



97th REGULAR MEETING
OF THE DIRECTING COUNCIL
IIN - OAS
JAMAICA 2023

CD RES. 12 (97-R23)

EARLY CHILDHOOD

(Approved in the Fourth Plenary Session, held on October 26, 2023)

THE DIRECTING COUNCIL,

WHEREAS:

Early Childhood is a critical stage in human development that lays the foundation for lifelong well-being, and children who go through it are entitled to special care and assistance, which play an important role in achieving their comprehensive development;

The comprehensive protection approach, consistent with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, recognizes the role of the State, society, and the family in promoting the enjoyment of the rights of children;

RECALLING:

The earlier resolutions of the Directing Council: CD/RES. 07 (96-R22) "Early Childhood Education and Care"; CD/RES. 13 (93-R/18) "Policies for the Promotion and Protection of Rights in Early Childhood"; and CD/RES. 04 (88-R/13) "Promotion of Care and Upbringing Capacities in the Family oriented to Early Childhood.";

BEARING IN MIND:

General Comment number 7 of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, which highlights the importance of making specific efforts to ensure that the rights of children



iin
Inter-American
Children's
Institute



OAS | More rights
for more people



97th REGULAR MEETING
OF THE DIRECTING COUNCIL
IIN - OAS
JAMAICA 2023

in early childhood are respected and protected, along with other observations of the committee whose approach includes early childhood;

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development addresses a wide range of global challenges, and several of its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets relate directly or indirectly to aspects of early childhood;

ALSO CONSIDERING:

The persistence of inequality in the region, which affects the access of children in early childhood to safe and healthy environments for their development;

The investment in early childhood results in an investment in the sustainable development of society, emphasizing the need to continue advancing comprehensive public policies, expanding coverage, and enhancing the quality of services aimed at early childhood;

The family's role as the primary space for the upbringing, care, and development of children in early childhood, emphasizing the importance of supporting family-centered care and encouraging positive parenting and coping skills to promote healthy child development;

In addition, it is important to recognize that families are impacted by broader community and systems-level factors;

Public policies, supporting comprehensive protection systems for children across different government jurisdictions, are fundamental to effective systems of care for early childhood development. This implies integrating the strategies and programs designed at the national level with those of other levels of government, recognizing the unique and specific needs and roles jurisdiction. This decentralized and complementary approach strengthens the efficiency of policies, aligning the efforts of various agencies and sectors to avoid duplication and maximize the positive impact on the lives of children and adolescents in their local contexts;

The need to strengthen coordination between state institutions, civil society, and families to ensure the effective promotion and protection of early childhood;

The importance of the voice and active participation of children and adolescents in the development of policies and actions that concern them,





97th REGULAR MEETING
OF THE DIRECTING COUNCIL
IIN - OAS
JAMAICA 2023

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm the commitment of the member states to the promotion and protection of the rights of children in early childhood, recognizing their importance in the sustainable development of society.
2. To invite states to continue their efforts to develop comprehensive strategies and public policies for early childhood care, including equitable access to health services, nutrition, quality education, and loving care, promoting investment in programs that support the effective implementation of such policies, in an effort to guarantee comprehensiveness, coverage, and quality of services, as well as the reduction of inequalities from the first years of life, and encourage periodic evaluations of progress in the promotion and protection of early childhood with the active participation of children and adolescents.
3. To invite States and civil society to promote the exchange of best practices and the training of operators involved in the care and protection of early childhood and children in general to work with families and family environments.
4. To request the Directorate General of the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN) to offer technical aid and human resources training in this area, including the aforementioned training, to those states that request it. The IIN should also be entrusted with promoting the exchange of best practices for the implementation of comprehensive early childhood policies.
5. To record the opinions and recommendations expressed during the intergenerational technical roundtable on early childhood, held at this 97th Meeting of the Directing Council, and to entrust the IIN with their analysis and study to incorporate them into the IIN's actions in this area.



iin
Inter-American
Children's
Institute



OAS More rights
for more people