

Ni 16906



**ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES**  
INTER-AMERICAN CHILDREN'S INSTITUTE

**I I N**

**XVI PAN AMERICAN CHILD CONGRESS**

May 14 - 18, 1984  
Washington, D.C.

**FINAL REPORT**



**ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES**  
INTER-AMERICAN CHILDREN'S INSTITUTE

**I I N**

**XVI PAN AMERICAN CHILD CONGRESS**

May 14 - 18, 1984  
Washington, D.C.

**FINAL REPORT**

INTER-AMERICAN CHILDREN'S INSTITUTE  
Montevideo - Uruguay  
1984

## XVI PAN AMERICAN CHILD CONGRES

### FINAL REPORT

#### I - INTRODUCTION

##### A) Background

The XVI Pan American Child Congress took place in Washington D.C., United States of America, from 14 to 18 May 1984. It was held at the Department of State building and the plenary sessions were conducted at the Lov Henderson Hall.

In compliance with the Statutes of the Inter-American Children's Institute, the Pan American Child Congress meets every four years, to promote the exchange of knowledge and experiences among the peoples of the Americas, on issues within the sphere of competence of the Institute. Recommendations arise from this event striving to find the most suitable ways to solve the problems discussed. When the Agenda of the Congress includes special technical items or deals with given aspects of inter-American cooperation for development, it may be given the status of Inter-American Specialized Conference by the General Assembly of the OAS. Such is the case of the XVI Pan American Child Congress, that according to Art.128 of the Charter of the Organization and Resolution AG/RES.477 (X-0/80), adopted by the General Assembly in its Tenth Regular Session, was declared Inter-American Specialized Conference.

The Governments of the member States of the Organization were invited to participate in this event through official delegations. However, in order to facilitate the exchange of ideas, the participation was deemed advisable of specialists on the ecological approach of the topic of the child and the family, bearing particularly in mind the educational, health, juridical, social and habitat aspects.

The ecological perspective addressed by the Agenda of the Congress is an attempt to substitute partial studies on specific topics, by a comprehensive approach towards finding integration and coordination mechanisms, in order to coordinate and combine the segmentation of knowledge in dealing with the problems of the minor and the family.

##### B) Preliminary Session

At the preliminary session held on May 14 provisionally chaired by Miss Dorcas R. Hardy, Delegate of the United States of America, the following decisions were taken, pursuant to the provisions of Art.19 of the Rules of Procedure of the Congress:

1. Appointment by acclamation of Miss Dorcas R. Hardy, Delegate of the United States of America as President of the Congress.

2. Approval of the Agenda.
3. Approval of the Rules of Procedure.
4. Establishment, by lot, of the order of precedence of the Delegations, as follows, (Doc.21/84):

- |                                        |                                 |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Dominica                            | 17. Peru                        |
| 2. Jamaica                             | 18. Barbados                    |
| 3. Bahamas                             | 19. Saint Lucia                 |
| 4. Guatemala                           | 20. Bolivia                     |
| 5. Chile                               | 21. El Salvador                 |
| 6. Venezuela                           | 22. Honduras                    |
| 7. Saint Vincent and the<br>Grenadines | 23. Nicaragua                   |
| 8. Paraguay                            | 24. Saint Christopher and Nevis |
| 9. Haiti                               | 25. Costa Rica                  |
| 10. Mexico                             | 26. United States of America    |
| 11. Suriname                           | 27. Antigua and Barbuda         |
| 12. Argentina                          | 28. Ecuador                     |
| 13. Panama                             | 29. Trinidad and Tobago         |
| 14. Colombia                           | 30. Dominican Republic          |
| 15. Grenada                            | 31. Uruguay                     |
| 16. Brazil                             |                                 |

5. Establishment of the Working Committees and assignment of the following topics:
  - Committee I: Educational Matters
  - Committee II: Social and Legal Matters
  - Committee III: Health and Habitat Matters
  - Committee IV: Social, Economic and Habitat Matters.
6. Membership of the Committee on Credentials: Delegates of Bolivia, Dominica, Mexico and Panama.
7. Membership of the Style Committee: Delegates of Brazil, Colombia, United States of America and Haiti.

8. The deadline set for presentation of Draft Resolutions by the delegations to the President, was noon on Wednesday, May 16.

Notwithstanding the above, it was agreed that the Delegates could submit draft resolutions to the respective Committee to be discussed at their sessions, which in turn would be presented to the corresponding Plenary Session.

C) Inaugural Session and Closing Session

The Inaugural Session was held at the Loy Henderson Hall on May 14, at 7.00 p.m. The following addressed the audience:

- Miss Dorcas R. Hardy, President of the XVI Pan American Child Congress;
- The Honorable Jeremiah Denton, Senator of the United States of America;
- Dr. Rodrigo Crespo Toral, Director General of the Inter-American Children's Institute and
- Ambassador Valerie McComie, acting Secretary General of the Organization of American States.

The Closing Session was held on May 18, at 5.00 p.m. The Delegate of Uruguay, Teresita Farías de Pastorel, spoke on behalf of the participating delegations and the President of the Congress declared the meeting closed.

D) Agenda

The Agenda of the Congress approved at the First Plenary Session, held on May 14, is as follows:

Central Topic: Ecological situations that influence the physical, psychological, and social well-being of children and families, with emphasis on the influence of education and the media.

1. Analysis of ecological variables and their influence
  - Ecosystems and human activity
2. Characteristics of the determining environment
  - Macro-environment (demographic, economic, social trends).
  - Micro-environment (family, school, community organizations).
  - Problems of depressed categories (marginal ethnic groups, areas of critical poverty, delinquency, and domestic and foreign migration).

3. Present situation and prospects for the quality of life of the child and the family in America: (food and nutrition, housing, health, education, social adaptation, recreation, employment, etc.)
4. Programming strategy (programming in the context of development planning, with special emphasis on education and social communication)
5. National experiences.
6. The role of international cooperation (multilateral, bilateral, horizontal).

In order to facilitate the development of the central topic, the presentation of the specialists fell on the following sub-topics:

- I) Societal Values and Institutions and the Place of Children: An Ecological Perspective.
- II) The value of knowledge and learning: The role of educational and informational institutions.
- III) The value of well-being and the role of health care institutions.
- IV) The values of security and human dignity: The role of socio-economic support institutions.
- V) The value of justice and the role of legal institutions.
- VI) Children and their Habitat: values and institutions in interaction.

F) Membership of the Steering Committee

President: Dorcas R. Hardy (United States of America)

Vicepresident: Chiefs of the Delegations (Article 14 of the Rules of Procedure)

Membership of the Credentials Committee

Chairman: Sonia Ramírez de Torres (Bolivia)

Members: Marcela Mukasa (Dominica)  
Susana Dávila Catelazo (Mexico)  
Bertilda de Rivera (Panama)

Membership of the Style Committee

Brazil, Colombia, United States of America, and Haiti.

Membership of the Working Committees:

Committee I: Educational Affairs

Chairman: Richard Schiefelbusch (United States of America),

Vice Chairman: Teresinha Saraiva (Brazil)

Rapporteur: Alejandrina Rodríguez Duarte (Paraguay)

Committee II: Social and Legal Affairs

Chairman: Modesto Elizeche Almeida (Paraguay)

Vice Chairman: Marta Eugenia Calderón (Costa Rica)

Rapporteur: Alicia Cantarero Aparicio (Chile)

Committee III: Health and Habitat Affairs

Chairman: Gualberto Arias (Ecuador)

Vice Chairman: Jorge Suescún (Colombia)

Rapporteur: Julio Bello (Argentina)

Committee IV: Social, Economic and Habitat Affairs

Chairman: Susana Avila (Mexico)

Vice Chairman: Rolando Visconte (Uruguay)

Rapporteur: Lucy C. Biggs (United States of America)

F) List of participants:

ANTIGUA AND BARRUDA

Jefe de Delegación

Paul Spencer  
First Secretary

ARGENTINA

Jefe de Delegación

Julio Bello  
Subsecretario de Desarrollo Humano y Familia  
Ministerio de Salud y Acción Social

Delegados

Ramón Villagra Delgado  
Consejero, Representante Suplente ante la OEA

BARRADOS

Jefe de Delegación

Yvette Goddard  
Second Secretary  
Alternate Representative to the OAS

BOLIVIA

Jefe de Delegación

Sonia Ramírez de Torres  
Directora Nacional del Menor  
Junta Nacional de Solidaridad y Desarrollo Social

Delegados

Gladys de Czaplickis  
Consejero, Representante Suplente de Bolivia ante la OEA

Silvia M. Salazar  
Ministerio de Salud



BRASIL

Jefe de Delegación

Terezinha Saraiva  
Presidente da Fundação Nacional do Bem-Estar do Menor.

Delegados

María Augusta Teixeira  
Asesora do Presidente de FUNABEM

CHILE

Jefe de Delegación

Alicia Cantarero  
Subsecretario de Justicia

Delegados

Mónica Madariaga  
Embajadora, Representante Permanente ante la OEA

Sergio Garin  
Segundo Secretario, Representante Suplente ante la OEA

COLOMBIA

Jefe de Delegación

Francisco Posada de la Peña  
Embajador, Representante Permanente ante la OEA

Delegados

Consuelo Lleras de Samper  
Ministro Plenipotenciario  
Representante Suplente ante la OEA

Jorge Suescún  
Representante ante el Consejo Directivo IIN

COSTA RICA

Jefe de Delegación

Luis Guardia  
Embajador Representante Suplente ante la OEA

Delegados

Marta Eugenia Calderon  
Ministro Consejero  
Representante Alternativa de Costa Rica ante la OEA

Mirtha Virginia de Perea  
Ministro Consejero  
Representante Alternativa de Costa Rica ante la OEA

Fernando Chávez  
Representante Alternativo de Costa Rica ante la OEA

DOMINICA

Jefe de Delegación

Marcella Mukasa  
Consejero, Representante Alternativa ante la OEA

REPUBLICA DOMINICANA

Jefe de Delegación

Ana Esther de la Maza  
Embajadora, Representante Suplente ante la OEA

Delegados

Antonia M. Ruiz de Dermody  
Ministro Consejero, Representante Suplente ante la OEA

ECUADOR

Jefe de Delegación

Gualberto Arias  
Representante del Ecuador en el IIN

Delegados

Homero Larrea  
Ministro Representante Suplente ante la OEA

GUATEMALA

Jefe de Delegación

Hernan Hurtado Prem  
Embajador, Representante Permanente ante la OEA

Delegados

Carlos Cossich Márquez  
Representante de Guatemala ante el Consejo Directivo del IIN

HAITI

Jefe de Delegación

Philippe Salomon  
Premier Secrétaire à la Mission Permanente d'Haiti.

Delegados

Evans François  
Premier Secrétaire à la Mission Permanente d'Haiti.

