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Specialized Organization of the OAS

Action Plan 2011 – 2015

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IIN ACTION PLAN 2011 - 2015

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I. Introduction

The Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN), as a Specialized Organization of the Organization of American States, is "responsible for promoting the study of issues relating to children and the

family in the Americas, as well as for designing technical instruments that will contribute to solving the problems affecting them”¹.

In order to fulfil the functions enjoined upon the Institute by its own Statutes, it enjoys technical autonomy in planning and carrying out its objective, within the framework of the OAS Charter and other applicable provisions, in accordance with paragraph b of Article 1 of the IIN Statutes. In this context, the Institute must bear in mind when planning, the mandates received from the Summits of the Americas, the agencies of the OAS and the Institute itself, through the Pan American Congress and its Directing Council.

When drafting the institutional Action Plan, it is necessary to provide continuity for activities or processes which have been set in motion in fulfilment of such mandates, renewing strategies and addressing new aspects in keeping with changes in the issues and circumstances in the States.

In Action Plan 2007-2011, the IIN promoted the development of strategies focusing on the definition, strengthening and implementation of public policies for children, improvement in the quality of management of these instruments in the States, and the creation of partnerships with academic institutions and international organizations.

Despite this, there are still gaps to be addressed with regard to the promotion and protection of child rights, the consolidation of the States’ regulatory framework and the awareness and commitment of society as a whole.

The Directing Council of the Institute, in its 85th Regular Meeting held in Panama, in 2010, issued Resolution CD/RES. 07 (85-R/10), by means of which a work group was formed in order to support the General Directorate of the Institute in drafting institutional Action Plan 2011-2015. The group was composed of six States, representing the five sub-regions – Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Haiti and Trinidad and Tobago, as well as the President (Colombia) and Vice-President (Panama) of the IIN, and the Director General.

Three meetings of the work group were held. The first took place in the city of Quito, on 15 November 2010, with the presence of the Principal Representatives to the IIN of the States of Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama and Trinidad and Tobago. The priorities acknowledged by each sub-region were presented and as a result, nine thematic lines were identified as priorities.

The second meeting was held in Washington D.C. on 14 and 15 February 2011, with the presence of the Principal Representatives to the IIN of the States of Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Haiti, Mexico, Panama, Peru, United States, Uruguay and Venezuela. At this meeting, three priority lines were established to be addressed by the Action Plan: early childhood, child attention in natural disasters and emergencies, and violence affecting children, with a focus on the criminal justice system for adolescents, commercial sexual exploitation, illegal smuggling and trafficking in children and international abduction.

¹ Subparagraph a), Article 1 of the IIN Statutes.

The third meeting was held in Colombia on 26 and 27 May, and was attended by Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, United States, Uruguay and Colombia as host country. Its aim was to specifically address the issue of attention for children in natural disasters and emergencies; this was the first opportunity for the exchange of experiences about this matter.

In this new Action Plan for 2011-2015, the IIN renews its commitment to consolidate comprehensive policies for the promotion and protection of child rights and strengthen the leadership of governing bodies for children in the States, ensuring that the best interest of the child becomes the focal point of any public policy that affects them.

This paper constitutes a route sheet to guide the IIN's steps in coordination with the States during the period 2011-2015. Lines of action and specific output to be developed over the next four years are established with regard to the Institute's areas of work and the subjects which the Directing Council perceives to be priorities. The cross-cutting subjects with regard to which the IIN is committed to act are also included.

This Action Plan seeks to be a dynamic instrument and operate in the manner of a navigation chart, providing coherence and coordination with regard to aims, proposing targets and reviewing and updating them in keeping with the processes undertaken with Member States and the needs which may emerge over the four-year period, in the joint commitment to contribute to the well-being of the children in the region.

II. Vision, Mission and Strategic Objectives

Vision

To position the IIN as an example of specialized excellence, a regional technical reference point in matters relating to children, a coordinating nexus within the Inter-American System, for the search of government consensus and commitment, in order to contribute to the promotion and protection of the rights of children.

Mission

To contribute to the development of public policies which will guarantee the promotion, protection and enjoyment of child rights in OAS Member States, and promote the construction of a culture of rights and well-being for children, within a context of respect for human rights and strengthening of democracy.

Strategic General Objective

To strengthen the capacity of governing bodies for children in OAS Member States, in order to comprehensively guarantee the full enjoyment of child rights, bearing in mind the promotion and protection of the rights proclaimed by the CRC.

Specific Strategic Objectives

1. To develop means and tools which will allow the States to establish strategies and action for the promotion and protection of child rights.
2. To support the States in their tasks involving follow-up, incidence and monitoring the fulfilment of child rights.
3. To strengthen the IIN's position as a Specialized Organization of the OAS in the area of childhood, regionally and internationally and, at the same time, to become an irreplaceable reference point in the Inter-American System.

III. The IIN's Action

The following is a brief description of the principal activities the IIN carries out in its work at the service of the States. Actions are included which are part of the institution's routine tasks, as well as a number of technical activities which, as a specialized organization in subjects related to childhood, the IIN carries out together with the States, such as technical assistance, training, content development and the exchange and systematization of experience.

1) Regular activities

a. Relationship with the Inter-American system

The IIN, in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), particularly in its Article 31, supports the efforts to promote cooperation between institutions for the comprehensive development of the Member States of the Inter-American System. The IIN complies with the resolutions of the General Assembly, the highest authority of the Organization, which issues direct and indirect mandates, which the IIN fulfils in coordination with other organs, agencies and entities, in accordance with paragraph b) of Article 54 of the Charter. Similarly, and as part of its regular activities, it connects with other organs, agencies and entities of the Inter-American System which are part of the OAS, in compliance with the directives regarding cooperation instituted by the General Secretariat in accordance with paragraph h) of Article 112 of the Charter. In addition, Chapter XVIII of the Charter, in its Articles 126, 127 and 128, establishes aspects that the IIN bears fully in mind in its relations with other organs, agencies and entities of the OAS.

In this context, joint action has been promoted with the Universal Civil Identity Programme in the Americas (PUICA) of the OAS, the OAS programme for the inclusion of the gender approach, coordinated by the Permanent Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission of Women

(CIM/OAS) and the Multidimensional Security Secretariat in the areas of smuggling, trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children, in addition to holding meetings and periodic coordination with the Chief of Staff of the General Secretariat of the OAS.

b. Meetings of the Directing Council

The IIN is constituted by three organs: the Pan American Child Congress, a gathering which takes place every five years and whose objective is to promote the exchange of experience and knowledge between Member States; the Directing Council, composed of the representatives of the OAS Member States, most of whom are senior national authorities in children's issues, and the General Directorate – the management of which is renewed every four years and is responsible for the design and implementation of the various activities and projects established in the work agenda.

In the regular meetings of the Directing Council, decisions are made by means of Resolutions concerning political issues, such as the election of authorities and the proposal of a candidate or candidates to the General Directorate to be submitted to the Secretary General of the OAS, as well as technical issues, setting the IIN's work agenda through the approval of the institutional Action Plan and specific mandates.

c. Institutional communications and publication of the IIN's activities

Institutional communications include the dissemination of the activities carried out regularly by the IIN and the handling of information of interest to the States. A communications plan will be designed which will foster the strengthening of all tasks, so that they contribute to the visibility of institutional commitments and action.

2) Activities related to lines of action

a. Technical assistance for the States

Technical assistance is carried out in response to requests received from Member States and/or on the basis of proposals generated by the IIN. This includes providing legal and regulatory assistance and counselling in children's policy, for the States' plans and instruments, contributing to institutional strengthening in order to undertake these processes. It also involves assistance in specific issues connected to the Plan's lines of action. These technical assistances will include their correspondent follow up. These technical assistances will include their correspondent follow up.

b. The development of content and information regarding children

In this area, studies and consultancies are included, which are carried out as part of projects that may consist in a diagnosis, an evaluation or a compilation of specific information with regard to a subject. This may result in instruments to address specific thematic content in the States, and in particular, in the governing bodies that are members of the Directing Council. The contents of the information generated will be sent to the correspondent State institutions

The contents and generated information will be submitted to the correspondent governing bodies.

c. Specific training activities

Since 2008, a permanent strategy has been generated to train human resources in the States who work with children, in both online and face-to-face formats. This has been a progressive process which has tended towards professionalizing this line of work. It implies continuity and is understood to be a significant tool for the development and sustainability of activities to be carried out in this Action Plan.

During the period covering 2008-2011 the courses had been developing under different modalities (virtual, semi – face and face training), and the following training courses have been carried out regularly: Update on Child Rights; International Child Abduction, Child Participation, Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, and Child Rights and the Media. These courses have been addressed to professionals and technical bodies of the States related to the different topics. For the 2011-2015 period, the areas established in the Plan's priority focal points will be added.

d. Exchange and systematization of experience

This implies establishing the necessary means to enable recording and systematizing the experiences that the States implement for different aspects of the promotion and protection of child rights, and which could constitute reference material for other States. Lessons learned are established, as well as methodology and ways to improve the capacity of the States with regard to their responsibility in the protection of rights. In addition, opportunities to exchange experience and technical assistance between States are generated, as well as means of cooperation and support, which will make it possible to identify existing capabilities in the countries, mobilize exchange action on the strength of them and create the necessary conditions to sustain them.

IV. Guiding Principles and Approaches

Guiding principles and approaches together constitute a matrix on the basis of which the IIN's work will be addressed, as well as the specific subjects around which action will focus during the period covering 2011-2015.

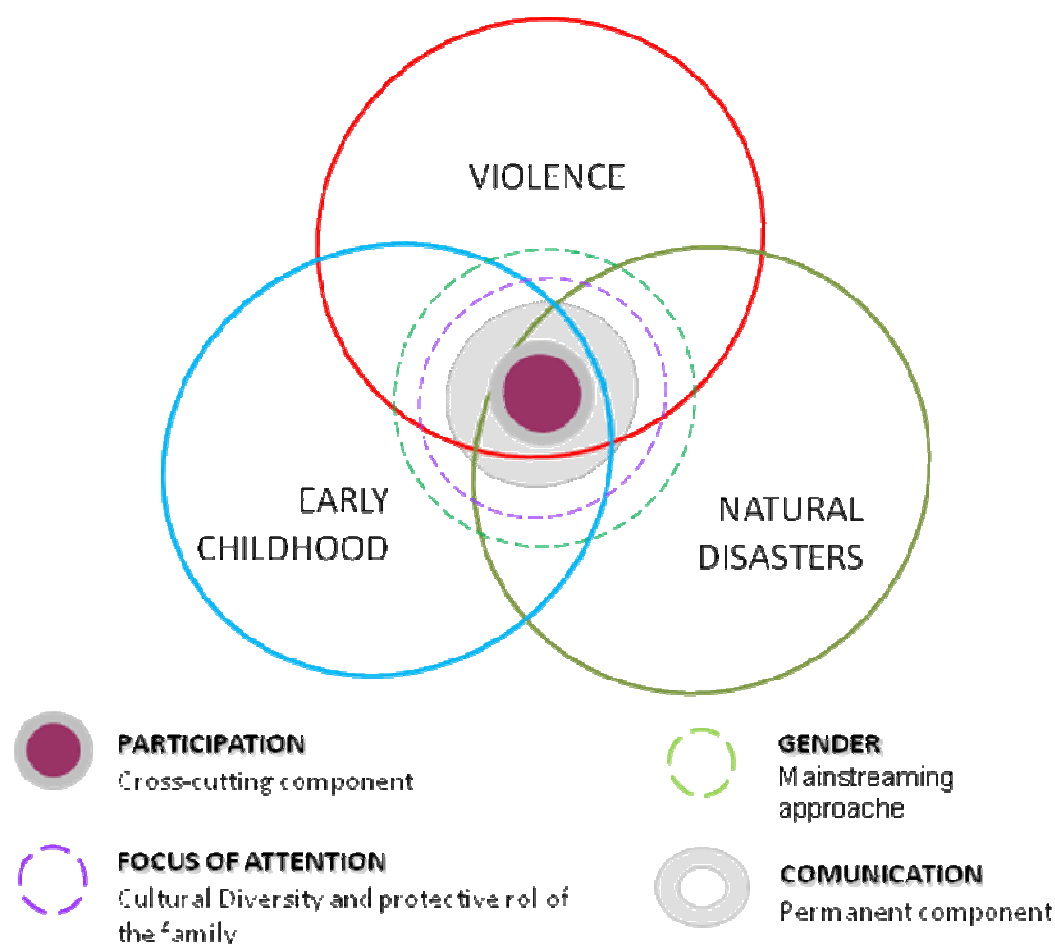
A rights-based approach

Human rights constitute the Institute's framework of action, and more specifically the rights of children enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (henceforth, CRC), other human rights instruments of the Universal System and the *corpus juris* on child rights which the Inter-American human rights system has adopted. The CRC emerged from the acknowledgement that children are rights-holders with specific needs and encompasses all of the areas of development of children.

According to this instrument, the responsibility of guaranteeing the respect for and satisfaction of human rights and children is collective and shared by the whole of society. However, the State appears as principal guarantor, together with the family, and the IIN's task is to develop actions which will contribute to this task.

The cross-cutting concept and the protection of rights

The cross-cutting concept is addressed in this Action Plan as a strategy which contributes to the generation of links between priority focal points, by means of the development of outputs incorporating settings and subjects which help to make the outcomes and actions foreseen in the priority focal points comprehensive. The following chart shows the intended strategy.



a. Child participation as a comprehensive principle in all action promoting and protecting rights

Child participation as a comprehensive principle in all action promoting and protecting rights

The chart shows that participation is at the core, since it links and sustains the development of each of the focal points or lines of action, but it is also the basis for the comprehensive perspective of rights and is underscored as a “guiding principle of the CRC and of the guarantee of rights”. At the same time, it constitutes a strategy to include the concerns and experiences of children in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes.

In addition to specifically addressing the subject of participation, which is included in the action lines described below, the cross-cutting approach will consist in incorporating participation strategies in the priority focal points of this Plan; namely, natural disasters, early childhood and violence, so that it will become a method for overcoming violations and to achieve the comprehensive enjoyment of rights.

b. Communication to invigorate discussion and support the links between priority subjects

In its Article 17, the Convention on the Rights of the Child stipulates that States Party acknowledge the significant role played by the media in relation to the protection and promotion of child rights. According to this approach and including everything related to the management, processing and dissemination of information, the cross-cutting nature of communication is assumed and expressed throughout this Action Plan.

