the Member States, and the IIN.

Its design has taken into consideration, among other documents, the Strategic Plan that was prepared and adopted by the IIN Directing Council for 2005-2008. Thus, it ensures the follow-up and sustainability of previously assumed commitments.

The Action Plan sets forth an internal organizational structure aimed to facilitate its implementation by addressing the various operational needs. Thus, and for the sole purpose of their best operation, the three areas will interact with each other: Area for the Promotion and Protection of Rights, Legal Area, and Communication and Information Area.

This involves a challenge that compels us to provide for a shared vision and purpose that should be sustainable and maintained in the mid and long term. It should be acknowledged that, in order to overcome the problems affecting children, there is a need for practical expertise, effort, creativity, and the persistence of our own peoples in the mobilization of social capital; there is also a need for the IIN to be capable of becoming an irreplaceable political and thematic benchmark within the Inter-American System, as well as facilitating, coordinating, and accompanying its processes aimed to the effective promotion and protection of children's rights by means of strategic alliances with intergovernmental agencies, academic institutions, and international and regional organizations committed to the same purpose.

In this Plan the IIN proposes to define approaches, policies, and strategies, as well as a way of searching for the best management and quality of results for the benefit of children's well-being and rights. Doing so also involves the development and/or strengthening in the Member States of a stable and healthy political, regulatory, technical, social, and economic support ensuring the enforcement of children's rights and moving forward in order to innovate the

Institute by means of a sustainable and participatory management based on the governance required for such enforcement.

In order to enable the joint and supplementary work of the various state sectors, and the coordination between the State and organizations' networks, the efforts of families, communities, volunteers, local and national governments, non governmental organizations, international cooperation, academic institutions, the Church, social movements, and the private sector, we have adopted herein a systemic intervention approach and a shared management strategy.

Within such process, and without excluding any specific segment, we emphasize the promotion and protection of human capital that expresses itself in children, in order to avoid the spreading and persistence of the violation of their human rights, and we privilege the implementation of public policies and the construction of a culture based on the respect for those rights.

Finally, our work will also be marked by the regional and national extension that reflects in culture, language, and history diversity, as well as by the emergence of fora for dialogue and agreement intended to assert a new culture around children's rights.

Let us then celebrate this 80th Anniversary and honor the historic legacy of the IIN that started to build up on 9 June, 1927 by joining our ideas, constructing and promoting a culture of agreed work and shared visions and objectives concerning the priorities of our peoples, and reaffirming our commitment for the benefit of our children.

**María de los Dolores Aguilar Marmolejo**  
**Director General**

## **II. Mission - Vision**

The Mission and Vision of this Action Plan are consistent with the Strategic Plan for 2005-2008 as adopted by the IIN Directing Council and their actions are intended to follow the same direction.

### **MISSION**

To contribute to the development of public policies ensuring the promotion and exercise of children's rights within the framework of a strengthened Democratic Governance in the OAS Member States by promoting the cooperation with Civil Society and the creation of a culture based on children's rights and well-being.

### **VISION**

The Future Vision consists of reaching by 2011 a stage of specialized excellence with an articulating role within the Inter-American System, aimed to the search for government consensus and commitment, and the status of technical referent on child-related issues at regional level, thus contributing to the promotion and protection of children's rights and the improvement of their living conditions through a family and community-based approach.

## **III. Overall Strategic Objective**

To ensure the promotion and exercise of children's rights in the Member States of the Inter-American System by strengthening their Democratic Governance.

## **IV. Specific Strategic Objectives**

1. To enhance intervention capabilities for the promotion and protection of children's rights in the state relevant institutions, the organized civil society, and by children themselves and their families in the OAS Member States in the region.
2. To strengthen the IIN management and political leverage on matters of its competence at both regional and international level, in its capacity as an OAS Organization Specialized on children's rights and well-being, and consequently become an articulator and irreplaceable referent within the Inter-American System.

## **V. Organizational Areas**

The IIN has designed its organizational structures and the operational direction of its various technical requirements by aligning them to organizational areas: Area for the Promotion and Protection of Rights, Legal Area, and Communication and Information Area.