HONDURAS

Jefe de Delegación

Norberto Garrigó  
Consejero, Representante Suplente ante la OEA

JAMAICA

Jefe de Delegación

Princess Lawes  
Special Adviser to Ministry of Youth  
and the Community Development

MEXICO

Jefe de Delegación

Susana Avila Castelazo  
Primer Secretario, Representante Suplente ante la OEA

Delegados

Jorge Miranda Pelayo  
Director de Desarrollo Social

Graciela Zubiran Villarreal  
Director de Casa Hogar DJF

NICARAGUA

Jefe de Delegación

Edgard Parrales  
Embajador, Representante Permanente ante la OEA

Delegados

Juan Gazol  
Ministro Consejero, Representante Suplente ante la OEA

Emigdio Quintero-Casco  
Primer Secretario, Representante Suplente ante la OEA

PANAMA

Jefe de Delegación

Bertilda de Rivera  
Directora Nacional del Niño y la Familia Dirección Nacional del Niño  
y la Familia  
Ministerio de Trabajo y Bienestar Social

PARAGUAY

Jefe de Delegación

José María Fernández Cáceres  
Consejero, Representante Alterno ante la OEA

Delegados

Marcial Bobadilla Guillen  
Segundo Secretario, Asesor  
Misión Permanente ante la OEA

Modesto Elizeche Almeida  
Juez de Menores

Alejandrina Rodríguez  
Directora General del Instituto de Protecciones a Excepcionales

PERU

Jefe de Delegación

Eduardo Martinetti Macedo  
Segundo Secretario, Asesor, Misión Permanente ante la OEA

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Jefe de Delegación

Terrence Walker  
Primer Secretario, Representante Alterno ante la OEA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Jefe de Delegación

Dorcas R. Hardy  
Assistant Secretary for Human Development Services  
Department of Health and Human Services

Delegados

Marianna Beach  
U.S. Representative to and President of the Directing Council  
Inter-American Children's Institute

Lucy C. Biggs  
Acting Commissioner  
Administration for Children, Youth, and Families  
Department of Health and Human Services

Advisers

Enid Borden  
Director, Office of Public Affairs  
Office of Human Development Services  
Department of Health and Human Services

Carol J. Fraser  
Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Human Development  
Services  
Department of Health and Human Services

Jo Ann Gasper  
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Social Services Policy  
Department of Health and Human Services

Margarita Riva-Geoghegan  
Alternative Representative to the OAS  
Department of State

David E. Hohman  
Director, Office of International Affairs  
Department of Health and Human Services

Helen Howerton  
Director  
National Center on Child Abuse and Neglected Administration on  
Children, Youth, and Families  
Department of Health and Human Services

Donald Stewart  
U.S. Mission to the OAS  
Department of State

Owen B. Lee  
Alternate Representative  
Permanent Mission of the United States to the OAS

Senior Associate Advisers

Joyce Black  
President  
Day Care Council of New York, Inc  
New York, N.Y.

Howard Davidson  
Director, National Legal Resources Center for Child Advocacy and  
Protection  
American Bar Association  
Washington DC

Frederick C. Green, M.D.  
Director, Office of Child Health Advocacy  
National Children's Hospital Medical Center  
Washington DC

Guadalupe Félix Hinckle  
President  
The Colleagues  
Children's Institute International  
Los Angeles, California

Fernando Oaxaca  
Chairman of the Board, COSSMHO  
Los Angeles, California

Rodolfo Balli Sánchez  
National Executive Director  
The National Coalition of Hispanic Mental Health and Human Services  
Organizations  
WASHINGTON DC

Richard L. Schiefelbush  
Director, Bureau of Child Research  
University of Kansas  
Lawrence, KANSAS

Miguel Torrado  
Director, Division of Research and Demonstration  
Office of Program Development  
Office of Human Development Services  
Department of Health and Human Services

Mary C. Egan  
Associate Director  
Division of Material and Child Health  
Department of Health and Human Services

#### URUGUAY

#### Jefe de Delegación

Teresita Farías de Pastorel  
Presidenta Interventora  
Consejo del Niño

Delegados

Nina Buzzini de O' Neill  
Segundo Secretario Representante Alterno ante la OEA

Rolando Visconti  
Tercer Secretario Representante Suplente ante la OEA

VENEZUELA

Jefe de Delegación

Fdilberto Moreno  
Embajador, Representante Permanente ante la OEA

Delegados

Marisol Black Llamozas  
Segundo Secretario Misión Permanente de Venezuela ante la OEA

Gerardo Barrios  
Médico Psiquiatra, Ministerio de la Juventud

Claudette de Veitía  
Juez de Menores

REPRESENTANTES DE LOS ORGANOS Y ORGANISMOS  
DEL SISTEMA INTERAMERICANO

Organización de los Estados Americanos

Hebert B. Thompson  
Director, Oficina de Cooperación Internacional

Joan H. Irañeta  
Jefe, Unidad de Enlace y Coordinación

Secretaría Ejecutiva para la Educación la Ciencia y la Cultura

Michael Alleyne  
Director a.i., Departamento de Asuntos Educativos

Luis Roggi  
Jefe, División de Mejoramiento de Sistemas Educativos



María Martínez  
Jefe Campo Programático de Educación Inicial y Preescolar

Adelaide Farrah  
Jefe, Programas de Educación Especial

Organismos Especializados Interamericanos

Comisión Interamericana de Mujeres (CIM)

María de los Milagros Donna Raballo de Nieto  
Delegada Suplente de Argentina

Instituto Interamericano de Cooperación para la Agricultura

Gilberto Páez  
Director, Representante del IICA en los Estados Unidos de América

Michael J. Morán  
Jefe de la División de Organismos Internacionales

Organización Panamericana de la Salud (OPS)

Elsa Moreno  
Coordinator, Maternal and Child Health Unit

Néstor Suárez Ojeda  
Consultor Regional en Salud Materno Infantil

Instituto Indigenista Interamericano (III)

Carmen Teresa Rodríguez d' Arago  
Delegate

Andrés Barreto

Instituto Interamericano de Estadística (IASI)

George Plinio Montalván  
Representante Titular

Ricardo Zavaleta V.  
Representante

Pan American Development Foundation

Jaime Puccio

Christine Fraser

OBSERVADORES PERMANENTES ANTE LA OEA

Estados Americanos

Canadá

Oksana Zyla  
Director, Social Services Development  
Division Health and Welfare

Percy Abols  
First Secretary  
Alternate Permanent Observer

Estados no Americanos

Francia

Jean-Marc Rives  
Observateur permanent adjoint.

Holy See

Francis W. Wright  
National Director, Holy Childhood Association

Portugal

Joao Paes  
Conselhero para Assuntos Culturais  
Embaixada de Portugal nos Estados Unidos

NACIONES UNIDAS Y SUS AGENCIAS

Naciones Unidas

Phyllis Kaminsky  
Acting Director  
United Nations Information Centre

Vera Gathright  
Assistant  
United Nations Information Centre

Comisión Económica para América Latina (CEPAL)

Joaquín Izcúe  
Director, Oficina de CEPAL en Washington DC

Fabio Arango  
Director Encargado, CEPAL, Washington DC

Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo (PNUD)

Charles Perry  
Senior External Relations Officer  
Liaison Office, Washington DC

Murray Woldman  
Consultant

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

David Wilson  
Liaison Officer, Washington DC

Braulio Orejas Miranda  
Regional Officer, Office for Science and Technology

Oficina Internacional del Trabajo (OIT)

Alicia Claro- Marchant  
Consejero Regional para Trabajadoras y para Menores

ENTIDADES Y ORGANISMOS INTERAMERICANOS  
GUBERNAMENTALES REGIONALES O SUBREGIONALES

Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo (BID)

Jorge Ossana  
Specialist in Public Health

ORGANISMOS NACIONALES, REGIONALES, E INTERNACIONALES

Adoption Centre

Ana María Elmgren  
Latin American Representative

National Institutes of Health

Theodore D. Tjossem  
Chief, Mental Retardation and Developmental  
Disabilities Branch  
National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

Comittee on Employment of the Handicapped

Fred Krause  
Assistant Director

Patronato del Hospital del Niño- Panamá

José Renán Esquivel  
Director Médico

Bov Scouts of America

Ann Nally  
Representative, Director Interamerican Region of the World  
Organization of the Scout Movement

National Council of Voluntary Child Care Organizations

Raymond T. Clarke  
Clerk to the Council

International Institute for Vital Registration and Statistics

Forrest E. Linder  
President, International Institute for Vital Registration and  
Statistics

I.M. Moriyama  
Deputy Executive Director  
International Institute for Vital Registration and Statistics

The Alexandria Hospital

Dorothy Linkowski  
Coordinator, Physical Medicine

The Johns Hopkins University

Lawrence A. Larsen Ph. D.  
Associate Professor of Education

Silvia Blitzer  
Department of Sociology Graduate Student

The National Youth Work Alliance

William W. Treanor  
Executive Director

Virginia K. Hines  
Director of Training

American Psychological Association

Ellen F. Greenberg  
Administrative Officer for Children Youth and Families

United States Department of Education

Mary Catherine Jennings  
Office of the Deputy Undersecretary for Intergovernmental and  
Interagency Affairs

Coordinación de Apoyo y Asistencia a Personas Deficientes  
Governo de Minas Gerais

José Caldeira  
Coordenadoria de Apoio E Assistencia a Pessoa Deficiente  
Governo de Minas Gerais, Brasil

Fundación Catarinense de Educación Especial Estado de Santa Catarina

Alvaro Oliveira  
Director Técnico de la Fundación Catarinense de Educación Especial  
Estado de Santa Catarina, Brasil

Patronato Nacional de la Infancia- Costa Rica

Luis Vargas  
Director Ejecutivo

Bernal Montes de Oca  
Vicepresidente, Junta Directiva

George Mason University

Fda Valero Figueira  
Professor of Bilingual Special Education

Northern Michigan University

John W. Renfrew  
Professor

Mailman Center

Frances McGrath  
Director Social Work Division

Asociación Argentina de Magistrados y Funcionarios de la Justicia de Menores

Julio José Martínez Vivot (h)  
Presidente de la Asociación de Magistrados y Funcionarios de la Justicia de Menores Juez Nacional en lo Criminal de Sentencia de Menores

Universidade Catolica de Sao Paulo

Elza Ferreira Lobo  
Pontificia  
Universidade Catolica de Sao Paulo

International Social Service

Judith Zeman  
Director

Cruz Roja

Susan Bowers  
Program Specialist Youth Services American Red Cross

Universidad de Puerto Rico

Pedro F. Silva Rufz  
Catedrático Derecho (de Familia) Civil, Incl.  
Derecho de Familia

Free Congress Research and Education Foundation

Patrick Fagan  
Editor of the Family Protection Report

Gallaudet College

Carol Erting  
Research Scientist

Gilberto Delgado  
Dean Graduate School of Academic Affairs

University of Kansas

Conchita Angelli  
Coordinator of International Program

Mabel Tinjaca  
Program Associate  
Bureau of Child Research



Mt. Sinai Hospital N.Y.