The chart shows that communication is the line which will support or reinforce other areas or subjects, and which will also connect them in order to strengthen their reach. This is not only with regard to the promotion of rights, but also as an area of particular attention for the production of technical information to reinforce the positioning and effects of the other strategic lines. Communication will have a significant role as a tool to strengthen the strategies which make achievements possible, through the dissemination of outputs, outcomes, recommended experiences and impact. It will also have a role in interpreting how child rights are expressed – or, conversely, are made invisible, or violated – in the different means of communication.

Mechanisms will be enhanced to allow a wide spread of activities and products developed by the IIN.

c. Specific attention provided to the protective role of the family and cultural diversity

The Convention on the Rights of the Child clearly states that it is the duty of parents, or legal representatives, to assume the primary responsibility of raising their children and watching over their development. States Party must provide assistance so that parents can fulfil their duties with regard to the upbringing of their children (Article 18, CRC). In brief, the family is the principal agent in the development of children and therefore, the role of the State is to complement the family’s resources and work with the family in support of children’s development. In this respect, cross-cutting the family perspective in action established in the priority focal points of the Action

Plan implies making the rights-based perspective coherent and specific and that the policies which the States implement for children should follow a comprehensive approach in order to ensure the full development of children.

It is established within the framework of rights that the services and benefits carried out through the programmes targeting the comprehensive protection of children should be for all, without distinctions of any kind; therefore, public policy must include the special social and cultural features of children, such as those who belong to ethnic groups.

The gender approach

This approach is directly related to the right to non-discrimination, one of the guiding principles of the CRC, which constitutes a focus of concern for the IIN in its permanent work with the States. Particular attention will be paid so that activities do not tend towards gender discrimination of any sort and promote equal opportunities at every level.

Gender equality implies that the specific behaviours, aspirations and needs of women and men have been taken into account, and that they have been valued and promoted in the same way². In the case of children and adolescents, efforts shall be made to keep this perspective in mind, provide for this perspective, assessing the possible gender implications of policies fostered by the States and, wherever possible and relevant, developing differentiated actions to deal with the vulnerabilities and specific needs of children in the topics included in this Action Plan.

A gender perspective will be included in all stages of each subject area of the Action Plan, which means that it will receive specific attention starting at the early diagnostic stages, during the construction of technical tools and in the implementation and evaluation in the different States.

The governance approach

As established in the Inter-American Democratic Charter, a society in which the human rights of its citizens are respected and protected, especially in the case of those who require special protection, such as children, is a society which strengthens its democracy and governance and which will enjoy the minimum conditions necessary to develop satisfactorily.

In this context, the strengthening of governing bodies for children is essential to promote, protect and guarantee the fulfilment of the rights of underage persons in each of the States. The IIN's contribution, in coordination and joint responsibility with the State, is to strengthen institutional capabilities through the development of tools and strategies to benefit the quality of life of children in the region.

In recognizing and reaffirming the principles and values which form the basis of democratic societies, the Inter-American Democratic Charter also establishes the importance and need to build democracy through education provided to our children, which should focus on training for

² OEA (2010) Manual de Transversalización del Enfoque de Igualdad de Género en el ciclo de Proyecto

equality, peace, the responsible enjoyment of freedom, social justice, solidarity, tolerance and equity. In this respect, it is important to foster the capacity for social participation from the earliest stages possible, and thus achieve participatory, stable and peaceful democracies for the human development of the States. For this reason, the line of action which refers to participation cross-cuts the priority lines established in this work plan.

Joint responsibility and sustainability

By virtue of being an inter-governmental agency, the IIN considers that its commitment towards the children of the Americas is fulfilled through the acts of and coordination with its institutional counterparts in each of the OAS Member States represented on the Directing Council. This is why the approach which is particularly favoured involves the joint responsibility of the IIN and States regarding the achievement of the results expected in this Action Plan.

The States are a fundamental part of the efforts carried out to strengthen the Institute, inasmuch as they believe that by invigorating this organization, they are strengthening themselves in terms of their function as protectors of the human rights of children. The work and common aspirations of the IIN and the States, as well as their reciprocal support, are key components in fulfilling the output and targets established in Action Plan 2011-2015, in agreement with the lines of work coordinated with the States.

Its important to remind that the present approaches are intrinsic to the IIN's doing and they are manifested on its activities.

V. Priority and cross-cutting lines: outcomes and outputs

In this section, the lines of action for 2011-2015 are presented. Both the priority lines agreed by the Directing Council and action to be carried out in the subject of participation are included. In addition to constituting a cross-cutting focal point for the priority lines, participation includes specific activities intended to strengthen it as a necessary strategy to advance in the promotion and protection of children's rights.

The actions proposed in each line will be implemented jointly with the States, subject to the approval of the Plan during the 86th meeting of the Directing Council, to be held in September of this year. This process will be supported in particular by the States of Chile and Uruguay, in the subject of early childhood; Canada, in the subject of natural disasters; Colombia in the subject of adolescent criminal justice; Brazil in the subject of commercial sexual exploitation, and Ecuador in the subject of participation.

The areas will be structured in the following way. The first step is to develop the grounds for addressing the subject, describing the regulatory framework, the context of development in the region, challenges to be faced and the focus for the IIN's work. Next, a matrix chart is provided summarizing the outcomes and outputs expected in each subject, organized in stages which, depending on the line of action, begin by describing general issues, the diagnosis and the

generation of information, continue with the implementation stage and finally, the evaluation phase, in a logical sequence which will guide the IIN's activities up to 2015. In addition, it should be mentioned that at the end of this paper, expanded matrix charts are enclosed for each line of action, including specific activities to be carried out for each output, the source of financing and the timescale which is proposed.

In addition, it should be noted that the reference to the States in the outputs proposed for each line of action imply that they will be carried out in some of the States in the region, in keeping with the interests, needs and possibilities observed in the region.

Finally, all of the activities carried out within the framework of the Action Plan will be published in the States and on the IIN's website, according to the institution's communications strategy and its commitment to share experiences and lessons learned which will contribute to the production by the States of more timely, effective and relevant policies for children in the region.

1. Early Childhood

International regulatory framework

A number of international instruments provide support, guidance and mandates with regard to the need to improve the condition of children between the ages of 0 and 6³, to which are added regional statistics which show the need to generate greater capacity in the States to design comprehensive public policies for this age group. To invest more, and more efficiently in comprehensive public policies for early childhood is an explicit objective in the region. Several perspectives and research studies (sociological, neurological, political) come together to support the fact that investment and a comprehensive approach at an earlier age lead to improved results in terms of human development, which redounds synergically in improved social development, savings in future public investment and the strengthening of the democratic system.

We should briefly mention some of the highlights of international instruments. Article 27 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) states with regard to the right to full development that: "States Parties recognize the right of every child to a standard of living adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development" and, "States Parties, in accordance with national conditions and within their means, shall take appropriate measures to assist parents and others responsible for the child to implement this right and shall in case of need provide material assistance and support programmes, particularly with regard to nutrition, clothing and housing."

³ We are using the ages between 0 and 6 as a reference, despite the fact that other systems exist, such as the Committee on the Rights of the Child's working definition of "early childhood", which states: "the Committee wishes to include all young children: at birth and throughout infancy; during the preschool years; as well as during the transition to school." (The Committee proposes 0 to 8). Nonetheless, intrauterine development is also included in the frame of this action plan (care during pregnancy) and it is included in the planning and actions for early childhood.

For its part, General Comment N° 7 (2005) of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, entitled “Implementing child rights in early childhood”, and in the same line, the paper on “A World Fit for Children”, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations (2002), called for the design and implementation of national development policies and programmes for children in early childhood, in order to promote their physical, social, emotional, spiritual and cognitive development, reinforce the development of children in early childhood by providing appropriate services and support for parents, including parents with disabilities, families, legal guardians and child carers in order to expand and improve care and comprehensive education for children in early childhood, particularly with regard to the more vulnerable and disadvantaged children.

The World Declaration on Education for All (Jomtien, Thailand, 1990) stated that learning begins at birth. For this reason countries must include in its educational plans, preschool education which will make it possible to develop and strengthen all of the capacity children have from birth, regardless of condition. Along the same lines, the World Education Forum in Dakar, Senegal, (2000) reaffirmed the importance of early childhood.

Finally, in the regional report on the Millennium Goals for Latin America and the Caribbean, with regard to the need for an inclusive approach to aspects involving rights violations, there is emphasis on maximizing efforts regarding objectives directly related to the condition of children in the first stages of development (child mortality, extreme poverty, a number of health issues).

Regional context

If we take some of the basic parameters compiled with regard to the condition of children in the region, we shall see that the proportion of children in the total population of the States varies between 30 and 55%, and the proportion of children between 0 and 6 in relation to the total population, is between 9 and 21%⁴. These numbers show, beyond any variation in the circumstances of each State, that the magnitude of the sector which we refer to underscores the importance of approaching this age group in a sustainable way, by means of comprehensive public policies.

In terms of human development, we find that the countries with the lowest development indices (MDGs) are those with the worst basic indicators in the area of childhood and early childhood. Thus, child mortality rates reach 67/1000 in some specific areas of the countries in the region; while the average rate in the countries with the highest levels of development is 12.8/1000⁵, and in some exceptional cases, 7.7/1000. Furthermore, in the area of child malnutrition, it should be noted that there are extremely dissimilar parameters in the States. For example, there are cases where 30.3% of the population (rural or indigenous populations) shows highly vulnerable features, as compared to an average of 3.9% in countries with high human development.

Obstacles and challenges still to be overcome

⁴ Data arising from the answers to the survey carried out in the States (April 2011).

⁵ Millennium Goals regional report – 2009 data.

The dispersal of these indicators shows very different levels of guarantees for the rights of the children on the continent, which has a significant impact on the level to which their potential is developed. Whereas in some of the regions there are very serious difficulties, in others we find relatively successful experiences from which valuable lessons can be learned. This proves that some difficulties do exist and that there is a need to achieve a greater presence in the States with regard to caring for children between the ages of 0 and 6, in order to guarantee the fulfilment of the goals of full development.

Early childhood development has significant effects on the training of human capital since it impacts on future scholastic achievement and the ability to earn income as adults. Furthermore, there is scientific evidence of a correlation between different variables that determine children's future development and perspectives and the lack of adequate and timely investment in this age group. The evidence also shows that public policies for early childhood contribute to social and economic development: according to World Bank data (2007), investments in early childhood have rates of return of between 7 and 16%; and one year of preschool education increases an adult's income between 7 and 12% (WB, 2002).

A weak or fragmentary State presence goes hand-in-hand with the high level of dependence of the most direct daily environment of the children in this age group (families, adult reference points, community), which impacts on the achievement of high levels of development. In addition, uneven and scant investment in some areas of development, together with a lack of official budgeting of funds for early childhood, jeopardizes the sustainability of interventions in the middle and long term. Furthermore, there is a dispersal of institutional responsibility in handling policies for early childhood, inasmuch as they are not sectoral actions and are not necessarily coordinated to follow the same course and reach similar outcomes. In addition, governing bodies for children's policy in the States do not always have the responsibility and the powers to conduct public policy and those that do highlight the fact that they lack the tools which would allow them to assume interinstitutional leadership and implement means of intersectoral coordination in order to execute a public policy. There is also a lack of indicator monitoring systems which would enable a comprehensive reading from the perspective of rights of the situation of children in the States.

On the same lines, as a result of the survey carried out with the States in order to identify action to be promoted through the Action Plan, it should be noted that most of them indicate the need for instruments which will contribute to the implementation and/or strengthening of a management model in order to develop comprehensive policy for early childhood that takes into account the different territorial and/or administrative levels of the States. They also request technical tools which will help them improve interinstitutional and intersectoral aspects in their management models, allowing them to empower available public resources, and avoid duplicating activities and overfocusing. On a second level of priorities, the States mention the need to install and/or improve a system for monitoring and managing information with regard to this age group. Thirdly, the States request activities involving cooperation, knowledge exchange and the transfer of lessons learned.

The focus and emphasis of the IIN's work

The IIN has, in recent years, addressed and carried out actions in a number of States which have generated significant lessons learned for the implementation of a national plan, a public policy or a monitoring system with a comprehensive vision and focus of rights. In this respect, we should highlight recent experiences in some of the States, in which technical support has been provided for the development of national policies for children and adolescents, the establishment of an indicators menu and the implementation of a monitoring system for rights.

It has been anticipated that work on this line will be done in 4 stages: In the first, information regarding comprehensive policies for early childhood, at different levels (universal, focused and specialized) will be compiled and systematized. This information will also serve to justify the importance of investing in this age group, and the effects of such investment. In addition, a network of technical liaison officers appointed by the representatives of the States on the Directing Council of the IIN will be formed, in order to accompany all of the stages of the project, commencing their support at this first stage. The second stage will involve the production of 3 specific outputs; namely: a framework of reference and technical guidelines related to the enabling of comprehensive policies for early childhood; tools for the improvement of the Comprehensive Protection System for Early Childhood, which could include instruments for the coordination and management of the comprehensive protection system (Route Sheets); a guide for the strengthening of parental capabilities regarding child development and the restitution of the right to live with a family; and an indicators menu in order to monitor rights that is based on the different international instruments and agreements (including the CRC, the Millennium Development Goals, A World Fit for Children). This would be accompanied by audiovisual material in order to heighten awareness of these matters which would be adapted to the accessibility and relevance in each of the States.

