

# 87 Anniversary

Inter American Children's  
Institute (IIN)



Organización of  
American Estates

Newsletter Nº 15, 2014

**iin**  Inter American  
Children's  
Institute  
Specialized Organization of the OAS

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# ¿What is the IIN?

## ¿Who are we?

The IIN is the Specialized Organization of the Organization of American States (OAS) to which all of the Member States of the Inter-American System belong, and 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 that affect them.

Although there are other bodies, agencies and groups with similar responsibilities, this Institute is unique in its capacity to influence governments. Because the IIN is composed of OAS member states, with the direct involvement of the representatives of the governing bodies for children of the region, the States play a major role in deciding upon and implementing its activities.





## Functions

- To assist technically in the development of a heightened level of awareness regarding all of the issues related to children, their families and the community, and to awaken a sense of social responsibility in relation to these problems, providing advice in the search for solutions.
- To assist the governments of the member states in their efforts to design suitable national

protection systems for the promotion and defence of the rights of children and families.

- To promote action that aims to advance the best interest of children as full holders of rights.
- To support InterAmerican cooperation programmes within the scope of its charter, as approved by the General Assembly.
- To collaborate with the governments of OAS member states,

their institutions and responsible bodies, with other agencies of the Inter American system and with international institutions and civil society organizations that work on behalf of child rights in the region.

- To uphold the creation of opportunities that will ensure that children can enjoy freedom of expression and participation, in accordance with their needs and possibilities, in all matters that concern them.

## Goals

The goal of the IIN is to cooperate with the governments of the member states to promote the development of activities and technical tools that will contribute to the comprehensive protection of children, as well as improve the quality of life of children, as well as improve the quality of life of children and their families.

# History



1916

Pan American Child Congress, which became the first of these highly influential meetings in our continent, was held in Argentina.

1919

In the Second Pan American Child Congress was the approval of a project introduced by Dr. Luis Morquio for the creation of an International American Office for the Protection of Childhood, to act as a centre for research, action and propaganda in America, in all matters related to children.

1924

On 24 July the Uruguayan government provided for the creation of the International American Office for the Protection of Childhood. In October the draft Statutes presented by Dr. Morquio were adopted. As a result, the International American Office for the Protection of Childhood changed its name to American International Institute for the Protection of Childhood.

1927

The Institute was officially inaugurated on **9 June**. The International Council, constituted at that point by ten countries, then met for the first time.

1935

In September, Dr. Morquio died, thus marking the conclusion of what in historical terms has been known as the IIN's "Initiation Stage".

1957

During the 38th Meeting of the Directing Council held in Lima in 1957, and after new Statutes were signed, the Institute changed its name to that of the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN).

1962

The IIN and the OAS signed a new Agreement, which meant that in addition to being a Specialized Organization, the IIN Offices would become part of the General Secretariat of the OAS.

1989

The General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the first binding international treaty that provides for all of the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of children.

2004

During the 79th Meeting of the Directing Council of the Institute, the age and the gendersensitive perspectives were introduced and the name of the Institute, in its Spanish version, was changed to include boys, girls and adolescents (Instituto Interamericano del Niño, la Niña y Adolescentes).

2009

The First Civil Society Forum was held in Argentina. The First Pan American Child Forum was also celebrated.

2014

In December this year, will be celebrated the **XXI Pan American Congress in Brasilia, Brasil**. Also the Second Pan American Forum of children and adolescents. And previously the Second Forum of Civil Society.

# Organs

## The Directing Council

The Directing Council is responsible for designing the general policy of the Institute and supervising the fulfilment of its responsibilities. The Directing Council meets annually, pursuant to the Institute's statutes, and holds special meetings if the States consider it advisable. On these occasions, resolutions are adopted that guide the work of the Institute and outline the path it must follow in order to fulfil its objectives. All decisions are made by consensus or by voting.

The President and Vice-President of the Directing Council are elected every two years and may only be reelected for a single additional period.

During the 87th Regular Meeting of the Directing Council, which took place in Costa Rica in 2012, Gloria Lozano de Díaz, the representative of Panama, was elected as President of the Directing Council and Zaira Navas, the representative of El Salvador, as Vice-President.



## The Director

The Director is responsible to the Directing Council of the Institute for the execution of the Council's decisions in accordance with the Statutes and all other relevant regulations. The Director is the Institute's legal representative.

The Director is appointed by the Secretary General of the OAS, chosen from a three-name list proposed by the Directing Council, and can remain in office for a first period of four years and be appointed for one additional period.

## The Pan-American Child Congress

The Pan American Child Congress (the Congress) is a ministerial level InterAmerican meeting whose aim is to promote the sharing of experience and knowledge between the peoples of the Americas in relation to the issues that concern the Institute and to draft recommendations in their regard.

# XXI Pan- American Child Congress

## “Childhood: Building Peaceful Environments”

With the purpose of promoting experience and knowledge sharing, in addition to making recommendations that will foster children’s well-being in the Americas, the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) are planning to meet in Brasilia, Brazil, for the 21st Pan American Child Congress, to be held from 10 to 12 December 2014.