Eileen M. Dolan  
Nursing Coordinator

Department of Health and Human Services

Stanley N. Bendet  
Special Assistant for International Affairs

Jaime Manzano  
Deputy Assistant Secretary Human Development Services

Linda A. Vogel  
Associate Director for Management and Program Coordination Office of  
International Health  
Public Health Service

Luisa C. Pollad  
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Specialist

Department of Education

Mary Catherine Jennings  
Senior International Specialist

Department of Health, Montgomery Country

Patricia Chiglino  
Hispanic Psychology Program

Howard University Hospital

James L. Collins  
Chief, Department of Psychiatry

Asociación Nacional de Jueces de Menores de Chile

Ana Luisa Prieto  
Juez de Menores

International Planned Parenthood Federation of New York

Gwen Murray  
Research Assistant

Universidad de Antioquia

Yolanda Turizo de Marin  
Profesora del Servicio de Pediatría Social  
Facultad de Medicina

INVITADOS ESPECIALES

Particulares

Silvia Blitzer

Nancy M. Hines

Oficiales

Saad Z. Nagi  
United States

Pablo Latapí  
México

Benjamín Alvarez H.  
Colombia

Aletha Huston  
United States

Hernán Montenegro  
Chile

Phil Calcagno  
United States

Renan Esquivel  
Panamá

Henry Mass  
Canadá

Israel Wonsewer  
Uruguay

Pedro David  
Austria

Gloria Cumper  
Jamaica

Enrique Hardoy  
Argentina

Diego Carrión  
Ecuador

AUTORIDADES DE LA CONFERENCIA

Presidente

Dorcas Hardy  
Assistant Secretary for Human Development Services  
Department of Health and Human Development Services  
Department of Health and Human Services

Secretario

Rodrigo Crespo Toral  
Director General  
Instituto Interamericano del Niño

G) Plenary Sessions

Six Plenary Sessions were held from 14 to 18 May, including the Closing Session.

The decisions adopted in the preliminary session were ratified at the first plenary session held on May 14, and the Credentials and Style Committees were set up. The following topics were also discussed in that session: Topic I. Societal values and institutions and the place of children: an ecological perspective; Topic II. The value of knowledge and learning: The role of educational and informational institutions.

The second plenary session was held on May 15, and the following subjects were discussed: Topic III. The value of well-being and the role of health care institutions; Topic IV. The values of security and human dignity: the role of socio-economic support institutions.

At the third plenary session, held on May 15, Topic V. The value of justice and the role of legal institutions, and Topic VI. Children and their Habitat: values and institutions in interaction, were dealt with.

At the fourth plenary session, held on May 16, the national reports were heard of the following Delegations in the order of their presentation: Jamaica, Guatemala, Paraguay, Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, United States of America, Ecuador, Chile and Colombia.

Finally at this session, the President of the Congress made a statement concerning the work of the Committees, and the Representative of the United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organization (UNESCO), Dr. Braulio Orejas Miranda, made a presentation on the activities conducted by that organization particularly on the MAB program, Man and the Biosphere.

At the fifth plenary session, held on May 18, the meeting considered the Reports of the Rapporteurs of the four Working Committees; draft resolutions presented by these committees were discussed and approved; the Report of the Credentials Committee was received and approved and an agreement was adopted on the work of the Style Committee, in the sense of entrusting the Inter-American Children's Institute, with sending out a complete set of the adopted resolutions to the Members of the Committee for them to return to the Institute the revised texts within 30 days, in order to distribute the final version to the Delegates attending the XVI Congress.

Finally, at the closing session, also held on May 18 the audience was addressed by the Delegate of Uruguay, Prof. Teresita Farias de Pastorel and by the President of the XVI Pan American Child Congress, Miss Dorcas R. Hardy.

The Delegate of Uruguay spoke on behalf of the participants to the XVI Pan American Child Congress, stressing the principles giving rise to the creation of the Institute, principles underscoring human value and how it is possible to technically address the safeguarding of a happy childhood within an integrated and harmonious family. She also underlined the need that the member States continue providing their support to the Inter-American Children's Institute, through new contributions, approaches and ideas. She expressed the need, as well, that the authorities of the various governments be receptive as to what can be done for children and their families, not through a patronizing attitude, but through reciprocity and co-participation. Finally, she congratulated the President of the Congress for the diligent way in which she conducted the debates.

In turn, the President of the Congress expressed her satisfaction for the meeting having addressed the situation of the child seriously and constructively. She stated that during the Congress a genuine concern had emerged for the future of children, wherefore, it was expected that the participants would go back to their countries and institutions with the firm belief that through cooperation, the bases would be laid down for a society worthy of our children. In the end, she thanked the Delegates attending the Congress for their cooperation.

Immediately after, the Congress was closed and the session adjourned.

II - PRESENTATION OF NATIONAL REPORTS

Below are the national reports offered by the member States participating in the Congress in the order of their presentation:

JAMAICA

The Delegate of Jamaica began her statement reflecting on how many times before concepts had been formulated based on the same principles, supporting all that had been said by the participants to this Congress without significant changes happening. One of the deterrants to the progress sought, she expressed, was the scarce economic resources, which have placed severe limits on how much it was possible to accomplish on behalf of the children of the region.

She then pointed out that at the time of giving some order of priority to the problems stated, the countries many times had to make choices between critical needs and critical needs; nonetheless some order of priority should be given, being it essential to establish a plan of action for the next four years. Thus, she added, it could be possible to return to the next Congress not dealing with the same topics without accomplishing much.

Immediately after, she referred to the situation in her country, addressing the topic of public education. She explained that in Jamaica public education has been used to accelerate improvement in areas such as family life education, health and many others, and that one of the greatest deterrants to any type of new approach, any type of education is attitude. People, she said, are doing things in a certain way and it is not easy for them to change; sometimes it might take an entire generation before changes are brought about. For this reason, she explained, even if adult education is important, the education of young children is even more important. In Jamaica, she said, family life education has been introduced at the primary school level starting at the third grade. One of the reasons for this is teenage pregnancy with all the social problems that it entails; of children having children before they finish school, before they themselves even know how to be children, much less how to be mothers, and in some instances fathers. Jamaica has created a day-care center, not residential, for adolescent mothers where they continue their regular academic activities as well as they are given counselling in a number of areas, which helps them to become more mature and whole human beings and more equipped to face their new responsibilities with greater chances of success.

Immediately after, the Delegate of Jamaica stated the need to take steps in the area of legislative reform, concerning situations which need a more realistic regulation, and which often go beyond the national

capacity and require international agreements or conventions. She mentioned the case of parents who abandon the mother and the child and then fail to provide the necessary support inherent to parental duties and rights.

She referred to a particular case where a Jamaican father living in a foreign country, although he had adopted the citizenship of the new country, could not have his children living with him permanently after the mother had abandoned them in Jamaica, because they were born out-of-wedlock and the immigration laws of the new country would not recognize the bond that would give them the right to be considered immigrants; for this reason the children were sent back to Jamaica where they had no relatives, no mother and placed in an orphanage. She stated that it was difficult to understand why the countries of the region could not face reality in 1984 and get rid of those archaic laws that were made such a long time ago, unreal in those days and even more unrealistic in these days.

The Delegate also referred to the need of urgently addressing the topic of nutrition which is also cause for concern in her country. She pointed out that this has become a critical area not so much because of the lack of food but because a taste has been developed over the years for some imported foods, neglecting the country's own food, which if used properly and combined properly could contribute to improve the nutrition of the population.

Finally she referred to the need of training women in non-traditional skills giving them the opportunity of participating in the labor force in an equal footing with men, leading them to non-traditional areas where they can earn as much as men. Among other things, she explained that this is fully justified because at least 30 percent of families have women as heads of households, because even when there is a man he is just there as a figure head and not really the breadwinner of that family.

#### GUATEMALA

Immediately after, the Delegate of Guatemala, took the floor and informed that he would present some video cassettes to illustrate his statement, and that he had selected the most important ones since time was so limited.

He made the presentation and informed that he had already the opportunity of participating in four Pan American Child Congresses wherefrom some repetitive recommendations have been arrived at, and that they had not always been implemented. However, he stressed, in his country efforts have been made towards complying with such resolutions, although not always outstanding results have been achieved.



The Delegate placed emphasis on the importance of keeping on dictating resolutions concerning general education, as the basis to getting a higher level education, since in the Americas there are countries, such as Guatemala, with a huge number of illiterates who have no access to any type of education. He also underscored the need of arriving at recommendations more fitting to the needs of the peoples.

He expressed his gratitude for the attention the participants had paid to his statement and offered audiovisual material that he had brought, which he said, was available to the Delegates who wished to see it at some other time.

#### PARAGUAY

The Delegate of Paraguay began his presentation with a brief description of his country. Paraguay has an area of 400 thousand Km<sup>2</sup> right at the heart of South America, surrounded by three countries, particularly two large ones such as Argentina and Brazil, with a population of nearly 3 million people, with a predominantly rural population, 63 percent of them living in the country. Of this population nearly 51 percent is under 19 years of age. Asunción, the capital is the largest city with only 600 thousand people. There are problems which are acute in some places while in Paraguay are only beginning, but are not felt as much as in other places. Delinquency in the form of juvenile organized gangs is virtually inexistent. Streets may be walked in with no fear of being assaulted by a juvenile delinquent. Nor is there any problems of organized delinquency at adult level. At this stage Paraguay has enough energy. The largest hydroelectric dam of the world is being constructed jointly with Brazil. And another is being constructed with Argentina. This energy, which is vital to development is introducing and will introduce deep changes in the national structures. Besides, population growth is a point of concern to Paraguay for the fact that the care services to be supplied to the youth of tomorrow, must necessarily have a wider scope than the ones offered today, as the Paraguayan Delegate informed.

Then, the Delegate referred to a specific experience related with the new legislation on the protection of minors, which is the most recent achievement of the country in the field of minors. In 1979, in opportunity of the celebration of the International Year of the Child, a Committee that worked since mid-1978, passed a draft law, which after several legislative debates from 1979 to 1981, became in 1982 the New Code on Minors. In its elaboration the committee had the advice of the Inter-American Children's Institute.

He continued his presentation expressing that the law is still in force and the institutions created by this law have been also enforced

quite recently. This Code of the Minor is a substantive code, since it contains provisions protecting the minor, it is a code of form because it establishes the procedure to be used in achieving this protection, and it is a code of organization, because it lays down the functions and the best operation of the child protection institutions. And its scope is such that includes not only minors in irregular situations, abandoned, abused minors, but also regulates the life of the unproblematic minor. It is a code containing not only provisions strictly concerning the minor, but also the opportunity was seized to reform the Civil Code, introducing institutions which belong to the Family Code.

In order to sanction this Code, the Delegate explained, it was resorted to essentially Latin-American sources since even though the Paraguayan problems are slightly different from those of other Latin-American countries, the experience of countries such as Chile, Uruguay, Brazil, and Venezuela, served as groundwork for codification. He added that the passed law, is above all, a code establishing norms of public order. The lawyers, he stated, place special emphasis on this owing to the fact that individual persons may not waive its provisions. He added that it is a code particularly focusing on the minor proper, who is considered a person with rights of its own. The family structure is going to be established surrounding the minor, stating that the family is organized for the protection of the minor. The Delegate added that the fundamental principle is that the minor is to be treated within his own family context rather than by institutions that may be costly, but that as reported experience from other countries, have often been unsuccessful. It is also established that the family is to take care of the child's needs; that the family should be protected; that there must be parental responsibility; that the woman should be protected. And finally, the Delegate of Paraguay pointed out, it is established that the State has a subsidiary responsibility, which it cannot waive, in those instances in which the family is not the safest place for the children's protection.

Since the Code of the Minor has a wide scope, he explained, the opportunity was seized of including some substantial norms regarding filiation, comprehending only two types: in-wedlock and out-of-wedlock filiation, obliterating therefore the difference among illegitimate, adulterine or incestuous children, and simply establishing a name for these children, which should be considered out-of-wedlock children, having the same rights than the in-wedlock children, exception made of the right of inheritance from parents. He explained that an absolute equality among children would have been ideal but that societies in the region make slow progress and that the juridical norm may not be more advanced than the event itself because the norms then become inapplicable.