The third stage includes the specific implementation of the policy framework in 3 States; regarding which, depending on work agreements reached, training opportunities could be provided for the implementation of the output produced; adaptation and/or application of a monitoring platform with a rights-based perspective. Lastly, an external evaluation is planned in order to assess the implementation, with an emphasis on achieving sustainability for the actions carried out in the States.

| Outcomes | Outputs |
|---|--|
| Stage 1: Regional Analysis | |
| The States in the Inter-American System have more information on comprehensive policies for early childhood, and information on monitoring systems for the revise and adjustments to their policies towards this age group. | A network of technical liaison officers for the issue of early childhood in the States has been formed, is operating and there is constant discussion regarding the progress of the regional analysis and the work on the monitoring system. |
| | A paper containing systematized information and analysis of comprehensive policies for early childhood, at different levels (universal, focused and specialized), and the relevance of investing in this group has been produced and circulated. |
| | A situation report on the existence and application of a monitoring system for rights in early childhood. |
| Stage 2: Production of Policy Guidelines and; Rights Monitoring System | |
| The States have more tools for the | A framework of reference and technical guidelines related to the coordination of comprehensive policies for early childhood, at different |

| | |
|--|--|
| positioning and articulation of the comprehensive policies of early childhood. | levels (universal, focused and specialized) within the framework of rights, has been produced, validated and circulated. |
| | Route sheet for coordinating and managing the system for comprehensive protection of early childhood according to the different levels (territorial, intersectoral and interinstitutional) and including the ethnic and gender perspective which has been produced and validated. |
| | A guide for the strengthening of parental capabilities in child development and the restitution of the right to live with a family has been produced, validated and disseminated which includes tools for the early detection of situations in which the right to family life is infringed and a critical analysis of the gender roles in order to foster joint responsibility for childraising. |
| | An indicators menu ⁶ for monitoring, in keeping with the rights perspective and international commitments has been produced, validated and disseminated. |
| | Audiovisual material has been distributed and disseminated regionally in order to heighten awareness regarding the importance of enjoying and guaranteeing comprehensive rights in early childhood, in line with the IIN's communications policy. |
| Stage 3: Implementation in 3 States | |
| Selected States improve their capacities for the development of a comprehensive protection system and rights monitoring. | Policy guidelines (policy framework) Instruments and Tools in at least three States. |
| | A monitoring system for the rights of early childhood has been implemented. |
| Stage 4: Evaluation | |
| Systematized lessons learned are available, and recommendations have been produced in order to improve initiatives and the sustainability of the project's outcomes. | The evaluation of processes and outcomes has been carried out. |
| | A paper on sustainability has been validated. |

2. Natural Disasters

International regulatory framework

The issue of managing the risk of disaster and how States act in the face of emergencies has attracted increasing interest in the region in recent years. The magnitude and recurrence of natural phenomena combine with existing vulnerabilities, increasing the impact on the population and its living conditions.

In the Inter-American system and more specifically, in the OAS, there are some mandates and articles with regard to these issues. *The Inter-American Democratic Charter establishes in its Article 15 that:*

The exercise of democracy promotes the preservation and good stewardship of the environment. It is essential that the states of the Hemisphere implement policies and strategies to protect the environment, including application of various treaties and conventions, to achieve sustainable development for the benefit of future generations.

⁶ They shall include gender-sensitive indicators.

In addition, there are Resolutions of the General Assembly and the Permanent Council: AG/RES. 2610 (XL-O/10) Existing mechanisms for disaster prevention and response and humanitarian assistance among the Member States, and CP/RES. 792 (1277/01) Statutes of the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction.

The *Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (IACNDR)* is the principal forum in the OAS and the Inter-American system for the analysis of policies and strategies related to the reduction of disasters in the context of the development of Member States. It was created by the General Assembly (AG/RES. 1682 XXIX-O/99) in order to address the need to strengthen the role of the OAS in reducing disasters and preparing to respond to emergencies.

Within the United Nations, the *International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)* is an inter-agency secretariat whose mandate is to coordinate, promote and strengthen disaster risk reduction (DRR) at worldwide, regional, national and local levels.

Finally, the international benchmark instrument is the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), which seeks the "...substantive reduction of disaster losses by 2015 – in lives, and in the social, economic, and environmental assets of communities and countries." This framework is valid for 10 years (2005-2015).

Regional context

The complexity of natural phenomena which unleash disasters has recently increased. The "Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters" of the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium, has carried out a comparative study of events from 1991 to 2000 and from 2001 to 2010 and arrived at the following conclusions. Whereas during the 1990s the number of recorded disasters reached 700, during the following decade figures exceeded 900; that is, 30% more. In terms of persons affected, numbers doubled in 2000-2010: 81 million people were affected by disasters, compared to 38 million in the previous decade, according to this report. With regard to economic impact, it is estimated that financial losses during the past decade in our region amounted to 440 billion US dollars, without taking long-term effects into account. Continual hydrometeorological phenomena, seismic vulnerability, volcanic activity and the increase in magnitude of some of these events, owing to the effects of climate change, are recurrent (and often permanent in the region), and even include a combination of phenomena which can lead to complex disasters because of their multiple root causes.

Obstacles and challenges still to be overcome

Working on the rights of children facing disaster risk and emergencies has become a core focal point for the Institute's Action Plan 2011-2015. This challenge implies undertaking a new, but not

unknown direction, since the rights-based approach will constitute the political and methodological perspective on the basis of which we shall build our work on natural disasters, as we do in the case of our other strategic lines. In this respect, the IIN's position is based on the comprehensive protection of children, which must cross-cut any intervention, programme or policy adopted to confront risk and emergency.

In addition, the protection of children's rights should imply aiming at the continuity of development and of their activities in society in the short, medium and long term, which is an essential guiding factor in the production of tools for the different stages of the period. The best interest of the child, the right to participation and non-discrimination, and children's right to life and development sustain the actions presented in this Action Plan in the area of natural disasters.

With the commitment of obtaining more effective results and from a perspective which views children as agents of change – and not merely as a “vulnerable population” – it is a priority to generate actions tending towards promoting their involvement in strategies of prevention, assistance and recovery, in keeping with their abilities.

The approaches which gave rise to the greatest amount of input were the *3rd Meeting of the IIN Work Group (CD/RES. 07 [85-R/10] “Constitution of a Work Group to Draft IIN Action Plan 2011-2015”)*, held in Bogotá in May 2011, with the participation of representatives from 18 Member States (Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, United States and Uruguay), and the information provided by the States which completed the *questionnaire* containing a general survey regarding such issues as the status of risk detected in each country, information on how each State addresses intervention, the State structure available for this purpose, levels of coordination and suggestions regarding recommended practices to bear in mind. There was particular emphasis in these questionnaires on the effects on children, as well as on the challenges and obstacles to be borne in mind in order to strengthen actions involving the management of these problems and intervention.

With regard to the principal effects on children in disasters, the first aspect to be mentioned was the increased propensity for health to be affected, and a general decline in quality of life and access to rights and services (dwelling, education, food, security). The psychological impact caused by loss and the partial or complete disruption of habits and customs, which drastically transforms the factors which make up their everyday life was widely mentioned. To this is added a further, collateral, effect arising from the loss of areas and opportunities for play, participation and recreation; settings which normally foster the expression and channelling of these effects.

On the other hand, throughout the entire cycle of disasters but particularly immediately after the event, there are displacements and migrations which often lead to children and adolescents being sheltered in inadequate locations. According to the magnitude of the disaster, it is likely that children and adolescents may lose contact with their parents and therefore, with the basic care that parents provide. This situation requires an immediate and two-fold response from authorities: placement in residential centres and the search for the nuclear or extended family. Furthermore, the overcrowding and lack of organisation of these shelters place children at risk of serious

violations of their rights. Girls are at special risk of being victims of sexual abuse and other types of violence, so it is necessary to make diagnoses and develop responses specifically tailored to tackling these issues.

The States also expressed the concerns and specific demands that they consider to be a priority and in general terms there is agreement regarding the need to improve channels of interinstitutional and intersectoral coordination, in order to strengthen the comprehensive protection of children in strategies to handle and mitigate disaster risk. In addition, there was strong interest in generating tools to position the condition of children at disaster risk on the public and political agenda. There was also an emphasis on the importance of having specific instruments for action regarding children and/or how to include them within existing frameworks, as a priority and focus. We also noted an eagerness to have access to updated and specialized technical information and training in the subject. There was special concern about the lack of disaggregated data with relation to age and also to gender. The design of programmes, protocols and actions should assert strategies that focus on gender, and they should also be included in the data collection and recording systems.

In brief, the validity and timeliness of working in this area is sustained by a variety of factors. In the first place, in order to consider the impact produced in terms of human and material loss, including the living conditions of the population in general and of children, even more specifically and seriously. In addition, in view of the effects caused by natural phenomena which lead to disasters, not only as emergencies during the event, but also in the middle and long term. Finally, because of the urgent need to focus care strategies on children, owing to the vulnerabilities these problems entail.

The focus and emphasis of the IIN's work

The role of the IIN and its involvement in this issue is based on its function as a coordinating and technical support agency which seeks to strengthen the capabilities of the States. For this reason, one of the principal objectives addressed by the Action Plan for 2011-2015 with regard to child rights in disaster risk and emergencies will be, at a first stage, to systematize the States' experiences with regard to children at risk and in disaster-related emergencies. In addition, a second stage will involve generating in a participatory two specific documents: a political position paper and public policy guidelines (policy framework) to provide the States with a framework to produce national strategies (programmes, policies, protocols, legislation, instruments, etc.), which will enable the management and care of children in disasters to will be strengthened. The political position paper will be submitted to the 86th Regular Meeting of the Directing Council.

The Policy Framework should include specific recommendations for intervention which are gender-sensitive through the disaggregation of data and the implementation of actions with specific features for children and adolescents with relation to gender. An intercultural perspective should also be included in the Policy Framework so that input for activities can be provided without neglecting the region's cultural, ethnic and racial diversity.

The document on guidelines for public policies (Policy Framework) will be prepared through the use of tools and activities such as regional meetings, workshops and intergenerational dialogue which will provide the input for the definition of priorities within the framework; as well as case studies which will provide trustworthy and current information with respect to progress, difficulties and challenges in the region. A later stage will be the drafting of a Promotion Plan for the Policy Framework which will tend towards positioning⁷ and implementing the subject appropriately. Participatory and intergenerational workshops will be carried out, which will provide input in order to place care priorities within the framework of policy. Case studies will provide reliable and updated information with regard to progress, obstacles and challenges in the region. A third stage is contemplated in order to carry out focalized implementation in 3 States, which will allow the implementation of tools produced for the application of guidelines including the training of staff from the governing body for childhood and other participating agencies. In addition, an evaluation stage will provide an account of lessons learned and lead to recommendations in order to improve initiatives.

| Outcomes | Outputs |
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| Stage 1: Research and diagnosis | |
| 1. Exchange of experiences between States and international agencies regarding risk management and emergency care for children who are confronting disasters has been carried out ⁸ . | 1. Document with systematized Information on action taken by States and agencies with regard to children facing risk and disaster-induced emergencies has been produced. |
| 2. General lines of work have been established in order to address the subject of Natural Disasters for IIN Action Plan 2011-2015. | 2. Lines of work for the Action Plan agreed with the working group Member States. |
| 3. Two specific papers to be drafted: A political position paper and a paper on public policy guidelines (policy framework). | 3. Document of the Systematization of the experiences presented during the 3rd meeting of the working group produced and disseminated (matrix chart). |
| Stage 2: Production of policy guidelines | |
| 1. A political position paper available – regionally and by State. | 1. Draft political position paper produced and disseminated. |
| | 2. Final political position paper validated. |
| 2. A draft public policy guideline proposal available (policy framework) in order to steer governments in protecting and promoting child rights in the face of risk and emergencies, on the basis of the conclusions of the First Inter-American Workshop. | 1. Draft guideline proposal (policy framework) produced and circulated with regard to policy on these issues, on the basis of the conclusions of the First Inter-American Workshop. |
| | 2. Inter-American working group formed on the care of children at risk and in disaster-induced emergencies, to monitor this line of work. |
| 3. Systematized information available on experiences and lessons learned regarding the situation of children in the disaster cycle, from a sustainable development perspective. | 1. A paper produced and circulated on the systematization of experiences, with a focus on lessons learned obtained from the analysis of case studies in at least 6 States. |

⁸ This exchange was effected at the Third Meeting of the Work Group, at which the subject of natural disasters and child rights was specifically dealt with, held in Bogotá, Colombia, on 26 and 27 May 2011.

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| 4. The viewpoints of adolescents included in the stage involving the definition of policy recommendations for addressing natural disasters and emergencies. | 1. A paper on needs (during risk and emergencies) and priorities identified by adolescents with regard to natural disasters drafted and circulated. |
| | 2. Group of adolescent representatives formed (chosen during the workshop). |
| 5. The States have guidelines (policy framework) and tools which have been validated and disseminated for improving the protection of children and adolescents who face risks and emergencies. | 1. A paper on guidelines (policy framework) drafted, agreed and circulated. |
| | Guidelines for the application of the policy Framework to specific situations, including support for providing care and compensations to children and adolescents, and preventive measures against sexual violence, which have been drafted, validated and disseminated. |
| | A regional promotion plan for the policy framework agreed and developed. A system of indicators for applying the policy Framework which was produced. |
| 6. An awareness-raising campaign carried out regarding the importance of providing priority care for children when managing risk and natural disasters in the region. | Audiovisual material in support of the application of guidelines (policy framework) has been distributed and disseminated regionally |
| Stage 3: Implementation | |
| Greater regional and local recognition of the needs and Rights of children in emergency situations has been achieved; and also greater political efforts to prepare for these situations and promote the respect of rights during emergencies. | Promotion Plan on risk and disaster management, to be developed by each State and at a coordinated international level. |
| The 3 participating States will improve the conditions for providing care to children and adolescents confronting situations of risk and emergency in case of disasters, based specific tools and guidelines for the prevention, response and recovery stages. | An implementation plan for the Policy Framework and related tools developed in 3 States. |
| Stage 4: Evaluation | |
| Systematized lessons learned are available, and recommendations have been produced in order to improve initiatives. | 1. External summative and impact evaluation completed. |

3. Violence

In its Article 19, the Convention on the Rights of the Child states clearly that it is the duty of the State to protect children from all forms of ill-treatment perpetrated by their parents or any other persons who have care of them, and to establish preventive measures as well as measures to address instances of maltreatment.

More than twenty years after the Convention was adopted, this right to non-violence is far from being a reality for the children in the region. The issue of violence and its relationship with various forms of rights violations is a critical problem affecting the strengthening of democratic culture in

the Americas. Violence in its different manifestations is linked to most of the threats and violations of children's rights on the continent.

In the framework of the Action Plan, the subject of violence is addressed in its specific aspects, such as adolescent criminal justice, commercial sexual exploitation and international child abduction, in accordance with the agreements reached by the work group with regard to the Action Plan.

3.1 Juvenile Criminal Justice

International regulatory framework

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), other international instruments in the universal human rights system and the Inter-American system's *corpus juris* on child rights show the need for States to adapt their judicial systems for adolescents in conflict with criminal law.