These are not segmented but interconnected organizational areas, as per the concept of reciprocal synergy and result generation aimed to the fulfillment of the objectives of the Action Plan. Likewise, the intent is to shift from mere assistance to capacity development and the empowerment of government and non government agents, families, and children themselves in the construction and strengthening of local, national, and regional Systems for the Integral Protection of Children's Rights and Well-being.

The development of this Plan envisages an institutional strengthening approach by means of participatory management characterized by viable, effective, and measurable actions for the ultimate purpose of having an incidence, with the cooperation of governments, on the design and implementation of public policies with a right-based approach and aimed to children's well-being.

Three intervention areas are prioritized under this perspective, through which the various activities will be channeled.

### **Defined Areas**

- Area for the Promotion and Protection of Rights
- Legal Area
- Communication and Information Area

Each area is responsible for defined specific actions (to be explained later in this document); the intervention level required in each state, as well as the issues that should be fostered on a priority basis and the alliances to be built for their development, will be determined as well.

On the basis of such information, a work timetable will be prepared for the four-year period that will allow for visualizing the above definitions in each country and therefore enable to ensure the monitoring of the regional coverage of IIN actions.

## AREA FOR THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF RIGHTS

The IIN Area for the Promotion and Protection of Rights promotes joint work with the OAS Member States aimed to develop state policies on children's rights.

In order to count on such state policies this area has identified the need for consolidating management agendas focused on:

- A public management practice promoting a cultural change directed to the full respect for children's rights.
- Capacity development of the institutions that are part of the Executive Power, and of organized civil society, through the improvement and/or development of various comprehensive measures for the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child [juridical frameworks, newly created institutions (National Protection Systems, Verification systems), Public Policies (Plans, Programs), Investment, Citizenship, and child participation.]

### ***The Area's Specific Objective***

To guide, advice, train, and accompany the OAS Member States in the adequate public management of children's rights.

### ***Expected Results***

**Result 1:** The IIN promotes, informs and advices the OAS Member States on actions to be taken for the benefit of children's right to participation and education as citizens.

**Result 2:** The competent authorities on child-related policies, the organized civil society, and professionals and agents working on this area in the Member States are advised and trained on the application of updated technical management instruments within the framework of the promotion and protection of children's rights, taking into account the ethical value of participation stressed in the relevant provisions in the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

### ***Expected Products***

**Result 1:** The IIN promotes, informs and advices the OAS Member States on actions to be taken for the benefit of children's right to participation and education as citizens.

- **Product 1.1:** The participating agents in the Member States analyze the situation of children concerning their right to participate in policies, plans, and programs at national level, especially in the education area.

### **Key Activities**

- Conceptualization of the issue as a whole.
- Diagnose definition and sharing by key agents in the countries.

- **Product 1.2:** The participating agents in the Member States cooperate in the compilation of updated relevant information and analyze it according to the reality in their respective countries.

**Main activities**

- Creation of a Database on child participation.
- Drafting of related documents with country participation.
- **Product 1.3:** The participating agents in the Member States are updated and count on adequate instruments for intervention on child participation rights, focused on schools and the community.

**Key Activity**

- Advice to the countries for intervention on this area.
- **Product 1.4:** Identification of organized child groups and participation in the promotion and monitoring of their rights through virtual interactive means.

**Key Activity**

- Creation of and support to a virtual interactive site for communication and exchange among organized child groups.

**Result 2:** The competent authorities on child-related policies, the organized civil society, professionals and agents working on this area in the Member States are advised and trained on the application of updated technical management instruments within the framework of the promotion and protection of children's rights, taking into account the ethical value of participation stressed in the relevant provisions in the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

- **Product 2.1:** Governing Entities in the Member States are provided the adequate training for the design of strategic policies consistent with their National Systems for Child Integral Care.

**Main activities**

- Advice to countries concerning the National System for Child Integral Care (SNAINA in Spanish).
- Promotion and/or strengthening of child integral programs within SNAINA framework that ensure the adequate and universal access to basic services addressed to that particular age group, specially focused on the most vulnerable sectors.
- **Product 2.2:** Child protection rights are strengthened through an adequate structure of social networks, and integral care methodologies and protocols.