He explained that the new legislation also regulates parental authority, which is understood not as the authority invested on the father but rather as a child protection institution; also a new institution is introduced therein: prenatal assistance; the woman who is pregnant, proving that she is pregnant, may file a claim against the father for support since the moment of pregnancy. There are provisions

on guardianship, adoption and foster placement, as an institution in lieu of parental authority, in instances in which the parents are dead or gone or fail to take up their responsibility. There are also regulations on child labor, when there is a violation of norms concerning security in labor, working hours, or the specific working conditions. There is also an interesting legislation novelty, which contemplates the situation of juvenile independent workers, such as bootblacks on the streets, candy-peddlers, newspaper boys, having a particular tendency to the regulation of these activities towards its gradual eradication.

These substantive institutions, the Delegate added, need of others to facilitate their enforcement. In that sense protection institutions are established at two levels. One, at administrative level of the executive authority through a General Bureau of Child Welfare; the other, at judicial level, through a jurisdiction specialized on minors.

The administrative function, performed by the General Bureau of Child Welfare, under the Ministry of Justice and Labor, the Delegate explained, plays a mainly technical support role, with specialized personnel working in activities within juvenile courts; a preventive role, striving to tackle problems before they arise; a pre-judicial role, since individuals are forced to resort first to the General Bureau on Child Welfare when problems are not serious; a coordinating role, since it is the institution responsible for policy-making in child protection and for coordinating the work of private and state agencies working in the protection of minors. At judicial level, special first instance courts on the protection of minors are established, as well as a tutelage court of first instance and a correctional court of first instance. The latter deals with all problems of the child behavior, such as minors running away from home, youngsters under 14 years of age who break the law, or minors under 20 years of age who are morally or physically at risk. The tutelage court of minors, takes care of matters that have to do with the filiation, parental authority, guardianship, maintenance obligations and child labor. This is in fact, he explained, a family court, except that it does not deal with marriage, divorce or inheritance matters.

Finally, the Delegate indicated that within the new child protection system there is a court of appeals for minors; a second instance where the decisions adopted by the first instance judges are reviewed; and there are auxiliary institutions to the juvenile court judges which are the attorneys dealing with minors' problems on behalf of the State and the specialists of the General Bureau of Child Protection who are responsible for the preparation of specialized reports for the courts.

MEXICO

The Delegate of Mexico expressed that his country is learning through its history, while embellishing it and adjusting it to its present situation, weaving a future desideratum, as a result of the planned situation and not, of chance. This way of acting, he added, has permitted Mexico to look upon its problems and confront them through national participation and international assistance.

It is not possible to act through urgency, he indicated, but through foresight. Fate will doubtlessly trap those who lack this perspective, since fate is unpredictable and man may not be subject to its whims. However, in the 70's, the Delegate explained, the sensation of being caught up by fate prevailed in various areas and organizations, making it necessary for others to study programs and explore strategies. There was a tendency to combine research with action and conciliate the thesis upheld by thinkers and theorists with the activities of the executives, with a view to overcoming incommunication between speculators and decision-making individuals. Despite some efforts, the lack of communication and coordination in the field of health, brought about certain degree of duplication, a non-utilization of resources available and an unequal growth among social assistance institutions as compared to those addressing their actions to the population as a whole.

For this reason, he expressed, annual programs became five-year and ten-year programs, breaking the old-standing Mexican tradition of planning for a six year period, that is, for every presidential term, because it was soon evident that people's realities and the great human processes exacted much more time. A new approach was adopted: the understanding prevention and solution of the problems.

He continued informing that as of 1982, health in Mexico significantly changed; in the first place, the various institutions were grouped by sectors with the responsibility of running the National Health System, composed of three areas, which although different from each other in essence, are interrelated in practise: medical care, public health and social assistance; in the second place, the possibility was explored of decentralizing, multiplying and updating, the administration of health actions at country-wide level. From this frame of reference arises the new concept of social security, which emerging since the XVI century, surely to curb the clash between the Spanish and Indian groups, is focused on encouraging attitudes of peaceful coexistence and solidarity, and why not, of commitment with each other, which gradually translates into subjectivity and good will in the law. In early 1983 the Constitution incorporates the right to health-care, thus social assistance becoming a priority action of the State.

As to its definition, he indicated that social assistance has much to do with the leitmotif of the Congress which is dealing with the

ecological approach. Therefore, the concept is taken as the group of actions that attempt to change as much as possible the adverse circumstances that hamper the integral development of the individual, the family and the community. In the past, actions on behalf of the minor were fragmented or individualized not trying to find a true solution to what was isolating him from his natural setting.

At present, the conception and action in Mexico, the Delegate said, are bound for structure. Namely, the child in his environment within a nucleus and extended family and within his community. This is why the responsibility of welfare was assigned to a national agency.

This agency is called National System for Integral Family Development and is endowed with juridical definition and basis which permits it to conduct its technical actions simultaneously, steadily and integrally through nine specific programs. But, he added, these programs are conceived through an integral approach, are implemented in a simultaneous fashion and are sustained over time. Perhaps now Mexico learned from strategy than from results, and surely more from its effects.

These programs, he said, are always targeted to the mentioned trilogy: individual, family, community. No matter whether we are dealing with social and family integration, assistance to the destitute, assistance for education or nutrition, juridical counselling, civic, cultural and sports promotion, rehabilitation, community development or research, as clear-cut programs, they exact from us, here and now, actions that will benefit every child, all children, the family as a whole and all the families, every community and all communities, whenever they are at a social, economic and cultural disadvantage.

He stressed that the individual may not enjoy an optimum health when lacking education, adequate housing, creativity, food, work or facilities, and that is the reason why in Mexico, programs are focused on meeting all these requirements substituting cure for prevention, benefaction for the recognition of rights and the professional specialization for interdisciplinary participation.

If each child, each family and each community participates actively, not just as recipients of the efforts of the DIF, then the action takes place within a true national unity.

On the other hand, history has shown that for assistance to be truly efficient, it must be carried out on a temporary basis lest "assistance professionals" sprout, depending indefinitely from the institution.

The success of social assistance, the Delegate expressed, must be necessarily gauged by the decrease in number of beneficiaries rather than by the implementation of coverages or the increased number of infrastructures. Prevention and the promotion of conscious protagonists with true development alternatives constitute the focal point of assistance, while the new activities are doubtlessly formed through work.

The results of assistance are reflected in daily living, and that is the goal sought, he added.

The Delegate expressed that the trend is to work in, with and for Mexico, with its minor, adolescent, adult and aged population, learning from it and serving it. What is not suitable for those supplying the assistance, is neither suitable for the population to whom the assistance is targeted.

He added that the Mexicans are beginning to believe in themselves, to trust and be generous with the new techniques and programs capable of overcoming isolation, fostering participation and of ameliorating the living conditions of the poor. This program confluence is also exacting the institutional concourse and the coordination of actions.

That is what is being done, in Mexico, he added; no spectacular results have been attained, but models and strategies have been devised. Attention is focused on the family. The child is the consequence and outcome of a family process, and he should be protected.

He continued expressing that interinstitutional and intersectorial actions should be undertaken through the contribution of human resources, time, availability and commitment. The Institution, he explained, deals with screening, channelling or referral of abandoned children, juvenile offenders in a process of rehabilitation, abused children or children in irregular situations.

He concluded his statement expressing that there is a belief on that sick individuals from the physical, mental or social standpoint makes the system fail; therefore is it sought to have healthy men that may imply a potential. This is the challenge facing Mexico today: to strive for the welfare of destitute population, and particularly the Mexican children yet to be born.

## ARGENTINA

The Delegate of Argentina, at the beginning of his presentation mentioned the importance of the ethical value and the socio-political framework from the ecological and system standpoint, as determinants of the environmental situation. His country, Argentina, has both favorable and extremely rigorous environmental conditions for children. It likewise has favorable attitudes and also depredating attitudes towards the habitat. He acknowledged the fact that in his country, the ultimate cause for environmental problems may be both the lack of development and the economic growth oriented by principles of consumption and profit. For that reason, he added, for Argentina, the most important limitations to social development and of environmental improvement and protection are the social and political limitations, although not failing to recognize the natural determinants of human action.

This position, he indicated, asserts the need for an integral development compatible with environmental protection and improvement, whose main axis of concern should be man as an essential part of the life preservation in the planet. In order to illustrate the Argentine situation, he quoted some extracts of the address of the President, Dr. Raúl Alfonsín, to the Legislative Assembly in his country: "When taking office, we received a disjointed country, ruled by the external debt, inflation, recession and the distortion of the economic factors that were and are the heritage left by the successive military governments. Repression, terror, repeated violation of human rights, were the elements composing a dictatorial, socio-political, regressive and elite-governed project that depredated the Republic".

The Delegate continued his presentation giving some examples. Regarding income, salaries came down nearly a 40 percent between 1976 and 1981. The gross industrial domestic product is 14 percent less than in 1974. Cattle-stock lost 5 million 500 thousand head of cattle from 1977 to 1983. External debt went from a little over 7 million dollars in 1975 to 42.600 million dollars in 1983 and at the moment, debt administration costs entail for the country 70 percent of export possibilities. Family food consumption experimented an outright decrease: milk consumption went down 27 percent while beef a 21 percent in a little over 8 years. As to health, he asserted that the sector could not escape the influence of precedent ideologies. Thus, when on the one hand charges were passed for care services which had been traditionally supplied free of charge in the country, and State establishments were closed to the public -reducing their percentage importance from 75 to 65 percent for the benefit of the private sector- on the other hand most technology was centralized, giving rise to a model of complex and costly care-services supply which was also inconsistent with the health needs of the population. Every possibility of control of transnational industries involving drugs and medicines was dismantled. Coverage of a social security system which was 80 percent in 1976, went down to an 60 percent for this year. According to the Delegate, this meant one more impact on the family, which was already vulnerable enough, and one more barrier for the access to benefits of the system.

He then made reference to four specific examples. One is the case of Buenos Aires. The city was really a critical manifestation of the prevailing ideology. It arose through the compulsion of transforming the city into an inhospitable environment for low-income sectors, thus favoring the settlement of social sectors with a higher income capacity, and the elaboration of standards and the carrying out of works that gave shape to a desired city design with middle and upper-middle class guidelines, with no bearing on the needs of most people, and implied the fading out of the neighborhood as emotional and vital functional unit, the eradication of free and common spaces and facilities and the authority of the State in ruling the needs of the intermediate groups. The expulsion of the most vulnerable groups into the peripheral areas, which in turn, were not ready to absorb such demand, implied a deterioration of the way of life of the new locations, particularly with reference to public services such as health, education, sanitation, communications. The mass incorporation of women into the labor market forced the transference of child care into professional third parties, who have proliferated in an explosive and disorderly fashion, a not very adequate solution for child development, or in the worst of cases, resulting into the temporary abandonment of the child, with the subsequent uncontrolled and aimless wandering around and physical-moral danger. The massive presence of children in the city, coming from the urban cone and performing the most varied tasks and activities, ranging from just drifting along to work to actual breaking the law diversely, ends up giving shape to the sad and true end of this project, which is in itself an example of the political and ideological restrictions of the urban ecosystem.