Since the ratification of the CRC, the States in the region have enacted statutes and legislation which seek to develop the guiding principles established by the Convention, particularly in its Articles 37 and 40 (directly related to the rights of adolescents who are accused of contravening criminal laws), as well as in its Articles 2, 3, 4, 6, 12 and 39, with the purpose of generating change conducive to implementing a system of juvenile criminal responsibility. Within the setting of the Inter-American system of human rights, the American Convention on Human Rights and its optional protocol in the matter of economic, social and cultural rights, constitute and complement the international regulatory framework in this field.

Difficulties are still apparent with regard to regulatory adjustments in the light of international conventions, particularly in the implementation of socio-educational sentences (custodial and non-custodial), as well as in achieving, through them, social reinsertion and the prevention of recidivism amongst adolescents who have infringed a criminal law.

In addition to international legislation, the Twentieth Pan American Child Congress (2009) established that it was necessary to "develop and strengthen the implementation of specialized justice that guarantees special protection for children, and a number of dejudicialization procedures, such as restorative justice".

Obstacles and challenges still to be overcome

To the phenomenon of juvenile delinquency is added the criticism of various sectors of society, which relates it directly to violence and views it as one of the principal problems causing the social insecurity which is present in our societies. This makes it necessary to establish a more comprehensive standpoint, based on the perspective of human rights.

The IIN has undertaken to systematize the recommendations made by the Committee on the Rights of the Child to OAS Member States. It has been possible to conclude, on the basis of this

systematization, that at present, 23 of the Member States do not have legislation which fully conforms to international standards of specialized justice for adolescents in conflict with the law. Similarly, in 22 of the States, the lack of separation between adults and adolescents still persists in at least some of the stages of deprivation of liberty (detention, cautionary measures and sentence). For its part, the Committee concluded that in 21 of the States in the region, deprivation of liberty is used as the norm and not as an exception, despite the stipulations of Article 37 of CRC. In the case of 19 States, the Committee recommended guaranteeing and reinforcing the implementation of a comprehensive policy of alternative measures to deprivation of liberty. The Committee recommended 18 of the States to take measures to ensure that adults working in the criminal responsibility system were adequately trained.

The IIN circulated a survey with the purpose of obtaining information regarding the status of this issue in each State, in order to generate contributions specific to the needs and demands of the States in this area. From the answers received, it has been possible to infer that several of the States lack, in part or in full: a specialized criminal responsibility system for adolescents; a socio-educational model for the implementation of sentencing measures (custodial and non-custodial), with technical guidance for its execution; means of following-up and evaluating socio-educational sentences in order to identify those which lead to the best results regarding resocialization.

The States have referred to obstacles at operational, interinstitutional coordination and even infrastructure levels. In addition, the answers obtained from the States show that some of them lack information systems which would allow them to input data from the different State agents who take part in the circuit which a criminal responsibility system entails; information which is necessary in order to coordinate the execution of socio-educational sentences (custodial and non-custodial)), as well as to project institutional capacity in this regard.

In conclusion, therefore, there are still significant challenges to the creation and implementation of adolescent criminal responsibility systems which comply with international human rights standards, particularly when executing socio-educational sentences (custodial and non-custodial).

The execution stage of socio-educational sentences (custodial and non-custodial) is vitally important within the cycle of an adolescent criminal responsibility specialized system, inasmuch as it is the stage at which the State has the opportunity to provide adolescents with the tools and capacity for social reinsertion.

With regard to the implementation of socio-educational sentences (custodial and non-custodial), the principal challenge which the States have mentioned is for these measures to fulfil a socio-educational purpose, which is their ultimate purpose.

The focus and emphasis of the IIN's work

With this background, the IIN has considered producing output in keeping with the comprehensiveness which is necessary to address this subject, and has therefore planned activities for the different stages which are included in the cycle of an adolescent criminal responsibility system. However, there should be a focus on the stage at which socio-educational sentences (custodial and non-custodial) are applied in their different forms, and on their impact and outcome as part of the resocializing process for adolescents in conflict with the criminal law.

A first, diagnostic stage is contemplated, which will make it possible to gain an overview of the real situation regarding the structure and operation of criminal liability systems for adolescents in conflict with the law in the region, including the systematization of information provided by the States and the production of a comparative legal study of criminal liability systems for adolescents in conflict with the law. This collection of information shall be gender-sensitive in order to determine how the juvenile justice systems operate in the case of adolescent men and women; this will allow the development of actions to provide differentiated attention to these specific situations, where applicable.

At a second stage, technical tools will be designed in order to improve comprehensive public policy for juvenile criminal responsibility. These tools include the production of a legislative indicators menu, a political position paper, an experiences database and, lastly, technical guidelines will be produced for the States, including the promotion of adolescent participation. These outputs will be underpinned by multimedia material which will be distributed and disseminated in the States. The third stage will include a number of actions for the specific implementation in 3 States of the tools designed by means of specialized technical consultancy, interchange of experience between States, training and instruction, and the application of follow-up mechanisms. The fourth stage will involve the evaluation of implementation and agreements will be reached with the States in order to ensure the sustainability of achievements.

Within this framework, the following outcomes and outputs will be developed during this period.

| Outcomes | Outputs |
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| Stage 1: Diagnosis in the States | |
| <u>Outcome 1:</u> A regional outlook of the subject available, on the basis of primary and secondary information, regarding the operation of criminal liability systems for adolescents in conflict with the law. | 1. A report with diagnosis and description of the juvenile criminal systems in the region (baseline), produced and disseminated. 2. A study on Comparative Law with regard to legislation for adolescents in conflict with criminal law, with emphasis on the implementation of sentences (custodial and non-custodial sentence systems [socio-educational] and their practical application) disseminated. |
| Stage 2: Construction of technical tools for the design and improvement of public policy | |
| <u>Outcome 2:</u> The States have technical tools for the design and/or improvement of public policy on juvenile criminal liability. | 2.1 Menu of legislative indicators constituting a regulatory parameter in keeping with international standards has been designed, validated and disseminated. 2.2 A political position paper on the subject of juvenile criminal liability, from the human rights perspective, has been validated and disseminated. 2.3 A regional database of experiences available. 2.4. Operational technical guidelines validated and applied in the States that should consider the general determination of the post profiles, regarding specific competences. |

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| | 2.5 Multimedia material produced and validated. |
| | 2.6 An instrument for the follow-up and evaluation of the implementation of sentences (custodial and non-custodial). |
| | 2.7 A methodological tool for the promotion of the participation of adolescents who are in the criminal liability system, within the framework of international legislation, produced and disseminated. |
| | 2.8 A guide of statistical indicators and recommendations for the compilation of information on the subject produced and disseminated. |
| | 2.9 Courses on juvenile criminal liability systems produced and developed. |
| Stage 3: Implementation in the States | |
| <u>Outcome 3</u> The States have implemented technical tools designed for the improvement of their public policy systems for criminal liability in the case of adolescents in conflict with the law. | 3.1 An implementation plan for technical tools for the improvement of public policy on criminal liability agreed with participating States. |
| Stage 4: Evaluation | |
| <u>Outcome 1:</u> Systematized lessons learned are available, and recommendations have been produced in order to improve initiatives and the sustainability of the project's outcomes. | 4.1 Summative evaluation completed. 4.2 A paper on sustainability has been produced and validated. |

3.2 Abduction

The increase of human mobility, the result of current migratory flows which take place for a number of reasons, such as financial or family motives, leads to an increase of cases involving the illicit transfer or retention of children in States which are not their place of habitual residence. The increase of this problem is out of proportion with the lack of awareness in society as a whole with regard to the phenomenon, which makes it necessary to reinforce prevention, promotion and the treatment of cases, in order to ensure prompt restitution in adequate conditions of security.

International regulatory framework

From the regulatory point of view, the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) provides guiding principles which govern the actions of the States with regard to children's rights. Within the framework of the specific development of this subject there will be special emphasis on action carried out in connection with two of the four principles: the principle of best interest of the child (mainly Article 3 of the CRC) and the principle of participation (mainly Article 12 of the CRC). Moreover, the importance of the subject of international abduction is apparent from its inclusion in Article 11 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which stipulates the duty of the States to adopt "measures to combat the illicit transfer and non-return of children abroad". In addition, this Article indicates that the States "shall promote the conclusion of bilateral or multilateral agreements or accession to existing agreements". For its part, Article 10 of the CRC provides for a very important aspect, which is that "a child whose parents reside in different States shall have the right to maintain on a regular basis, save in exceptional circumstances personal relations and direct contact with both parents".

The “Inter-American Convention on the International Restitution of Minors”, in its Article 27 enjoins upon the IIN the responsibility of coordinating the activities of the central authorities in charge of complying with the Convention, as well as the faculty to receive and evaluate information arising from its application from the States Party to the Convention. For its part, the General Assembly of the Organization of American States adopted, in June 2004, by means of Resolution AG/RES. 2028 (XXXIV-O/04), the “Inter-American Programme on Cooperation to Prevent and Remedy Cases of International Abduction of Minors by one of their Parents”, which provides for the active participation of the IIN to contribute to its implementation.

This programme endeavours to promote the adoption, effective implementation and full application of the Inter-American and The Hague Conventions in the matter. With regard to its objectives, purposes or terms, its principal aim is to strengthen cooperation between Member States, encouraging and assisting them to take specific action aimed at preventing international abduction and to adopt effective measures for the prompt restitution of children who have been abducted, or are retained illicitly; as well as to address the effects of possible psycho-social harm.

In order to fulfil its purposes, the programme has the following specific objectives:

- The promotion, signature and ratification of the Conventions; the promotion of cooperation between the States for the implementation, application and fulfilment of the Conventions.
- To foster the strengthening of national systems for the effective application of the Conventions, encouraging the development and application of preventive and remedial policies and the setting in motion of training programmes for the central authorities and their staff, as well as for other related authorities.
- To monitor the application and follow-up of the Inter-American Programme.

Regional context and the focus of the IIN's work

In view of the need for Member States to have internal procedural legislation which will improve the execution of the relevant Conventions, the IIN, together with The Hague Conference on Private International Law, held the Second Meeting of Government Experts on International Child Abduction in the city of Buenos Aires, in 2007. As a result, a consensus paper was achieved and approved by the discussion panel, with regard to a draft law which will serve as a *model law* for the States to incorporate their own procedural legislation as a facilitator mechanism to the prompt resolution of abduction cases. In this context, in addition to the systematization of this meeting, the IIN provides an online platform in this area, containing information which will be reinforced with the inclusion of new information and the tools to be developed during this period. In addition, three instances of the online course on international child abduction have been held so far, targeting Central Authority technical staff, as well as the appropriate administrative echelons, officials of the judicial system with responsibility to decide on this kind of process and of the auxiliary bodies of the system who intervene in these processes.

Last February, the Inter-American Meeting of the International Network of The Hague Conference Judges and Central Authorities in International Abduction (Third Meeting of Government Experts) was carried out in Mexico City, together with The Hague Conference. The representatives of 20 Member States were present. At the meeting, the importance of the implementation of the Inter-American programme was emphasized and the Central Authorities indicated their approval of the lines of work proposed by the Inter-American Children's Institute in order to advance in the implementation of this programme. It was concluded that efforts should continue to be made to increase cooperation between Central Authorities, by means of an improved flow of information and the achievement of progressive agreement regarding the procedures for effective restitution.

Similarly, recommendations were made regarding the increase of amicable means of resolving controversy, creating a suitable legal framework in order to recognize and implement such conciliatory agreements or mediation. The Central Authorities also expressed their concern at the existence of problems involving the localization of children with a view to effectively initiating proceedings, as well as to implement their return.

Finally, the Central Authorities called upon the IIN to develop – jointly with The Hague Conference – a glossary of terms which appear in the Inter-American and The Hague Conventions in this area, in order to guide operatives, as well as to provide training courses.

On the basis of this background, the objective is to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the procedures applied by Member States with regard to prevention, and when necessary, to ensure the prompt restitution to their country of habitual residence of children who were abducted or illicitly retained, by means of effective technical instruments which will encourage the resolution of controversies arising from unlawful retention or abduction having as a principle a better cooperation between the Central Authorities and other related to this issue, in which the IIN seeks to be a facilitator.

At a first stage, there will be an analysis of the structure and operation of the means used by the States for the restoration of children and adolescents. A later, second, stage, will include the design of tools for the States, such as: a common and agreed glossary, a data bank of experiences involving practices in the child restoration process, with an emphasis on prevention, the localization of unlawfully retained children and psychosocial support for restored children; operational guidelines in order to facilitate the application of international Conventions and the design of a psychosocial care protocol for children restored to their State of origin.

In addition, a third stage will include focalized implementation in 6 States, which consists in support for 3 States which have not ratified the Inter-American Convention and three that have. In the case of the first three, support will involve the design and implementation of a strategy for ratification whereas the second three, will receive support for work on a proposal for internal procedural laws based on the model law. . The fourth stage will involve the evaluation of implementation and agreements will be reached with the States in order to ensure the sustainability of achievements.

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| Outcomes | Outputs |
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| Stage 1: Negotiation and diagnosis in the States | |
| 1. Systematized information is available with regard to legislation and proceedings involving this subject in the region, for the design of actions in this regard (baseline). | 1.1. A systematization report and analysis of current regulatory and procedural information regarding this field in the region has been produced and disseminated. |
| Stage 2: Construction of operational guidelines for the resolution of cases | |
| 1. The States have technical tools in order to prevent and remedy child abduction cases. | 2.1 A common glossary agreed by the Central Authorities of the region in order to close the conceptual gaps which hinder the implementation of the Conventions has been validated and disseminated. |
| | 2.2 A database of experiences on the practices of Central Authorities in the process of restoring children, in subjects such as prevention and psychosocial support for restored children is operating and has been disseminated. |
| | 2.3 Operational guidelines for the resolution of ICA cases has been validated and disseminated. |
| | 2.4 A protocol for the provision of psychosocial care for child victims of abduction has been validated. |
| | 2.5 A promotion strategy for the signature and ratification of Conventions and the appointment of Central Authorities in States that have not yet implemented these actions. |
| | 2.6 Proposals for the adjustment of internal procedural laws based on the model law, in 3 States that have ratified the Inter-American Convention have been implemented. |
| | 2.7 Means of communication and coordination between Central Authorities have been developed. |
| Stage 3: Implementation in the States | |
| 3. The States which have ratified the Inter-American Convention on international abduction have implemented technical tools in order to improve the resolution of international abduction cases. | 3.1 Technical tools for the improvement of international abduction cases in the States which have ratified the Inter American Convention have been implemented. |
| Stage 4: Evaluation | |
| <u>Outcome 1:</u> Systematized lessons learned are available, and recommendations have been produced in order to improve initiatives and the sustainability of the project's outcomes. | An evaluation paper has been completed. A paper on the sustainability of the implemented actions has been validated. |

1.3 Sexual Exploitation

Legislation and regional context

The problem of child commercial sexual exploitation (CSEC) has clearly concerned the international community and OAS Member States, since the 1990s. This is apparent from the production and adoption of the Inter-American Convention on International Traffic in Minors in 1994, the mobilization in favour of the First World Congress against CSEC in 1996, the Resolutions of the General Assembly of the OAS on this subject and the answers the IIN has been receiving from Member States for ten consecutive years, with regard to the progress and challenges that public policies still face when attempting to protect children effectively from this scourge.