**Key Activity**

- Methodology transfer and training on the strengthening of social networks for the benefit of children.

- **Product 2.3:** The agents participating in the project are provided advice and the adequate instruments for the periodical monitoring of the Convention enforcement.

**Main activities**

- Advice on the preparation of Country Reports to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child and to other fora where public policies are verified and evaluated.
  - Methodology transfer and training on the application of a Right Enforcement Monitoring System (SMD in Spanish).
- **Product 2.4:** Strengthening of access to information, exchange, and mutual cooperation among Member States through virtual interactive means concerning issues related to the implementation of their national protection policies.

**Main activities**

- Seminar on and creation of a virtual Database of best practices.
- Virtual interactive site for communication and exchange among Member States.

The IIN promotes and supports among OAS Member States the adaptation of national laws to international instruments on human rights, especially the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It is also concerned about their enforceability and effectiveness, particularly by means of public policies or through judgments. Pursuant to its mandates and to the priorities emerging from the dynamics of conflicts affecting children in the region, some specific actions are identified in the following areas: commercial sexual exploitation, sexual abuse, trafficking, international abduction, family violence, juvenile criminal law, migration, universal birth registration and the right to an identity, and the impact of e-government. The methodological approach to address these problems focuses on research, comparative surveys (observatories and databases), technical assistance services, training, and dissemination. It is assumed that, in order to be effective, provisions require consensus, coordination, research, creative program development, and the participation of children and the organized civil society.

***The Area's Specific Objective***

Promotion, guidance, and advice to the OAS Member States on the process of adaptation of national legislations to the principles on children's rights contained in the international regulatory framework, and on their effectiveness and enforceability.

For the legislation and justice administration to ensure children's rights and promote democratic governance it is necessary:

- To develop an ongoing process for the identification of best practices on rights in the region and for their dissemination;
- To carry out an empirical research on the conflicts affecting children and the effectiveness of regulatory solutions;
- To strengthen human resources having an incidence on the development and enforcement of children's rights at national level.

***Expected Results***

**Result 1:** The OAS Member States promote and fulfill the processes required for adapting their national legislations to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international treaties and for their subsequent implementation.

**Result 2:** The IIN, together with the authorities of the OAS Member States, identify the best practices, conflicts, legislative obstacles, and trends in justice administration allowing for justifying and improving the processes of regulatory adaptation of children's rights, as well as their effectiveness and enforceability.

**Result 3:** The IIN, together with the authorities of the OAS Member States, create a cooperation network for the implementation, application, and

compliance with the provisions in the Inter-American Convention on the Return of Children and the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction of The Hague Conference, including prevention, remedy, monitoring, and reporting policies.

**Result 4:** Competent authorities on child-related policies, lawmakers, public defenders, judges, and prosecutors receive advice and training on the application of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and international instruments in their respective intervention areas.

**Result 5:** Juvenile Criminal Law systems in the OAS Member States are strengthened as far as the compliance with the guarantees of due process according to the principles in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international instruments are concerned, and develop coordination procedures between the public policies of institutions for child protection, judges and other judicial authorities, and the organized civil society.

**Result 6:** Development of public policies contributing to the prevention of law infringement by adolescents and the incorporation of the organized civil society to such task.

### ***Expected Products***

**Result 1:** The OAS Member States promote and fulfill the processes required for adapting their national legislations to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international treaties and for their subsequent implementation.

- **Product 1.1:** Agents in the OAS Member States (lawmakers, child policy designers, and the organized civil society) count on information resources and are able to compare national legislation and legislative drafts which allow for identifying best practices, regulatory gaps, legislative standards and regulatory challenges. Actions are taken for ensuring their implementation, effectiveness, and monitoring.

#### **Key Activities:**

- To update and enhance the IIN Legal Database (BADAJ) by means of search tools, matching of legislative practices and thematic periodical surveys. It should also extend to include the most relevant province and state information (in federal states) and the selection of best practices in the case of municipal legislation.
- Creation of a Database on children's rights within the ambit of juvenile justice administration.
- **Product 1.2:** Agents in the OAS Member States (judges, public defenders, and prosecutors) count on the relevant information and case law resources to promote the transformation of children's rights into effective justice administration and to adopt the new internationally and regionally accepted paradigms.