The key subject will be violence against children, under the title: “Childhood: Building Peaceful Environments”.

The Congress will focus on three core issues:

- \* **Violence against children. “Twenty-five years after the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child: building peaceful environments”.**
- \* **Juveniles in conflict with the law and criminal liability systems.**
- \* **The sexual exploitation of children.**



The 89th Meeting of the Directing Council of the IIN-OAS will be held prior to the Congress, leading up to three days’ work which will include conferences, expert panels and presentations by the States, providing many opportunities for discussion and reflection.

The 2nd Pan American Child Forum will also take place during the Congress. This provides an opportunity for the children of the region to give their opinions

with regard to the thoughts and decisions agreed among the most senior authorities on childhood who are meeting at the Congress.

A civil society forum will also be held prior to the main event, with the participation of well-known international agencies and with the purpose of generating recommendations for the consideration of the national delegations and authorities, in preparation for the 21st Congress.

# ¿What is the Pan American Congress?

The Pan American Congress is a body of the Inter American Children's Institute (IIN), which meets every five years with the purpose of promoting the sharing of experience and knowledge in specialized subjects among the member states of the Inter American System, in order to establish a regional agenda for the promotion and protection of children in the Americas.

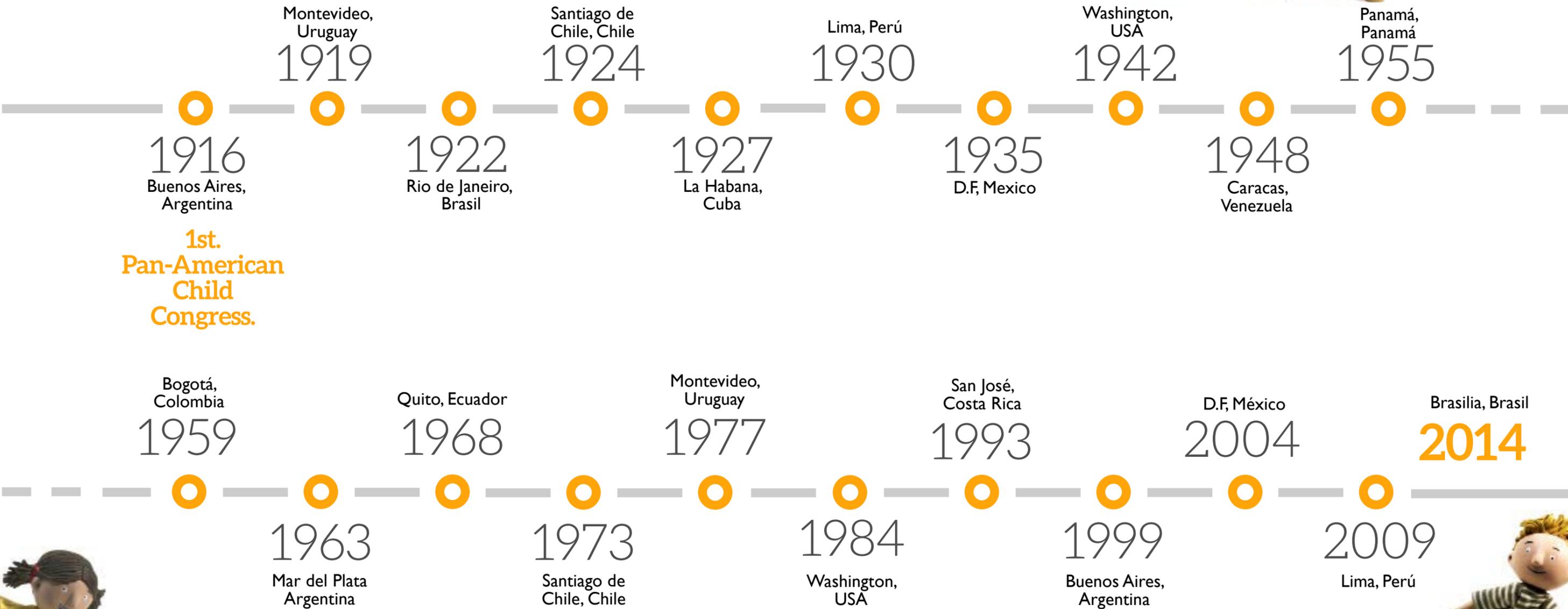
The history of the Pan American Child Congress goes back to the

early twentieth century, when international congresses began to be held in Europe in order to address childhood-related subjects, a practice that subsequently extended to America.

Since 1916, Pan American Congresses have been opportunities for discussion, reflection and communication in which the progress achieved by the States in the hemisphere in relation to fulfilling child rights becomes apparent.



# History about Pan American Congress



1st.  
Pan-American  
Child  
Congress.

2014



# Strategic Partners



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Secretary General OAS

***Gloria Lozano de Díaz***

President Directing Council of the IIN

***Zaira Lis Navas***

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