These answers, as well as the Rio Declaration of 2008, on the occasion of the Third World Congress against CSEC, and the Final Paper of the Sub-Regional Congress against CSEC held in Costa Rica in 2010, contain some key concerns to be included in the IIN's Action Plan in this area. Amongst them are: a) the need to strengthen interinstitutional and intergovernmental coordination; b) training human resources at different levels: planners, operatives and non-specialized workers who are in contact with CSEC-related scenarios; c) the continuous identification of innovative practices and their analysis as a method for training and horizontal cooperation; d) the use of new technology and social networks, which reach young people, as an instrument in preventive and awareness-raising campaigns; e) the lack of services to provide appropriate assistance to the victims of CSEC, including their full social reinsertion and physical and psychological recovery; f) the need to include the private sector and organisations so that they can carry out specific corporate social responsibility actions to protect children and adolescents from sexual exploitation.

In this context, the Directing Council of the IIN created the "*Inter-American Programme for the Prevention and Eradication of Sexual Commercial Exploitation, Illegal Trafficking and Trade in Children and Adolescents*" by means of Resolution CD/RES. 10 82-R/07, in 2007. This decision was strengthened by the adoption, the following year, of OAS General Assembly Resolution AG/RES. 2432 (XXXVIII-O/08), when for the first time a country in the region – Brazil – hosted the Third World Congress against Sexual Exploitation.

During the course of 2009, 2010 and 2011, the General Assembly of the OAS officially recognized the progress achieved by the *Inter-American Programme* and the IIN's role in its implementation, by means of Resolutions AG/RES. 2486 (XXXIX-O/09), AG/RES. 2548 (XL-O/10) y AG/RES. 2686 (XLI-O/11) respectively. Definitely the sought purpose will be for the States to develop specific strategies lined with the legislation and international recommendations in the matter – in particular with the follow up to the III World Congress – to promote, watch and reconstitute the human rights of Children and Adolescents to the current modalities of sexual commercial exploitation.

The focus and emphasis of the IIN's work

As reported yearly to the General Assembly, the *Inter-American Programme* works directly with the governing bodies for childhood represented in the Directing Council of the IIN; this work has been organized in three Work Areas. The first is the compilation and updating of information, with a bilingual Observatory⁹ with over 600 papers at the disposal of the region's operatives. The second involves generating information and specialized knowledge, which particularly includes the Tenth Report to the Secretary General, content-related newsletters and the two publications on good practices emerging from the training and horizontal cooperation activities promoted by the programme.

Lastly, the third work area is devoted to training human resources and providing specialized technical assistance to Member States. In addition to the sub-regional workshops (Central America 2010 and the Caribbean 2011), close to 300 operatives have been directly trained in the region, with a special emphasis on the semi-distance format which took place in 6 countries during 2010. Advice has been given in the design of national plans against CSEC to Uruguay and Paraguay, and there is an active network of technical liaison officers in 20 Member States.

It is on the basis of this background that the IIN now presents a proposal to provide continuity to the activities of the *Inter-American Programme*, enhancing and developing them in order to improve protection to children in the face of the new forms of commercial sexual exploitation in the continent. The ultimate aim shall be the development of specific strategies by the States which are aligned with the international law and recommendations on the subject — particularly the follow-up to World Congress III — in order to promote, watch over and restore the human rights of children and adolescents confronted with the current forms of commercial sexual exploitation.

| Outcomes | Outputs |
|--|---|
| Stage 1: Revision, technical assistance and implementation of instruments for public policy against CSEC. | |
| 1. Member States have designed, develop and implemented national action plans to protect children against commercial sexual exploitation, in line with relevant international legislation and recommendations, in particular the recommendations done by the III World Congress. | 1.1. National plans against CSEC have been improved, updated and adopted and are operating in Member States. |
| | 1.2. Online platform for the exchange and dissemination of public policies against CSEC in the region has been updated and is fed by the participation of national liaison officers in this area. |
| | 1.3. The network of technical liaison officers against CSEC has been strengthened. |
| | 1.4. Means of detection and intersectoral referral have been produced and disseminated. |
| | 1.5. Multimedia material has been distributed and disseminated regionally. |
| | 1.6. Government and non-government operatives have been trained. |
| Stage 2: Policy guidelines for the restitution of rights | |
| 2. The Member States have more knowledge and tools to intervene in the reparation and restitution of the rights of children and adolescents victims of sexual exploitation, as recommended by | 2.1. Framework of reference for repairing and restoring the rights of child victims of commercial sexual exploitation has been produced and disseminated. |
| | 2.2. A framework of reference in order to intervene in repairing and restoring the rights of child victims of CSE is implemented in at least two Member States. |

⁹ <http://www.annaobserva.org/web/public/inicio.php>

| | |
|---|---|
| the Rio Declaration. | |
| 3. Groups of children organized in child participation programmes in Member States have access to specific increased information regarding the risks of CSEC on the Internet. | 3.1. The work agenda of organized children in child participation programmes has incorporated the subject of preventing CSEC on the Internet. |
| | 3.2. A study on the experiences of children as Internet users, with the participation of children, has been produced and disseminated. |
| | 3.3. A campaign for the prevention of CSEC on the Internet has been carried out, with the participation of children in its design and implementation. |
| Stage 3: Evaluation | |
| Systematized lessons learned are available, and recommendations have been produced in order to improve initiatives and the sustainability of the project's outcomes. | An external summative evaluation has been completed. A paper on the sustainability of the implemented actions has been validated. |

Cross-cutting lines

1. Participation

We are convinced that participation and inter- and intragenerational discussion are essential components of human development, the strengthening of democracy and the construction of legitimate citizenship. The IIN's work has been carried out in such a context and has been enhanced by the direct intervention of the States and the children themselves.

The process promoted by the IIN, together with OAS Member States, became visible as from 2008, within the framework of the 83rd Meeting of the Directing Council of the IIN, held in Ottawa, Canada, in October 2008. At this meeting, the agenda for the Twentieth Pan American Child Congress held in Lima, Peru, on 23-25 September 2009, was discussed and adopted. Child participation was established as one of the thematic focal points in the construction of citizenship and its impact on public policies, and the formation of a work group was decided in order to address the measures to be taken¹⁰. Finally, in the context of the Twentieth Congress, the IIN held the First Pan American Forum, with the objective of promoting child participation through an official activity in which children exercise their right to give their views and be heard by the authorities responsible for the design and implementation of public policies for children in the region. The forum was attended by 61 adolescents, representing 22 Member States. The experience was systematized and served as the basis for the intergenerational meeting held in Colombia in November 2010, with the participation of 25 adolescents, representing 13 States.

During the 85th Regular Meeting of the Directing Council held in 2010, Resolution CD/RES.04 (85-R/10) was adopted, which indicated that during the celebration of every Pan American Child Congress, a Pan American Forum of the Children of the Americas would be held as an occasion

¹⁰ This group includes Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Ecuador, Panama, Paraguay, Saint Lucia, United States and Uruguay.

for the promotion of participation so that children could contribute to and influence the subjects which concern and affect them. It was also established that notice must be given to the Pan American Congress, of the recommendations issued by the Pan American Child Forum of the Americas. These recommendations will be included in the official documents issued by the Pan American Child Congress. At the same time, it was resolved to “suggest to the Member States of the Organization of the American States – within the framework of current legislation and constitutional norms – [to] establish Consultative Councils of Children, as inclusive participation circles, favouring the design and implementation of public policy to be executed by the authorities”. Lastly, the General Directorate of the IIN was enjoined to provide follow-up to this resolution, include it in its Action Plan and provide technical assistance to those States that may require it.

Towards the end of 2010, a mapping of the region showed that actions were being carried out in promotion of the right to participate in virtually the whole region, which is apparent from the increase in opportunities for socialization amongst peers, widespread public mobilization (not necessarily institutionalized) which seeks to promote discussion between State and children, and from the increase in the number of consultative councils. It is therefore possible to state that there is an increase in the acknowledgement of children’s capacity to participate in public decision-making, which leads to a new perspective in the relationship between State and children, and between decision-making adults and children.

Despite the fact that the consultative councils constitute a significant example of the States’ commitment to install and maintain opportunities for discussion, there are still several States that have not yet incorporated such means of discussion, either by the governing body or within other sectors which cater to children. It is necessary to make progress in the strengthening of participation in the States, and move towards institutionalization and sustainability of such means, bearing in mind the special features of each State and of the children themselves when they exercise their right to give their opinions, organize and inform themselves and be taken into account when making decisions on policies that affect them.

In order to encourage the continuity of Action Plan 2007-2011, which was adopted by the Directing Council and which made the right to participation of the children of the Americas a priority, as an essential component in the strengthening of democracy and the construction of a culture of rights, Action Plan 2011-2015 will seek to promote participation within the priority focal points which the IIN has adopted, and directly with the governing bodies in the States, so that they strengthen their means of discussion with children.

In compliance with the mandate contained in its Action Plan and with the decided support of the States, the IIN has been systematically carrying out actions in the area of child participation since 2009. In addition to the work group formed by ten States representing the various regions of the Inter-American system, there is a network of 26 technical liaison officers appointed by the States in order to jointly fulfil the established agenda.

The principal actions carried out have been:

- The child participation web site: “nuestravozacolors.org” is operating.
- Publication of a common framework of reference on child participation in the region.
- Publication of a menu of indicators on participation as a tool in order to monitor its fulfilment and ensure its enforceability.
- Development of a number of tools in support of professionals and technicians in the direct work they carry out with children; such as: a trainers’ training course, a participation toolkit and a guide for the promotion of participation.

It is thus attempted to continue reinforcing the achievements of previous periods, some of which include the formation of a network of technical liaison officers for participation, which is currently operating; the production of a participation strategy which positions the IIN in the region with an explicit, and agreed discourse, validated by the States themselves, including a framework of reference and a system of indicators for participation available for the States, in addition to several face-to-face and online courses on participation, which over ten States have already attended.

The specific strategy will involve the institutionalization of means of discussion with children, in which the experiences of the “consultative councils” in their different forms will be the focus of attention. This will begin with a diagnostic stage, which will involve a descriptive analysis of the status of participation policies in the region, highlighting those which include means of discussion with children and adolescents. The second stage for the introduction of technical and political guidelines on the promotion and protection of the right to participate will involve the generation of strategies, technical guidelines and management tools for the institutionalization of means of dialogue or consultative councils for the region, with a view to the Second Pan American Forum, to be held in 2014.

Finally, in the implementation stage it will be attempted to generate and broaden opportunities for the dissemination of information and the development of knowledge, through the organization of training events for the States’ human resources, accompanying the participatory processes the States are promoting, with a view to their participation at the 2nd Pan American Forum. The celebration of the forum is included in the implementation stage of the project. At the end of the project, an evaluation will be carried out, with recommendations for the sustainability of the outcomes achieved through the actions performed.

| Outcomes | Outputs |
|---|---|
| Stage 1: Regional negotiation and diagnosis | |
| 1. Systematized information is available regarding management models for plans and programmes incorporating means of discussion with children, in order to design strategies to address them. | 1.1 A descriptive and analytical study is available regarding management models for plans and programmes incorporating means of discussion with children has been developed and disseminated. |
| Stage 2: Production of guidelines within the framework of policy | |
| 2. A management strategy exists with regard to means of discussion with children for the design of public policies devoted to the promotion of their rights. | 2.1 A management strategy with regard to means of discussion with children for the design of public policies devoted to the promotion of their rights has been developed. |

| Outcomes | Outputs |
|--|--|
| | 2.2. Guidelines for the Second Pan American Child Participation Forum have been drafted, in the context of the 21 st Pan American Child Congress. |
| Stage 3: Implementation | |
| 3. Implementation is carried out with a management strategy which includes means of discussion with children for the design of public policies devoted to the promotion of their rights. | 3.1 A management strategy with regard to means of discussion with children for the design of public policies devoted to the promotion of their rights has been implemented. 3.2. Second Pan American Child Forum has taken place, in the context of the 21 st Pan American Child Congress. |
| Stage 4: Evaluation and agreements | |
| 4. Systematized lessons learned are available, and recommendations have been produced in order to improve initiatives and the sustainability of the project's outcomes. | The evaluation of processes and outcomes with regard to the participation focal point has been carried out. A paper on the sustainability of the implemented actions has been validated. |

2. Communication

It is essential to include the field of communications when designing strategies regarding child rights in the region.

Technological advances, as well as the diversification of communication formats, make it necessary to be rigorous in planning action which incorporates the rights-based approach in discussions and representations which involve both the media and the different forms of interinstitutional and interpersonal communication. In the development of those actions, special attention shall be given to the principle of non discrimination.

Specific analysis of communication processes surrounding the IIN's fields of intervention enables the visualization of the representations and the flow which compose and define them. This implies acknowledging that it is in the area of communication habits and actions that perspectives, appraisals and valuations of problems and possible solutions focus and are formulated. In this respect, it is advisable to plan and implement communications carefully, as well as their analysis.

In this Action Plan, the IIN suggests that communications be established as a cross-cutting line in the matrix charts for the specific subjects deployed in this Action Plan.

The impact of all of the priority areas, in terms of dissemination, will gain in strength by applying a detailed communications strategy plan to each area, and, in consequence, their positioning will also be enhanced. Moreover, through a network of actions – established from a perspective which involves participatory and dialogic communication – the greater involvement of the States' key actors and reference points will be promoted, thus increasing the impact hoped for. Communication expressed in terms of a *cross-cutting focal point* will also contribute to interaction and dialogue between the subjects themselves, thus supporting and reinforcing this line of action.