### **Key Activity**

- Inclusion in BADAJ of the most relevant judicial decisions adopted in the OAS Member States, particularly those of the supreme courts in each country.
- **Product 1.3:** Agents in the OAS Member States (lawmakers, designers of child public policies, justice operators, and the civil society) count on detailed information (legislation, public policies, case law, national plans, relevant cases) that allow for adapting their decisions, particularly in the following area of special protection systems: child commercial sexual exploitation; sexual abuse; family violence; trafficking, and national migration provisions including best practices, regulatory gaps, legislative standards, and regulatory challenges, as well as studying possible actions for the approved IIN mandates to have a true impact.

### **Key Activity**

- The Observatory on Child Commercial Sexual Exploitation and other forms of violence is established and kept updated so as to become an instrument for awareness and incidence on the design and updating of public policies in the region on selected issues.
- Its operation will allow for addressing problems and issues of concern of the Member States and working in an interactive manner with other areas.

**Result 2:** The IIN, together with the authorities of the OAS Member States, identify the best practices, conflicts, legislative obstacles, and trends in justice administration

- **Product 2.1:** Agents in the OAS countries count on empirical data (both quantitative and qualitative) on children's rights and their enforcement that allow for keeping alert as to their trends and intervention needs in the region.

### **Key activity**

- Ongoing research based on case study and statistics on the enforcement of children's rights in the most significant areas.

**Result 3:** The IIN, together with the authorities of the OAS Member States, create a cooperation network for the implementation, application, and enforcement of the Inter-American Program of Cooperation for the Prevention and Remedy of Cases of International Abduction of Children by one of their Parents, as well as for ensuring the application of the 1989 Inter-American Convention on the International Return of Children and the 1980 The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, which provide for prevention, remedy, monitoring, and reporting policies.

- **Product 3.1:** Creation and strengthening of cooperation procedures between the Central Authorities in the OAS Member States for the international return of children abducted by one of their parents.

**Key Activity**

- Identification and promotion of the best forms for Central Authorities in the OAS Member States to complement each other, including prevention, strengthening of national systems for the effective enforcement of Conventions, development of location procedures, return, remedy, adoption of national procedural legislation, ensuring the rights of every child to have a family, their reunion, and the right to visiting and custody as the case may be, etc.
- **Product 3.2:** Creation and enhancement of information procedures for the prevention and remedy of the international abduction of children by one of their parents;

**Key activity**

- Establishment of an Inter-American Information and Cooperation Network on International Child Abduction, including a specialized Web page providing relevant information, accessible to the public in general and allowing for information flows and the training of competent agents.

**Result 4:** Competent authorities on child policies, public defenders, judges, and prosecutors receive advice and training on the incorporation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and international instruments to their respective intervention areas.

- **Product 4.1:** Creation of a network of judges, public defenders, and prosecutors, and their training on justice administration based on the best interest of the child and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

**Key Activity**

- Development of educational activities aimed to the enforcement of the principles in the Convention by means of alliances with the Ibero American Network of Judicial Schools —RIAEJ— and with other Judicial Schools in the region selected according to their background on virtual training.

**Result 5:** Strengthening of Juvenile Criminal Justice systems in the OAS Member States as far as the compliance with the guarantees of due process according to the principles in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international instruments is concerned, and development of coordination procedures between the public policies of child protection institutions, judges and other judicial authorities, and the organized civil society.

**Product 5.1:** Judges for children count on a set of options especially designed to deal with adolescents against whom there is evidence of law infringement.

### **Key activities**

- Facilitation of the relationship between judges and managers of care programs for offenders; diversified set of programs, including restorative judicial proceedings, which are available for judges to decide which are most fit to the needs of each adolescent; besides, a system for the evaluation of the outcome of such programs and information sharing among all participating institutions.
- Development of training courses addressed to judges, public defenders, and other agents related to the justice system and care programs.
- **Product 5.2** Child protection institutions develop alternative or open care programs with the participation of the organized civil society.