The second example given by the Delegate is quite different from the other; it involves a poor district of Argentina, known as Resistencia at the Paraná Basin, which was flooded as well as Brazil and Paraguay. In those floods 70 percent of the population were underwater, the evacuees were estimated in 40.000 and there were 1.400.000 hectares flooded. This spawned a multitude of problems, the Delegate stated, and in February 1983, 17.000 evacuees were housed in the school buildings at the beginning of the school term and these schools meant 17 percent of the total possibilities for children to attend school. Beyond the devastating nature of the flood, he expressed, the true dimension of the catastrophe is that it affected an extremely vulnerable society, with a peremptory political system which was also non-flexible and crystal-like, incapable of accepting adaptive proposals.

The third example the Delegate used, was directly referred to minors; it dealt with violence and the so called forced abandonment syndrome. The emergence of authoritarian forms of government and the disregard or lessening of human rights, as never seen before in Argentine history, did not only deteriorate the moral legitimacy of the State, but favored the development of a repressive-State image, or even worse, of a criminal State that upset the limits of lawfulness and argued the ethical value of society. According to a publication of the United States of America on human rights and missing persons, it was possible to estimate



that for every million missing adults there were 285 children directly affected. At present there are more than 10.000 adults reported missing at the National Committee on missing persons and the number of destitute minors would be over 25.000, the Delegate expressed.

These children, he continued, have witnessed the forced disappearance of their parents or family and are living as orphans, both from the standpoint of their basic nucleus of psycho-social evolution, and the set of values proposed by society. These children do not believe in the family unit, in the validity of the law, in the sincerity of words condemning violence; have lost their trust in the role of the State, have denied the ability of justice and many of them have lost frames of reference for their personal and social lives.

The responsibility of the State on these facts is clear and forceful, he added, not only because of neglect in complying with its fundamental duty of protecting the essential rights of its people, but because the testimonies, made public, show the intervention of various organs and agents, in the events that brought about the disappearance of the children, as well as in their subsequent fate. There are cases of children who have appeared, who had been placed for adoption with the repression forces themselves, he continued, which has given rise to a very thorny legal issue, and above all a very special human and personal problem. Background information should be collected that will permit to get to establish the identity of the children, communicate this situation to all those involved, to supply special psychological and social assistance and to provide a framework to curb the natural emotions that will flare up as soon as the events become public knowledge, and to juridically channel the situations to formally establish the family status of those involved.

An elucidation of the facts should also be promoted through the media, as the way to repair highly damaged social conscience. This is one more example of how the distortion of the ethical framework and the cogency of an authoritarian socio-political model meant a negative and risky change for the family ecosystem.

The last example used refers to the protection organization in the area of the minor and the family, where it has been possible to clearly detect the weight of the inexistence of a technical-doctrine basis adapted to modern conceptions and of an idoneity compromise in most workers of the sector. The institution as such, could not escape the repressive tendency and even the most advanced proposals ended up by crystallizing into diverse modalities and degrees of inoperationality, either by lack of integration of the programs or by limitation of mere experiences without effective relevance. Thus there were establishments that punished the child through prohibition of visiting with his family on account of some minor misdeed, or a summons through police channels for the minor to join treatment. As a rule, bureaucratic rules consigned the child to the last level of influence within the system, the administrative norms, pressing financial needs, political interests and in some cases even personal interests prevailing over the child as

protagonist. In fact, access to a higher political level of the child's own and personal problems as a person, as the axis and *raison d'etre* of the system was almost impossible, and the bureaucratic requirement was focused on the rest of the mentioned influence levels. A clear example of this situation, he expressed, is that one child, solely on account of becoming a given age, he could go from an external educational system in the community into a closed one in an institution or viceversa, without any type of preparation. He asserted that, as a rule, in the tutelary action of the institution, the detention and admission into treatment prevailed over the discharge and the treatment itself, not there being criteria on vulnerability, risk and opportunity for the implementation of techniques and resources.

Also, an excessive use of summary proceedings was detected, to investigate alleged irregularities which often came to nothing, but that spawned a tough-ruling mentality that restricted the freedom of action and was inserted into the authoritarian ideological framework proper.

He stressed that in taking office the constitutional government, the strength and bases for the reconstruction of the system were sought among the individual and collective efforts of the people working with minors. Participation and dialogue meetings have taken place where the initiatives and problems were considered and analyzed; thereat it was possible to find a common arena towards making room for both personal freedom and social integration.

As an example, he also pointed out the modification of the system of values as agent of change, change dynamics of the ecosystem. A little over 100 days ago the Government of the Republic assumed the institutional pace. This special turn of events leads to presume that most of the other components of the ecosystem remained steadfast in that short period and makes it possible to underscore the modification of the system of values and of authority which provide a frame of reference to personal and community relationships, as more dynamic and identifiable variables. For this reason, both the way in which change was implemented and its subsequent strengthening, are a concrete reality which is important to stress and ponder upon. The extent and impact of change is measured not only in terms of the seriousness of the crisis, but through the fact that since 1922 there was never an Argentine President who could serve his full term and hand office over to another President who in turn could also serve his term, the Delegate stated. All the presidents since 1922, were either overthrown, or the person to whom office was handed over was overthrown. This entails a big effort for the reconstruction of the social security network. The topic of human rights is both the center and axis of most of this change; in this sense, the direct relationship of the modification of the ecosystem with the complete change of the viability and potentiality of families and children is evident. He then referred to the statement of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dante Caputto to the Commission of Human Rights in Geneva on February 27, 1984: "...our country woke up from a very long night in which essential rights for dignity of the human being were brutally ignored, diminished or violated; unfortunately the emergence of

authoritarian forms of government, in restricting political freedom and imposing power by force, provided the right atmosphere for the young people, frustrated and confused, to join the apostles of violence, terrorist groups that advocated violence as the only way out. That was how the naive dialectic speculation -according to which in order to enter paradise it was first necessary to go through hell- led to the domination of a repression based on equally exceptionable methods. Thousands of persons were kidnapped and tortured, children were abducted, properties of missing persons were confiscated, panic was caused among the population in general, the manifestation of ideas was drastically censored, any sort of political or union activity was persecuted; vast sectors of the population were starved for the benefit of a few privileged financial groups. The military regime claimed that they were fighting on behalf of freedom and democracy, but it was obvious that they were destroying everything that allegedly were preserving. The prevailing thought was that any means were valid, all values could be ignored, the institutions could be abrogated". The Delegate quoted a statement included in the speech of the Minister of Foreign Affairs: "in fighting the devil with the arms of the devil, Argentina became a living hell". The Delegate continued citing the Minister's address in Geneva: "our philosophy on this topic may be briefly broken into the following basic principles; human rights are rights that men possess for the only reason of being men, regardless of any contingent circumstance". Every Government loses its moral validity if repeatedly violates the fundamental rights of man, since the basic justification of the governments precisely lies on the preservation of such rights. The major goal of human rights is the protection of the vital interests of each individual, as opposed to the claims of other individuals or society as a whole. Human rights are violated not only by action, but also by omission. The preservation of human rights is a legitimate aim of any individual or association, and it goes beyond the limits of sovereignty and the power of the state, and affects the international community".

The Argentine Delegate ended his presentation expressing that the meaning and the in-depthness of the characteristics of the ecosystem which influence the physical and social welfare of the child and the family, then appear determined by that structure of values. The values concerning human dignity are the groundwork on which plans, programs and activities should be based, to achieve a better quality of life, for they favor development of creative thinking, participation and solidarity, and promote making room for indispensable freedom for the personal and social growth of an harmonious relationship of man and his environment.

## BRAZIL

At the beginning of her statement, the Delegate of Brazil thoroughly described her homecountry, in order to place her report of national experiences in an adequate framework. Brazil is located at the central-eastern region of South-America. It is the largest in Latin America, with a fully contrasting nature; of ancient and very recently formed terrains, with very hot regions all the year round, and regions where there is snow in winter; regions where the land is flooded by permanent and abundant rainfall and regions where it hardly rains in months and even years. This happens, she explained, because Brazil, with 8,5 million km<sup>2</sup> is as large as a continent in itself. It has 120 million people, and 58,5 million of them are under 20 years of age. Population growth rate is 2,5 percent in one year.

Brazil was discovered in 1500 by the Portuguese, and was a colony until 1815 where it became a kingdom. It became an Empire separately in 1822 when they gained independence from Portugal, and in 1889, declared itself a Republic. It is now a Federative Republic, divided into 23 States, 2 Territories and the Federal District, wherein its Capital, Brasilia, is located.

Its vast territory contains distinct geographical areas: North, North-East, Middle-West, South-East and South. It has a 7.900 kms coastal strip on the Atlantic Ocean. The towns and villages emerged firstly along the coast. A slow process of inland settlement led to the concentration of most of the people on the coast, a situation that remains unchanged. It is a tropical country; most of the territory is located between the Equator and the Tropic of Capricorn. However, it has five different types of climate. It has a luxuriant vegetation. More than half of the Brazilian territory is composed by large rain forests and the largest, located at the Northern region, is known as the Amazon rain forest. All the characteristics of the equatorial jungle, coexist here with great vigor. It is the most extraordinary manifestation of wildlife vegetation in the world. It constitutes a dense, tangled growth, shutting out much of the sunlight and sheltering an enormous variety of animals, flowers, fruits and luxuriant vegetation.

Brazil has the largest reserve of fresh water, as the Delegate expressed. The Amazon alone is the largest waterway in the world: 6.577 Kms.

Three races mixed into one to build-up a nation: the indian, the white and the black. These forces have been tempered over time and from that combination a new product emerged, a product with nonreversible singular characteristics.

In the course of civilization, the Brazilians became the fruit of three great memories that still are kept in the spirit of each Brazilian. Despite of their being of different descent, the Brazilians look upon themselves as the offspring of the motherland that they helped to build-up.

The Portuguese carried to Brazil their uses and customs, their glories and ambitions, as well as their language. The Portuguese language was then enriched by the contact with the natives and the Africans; it evolved and turned more "Brazilian". Conquering the long rivers, the high mountains and covering enormous distances, the same language is spoken from the Amazon River down to the Rio Grande do Sul. This language is also spoken in all the other continents of the world.

Most Brazilians have but one faith: they are Catholics. However, there is religious freedom up to the point that a distinct syncretism is observed in all cultural manifestations.

The Brazilians, the Delegate explained, are proud of the acts and deeds of their forebearers. They recognize having inherited from them an immense undivided territory and a priceless past. Its preservation and progress depend more than anything of the national unity evidenced by the uncompromising strengthening of their sovereignty. This is the reason why all the peoples are welcome with the spirit of those that respect each other in independent and friendly solidarity.

Because of the continental size of the country -the Delegate explained- it has been always difficult to carry the voice of all Brazilians to each little corner of the country. The problem of communications is proportionate to the size of the territory. A Brazilian telecommunications company (EMBRANTEL) was created for its solution, carrying out a widespread program, ranging from urban telephone systems to international television broadcasts. As member of the INTELSAT world system, Brazil has a country-wide coverage through a micro-wave network. Soon it will have its own satellite. EMBRANTEL made it possible to reach by telephone the farthest regions of the world.

She also indicated that the architecture and urbanism are another demonstration that rapid progress found solutions but created new problems; until 1933 cities were built according to European tastes and styles. As from that moment costumes, tastes and obviously, styles, experienced outright change. The colonial buildings that were preserved, the rigid lines of the Parisian architecture, seen everywhere, coexist with new architectural forms that the Brazilians have learned to admire: plain buildings, lighted and functional ones. Thus Brasilia, the capital, was born.