VI. Funding and Monitoring Means

This Action Plan will be based on a means of financing structured on the basis of two funds:

Regular Fund: This includes the funding that the OAS grants the IIN for the realization of its regular activities.

Specific Funds: These originate in financing made available by donors who are outside the OAS, for projects linked to the lines of action included in this Action Plan¹¹.

Action Plan monitoring and follow-up are activities which benefit the follow-up of goals and actions established in this plan, as well as the IIN's accountability regarding its work with Member States. It is built and nourished on the basis of technically grounded criteria and measures, whose follow-up makes it possible to adjust or redefine courses of action.

The evaluation and monitoring system will relate to the work of each area and its specific lines of action. It will be constructed by using the input from ongoing projects and adjusted accordingly. All of this will, in turn, be concentrated in the Annual Operational Plans, which will also include the annual operational goals reported to the OAS. They will form the basis for monitoring and evaluating the Action Plan.

¹¹ In July, we shall be remitting to the OAS Department of Planning and Evaluation a portfolio of project profiles for each line of action defined in the Plan, in order to initiate a fund-seeking strategy in order to finance the projects and thus enable the production of the outputs included in this Action Plan.

VII.Strategic Partnerships

Our institutional relations policy seeks to establish partnerships and forms of joint work which will be embodied in specific action, with a number of agencies related to the promotion and protection of child rights in the region, in order to complement the common purpose and generate synergy.

A significant platform on which to development these partnerships originates in the IIN's participation in the Global Movement for Children – Latin American and the Caribbean Chapter (GMC – LACC). This was created as a result of the success of the "Say Yes for Children" campaign, thanks to which, during the Special Session on behalf of children organized by the United Nations in 2002, it was decided to help mobilize people from all nations, families, communities, civil society, organizations of all kinds, as well as children, to create an active, united and highly influential movement. At present, the Global Movement for Children (GMC) is led by a coalition of the largest organizations and networks in defence of child rights. At the global level, these include ENDA Tiers Monde, Plan International, REDLAMYC, Save the Children, UNICEF and World Vision. Regionally, GMC – LACC is formed by REDLAMYC, SCS, World Vision, Plan International and IIN.

The IIN has been sharing work on behalf of child rights in the Americas for a long time, particularly with UNICEF. Proof of this are the agreements signed by both organizations. Amongst the most recent cooperation and joint action carried out, we should mention the UNICEF's participation as an observer at the meetings of the IIN's political bodies (Directing Council and Pan American Child Congress); the signature of an agreement to facilitate the attendance of representatives of member countries of the Caribbean sub-region on occasion of the Twentieth PACC (September 2009, Lima) – which included the First Pan American Child Forum – and its participation in the development of the work methodology for children participating in the forum, as well as the participation of its lecturers in many of the activities organized by the IIN. The lines in the IIN's Action Plan which are prioritized for this period constitute a new opportunity to generate joint action with UNICEF, since interesting points of contact emerge in the work areas of both organizations.

In addition to this, the IIN maintains links with other organizations and institutions in the region, such as the Child Rights Education for Professionals initiative (CRED-PRO), with which it has had an agreement of cooperation since October 2008, in order to coordinate a work proposal for the design of activities to reinforce technical competencies in the area of training, with regard to child rights. Another contact is the ANDI Network of Brazil, with which activities are coordinated in connection with the rights and the media component of the project funded by Canadian cooperation (CIDA).

It should also be mentioned that there has been coordination with The Hague Conference on Private International Law, embodied in the joint production of technical guidance N°2, on international adoption, as well as the signature of an agreement of cooperation in June 2006, related to the subject of International Child Abduction (Inter-American Programme).

Finally, the partnerships established with the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AECID) and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) have led to the development of many significant actions, within the framework of specific projects. In the case of the first, the "*Programme for the Promotion and Defence of the Human Rights of the Children of the Americas*", which includes the implementation of three specific projects: i) The promotion of child participation; ii) Promotion and support for the development of Ombudsmen for child rights, and iii) Unaccompanied migrant children. In all, they included the participation of 19 States.

With regard to CIDA, between 2008 and 2011, they provided funds for the implementation of the project on the Promotion and Protection of Child Rights in the Inter-American System, implemented in three States: Guatemala, Jamaica and Colombia. Four components were developed: public policies for children; birth registration and the right to identity; child participation; the mass media and child rights. This work generated high-level coordination with presidential planning offices, the heads of ministries and secretariats connected to the care of children in the States, governing bodies for children and social communication areas, amongst others. Action was also taken locally with departmental governors, mayors, municipal and community committees, developing technical capacity for policy makers and programme operators. This project constituted the IIN's principal contribution, in terms of financial support and technical development promoted through assistance to the States.

VIII. Final remarks

The paper we are hereby submitting is the result of the joint efforts of the IIN and the Member States of its Directing Council, inasmuch as it provides a short and mid-term strategic view which will guide the whole of the institution's work in the region over the next four years, in order to continue to advance firmly in the promotion and protection of the children of the States in the continent.

The process is rooted in the meetings of the work group with the States representing the five sub-regions mentioned above, which emphasized the subjects of early childhood, natural disasters and juvenile criminal justice. This gave rise to work involving a diagnosis of the regional situation, which is nourished by information provided by the States with regard to the actions they carry out in these areas and their main concerns or needs regarding technical support. This forms the basis of the proposal we now submit to the consideration of the States.

We firmly believe that sustained exchange of ideas and joint work with the States in the region will redound in an agreed planning instrument which will become a navigation chart for the IIN's work during 2011-2015, thus providing continuity for the routes and actions undertaken in areas such as sexual exploitation, international abduction and participation. At the same time, we are committed to undertaking the significant challenge of making efforts to generate effective and relevant policies in the new lines of action defined to benefit the children of the Americas.

IX. APPENDIX: MATRIX CHARTS BY SUBJECT

APPENDIX: TEMATIC CHARTS BY SUBJECT

PRIORITY LINES

EARLY CHILDHOOD

| Stages | Outcomes | Outputs | Activities | Duration | Budget |
|--|---|--|--|-----------|---------------|
| Stage 1: Regional Analysis (Baseline) | The States in the Inter-American System have more information on comprehensive policies for early childhood, and information on monitoring systems for the revise and adjustments to their policies towards this age group. | A network of technical liaison officers for the issue of early childhood in the States has been formed, is operating and there is constant discussion regarding the progress of the regional analysis and the work on the monitoring system. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creation of a network of technical liaison officers for early childhood policies. - Formation of a work group in order to address the monitoring system and information management. - Establishment of a work agenda. | 2012-2015 | Regular Fund |
| | | A paper containing systematized information and analysis of comprehensive policies for early childhood, at different levels (universal, focused and specialized), has been produced and circulated. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Production and application of a survey instrument for the States in the Inter-American system, with regard to comprehensive early childhood policies, including: information regarding special protection; action to strengthen parental skills, the inclusion of participatory practices, how vulnerable social groups are addressed (indigenous, Afro-descendant and disabled people), and the mainstreaming of the gender perspective. - Analysis of information obtained. - Selection and systematization of experiences. Lessons learned obtained for the design of early childhood policies. - Preliminary document revise by the technical liaisons and production of the final document. | 2012 | Specific Fund |
| | | A situation report on the existence and application of a monitoring system for rights in early childhood has been produced and | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Production and application of a survey instrument in order to consult the States in the Inter-American system regarding what rights follow-up systems exist in their States. - Analysis of information leading to a compilation of the | | |

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| | | disseminated. | experiences implemented by the States, identification of lessons learned and recommendations for the application of a monitoring system. - Preliminary document revise by the work group and production of the final document. | | |
| Stage 2: Design of Policy Guidelines and Rights Monitoring System | The States have more tools for the positioning and articulation of the comprehensive policies of early childhood. | A framework of reference and technical guidelines related to the coordination of comprehensive policies for early childhood, at different levels (universal, focused and specialized) within the framework of rights, has been produced, validated and circulated. | -Production of a draft paper to be revised and commented by the technical liaisons - Hold the First Workshop regional workshop for the validation of the paper. - Production of final paper. - Publication, distribution and dissemination of final paper. | 2012 | Specific Fund |
| | | Instruments and guidelines for the coordination and management of the comprehensive system of protection to early childhood produced and validated. | - Production of preliminary instruments and guidelines for the inter institutional coordination. - Technical liaisons network receive the preliminary instruments and guidelines for their revise and comments previous to the First Regional Workshop. - During the First Regional Workshop instruments and guidelines will be validated. - Production of final document. - Design, Publication and Dissemination to the States of the Inter-American system. | | |
| | | A guide for the strengthening of parental skills for child development and the restitution of the right to live with a family which includes tools for the early detection of situations in which the right to family life is infringed. | - Production of a preliminary document of the guide in order to strengthen parental skills. - Technical liaisons receive the preliminary document of the guideline for revise and comments - Systematization of the comments and production of the final document - Design, publication and dissemination of the output in the States of the Inter-American system. | | |

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| | | An indicators menu for monitoring, in keeping with the rights perspective and international commitments has been produced, validated and disseminated. It should be noted that this is a Basic Menu which should be adapted to the situation of each State. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Production, in dialogue with the workgroup of a basic indicators menu proposal. - Production of recommendations to set in motion an indicators monitoring system. - Secod Regional workshop to validate the indicators menu and agreement on the recommendations produced in order to launch the monitoring system. - Production of a paper containing information on the characteristics, strengths and weakness of the platforms for the development of Monitoring Systems of rights. - Design, publication, and dissemination of the paper in the Member States. | | |
| | | Audiovisual material produced, distributed and disseminated in the region, in order to heighten awareness regarding the importance of enjoying and guaranteeing comprehensive rights in early childhood, in line with the IIN's communications policy. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Investigation of regional experiences regarding communications output for awareness-raising in the subject of early childhood. - Development of differentiated communications output to be widely broadcast on local television and in different settings (such as public organizations, schools, civil society, the media among other). - Production of a guide in order to put the educational possibilities of the output into operation in different application settings. - Design, publication and dissemination in the Member States. | 2012 | Specific Fund |
| Stage 3: Implementation in 3 States | Selected States improve their capacities for the development of a comprehensive protection system and rights monitoring. | Policy guidelines (policy framework) Instruments and Tools implemented in at least three States. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Selection of 3 States according to previously established criteria. - Preparation and carrying out of a National Technical Meeting at the 3 selected States in order to determine a work agenda. - Accompaniment for the application and launching of the policy framework. Including: formation of and work with an interinstitutional technical group; production of a public policy paper incorporating the guidelines which will enable implementation in the State. - Training for officials of the governing body for childhood, for the application of instruments for the coordination and management of the early childhood comprehensive | 2013 | Specific Fund |

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| | | | protection system; and the application of the guide for the strengthening of parental skills regarding child development and the restitution of the right to live with a family. | | |
| | | A monitoring system for the rights of early childhood has been implemented. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Definitions and consensus regarding the indicators menu for monitoring the rights of children (early childhood) through meetings held with interinstitutional work groups formed in each selected State. - Selection and adaptation of a monitoring system and a platform compiling accumulated experience based on the selected States' characteristics and specific features. - Training in the use and application of the monitoring system. - Institutional agreements (CELADE, UNICEF, others) reached for the use of the platform. - Dissemination through the IIN website's Early Childhood virtual environment. - Follow-up of implementation. | | |
| Stage 4: Evaluation of implementation and agreements for sustainability. | Systematized lessons learned are available, and recommendations have been produced in order to improve initiatives and the sustainability of the project's outcomes. | An evaluation paper has been completed. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evaluation design. - Development of the evaluation. - Analyse and adjust Instruments and Work Tools produced. | 2014 to April 2015 | Specific Fund |
| | | A paper on sustainability has been validated. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Workshop on the evaluation of project implementation and sustainability in each State. - Close of project regional Regional Workshop for the Closing of the project. Presentation of all of the experience gathered in the project. | | |

NATURAL DISASTERS

| Stages | Outcomes | Outputs | Activities | Duration | Budget |
|--|--|--|--|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| STAGE 1 – Research and diagnosis | <p><u>Outcome 1:</u> Exchange of experiences between States and international agencies regarding risk management and emergency attention for children who are confronting disasters¹².</p> <p><u>Outcome 2</u> Lines of work agreed regarding the subject of Natural Disasters for IIN Action Plan 2011-2015.</p> <p><u>Outcome 3</u> Two specific papers to be drafted: A political position paper and a paper on public policy guidelines (policy framework).</p> | <p>Document with systematized Information on action taken by States and agencies with regard to children facing risk and disaster-induced emergencies has been systematized.</p> <p>Lines of work for the Action Plan agreed with the working group Member States.</p> <p>Systematization of the experiences presented during the 3rd meeting of the work group produced and disseminated (matrix chart).</p> | <p>Third meeting of the work group, in order to deal specifically with the subjects of prevention, risk management and emergency attention for children confronting natural disasters.</p> <p>Presentations by States and international agencies in workshops on experiences and strategies to address children in emergency situations.</p> <p>Presentation to the work group of a matrix chart containing the work proposal on the subject for IIN Action Plan 2011-2015, for analysis and agreements.</p> | 1 st semester 2011 | Regular Fund |
| Stage 2 – Drafting public policy guidelines for the attention of children at risk and during disaster- induced emergencies. | <p><u>Outcome 1:</u> A political position paper available – regionally and by State.</p> | <p>Draft political position paper produced and disseminated.</p> <p>Final political position paper validated.</p> | <p>Systematization and analysis of the information arising from the returned questionnaires, the exchange of information and the presentations carried out during the Third Meeting of the Work Group.</p> | 2 nd semester 2011 | Regular Fund |
| | <p><u>Outcome 2:</u> A draft public policy guideline proposal available (policy framework) in order to steer governments in protecting and promoting child rights in the face of risk and emergencies, on the basis of the conclusions of the First Inter-American Workshop.</p> | <p>Draft guideline proposal (policy framework) circulated with regard to policy on these issues, on the basis of the conclusions of the First Inter-American Workshop.</p> <p>Inter-American work group</p> | <p>Hold the First Inter-American Workshop on children at risk and in disaster-induced emergencies.</p> <p>Draft an agreement paper regarding key strategic alternatives to confront deficiencies</p> | 1 st semester 2012 | Specific Fund |