### **Key Activity**

- Child protection institutions create care programs for adolescent offenders; encouragement and support to the organized civil society (NGOs, churches, etc.) for the creation of options to institutionalization by means of various approaches (sport activities, training, mediation, community activities, etc.) with a particularly restorative emphasis.

**Result 6:** Development of public policies contributing to delinquency prevention and the participation of organized civil society.

- **Product 6.1:** Strengthening of a statistical system including all procedures related to adolescent participation or utilization in punishable actions (police, prosecutors, justice system, public defense systems, and care programs). The design of this system allows for its contribution to the development of prevention policies.
- **Product 6.2:** The systematization of and the access to statistical information, as well as the commitment of the media, translate into the society's direct understanding of the true scope of adolescent law infringement.

### **Key activities**

- Compilation of statistics available in the region.
- Diagnose of statistical systems informing on adolescent offences in the participating countries. Analysis of their purpose and use for the development of preventive public policies. Recommendation design. Monitoring of offences attributed to youth by the media and the performance of the juvenile justice system.
- Trial press releases on the promotion of children's rights and proposed revision of possible information bias.
- Assessment of impact on the media and the press.

## COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION AREA

At present, communication and information give rise to and promote changes of a social, economic, juridical, and political nature.

From such perspective, the IIN will enhance as possible its role for the promotion and advocacy of children's rights by means of a Communication and Information Area, thus contributing to create a culture of respect for such rights, through the use of every new technology having a major incidence on those processes.

### ***The Area's Specific Objectives***

To generate a creative and professional management of IIN global communication in its capacity as promoter and advocate of the respect for children's rights, the dissemination of its activities, and the facilitation of child-focused fora for knowledge exchange and participation

The inclusion of this area will contribute to the IIN strengthening by turning its work and importance visible, looking after the contents of people's messages, and promoting in them a culture of non violence for the benefit of children.

Likewise, the creation of this Area will lead to consolidating the communication philosophy applied in IIN activities.

### **Expected results**

**Result 1:** Contribution to the IIN institutional strengthening.

In order to contribute to the IIN institutional strengthening the communication strategy will involve two phases over time, consistent with its various targets: a) the first and internal phase will be addressed to: the IIN Directing Council; the OAS Permanent Council; the OAS General Assembly and other organs and offices; IIN-related intergovernmental organizations and civil society organizations (UNICEF, Ibero American General Secretariat, Redlamyc, Save the Children, etc.), and b) the second and external phase will be addressed to mass communication media, and general organizations and public.

**Result 2:** Sensitization and training on child-related information management addressed to professionals and communication experts.

**Result 3:** Updating and innovation of information tools and technologies aimed to the respect for children's rights.

**Result 4:** Promotion of a non-violence culture in the media and in children themselves through the incorporation of the principles provided for in the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

## ***Expected Products***

### **Result 1:** Contribution to the IIN institutional strengthening

- **Product 1.1** A forum for expertise exchange with the Delegates to the IIN Directing Council (dissemination of successful experience, request for assistance on specific issues, etc.).

#### **Main activities**

- Inclusion in the IIN Web site of an exchange forum designed on the basis of a survey on service requirements among the Delegates to the Directing Council.
  - Development of a bi-monthly communication instrument to make the Delegates aware of IIN activities.
- **Product 1.2:** Presentations addressed to sensitize the OAS political organs (Permanent Council and General Assembly) for the purpose of promoting certain issues and contributing to fundraising.

#### **Main activities**

- Drafting of systematized documents.
  - Participation in the activities of the Permanent Council and the General Assembly.
- **Product 1.3:** Development of an institutional periodical publication for disseminating research-based issues of interest.

#### **Key Activity**

- Production of two issues of the "Child Newsletter" ("*Boletín Infancia*")

### **Result 2:** Sensitization and training on child-related information management addressed to professionals and communication experts.

- **Product 2.1:** Course on children's rights addressed to professionals, government staff, members of non governmental organizations, communication experts, etc. on child-related information management within the framework of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

#### **Main Activities**

- Course development and organization
  - Systematization of basic and background documentation
  - Development of IT support for the Course
- **Product 2.2:** Specialized Course for communication experts on the treatment in the media of non-violence affecting children, with a right-based approach.