As large as a continent; with the obvious advantages and shortcomings arising from this fact; with a mostly tropical territory, with all the subsequent problems; having huge expanses of unexplored and undeveloped land with an ill-distributed and heterogeneous population, still in full formation process; undergoing an intense urbanization process; struggling against far-off distances; with distinct regional differences, that is Brazil, by and large. Its problems are compatible with its size and greatness. Much has been done. But no matter how much is done there is still a long way to go.

Then, referring to the problems afflicting Brazil, the Delegate mentioned the area of underprivileged minors, in which she is working through a governmental position. Brazil, she expressed, is an ecological paradise that -for this reason perhaps- is a target for development insensitiveness and irresponsibility sheltering shameful and destructive greed. That was the reason -she expressed- for participating in the Congress, because she had the hope of witnessing the formulation of concrete strategies that may help children to master and improve their "environment", beating "developmentism" for the benefit of development.

She then pointed out that the societies we live in need focus their attention on the existence of the child and the adolescent, for various reasons, but mainly for a very important and simple one: with greater or lesser violence, with greater or lesser evidence, they have been excluded from the harmonious nature-man-culture setting that defines common good craved for by all people and all nations. Millions of children and adolescents have been marginalized around the world and marginalization is the denial of access to the benefits of nature, the benefits of culture and, therefore, the benefits that both from a social and personal standpoint man has the right to enjoy: education, health, feeding, housing, recreation, family and social security.

Based on the data elicited through the Demographic Census of 1980, the social environment of Brazil exhibits imbalanced characteristics. The Delegate offered some significant data of the situation of the Brazilian society: Total population: 120.179.300 (1981); young population rate; 48,5 percent (58.300.000 in the period from 0 to 19 years); economic marginalization rate (head of family with a monthly income under 2 minimum salaries -U\$S 83): 49,8 percent; school attendance rate (period from 0 to 19 years: 18,8 percent); rate for adequate basic sanitation services: only 45,4 percent of the population live in dwellings with adequate sanitation facilities; hospital-care services rate: 4,29 percent beds per 1000 inhabitants; urbanization rate: from 1960 with 45 percent of the population in urban areas to 1980 with 67,5 percent of the population in urban areas. Accelerated urbanization, marked distortions in the income distribution, housing inadequacy, nutrition deficiencies, shortcomings in the education and health services, precarious sanitation, are the principal indicators of this disquieting imbalance of "social ecology".

The Brazilians, the Delegate explained, are aware that such difficulties, which are a source of concern to them, may also be found to a greater or lesser extent in other countries. They are neither as irresponsible as overlooking the internal causes of such situation, nor so naive as ignoring the intricate and specific interferences of an economic order which is not internationally bound to more human and solidary values, nor do they compromise.

The problem of the minor in the country arises when it is ascertained that most part of the Brazilian population lives on the

fringe of the socio-economic and cultural process. It would be too light a statement to say that the problem of the minor also exists in the most developed societies or that it adopts another patterns. It obviously exists but that does not erase the present. It exists, with those characteristics, and those problems. The Brazilian minor in an irregular situation, she stated, is an underprivileged child, who has been abandoned, or is socially maladjusted or a delinquent. He is here and now, she insisted, in a society in which 49,8 percent of families are underprivileged for economic reasons.

To solve the problem of the minor is for Brazilians to face the solution of the social problem. Therefore the Government created the National Foundation of Child Welfare, through Law No.4.513, dated December 1, 1964, laying down the bases for the National Policy on Child Welfare.

In the initial terms of reference, the National Policy on Child Welfare outlined what was clearly ascertained twenty years later: the answer to the problem of the minor impacted by the marginalization process it is only viable and coherent in the context of an articulate Social Policy based on the family, the original community, and the environment where the minor lives. In other words, and in keeping with the jargon of this Congress, she indicated, the answer lies on the respect for the original ecological context. But this problem has already this "ecological niche" which has neither been preserved nor respected. The underprivileged minor is already on the fringe.

In Brazil it falls upon FUNABEM to promote welfare, as head of a system, and each Unit of the Federation has governmental agencies and private entities devoted to child care. The purpose of this System is to care for abandoned or delinquent children or adolescents. It is also a responsibility of FUNABEM to participate in the integrated effort of the education, health, nutrition, housing, recreation systems and others addressed to those minors, which was agreed to call "underprivileged", that is, those whose families are in precarious socio-economic conditions.

The Brazilian proposal for action, the Delegate expressed, is a proposal for education and social integration, based on basic education, in education for work, encompassed by real opportunities for money-earning and for community participation. This proposal is also based on the building-up and transformation of the environment, so that the minor and the adolescent, as human beings, may interrelate and be mainstreamed into that relationship nature-man-culture that we are talking about. The answer is both valid and indispensable, according to the Brazilian Delegate to the XVI Pan American Child Congress, for those minors who, for some reason, violated the rules of the Penal Code. In Brazil, the minimum age of criminal responsibility is 18 years, and before that age his case falls under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Courts. Education towards social integration, and towards community participation with a view to work, is the only acceptable way of treatment for the juvenile offender. The Delegate expressed her

repudiation to the idea of reducing the age of criminal responsibility, for considering it both inconsistent and fallacious. That does not mean that she, in her capacity as educator, is liable to confound the concept of penal imputability and moral responsibility. The juvenile offender may not be imputed but that does not mean that he is either irresponsible or not aware of his deeds. And because he is responsible, he is aware of what he is as a human being, what others are as his peers, of what the social group is as his "habitat" of what he did endangering his own integrity; he is aware of the value of others, the importance of the group relationship and of living together. Only this responsible conscience will make it possible for him to grow as a person and a citizen.

Society and each citizen, she indicated, have the right to safety, have the right to be safe from dangerous individuals or delinquents of any age. She also vehemently rejected the concept that this safety may be achieved through incarceration as a penal treatment measure. She admitted that there are exceptional cases in which commitment in an institution is necessary, as the way to educate when the family and the community cannot. But this institutionalization should be effected in the understanding that its purpose is education and not punishment.

She also explained that it was needless to say that not all abandoned or delinquent minors are under the care of the National System on Child Welfare stating that in 1983, 714.000 minors were cared for by the National System on Child Welfare.

Rejected by their families, labelled by the lack of involvement with society, many of these minors are thrown to the streets and parks of large cities. They work sporadically earning little money to live on. Many times the criminal action of adults leads to their exploitation and respectable citizens ignore them. They are boys and girls of the streets. In Brazil, through the support of UNICEF, FUNABEM and the Ministry of Social Security and Welfare, work methodologies that several communities and institutions develop with these children are being scanned. The number is impressive, and the quality of already detected actions which with a multiplier effect reach new working fields, is outstanding.

The Delegate also expressed that it was necessary to ponder on failures and successes. To learn through difficulties, through not easy but true ways, the answers to the problem of the underprivileged minor.

She reiterated that Brazil has a multivariuous and grandiose ecology in its nature, its men and its society. The Delegate expressed that in that grandeur and such diversity lies the difficulty of preserving the fundamental element of the environmental balance: the child. Thus in such variety and greatness the way to solutions will always lie.



The Delegate continued her statement asserting that the social "living together" should be changed. The family, in the first place, is universally recognized as the natural and privileged setting for child and juvenile development. Family education, for the family and in the family, is priority for the balanced and responsible social coexistence. How many children, who are today abandoned children, were born from the irresponsible semen deposited as in a matrix, in a woman who, without wanting to or being prepared for it, became a "mother". How many times the children who are today abandoned, were the offspring of family love which although not clear enough, underestimated the marginality-causing forces of a social cohabitation economically iniquitous, where the privileges are put before the rights and the interests are put before the common good.

The problem of socio-economic and cultural impoverishment of the family and the minor may not be solved through the domestic efforts of each nation alone. There are intolerable vices in the international coexistence, which giving rise to economic imbalances among nations, spawn social situations whose consequences have an impact on millions of human beings. The amorality of a destructive economy development of nature is tantamount to the immorality of a dehumanizing impoverishment of entire social groups.

It is quite irrelevant, she vehemently expressed, to discuss whether impoverishment of the minor was presented on functionalistic or structuralistic bases. It is essential, however that the message be clear enough. The horrible sight of self-destruction, involving health, feeding, and education of children and adolescents. It is criminal to formulate and reformulate speeches and methods when it is recognized that in each abandoned or deprived child there is a social, national and international injustice.

It is fundamental, she warned, to recognize, here and now, that the social living together of a nation and the international relationship do not need of social assistance because it has not solved, it is not solving and will never solve a problem which much deserves it. Justice does not take place through the arbitration of a third party, but it does through an understanding between the parties. Thus, the Delegate asserted, solidarity is the new, true and specific name of justice.

She concluded her statement expressing that she wished once more to propose the UTOPIA, because utopia is not what is impossible to be, but the being which still is not such but that it may come to be. Tomorrow will be the "FOLLOWING DAY" she said. More than that it will be the "FOLLOWING DAY" of millions of children and adolescents who are underprivileged, or that are not now anymore because they died on account of our neglect. Finally she said she wanted to convey to the participants the image of the "FOLLOWING DAY" of growth, of transformation, of deep change that children and adolescents will build-up in the solidary freedom of international, national, local, family and personal justice.

## BOLIVIA

The Delegate of Bolivia in giving her statement referred to the ecological situation of the child in her country, which, she indicated, is now severely imbalanced on account of economic and social factors and of weather problems that have caused important natural disasters. Among the causes she cited migrations from rural settlements to urban settlements, as the main aftermath of the current impoverishment of peasants, which, she asserted, gives rise to grave social conflicts. She also referred to successive "de facto" regimes that have taken place over time in the Government of her country, which had had an impact in the instability of economy by lack of a consistent political line in the last two decades.

In spite of living in the XX century, the Bolivian indians, the Delegate stressed have not changed their way of life which is felt as belonging to times past. In the last thirty two years a single change has taken place in the life of the indian peasantry which amounts to 70 percent of the population: they have gone from slaves exploited by landholders to owners of a small piece of land and to be considered human beings and a free "first-class" citizens.

## UNITED STATES

The Delegate of the United States, Mrs. Dorcas R. Hardy, began her presentation stating that after hearing the speakers and discussants approach the ecological factors, societal values, norms and institutions which impact the problems of children and their families, it may be concluded that there is hope for the children of the Americas. For, if the problems are great, so is the power of the intellect and the spirit of those who are dealing with the problems.

She was also impressed by some of the activities undertaken in the countries, either through national efforts or through the collaboration of the IACI, such as: 1. The consortium the Inter-American Children's Institute has developed in the Caribbean in the area of early intervention and early stimulation, working with families using applied and simplified technology. 2. The efforts of the Institute to develop indicators of risk and to promote community education to reduce risk factors. 3. The efforts of Uruguay to bring educational responsibility to commercial television. 4. The increased use of the media in preschool and special education, and in training parents to take preventive approaches. 5. The Demonstration Resource Center Project, which was initiated in the rural areas to encourage decision-making at the community level.

Then she described some of the approaches developed in the United States to solve the problems of the children of her country, and to current thinking about the shared responsibilities of Government, the business sector, and citizens for their own family members, for their neighbors, and for their communities. Many of the problems facing the United States, she added, have resulted from industrialization. She expressed that some mistakes have been made in her country; the media provide enough information on their failures with respect to drug and alcohol abuse among US children. She also expressed her wish of sharing her experience with the participants to the Congress as the way to avoid some of those problems in the countries as they travel the same economic road. She also wished to tell some of their success stories in the hope that the countries could adapt them to their needs.