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| | | <p>formed on the attention of children at risk and in disaster-induced emergencies, to monitor this line of work.</p> <p>An agreement reached regarding key strategic alternatives to confront deficiencies and foster the use of better practices.</p> | <p>and foster the use of better practices.</p> <p>Identify possible opportunities and means to promote horizontal exchanges at bilateral, multilateral and regional levels on these issues.</p> | | |
| | <p><u>Outcome 3:</u> Systematized information available on experiences and lessons learned regarding the situation of children in the disaster cycle, from a sustainable development perspective.</p> | <p>A paper has been circulated on the systematization of experiences, with a focus on lessons learned obtained from the analysis of case studies in at least 6 States.</p> | <p>Determine the States in which the 6 case studies will be carried out (self-funding States – Oct 2011, and States requiring funding – Feb 2012).</p> <p>Implementation of the evaluation: compilation, analysis and systematization of information arising from the cases included in the study.</p> | <p>2nd semester 2011 and 1st of 2012</p> | <p>Specific Fund</p> |
| | <p><u>Outcome 4:</u> The viewpoints of adolescents included in the stage involving the definition of policy recommendations for addressing natural disasters and emergencies.</p> | <p>A paper on needs (during risk and emergencies) and priorities identified by adolescents with regard to natural disasters has been circulated.</p> <p>A group of adolescent representatives has been formed.</p> | <p>Hold Second Inter-American Workshop with adolescents, on children at risk and in disaster-induced emergencies, with opportunities for debate with regard to designing the policy proposed.</p> <p>Adolescents select and appoint their representatives to attend the Second Inter-American Workshop and take part in the conclusion of the framework with other interested parties or experts.</p> | <p>2nd semester 2012</p> | <p>Specific Fund</p> |
| | <p><u>Outcome 5:</u> Guidelines (policy framework) and tools for the improvement for the attention of children and adolescents at risk and in disaster-induced emergencies are available.</p> | <p>A paper on guidelines (policy framework) validated and circulated.</p> <p>A plan to promote the application of the guidelines produced and agreed</p> | <p>Hold a Third (intergenerational) Inter-American Workshop on children at risk and in disaster-induced emergencies.</p> <p>Hold a meeting with the adolescent delegates appointed during the Second Inter-American Workshop on children at risk and in disaster-induced emergencies and the Inter-American</p> | <p>1st semester 2012</p> | <p>Specific Fund</p> |

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| | | | <p>working group, in order to complete the framework and establish an effective promotional plan which will guarantee that the framework is used.</p> <p>A promotion plan to foster the use of the agreed political guidelines paper.</p> <p>Conclude the political guidelines paper for the promotion and protection of child rights in emergency situations.</p> <p>Presentation at the 87th Regular Meeting of the DC of a report on the drafting of the policy framework and the policy framework paper.</p> <p>Design, production and publication of three guides to intervention during the disaster cycle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) aimed at children ii) aimed at adult reference points iii) aimed at State agencies, with specific recommendations on how to act in different circumstances involving risk management. | 1 st semester 2013 | |
| <p>Stage 3 – Implementation (Regional guidelines for national protocols will be developed, which will include theory as well as practical guidance on how to act with regard to</p> | <p><u>Outcome 1:</u> Greater regional and local recognition achieved for the needs and rights of children in emergency situations; as well as greater political efforts with regard to preparing for such situations and promoting rights in emergencies.</p> | <p>A Promotion Plan on risk and disaster Management promoted by each State internally and coordinated at the international level is implemented.</p> | <p>Implement the promotion plan (with a specific strategy for communications) to foster the application of a protocol and put it into practice.</p> <p>Identify and participate in key international conferences and gatherings in order to promote regional guidelines for the attention of children at risk and in disasters.</p> | <p>3 months Dec 2012 – Feb 2013</p> <p>As from Nov 2011, throughout the period</p> | |

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| <p>children at risk and in disasters. Action, roles and responsibilities will be established.)</p> | | | | | |
| | <p><u>Outcome 2:</u> Participating States improve their capacity to protect the rights of children at risk and in disaster-induced emergencies, through the implementation of tools designed for the application of guidelines (policy framework), guides for working with children and adolescents.</p> | <p>Guidelines (policy framework) implemented in participating States.</p> | <p>Agreement reached with participating States on a route sheet for the support and technical assistance process.</p> <p>Accompaniment and technical assistance will be provided in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Formation and work with an inter institutional technical workgroup - Design of attention protocols for children who are facing natural disasters and emergencies. - Training and instruction (on the basis of guidelines, guides and other tools). - Design and implementation of actions with a focus on prevention related to disaster management. - Construction of indicators to follow-up on policy. - Platform for the monitoring of indicators. | <p>2013 - 2014</p> | |
| <p>Stage 4: Evaluation</p> | <p><u>Outcome 1:</u> Lessons learned have been systematized and recommendations produced in order to improve initiatives.</p> | <p>The external summative and impact evaluation has been completed.</p> | <p>The design of an initial evaluation regarding the expected outcomes of implementing the policy framework. Analysis of results and production of a report evaluating the implementation.</p> | <p>6 months Sept. 2014 – Feb 2015</p> | |

JUVENILE CRIMINAL JUSTICE

| Stages | Result | Outputs | Activities | Duration | Budget |
|--|--|--|---|-------------|--------------------------------|
| Stage 1: Diagnosis in the States | Outcome 1: A regional outlook of the subject available, on the basis of primary and secondary information, with regard to the operation of criminal liability systems for adolescents in conflict with the law. | 1.1 Report on the diagnosis and description of the juvenile criminal responsibility systems in the Region (baseline), produced and disseminated. | Compilation and systematization of information from States and agencies. Production and dissemination of report. | 2011 | Regular Fund |
| | | 1.2. A study on Comparative Law with regard to legislation for adolescents in conflict with criminal law, with emphasis on the implementation of sentences (custodial and non-custodial sentence systems [socio-educational] and their practical application) has been disseminated. | Formation of a network of legal liaison officers with the governing bodies for children in each State. Revision of the States' legislation, contained in BADAJ, the legal database. Compilation and systematization of new legislation and information. Establishment of comparable parameters and a matrix chart for regulatory comparison. Production and dissemination of the study. | 2011 - 2012 | Regular Fund/ Specific Fund |
| STAGE 2 Construction of technical tools for the design and improvement of public policy | Outcome 2: The States have technical tools for the design and/or improvement of public policy on juvenile criminal responsibility. . | 2.1 Menu of legislative indicators constituting a regulatory parameter in keeping with international standards has been designed, validated and disseminated. | Production of a proposal for an indicators menu in order to establish the necessary regulatory parameters in fulfilment of international standards on the part of the internal legislation of OAS Member States. (Standards: CRC, General Comment N° 10 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, Beijing Rules, Riyadh Directives Tokyo Rules, Havana Rules, Vienna Guidelines, the American Convention and the Protocol of San Salvador). Hold the First regional workshop on criminal justice for adolescents, for the presentation of the regional analysis, the comparative law study and validation of the indicators menu. | 2012-2013 | Specific Funds |

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| | | | <p>Systematization of contributions to the indicators menu proposal.</p> <p>Production and dissemination of final paper on indicators menu.</p> | | |
| | | <p>2.2 A political position paper on the subject of juvenile criminal responsibility from the perspective of human rights has been validated and disseminated.</p> | <p>Production of a draft paper.</p> <p>Consultation with experts in the area for a revision of the paper.</p> <p>Remittance to legal technical liaison officers for revision.</p> <p>Incorporation of comments and suggestions made by technical liaison officers and experts.</p> <p>Validation by the States, after remittance to the authorities of the governing bodies and systematization of their observations.</p> <p>Dissemination of the paper's final draft.</p> | 2012 | Regular Fund |
| | | <p>2.3 A regional databank of experiences available.</p> | <p>Design the methodology for the compilation of information and remit request to the States. The proposal is to gather information regarding Experiences on the application of socio-educational measures, with detailed information regarding institutional, operational and logistic aspects and information systems, with emphasis on experiences based on family and community support, which will make it possible to foster and facilitate horizontal cooperation between OAS Member States.</p> <p>Systematize the experiences as they are submitted, on the online platform.</p> <p>Design and dissemination of the platform with compiled experiences.</p> | 2012-2013 | Regular Fund |

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| | | <p>2.4. Operational technical guidelines produced and disseminated in the States.</p> | <p>Drafting of technical operational technical guidelines for the development and implementation of sentences that take into account the general descriptions of the charges with regard to specific jurisdictions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Custodial (socio-educational) measures tending towards rehabilitation and social reinsertion of teenagers, aimed at the bodies which implement the deprivation of liberty. - Non-custodial sentences (socio-educational) tending towards the application of a variety of measures which this type of sentence can contemplate and the establishment of possible forms of application by the implementing bodies. <p>Hold the second regional workshop for the presentation of the States' experiences and validation of the technical guidance papers produced.</p> <p>Systematization of contributions and production of final papers, followed by their dissemination.</p> | <p>2012-2013</p> | <p>Specific Funds</p> |
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| | <p>2.5 Multimedia material produced and disseminated regionally.</p> | <p>Production of an animated 30-second spot on the subject, to be broadcast on different national media.</p> <p>Production of an animated 90-second spot on the subject to be disseminated to a variety of environments (public organizations, schools, civil society, the media and others).</p> | 2012-2013 | Specific Funds |
| | <p>2.6 An instrument for the follow-up and evaluation of the implementation of sentences (custodial and non-custodial).</p> | <p>Development of methodology for the evaluation of the implementation of custodial and non-custodial measures (socio-educational) which are implemented by OAS Member States at present, in order to identify those yielding the best results regarding resocialization and the least recidivism.</p> <p>Development of guidelines for follow-up of the implementation of custodial and non-custodial sentences (socio-educational).</p> | 2012-2013 | Specific Funds |
| | <p>2.7 A methodological tool for the promotion of the participation of adolescents who are in criminal liability systems, within the framework of international legislation, produced and disseminated.</p> | <p>Production of a methodological tool in order to promote the participation of adolescent offenders over the whole cycle, as from the establishment of the measures to be taken, and the fulfilment of the sentence up to the moment of discharge and social reinsertion.</p> <p>Validation with the States.</p> <p>Production of final proposal and dissemination.</p> | 2012-2013 | Specific Funds |

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| | | 2.8 A guide with statistical indicators and recommendations for the compilation of information on the subject. | Produce a draft guide for statistics indicators and advice for gathering information on the subject. It is proposed that this guide should establish parameters with regard to information which the States must compile regarding their juvenile criminal liability systems, including information on adolescents from their first contact with the adolescent criminal liability system, their route within it and how the system itself operates. Consult with the States. Systematize the information, produce the final paper and disseminate. | 2012-2013 | Specific Funds |
| | | 2.9 Courses on juvenile criminal liability systems designed and produced. | Design and production of the following courses: i) A course on a general approach to juvenile criminal liability systems. ii) A specific and technical course for officials in charge of applying sentences. iii) A course for government communications experts on the development of tools which contribute to position the subject appropriately before the citizens and foster a better handling of adolescents in conflict with criminal law by the media. | 2012-2013 | Specific Funds |

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| <p><u>Stage 3:</u> Implementation in the States</p> | <p><u>Outcome 3</u> The States have implemented technical tools designed for the improvement of their systems of criminal liability for adolescents in conflict with the law.</p> | <p>3.1 An implementation plan for technical tools for the design and/or improvement of public policy on criminal liability agreed with participating States.</p> | <p>Produce a draft route sheet – a work plan for the implementation of technical tools in each State, agreed and signed.</p> <p>Technical assistance missions to the States for the implementation of technical tools, according to the agreed work plan.</p> <p>Training courses held, online and face-to-face, that include recommendation of additional training and legislations, if necessary.</p> <p>Technical consultancy missions to the States for regulatory adjustments according to the indicators menu validated by the States.</p> | <p>2013-2014</p> | <p>Specific Funds</p> |
| <p>Stage 4: Evaluation</p> | <p><u>Outcome 1:</u> Systematized lessons learned are available and recommendations have been produced in order to improve initiatives and the sustainability of the outcomes of the project.</p> | <p>4.1. Summative evaluation completed.</p> <p>4.2 A paper on sustainability has been produced and validated.</p> | <p>Design of summative evaluation proposal.</p> <p>Evaluation carried out.</p> <p>National workshops (3 participating States, implementation stage) for the evaluation of implementation and sustainability of the project in each State.</p> <p>Dissemination on the IIN's website.</p> <p>Regional seminar for the Close of Project. Presentation of all of the experience accumulated through the project.</p> | <p>February 2015</p> <p>February 2015</p> | <p>Regular Fund/ Specific Funds</p> |

ABDUCTION

| Stages | Result | Outputs | Activities | Duration | Budget |
|--|--|--|---|-----------|---------------------------------|
| <u>Stage 1:</u> Negotiation and diagnosis in the States | <u>Outcome 1:</u> Systematized information is available with regard to legislation and proceedings involving this subject in the region, for the design of actions in this regard (baseline). | 1.1. Systematization report and analysis of current regulatory and procedural information regarding this field in the region produced and disseminated. | Design of methodology for gathering information in the States. Compilation and systematization of information. Production and dissemination of report. | 2011-2012 | Regular Fund/ Specific Funds |
| <u>Stage 2</u> Design of operational guidelines for the resolution of cases | <u>Outcome 2:</u> The States have technical tools available in order to prevent and remedy child abduction cases. | 2.1. A common glossary agreed by the Central Authorities in the region in order to close the conceptual gaps which hinder the implementation of the Conventions has been validated and disseminated. | Identification of concepts which cause discrepancies regarding their interpretation amongst Central Authorities. Production of a glossary proposal, in coordination with the Legal Department of the OAS and The Hague. Remittance of draft glossary to Central Authorities for revision and comment. Incorporation of comments made by Central Authorities. Final draft of the Glossary. | 2012-2013 | Regular Fund/ Specific Funds |