### **Main Activities**

- Development of the contents of the Course
  - Systematization of basic and background documentation
  - Development of IT support for the Course
- **Product 2.3:** To promote the inclusion of courses on Information and Children's Rights in the curricula of university institutes specialized on Communication.

### **Main Activities**

- Development of an educational module and its inclusion in the curricular programs of institutes specialized on Communication teaching.
- Systematization of basic and background documentation.

**Result 3:** Updating and innovation of IT tools and technologies for the dissemination of children's rights.

- **Product 3.1:** IIN Web site.

### **Main Activities**

- Development of the new IIN Web site.
  - Updating, maintenance, and development of the site.
  - Development of online Databases.
- **Product 3.2:** Database on documents, organizations, and projects (OPD in Spanish)

### **Main Activities**

- Revitalization of the Inter-American Child Information Network (RIIN)
  - Conversion of the OPD Database for its online use.
  - Maintenance and updating of the "Dr. Luis Morquio" Specialized Library
  - Maintenance and updating of the "Dr. Luis Morquio" Virtual Library
- **Product 3.3:** Legal Database (BADAJ)

### **Main Activities**

- Reorganization of the Web site
  - Inclusion of recent case law
- **Product 3.4:** Inter-American Information and Cooperation Network on International Child Abduction (specialized Web page).

### **Main Activities**

- Development and updating of the Web page on International Child Abduction (SIM in Spanish).
  - IT management of the module on Central Authorities.
- **Product 3.5:** Updating of the IT support for the Right Enforcement Monitoring System.

### **Main Activities**

- Programming and development of the IT System
  - IT System User's Manual
  - Technical field support to the Right Enforcement Monitoring System
  - IT support for the online implementation of courses on the Right Enforcement Monitoring System
- **Product 3.6:** Audiovisual material for mass dissemination on children's rights.

### **Key Activity**

- Production of new material

**Result 4:** To promote in the media and in children themselves a culture of non-violence through the incorporation of the principles provided for in the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

- **Product 4.1:** Research on the regulatory framework currently in force on communication and the protection of children's rights

### **Main Activities**

- Comparative survey of standards and possible sanctions applicable to the media in connection with right protection provisions.
  - Identification of successful experience in the region on violence-free media.
- **Product 4.2:** Development of educational modules addressed to children, parents, and educators for the purpose of raising a critical and constructive awareness of the media.

### **Key Activity**

- Development of three independent modules.
- **Product 4.3:** To promote the generation of a child participation niche involving the media, thus providing for true participation through various forms of expression and opinion on issues of children's concern.

### **Key Activity**

- Technical on-field support for generating child interactive participation niches in coordination with the actions developed by the Area for the Promotion and Protection of Rights.

**Product 4.4:** To create an experimental tool for measuring violence affecting children in the media, as well as in new information and communication technologies.

### **Main Activities**

- To analyze current methodologies for the use of available tools
- To raise public opinion in the media concerning the need for non violence (seminars, fora, code of ethics, guidelines)

**Product 4.5:** To generate messages for dissemination through the media contributing to change public attitude by means of a culture of non-violence.

**Product 4.6:** To encourage international organizations to actively participate in the protection of children against those media contents that violate their rights.

## **VI. Cross-sectional Action Guidelines**

The development of the various actions undertaken by each organizational area in the framework of this Action Plan will gradually incorporate, consistently with their respective projects, the following work guidelines that will be cross-sectional to the universe of IIN activities.