In a clear allusion to the need of carrying out decided efforts on behalf of childhood, she quoted President Abraham Lincoln: "A child is a person who is going to carry on what you have started. He is going to sit where you are sitting, and when you are gone, attend to those things which you think are important. You may adopt all the policies you please, but how they are carried out depends on him. He will assume control of your cities, states and nations. He is going to move in and take over your churches, schools, universities, and corporations. The fate of Humanity is in his hands".

She referred to ecology as a series of concentric circles impinging on child development and undercoring family importance as the first source of nurturance, security and protection for the child, and as the principal institution for transmitting values. It provides the individual a sense of belonging and stability and plays an important role in helping individuals to understand and accept responsibility for themselves, for others, for their community, and for society as a whole. Children need parental love and guidance to reach their fullest potential. They function most successfully when parents define values, set goals and provide stability for them. It is through the commitments made in families that both parents and children experience the value of responsibility, authority and duty in their most basic forms. Because of this, children need families.

E. Schaeffer, in her book, WHAT IS A FAMILY?, described the family as, "an ecologically balanced environment, the birthplace of creativity, a formation center for human relationships, a shelter in time of storm, an economic unit, an educational control, blended balances, and a museum of memories".

She warned that not always, families may provide the protections and positive reinforcements needed for sound growth and development. Thus, a first priority must be to strengthen families and to improve family support systems. In the United States in the late seventies, there were half a million children living in foster care --out-of-home care with another family or in an institution. Foster care which was meant to be temporary often continued for two years or more-- a long time

in the life of a child. Steps were taken to review each case to determine whether the child's own family situation could be helped and the child returned home. Where this was not possible and it was clear that the child could never return to his own family, the child was freed for adoption. Special efforts were made to place children in adoptive homes-- including older children, sibling groups, and children who were handicapped or had other special needs. As a result of the mentioned efforts the number of children in temporary care was reduced by fifty percent. The Delegate underscored that placement of these children in warm, loving, nurturing, permanent family situations was an essential investment in the future.

Continuing with her report she noted that support for families can not wait until remedial action is required. It has to start before the child is born. Research undertaken indicates that during the nine months preceding birth, when the fetus is the most vulnerable, both mother and child need to be protected. She pointed out that the principal threat to the survival of the infant and its subsequent good health are low weight and congenital birth defects, being the latter a factor associated with increased occurrence of mental retardation, growth and developmental disorders, and disorders of the central nervous system.

The Delegate listed some situations that may have an incidence on this such as the diet, economic status, the age of the mother, use of alcohol, cigarettes, and drugs, etc. drawing attention to them as important aspects to bear in mind.

She expressed also that many ecological factors were outside the control of the family including institutions which have evolved to assist individuals in the society.

She explained that historically in the United States, an informal partnership had existed between government at several jurisdictional levels and the voluntary, non-profit, philanthropic organizations concerned with matters of social welfare and human development.

In the fifty years following the great depression, the United States witnessed a tremendous expansion of social welfare programs. Public attention was drawn to a variety of social needs, and policies and programs grew to encompass entire populations of at-risk groups in the nation--the poor or otherwise disadvantaged, vulnerable children, the aged, the disabled, minority groups, etc. Objectives were set for the reduction of social need, and intervention for remediation and prevention were increasingly viewed as the responsibility of government.

The consequent demand for increased services led to the uncontrolled expansion of categorical services and an inordinate increase in the provision of services by professionals. In its enthusiasm to meet its perceived responsibility for provision of services, the Government heavily subsidized training in social services, mental health services, health services, etc. Private and voluntary agencies proliferated; and

became themselves more and more dependent on government funding, often resulting in duplicative, fragmented and overlapping services. The combined costs for the myriad programs which evolved exceeded all expectations. This confusion of programs and agencies also often made it difficult for a needy person or family to find the right service.

The increasingly onerous cost of these programs led to scrutiny of their uncontrolled growth and has brought their effectiveness into question. After serious examination the conclusion arrived at was that the balance of responsibility for social programs at different levels of government, and between the public (governmental) sector and the private sector -including voluntary agencies, businesses, industry, and the family- were in serious need of readjustment.

At this stage, the Delegate informed that there is now a resurgent belief that in a society such as the United States, individuals, their families, and the communities in which they live, should have the primary responsibility for determining their own needs, and for addressing those needs as they believe best.

She then expressed that governments have a role to play in laying the foundation for a free society in which the nation is secure and the rights of its individual citizens are protected. They also have a role in meeting the material needs of those who are unable to provide for themselves. She pointed out some aspects on which should be the role of the federal government in addressing social problems:

- To adopt and implement national policies or programs aimed at promoting economic growth and prosperity and thereby reducing the need for social services;
- To address those human service needs that cannot be addressed at lower governmental levels and that require inter-state or national orientation for effective implementation;
- To provide national leadership in: The development of cost-effective methods of addressing needs;
- To direct federal budgetary support for services towards those most in need.

Immediately following she defined the goals of her country towards a policy which should promote economic and social self-sufficiency, a policy which should emphasize a strong economy and economic growth to create real job opportunities for the poor, a policy which will prevent many of the social ills for which remedial programs have proliferated in the past, a policy increasing the resources available to local governments and to the private sector from which they can address the needs of the dependent poor more effectively and at lesser cost; a policy which should not be intrusive and should return decision-making to the people; a policy in which the national government should address those needs which cannot be met at the state or local level.

She cited a few examples of programs which are underway to illustrate the points she tried to make:

1. The head start program, a child-oriented, comprehensive program for disadvantaged preschool children which has as one of its activities, to teach parents communication skills that are important to successful parenting and to building family strengths.
2. The Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980 which reversed pattern of sometimes hasty removal of children from their families. Now the direction is geared to preventing family breakup by emphasizing strategies which prevent unnecessary placement in foster care, providing greater protection for those children who must have foster care, and reuniting children with their families.
3. Another families initiative, encourages communication between runaway and homeless youth and their families. The government provides partial support to state and local governments and to non-profit agencies and coordinated networks of agencies to develop or strengthen community-based centers that tries to reunite these children and teenagers with their families. The program further attempts to strengthen family relationships and to encourage stable living conditions.
4. It is also sought to increase employees' accessibility to child care resources. Employers who have sponsored day care programs have quickly learned that it is good not only for their employees but also for their companies in terms of higher employee morale, lower absenteeism and increased loyalty. This is an important effort because 2 of 5 U.S. families use child care.
5. In another activity older volunteers are linked with pregnant high-risk women, especially teen mothers and their infants.
6. The foster grandparent program is another fine example of involving older Americans with handicapped children where new relationships may bring genuine mutual love and respect.
7. Finally, federal policies which impact on families are reviewed and ways are examined in which we can work across the federal government to support family stability.
8. The adolescent family life program, created under legislation introduced by Senator Denton, is unique in that it addresses the total adolescent pregnancy problem, its cause and consequences, in a comprehensive fashion.
9. The Child Support Enforcement Program while not a part of the families initiative program, per se, it underscores the goals of family supports for a huge and fast-evolving new type of American

family--one headed by a single parent, usually a woman. Although it is a federal program, its outreach is to the states, which collect the child support from recalcitrant parents, and to the local courts which order the child support. It has the potential to rectify a critical problem: poverty experienced by women, many of them middle class who find themselves bereft of child support funds legally due them. \$4 billion is owed to us children by absent parents.

The Delegate of the United States concluded her statement indicating that the value of the family to the well-being of children transcends national boundaries. Whether concern for the children of a favela in Rio or for a child that fled his home and ran away to New York City brought us here is immaterial. What matters is the spirit of caring, the will to strengthen the family, and the desire to share--with compassion and understanding-- the problems and the successes of the countries of the region.

#### ECUADOR

The Delegate of Ecuador expressed that Ecuador has the same problems and the same situations as reported by the delegates of other countries present; poverty, destitution, urban concentration, immigration, in sum, all the problems posed by modern society.

As to the national experience of Ecuador, the Delegate quoted the Mayor of Quito: "Quito is a city to live-in" describing it as the carrier of a purely ecological concept. He also said that Quito has been declared by UNESCO as a world artistic heritage. All this makes Ecuadorians believe that environmental problems belong only to developed countries; that Ecuador has a long way to go before a similar situation arises. There is a notorious lack of scientific information on the resources available in the country, he added. Today, scientific research on the natural environment is blooming, although not enough to address the growing needs to be faced. People keep on thinking that the country is some sort of world ecological reserve. They are used--perhaps due to community spirit-- to praise so much the tropical forests of the eastern regions, the coast, the productive valleys and the enchanting Galapagos Islands, that they forget to ask how much of all that is wasted daily, how long will it last, and how intensively it is spent.

Another problem facing Ecuador, he pointed out, is the rapid population growth beyond control, since this country has one of the highest birth rates in Latin America. For some scientists, Ecuador may be ready now for a loss of ecological balance, which is in full process and should be a cause of concern. However, at present there is no coherent set of initiatives striving to find permanent and sound solutions. Neither are there signs of environmental policies that may reveal ways out of this situation. The current Constitution of the Republic, in turn, does not even make any specific reference to the

man-nature relationship. The National Development Plan hardly dedicates some paragraphs to environmental problems, the Delegate stressed.

As a result of this, he added, the ecological variable has not been considered in depth by the bureaucratic systems of planning, execution and control of State development projects and programs, this situation being encompassed by the lack of human, technical and financial resources addressed to research and detection of environmental problems. There is an absolute lack of consistency among citizens, as a rule, on the problems of the natural environment. People fail to recognize their individual and collective responsibilities with reference to the physical environment, as well as their attitudes and behaviors upon it.

In sum, he expressed, the future Ecuadorian ecological outlook is gloomy. All the above, adding to an underdevelopment such as that of Ecuador, reveals that there is one more limitation to reduce this enormous gap separating poor countries from rich countries. In addition to the traditional dependence which has singled them out from the financial, technological, cultural and political standpoint, for the conduction and support of the weak productive systems, we should consider that now there is integral dependence to face this deterioration. The same may be said about the juridical, educational, political, social, health, and other aspects. Ecuador is being affected by this two-fold circumstances, as a poor country, and of a relative economic and social underdevelopment, in the ambit of Latin-America. It has not enough human resources available, and the institutions never get to meet the needs posed by the new environmental problems. The Ecuadorians, have neither been educated, nor are now being educated for the preservation of nature towards progress and well-being.

The Delegate continued his presentation stating that the Congress was not the right context to make a diagnosis, explain the extent of shortcomings and successes, or to make an inventory of what is there and what is lacking, but rather to contribute to correct the ancestral elements that have led to this situation and arrive at practical solutions. One of such elements may be the unfair practice of land distribution through the law of agrarian reform -he informed- because the small farms are located in the less productive land, not only in quality but because they are in far-off places, virtually severed from any communication.

Then he referred to population growth in his country, which does not contribute to the solution of the present economic and social problems. On the contrary, the high birth rate make this problem even more acute. Population grows at a much more rapid pace than solutions are found for the indispensable natural resources to meet the most pressing needs such as, feeding, basic services on employment, health-care, housing, dress, etc.. He drew the attention of the Delegates to this topic, with so much hearing on the topic of ecology, in order to address the problem of population control.