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| | | <p>2.2. A database of experiences on the practices of Central Authorities in the process of restoring children, in subjects such as prevention and psycho-social support for restored children is operating and has been disseminated.</p> | <p>Compilation and systematization of information regarding the different elements which compose the process of international restitution of children, as well as prevention.</p> <p>Organization of the compiled information and production of systematization report on the Regional Experiences Data Bank.</p> <p>Translation of systematization paper into English.</p> <p>Publication and distribution of systematization paper on the Regional Experiences Data Bank</p> | 2011- 2013 | Regular Fund/ Specific Funds |
| | | <p>2.3. Operational guidelines for the resolution of ICA cases have been validated and disseminated.</p> | <p>Production of a guidelines proposal.</p> <p>Discussions held with Central Authorities and other actors involved.</p> <p>Incorporation of comments and suggestions.</p> <p>Dissemination of guidelines.</p> | 2012-2014 | Specific Fund |
| | | <p>2.4. A protocol for the provision of psychosocial care for child victims of abduction has been validated.</p> | <p>A diagnosis of the care which States provide to restored children.</p> <p>Production of a protocol proposal.</p> <p>Validation of protocol and production of final draft.</p> | 2012-2013 | Specific Fund |
| | | <p>2.5. A promotion strategy for the signature and ratification of Conventions and the appointment of Central Authorities in 3 States that have not yet implemented these actions.</p> | <p>Production of a list of States that have not signed or ratified the Conventions and/or appointed Central Authorities.</p> <p>Design of a promotion strategy for the signature and ratification of Conventions.</p> | 2012-2014 | Regular Fund |

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| | | <p>2.6. Proposals for the adjustment of internal procedural laws based on the model law, in 3 States that have ratified the Inter-American Convention have been implemented.</p> | <p>Review of the States' domestic regulatory situation with regard to procedural laws. Production of a proposal for the adjustment of the national regulatory framework. A national workshop for the validation of the proposal for the regulatory adjustment.</p> | 2012-2014 | Regular Fund/ Specific Funds |
| | | <p>2.7. Means of communication and coordination between Central Authorities have been developed.</p> | <p>Production of a proposal for means of communication and coordination between Central Authorities has been carried out.</p> <p>Coordination with the States for the validation of these means. Design of a single registration form for restitution requests pursuant to the Inter-American Convention.</p> <p>Update of ICA website in order to reinforce it as a means for the exchange of information between central authorities.</p> <p>Celebration of the 1st Meeting of Government Experts (Central Authorities) for the validation of the Glossary, Experiences Data Bank, guidelines and protocols.</p> | 2012-2014 | Regular Fund/ Specific Funds |

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| <p><u>Stage 3:</u> Implementation in the States</p> | <p><u>Outcome 3:</u> The States which have ratified the Inter-American Convention on international abduction have implemented technical tools in order to improve the resolution of international abduction cases.</p> | <p>Technical tools in order to improve the resolution of international abduction cases have been implemented in States which have ratified the Inter-American Convention on international abduction.</p> | <p>Selection of States and agreements for implementation.</p> <p>Design a plan for the implementation of technical tools in the selected States.</p> <p>Technical assistance to the States for the implementation of technical tools.</p> <p>Implementation of training (face-to-face, semi-distance and online) on International Child Abduction.</p> <p>Technical assistance to adjust the model law for the States which should require it.</p> <p>Hold 2nd Meeting of Government Experts for the exchange of experiences between States and to establish a joint work plan, within the context of the Inter-American Programme on international child abduction.</p> | <p>2012-2014</p> | <p>Regular Fund/ Specific Funds</p> |
| <p>Stage 4: Evaluation</p> | <p><u>Outcome 1:</u> Systematized lessons learned are available, and recommendations have been produced in order to improve initiatives and the sustainability of the project's outcomes.</p> | <p>An evaluation paper has been completed.</p> <p>A paper on the sustainability of the implemented actions has been validated.</p> | <p>Design of summative evaluation proposal.</p> <p>Evaluation carried out.</p> <p>Coordination with the States for the establishment of strategies and/or actions for the sustainability of the project's output.</p> | <p>2015</p> | <p>Regular Fund/ Specific Funds</p> |

COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

| Stages | Outcomes | Outputs | Activities | Duration | Budget |
|---|--|---|---|------------------------|----------|
| Stage 1: Revision, technical assistance and implementation of instruments for public policy against CSEC. | Member States have designed, implemented and spread national action plans to protect children against commercial sexual exploitation, in line with relevant international legislation and recommendations, in particular the ones that came out of the III World Congress. | 1.1. National plans against CSEC have been improved, updated and adopted and are operating in Member States. | 1.1.1. Analyse current national action plans against CSEC, according to the following criteria: a) they include activities against the new forms of CSEC (ICT and VT); b) they include the voice of children; c) an effective management system for the plan is in place; d) they are evaluated and their progress is made public; e) their budget is adequate; f) they coordinate with other public policies for children. | 2012 | Specific |
| | | | 1.1.2. Agree on a specific Advisory Plan with three Member States in order to create, update or improve their national action plan against CSEC. Establish agreements with three Member States that will commit to carry out a process of creating, updating and/or improving their national action plans against CSEC. | 2012 | Specific |
| | | | 1.1.3. Establish an Advisory Plan which includes the production of guidelines to update national plans. | 2012 | Specific |
| | | | 1.1.4. Implement the Advisory Plan, together with each of the three Member States | 2013-2014 | Specific |
| | | | 1.1.5. Disseminate the consultancy experience and its outcomes to the remaining Member States. | 2014 | Specific |
| | | | 1.1.6. Improve the www.annaobserva.org website, including interactive sections with technical liaison officers. | 2011 | Specific |
| | | 1.2 Online platform for the exchange and dissemination of public policies against CSEC in the region has been updated and is fed by the participation of national liaison | 1.2.2. Compile and publish national action plans against CSEC and other institutional | 2012-2015 (continuous) | Regular |

| Stages | Outcomes | Outputs | Activities | Duration | Budget |
|--|--|--|--|------------------------|----------|
| | | officers in this area. | papers, in order to address CSEC in the region. | | |
| | | | 1.2.3. Disseminate the website and its usefulness amongst key actors in the area of public policy against CSEC. | 2012-2015 (continuous) | Regular |
| | | | 1.2.4. Train technical liaison officers for the inclusion of material and observations. | 2012 | Specific |
| | | | 1.2.5. Generate forums or other exchange opportunities on the subject amongst technical liaison officers, at the Web page www.annaobserva.org | 2012 | Specific |
| | | 1.3 The network of technical liaison officers against CSEC has been strengthened. | 1.3.1. Regular update of data by liaison officer network. | 2012 - 2015 | Regular |
| | | | 1.3.2. Report on and publish activities through ANNAObserve's bimonthly newsletter. | 2012 - 2015 | Regular |
| | | | 1.3.3. Consult Member States every year regarding progress and challenges in the design, implementation and evaluation of their public policy against CSEC. | 2012 - 2015 | Regular |
| | | | 1.3.4. Produce and disseminate an Annual Report to follow up on the public policies undertaken by Member States to prevent and eradicate CSEC. | 2012 -2015 | Regular |
| | | 1.4 Government and non-government operatives have been trained. | 1.4.1. Implement a yearly course in order to train personnel in the region on the subject of sexual exploitation of children. | 2012 – 2015 | Regular |
| <u>Stage 2:</u> Policy guidelines for the restitution of rights | Member States have a framework of reference in order to intervene effectively in repairing and restoring the rights of child victims of CSE, as recommended on the Declaration of Rio. | 2.1. A framework of reference for repairing and restoring the rights of child victims of commercial sexual exploitation has been produced, disseminated and implemented on 3 States. | Carry out a theoretical and practical study analysing the bio-psychosocial vulnerability of CSEC victims, the possible and recommended therapeutic approaches and the institutional models needed for these comprehensive approaches to be viable. | 2012 | Specific |
| | | | 2.1.2. Form a technical group chose by the Member States (aprox 10 states) in order to | 2012 | Specific |

| Stages | Outcomes | Outputs | Activities | Duration | Budget |
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| | | | support the process of producing a framework of reference and its validation. | | |
| | | | 2.1.3. Carry out a Meeting of the Work Group to validate the framework of reference. | | |
| | | | 2.1.4. Translate and disseminate the framework of reference amongst the Member States, in the context of sub-regional meetings on good practices. | 2013 | Specific |
| | | 2.2. A framework of reference in order to intervene in repairing and restoring the rights of child victims of CSE has been implemented. | 2.2.1. Train human resources in the use of the framework of reference, in Member States interested in applying it. | 2012 – 2013 | Specific |
| | | | 2.2.2. Hold virtual and face – to – face meetings of accompaniment and technical assistance for the implementation of the the framework of reference for repairing and restoring the rights of child victims of commercial sexual exploitation. | 2012 - 2013 | Specific |
| | Groups of children organized in child participation programmes in Member States have access to increased information regarding the risks of CSEC on the Internet and incorporates prevention on its work agenda. | 3.1. A study on the experiences of children as Internet users, with the participation of children, has been produced and disseminated. | 3.1.1. Carry out a study on the experiences of children regarding the Internet, which includes a survey with 3 focus groups of children, in subjects such as CSEC risk on the Internet, measures of protection they adopt and their perception with regard to the risks of virtual environments in general. | 2012 | Specific |
| 3.1.2. Widely disseminate the study in a user-friendly way. | | | 2012-2013 | Specific | |
| 3.2. The work agenda of the children organised under the child participation programmes, including the prevention of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents on the internet. | | 3.2.1 Disseminate the results of the study among the Consultative Councils of Children. | 2012 -2014 | Specific | |
| | | 3.2.2. Incorporate information, papers and issues for discussion on the website: www.nuestravozacolores.org . | 2012-2014 | Specific | |
| 3.3. A campaign for the prevention of CSEC on the Internet has been carried out, | | 3.3.1. Design a campaign for the prevention of CSEC on the Internet, in a participatory manner, with children. | 2012 | Specific | |

| Stages | Outcomes | Outputs | Activities | Duration | Budget |
|------------------------|--|---|--|--------------------|----------|
| | | with the participation of children in its design and implementation. | 3.3.2. Implement the prevention campaign together with groups of organized children who have been made aware of the issues involved. | 2013 | Specific |
| Stage 3: Evaluation | Systematized lessons learned are available, and recommendations have been produced in order to improve initiatives and the sustainability of the project's outcomes. | Summative evaluation completed. A paper on the sustainability of the implemented actions has been validated. | Design of external evaluation proposal. Implementation of the external evaluation. Establish agreements between the States for the sustainability of the project's output. | 2014 – Feb 2015 | Specific |

CROSS-CUTTING LINES

PARTICIPATION

| Stages | Outcomes | Outputs | Activities | Duration | Budget |
|--|---|---|---|-----------|-------------------|
| 1. Regional negotiation and analysis | 1. Systematized information is available for the Member States regarding management models for plans and programmes incorporating means of dialogue with children, in order to design strategies to address them. | 1.1 A descriptive and analytical study is available regarding management models for plans and programmes incorporating means of dialogue with children and adolescents has been developed and disseminated. | Production of the basis for research. | 2012 | Specific |
| | | | Mapping and systematization of means of dialogue in the region, highlighting those that include families, and those that include geographical, cultural and linguistic diversity. | 2012 | |
| | | | Carrying out Focal Groups in three States for the analysis of the investigation findings | 2012 | |
| | | | Production of the Final Report of the Analysis | 2013 | |
| | | | Dising, publication and dissemination of the Final Report of the Analysis | 2013 | |
| 2. Production of guidelines within the framework of policy | 2. More tools for the management of dialogue means with children and adolescents within the framework of public policies for the promotion of child and adolescent rights are available for the Member States. | 2.1 A management strategy with regard to means of dialogue with children and adolescents for the design of public policies devoted to the promotion of their rights has been developed and validated. | Establishment of bases for the process of formulating the strategy, jointly with the network of technical liaison officers. | 2012 | Regular/ Specific |
| | | | Strengthening the network of technical liaison officers for participation. | Permanent | |
| | | | Production of a management strategy for means of discussion with children. | 2013 | |
| | | | Validation of the management strategy for means of discussion with representatives of the States and the children – 6 th meeting of the work group. | 2013 | |

| Stages | Outcomes | Outputs | Activities | Duration | Budget |
|-------------------|---|---|--|-----------|----------|
| | | | Production of handbooks for the application of the validated management strategy. | 2013 | |
| | | a. Guidelines for the Second Pan American Child Participation Forum have been drafted, in the context of the 21 st Pan American Child Congress. | Drafting of guidelines for the second forum. | 2013 | Specific |
| | | | 7 th meeting of the work group for the validation of the guidelines. | 2013 | |
| | | | Production of material for children for the application of the guidelines. | 2013 | |
| 3. Implementation | 3.The participant Member States have implemented a strategy for the management of dialogue means with children and adolescents for its incorporation in the public policies devoted to the promotion of their rights. | 3.1 A management strategy with regard to means of discussion with children for the design of public policies devoted to the promotion of their rights has been implemented. | A training workshop on the management strategy for means of discussion with children. | 2013 | Specific |
| | | | Online course on participation and means of discussion strategies. | 2013 | Specific |
| | | | Maintenance and update of the website "Nuestra voz a colores" (Our Voice in Colours). | 2012-2014 | Specific |
| | | 3.2. Second Pan American Child Forum has taken place, in the context of the 21 st Pan American Child Congress. | Gather and systematize advances and challenges with regard to the fulfilment of the agreements arising from the First Pan American Forum in the States, with the participation of the children themselves. | 2012-2013 | Specific |
| | | | Develop strategies and tools in order to monitor the agreements and commitments undertaken by the States and arising from the First Forum, with the participation of children. | 2012-2013 | Regular |

| Stages | Outcomes | Outputs | Activities | Duration | Budget |
|---------------|---|--|--|-------------|----------|
| | | | Provide advice and support for the process of child representation in the States, with a view to their participation in the Second Forum (develop a methodological procedure). | 2013 - 2014 | Regular |
| | | | Produce multimedia material for the second forum. | 2013-2014 | Specific |
| | | | Hold the Second Pan American Child Forum. | 2014 | Specific |
| | | | Systematization and dissemination of the achievements and challenges arising from the Second Forum. | 2014 | Specific |
| 4. Evaluation | 4. Systematized lessons learned are available, and recommendations have been produced in order to improve initiatives and the sustainability of the project's outcomes. | <p>The evaluation of processes and outcomes with regard to the participation focal point has been carried out.</p> <p>A paper on the sustainability of the implemented actions has been validated.</p> | <p>Evaluation design</p> <p>Implementation of the evaluation.</p> <p>Coordination with the States for the establishment of strategies and/or actions for the sustainability of the project's output.</p> | 2015 | Specific |