The prioritized cross-sectional guidelines have been described as follows:

**Ongoing Training** – To include training as one of the key tools for the development and sustainability of actions to be undertaken, both internal and external to the IIN

**Technical Cooperation** - It should be carried out as requested by the Member States and/or based on IIN proposals

**Strategic Alliances** - To generate the integration and/or promotion of alliances with government entities, the organized civil society, the private sector, and international agencies working on IIN-related thematic and geographic areas

**Information by means of Compilation, Systematization, and Dissemination Tools** - To establish the necessary mechanisms allowing for recording and organizing the information arising from actions underway in order to capitalize their results, disseminate their findings, share lessons learned, transfer methodologies, and ensure the continuity of successful actions

**Research** – To deepen on child-related issues in order to generate expertise for the benefit of the promotion and protection of children's rights

**Monitoring and evaluation** – To establish a system for monitoring this Action Plan and adequately assessing its progress and impact

**Horizontal cooperation** – To create among the Member States cooperation and support mechanisms allowing for the identification of existing facilities in the countries, the mobilization of exchange actions based on them, and the generation of the conditions required for ensuring their sustainability.

## **VII. Intervention Levels and Agents Involved**

The IIN intervention is addressed to the OAS Member States and actions will be accomplished at the following levels: **International, Regional, Bilateral, and National** (including possible joint actions with the three state powers), local (assigning priority to local governments and including administrative and territorial decentralization, subject to the organization in each state).

The various child-related commitments assumed by the countries will be subject to an international, regional, and bilateral follow-up.

The agents involved in the various levels will represent the government, the organized civil society, the international agencies and NGOs, and children, as the case may be according to its relevance.

The actions related to right holders in each state will be accomplished by the states themselves, and will indirectly receive the impact of IIN-generated actions.

It should be noted that the above does neither mean that all levels will be considered with the same degree of intensity, nor that actions will be addressed to all of them, but that priorities will be assessed in each individual case. The impact is expected to reach all of them, directly or indirectly, either through the exchange fora provided for at regional level, or through the adequate and efficient use of communication.

## **VIII. Sustainability and Participatory Management**

In order to strengthen the IIN presence as facilitator of cooperation processes among the OAS Member States, as well as its own institutional management, a Participatory Management is proposed for the purpose of reinforcing the active intervention of the Delegations to the Directing Council.

In order to meet this challenge the following five action guidelines are proposed:

- 1) To promote and join an active, proactive, and bilateral role favoring a new state participatory culture within the IIN vis-à-vis those public policies that ensure children's rights and well-being.
- 2) As far as the support, technical assistance, and follow-up of state policies ensuring children's rights and well-being are concerned, bilateral, multilateral, or sub regional mechanisms will be established allowing for a constructive incidence within the framework of national policies. They will particularly focus on those circumstances where either technical complexity may involve levels of risk or vulnerability of children's rights, or where the Member State deems it suitable to request technical assistance from the IIN.

- 3) To create specific commissions that will work in interconnection with the organizational areas and the cross-sectional action guidelines in order to promote the proactive participation of its members in the key roles to be played by the IIN during this period. These commissions will respectively focus on: the promotion and protection of rights, the juridical framework, and communication and information, and their composition will be proportionate to country representation and their interest on the issues assigned to each commission.
- 4) To increase the number of annual meetings to be held by the Directing Council for the purpose of monitoring previously assumed commitments.
- 5) To request each country to designate a technical referent who would periodically act as a liaison with IIN headquarters in order to ensure fluent communication and the continuity of the decisions adopted by the Directing Council in its working sessions.

## **IX. Final Conclusions**

Finally, I feel the need for expressing my sincere recognition to each and all of those who made possible the adoption of this document by the Delegates of the Member States at a Meeting of the Directing Council of the IIN.

Special mention should be made of the work accomplished by those who daily assume in their respective countries the commitment of programming, coordinating, and managing child-related public policies. It is precisely such high-ranking and key task that justifies their participation in this Council and turns them, by extension, into irreplaceable agents in IIN activities.

To a great extent, the adoption of this Action Plan summarizes the efforts of national governments and, quite often, of the organized civil society and other fora; consequently, the creation of the objective and subjective conditions required for achieving its purpose and results involves a true challenge.

This challenge imposed by public policies is inscribed within a particular time for significant celebrations: the young IIN celebrates its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary, while the Convention comes of age after 18 years of life. We accept the historic mandate, we assume this institutional turning point, and we get ready to go through a new cycle of effective accomplishments for the benefit of children's rights and well-being in the Americas.

*María de los Dolores Aguilar Marmolejo  
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August 2007*