In the field of health, he expressed, it was necessary to adopt the four strategies proposed by UNICEF, which so far have not been implemented by hardly any of the countries of the region, with the exception, perhaps, of Colombia. The purpose of the program, the Delegate stated, is to reduce child mortality significantly, through promotion of breast-feeding, control of child growth and development, vaccination and oral re-hydration. These are four basic strategies that should be fostered, and was being submitted by his country to the Committee as a proposal.

## CHILE

The Delegate of Chile expressed that the central topic of the Congress strengthened the Inter-American Children's Institute as a vital institution in the planning of housing, health, education, family policies and so forth. She added that from the Congress a compromise should arise of the member States with each other and with the IACI, reciprocally, to face common problems. She also agreed with the Delegate of the United States, who had expressed that in the future the IACI should be the Inter-American Institute of the Child and the Family.

The Delegate then referred to the Chilean experience in child welfare systems: the legislation and the protection of minors and family law in Chile. The welfare system is mainly oriented by the referral of minors through the courts. There are different types of welfare systems, according to the personal requirements of each minor. The Delegate explains that in Chile there are systems on prevention, protection, rehabilitation, behavior rehabilitation, treatment of minors with mental disabilities, etc. The important thing is that the minor be cared for according to his most personal needs.

She continued informing that in 1978, a change took place in the Chilean welfare system, clearly defining the norms for each one of the stages towards child care. And thus, each one of the child care institutions had to strictly observe these norms laid down by the "Servicio Nacional de Menores", which is the agency responsible for the care of the minor in irregular situations.

Then, she explained, it was arrived at the system evaluation stage and at the conclusion, that not everything was right; and for a very important reason: when the minor was ready to leave the system, ¿what would he find? He would find a community or a society which had not been on treatment with specialists as he had. And then the community would not welcome him openly when he came out as he had expected, that is, with open arms. That was quite a misconception, it was not like that at all Society is cruel, and no difference is made between children and adults, between blacks and whites; society welcomes the person when the

person is needed and when it can make a good use of it. This led to a review of all the discharge programs and it has been arrived at a very important conclusions now in Chile.

There is a belief on that labor training of the minor should be necessarily incorporated into the welfare process, the Delegate added, and this is taking place through a joint program with the International Labour Organization that has been a success.

She expressed that follow-up is very important, but with a purpose: the minor smoothly integrated into the community; that has been the lesson of the evaluation: it is essential to think in the discharge of the minor, but making sure that his coming out will make possible an harmonious integration into society, of mutual benefit.

#### COLOMBIA

The Delegate of Colombia, after expressing that he had no opportunity of preparing a written document for his presentation, he underscored that the national perspective in Colombia is a very optimistic one; this optimism increased after hearing the speakers who cited the activities being carried out in Colombia as reference in their papers.

This meant, he stressed, that active work is being undertaken and that valuable diagnosis is being made, although so far there are some difficulties in their application.

He placed emphasis on that peace is a foremost priority in his country, and that no mention has been made to peace in this conference. This is national and international peace. He believed that when in a country there is no peace, it is not possible to truly comply with the goals laid down by the Government and the community.

The Delegate informed on some measures taken by the government of his country towards attaining international peace, being this a concern fully shared by other brother countries such as Mexico, Panama and Venezuela manifested through the creation of the "Grupo Contadora", deeming it necessary to obtain support for the actions that such Group is carrying out, because they are directly addressing child welfare and hence world welfare.

He mentioned that it was difficult to have peace in the Hemisphere as long as there was no correct redistribution of income and the land and as long as millions and billions of dollars were spent in armaments which should otherwise be destined to the welfare of the communities that so much need it.

He informed that for the previously stated reasons, the Delegation of Colombia would propose at committee level the possibility of submitting a note of agreement or a recommendation to the agencies at the highest level such as the United Nations and the Organization of American States, urging these agencies to do their best for the achievement of the long craved for peace in the Hemisphere.

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONGRESS

At the end of the presentation of the national reports, the President pointed out that over the last several days the Congress had the opportunity of setting a theoretical framework of the problem under study, and that, in dividing into working committees, its mission was to develop short term feasible plans of action. She said that there was full awareness on the issues being faced and that on account of that there was perhaps too much pessimism. Problems do exist but there is no reason for not being optimistic, for not having a positive attitude, and not having some beliefs and some hopes. She pointed out that in their capacity of representatives of the respective national leaderships, and since they were in charge of the conduction of the respective areas, the participants to the Congress should take up a positive attitude and that it was possible to come up with perhaps not perfect but possible solutions to economic and social development, by means of a truly integrated and multidisciplinary approach. For this reason, she proposed, the challenge of working in the committees with a very positive approach, taking maximum advantage of abilities to produce ideas that may later be implemented in the Hemisphere through cooperation.

III - STATEMENT OF THE DELEGATE OF THE REGIONAL OFFICE OF UNESCO ON THE MAB PROGRAM, MAN AND THE BIOSPHERE.

UNESCO

The Delegate of Unesco, from the Regional Office on Science and Technology for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROSTLAC), informed that in 1971, UNESCO initiated its MAB Program, "Man and the Biosphere". This is an inter-governmental program on research, training, education and information, the purpose of which is to develop rational bases for the utilization of resources and for the achievement of a better man-environment relationship. The MAB program, he added, is not only concerned with the impact of man on the environment but to a same extent, its activities are centered on the impact of environmental changes on man himself.

He indicated that the program has adopted an integral ecologic approach in all its research and training of human resources activities, which are mainly focused on 14 major comprehensive topics, designed to contribute solutions to the problems posed by the action of various eco-systems.

In over a decade under-funded and staffed with less than ten experts, MAB has implemented over 1.000 in-field projects that are conducted in more than 100 countries involving thousands of specialists.

Perhaps one of the most significant examples evincing the great success of the program and its impact and significance, the UNESCO Representative stated, is the Biosphere Reserves Network which in the short-life of the MAB Program has attained the establishment of over 200 areas of conservation and of the management model as well as of preservation of the world genetic heritage.

Then he reflected on the essential reasons for such success of an international ecological program, quite under-funded and under staffed, which had such unprecedented welcome; since the inception of the Program, the national agencies, the scientific community and the Governments looked upon MAB as their own program and its funding is based mainly on national contributions.

UNESCO, the Delegate stated, is the bearer of past and present knowledge that clearly indicates that no discipline, no matter how scientific or social it may be, can by itself, solve the complex problems of land management. It has been and it is each day more and more evident that it is necessary to pave ways between social and natural sciences, addressing these problems as closed and independent circles. From the start, one of the most important points of concern for the MAB program has been "interdisciplinarity", which constitutes a long accepted reality and whose implementation was difficult for a long time, and that is today

a usual working practice. The best way to attain "interdisciplinarity" spawns from working with individuals whose attitude towards this approach is both stimulating and challenging. The MAB challenge, is in turn, that of how to integrate the various disciplines.

Another essential reason for the success of this Program, he added, is the inclusion and integration of the actors, at different levels, with an active participation in facing ecological problems. These actors include planners, politicians, social science specialists, scientists and the various strata of the community.

MAB has incorporated two new dimensions to the various management dimensions that add to spatial dimension, temporary dimension and perceptive dimension. There are different periods of time that should be coordinated, according to the Delegate, in the applied ecology concept: a political time, a scientific time, a social time, for example; as well as a different perception of each community actor before the perception of his environment in consideration; in that sense the question arises: how can each one perceive the decision of turning an urban space into a new Block of apartments or into a play ground for children?; and, what participation do children have, on the decision that the community makes? Through the UNESCO projects on the child and the city, it has been possible to ascertain that over 80 percent of children leisure, has been planned by adults and they live in a world exclusively conceived by adults without any participation in their decisions. On this respect, he stated, the question arises on what considerations are accorded to this perception at the level of children and young people of that given sector of the city, as to the decision taken for this particular urban sector.

He then explained that of the 14 action guidelines of the program, the two gaining more ground are the fields of action known as 11 and 13 which refer to "Ecological aspects of urban systems, with special emphasis on the utilization of energy and the "Perception of environmental quality".

He added that the ecosystem of man is doubtlessly the city, which in turn grows at a rapid pace, among other causes, because of its intrinsic growth and migrations from rural settlements to urban settlements; the world tends to urbanization at an exponential rate and the specialists in the quantification of data show figures for the next two decades that are so very impressive by themselves; if no interdisciplinary, integrative and participative studies are conducted, this would doubtlessly be detrimental to the quality of life, a fact already very evident today. This situation has an impact upon all the actors, but almost beyond doubt, it essentially affects the present younger generations, which to a great extent live or shall live in cities.

On the other hand, he stated, the urban ecology problems are very complex and constitute not only "intra-urban" problems but also "extra-urban" problems and influence the environment of the rural-urban inter-phase and the rural areas themselves. In essence, these problems

translate into requirements of varied forms of energy on the part of the city, whose tremendous uses and needs render impossible their self-support as well as a better efficiency in terms of consumption. With reference to the central topic of the Congress he summarily presented three examples of activities that UNESCO is carrying out related with the child and his environment.

First, he explained that in the framework of the MAB program a book was published by Lynch : "Growing-up in the cities", and thanks to the active participation of the National MAB Committee of Canada, several projects under the program have taken place in Toronto, the synthesis of which have been published in the book entitled: "management of urban space on behalf of the child". This great Canadian project is an effort in line with the programs on urban ecology and perspective aspects of the environment which have attempted work not only on isolated child problems but addressing them from a comprehensive standpoint.

Second, he referred to the projects under Program MAB 6, "Impact of human activities on mountain and tundra ecosystems", conducted in Argentina, in the Province of Cordoba, working at the primary and secondary school levels, under the Division of Ecological Sciences of the University, in field work, with children and young people, on the relationship between the urban and peri-urban environment, and the rural setting. The essential aim is that young people, through direct in-field activities analyze the rural-urban interphase area and the balance of the urban action on the rural environment.

To conclude, he informed that, a book is being prepared in cooperation with MAB, through the Office of Cultural Affairs of UNESCO, in Lima, on "The city and the Child", including perceptions of the children themselves and that under that agreement a series of books have already been published addressed to children, which are easy to read, and illustrated with the same methodology than the popular comics, that strives to communicate with children and youths on urban ecological problems: for example, "Man and his world" or "How was Peru before Spanish was spoken", making up for the lack of communication at the level of utilization of commercial technology, through comics and the possibility of children painting such pictures.

#### IV. - REPORT OF THE WORKING COMMITTEES

##### A. Report of the Rapporteur of the First Committee

###### EDUCATIONAL MATTERS

In my capacity as Rapporteur of the First Committee "Educational Matters", I am honored to present the Report of its activities during the sessions of the XVI Pan American Child Congress, held in Washington D.C., from 14 to 18 May, 1984.

###### Officers of the Committee

After the installation of the First Committee, the following persons were proposed and appointed by acclamation: Dr. Richard L. Schiefelbusch, of the United States of America, as President; Professor Teresinha Saraiva, of Brazil as Vicepresident and Dr. Alejandrina Rodríguez Duarte, of Paraguay, as Rapporteur.

###### Sessions

The Committee held two sessions: 16 May in the afternoon and 17 May in the morning.

###### Conduct of the Work

The major characteristic of the work of the Committee was the broad, open and decided participation of all the Delegates and special guests. The Committee passed draft resolutions that were presented to the consideration of the Delegates. After being discussed and put to the vote, the following draft resolutions were approved:

1. Right of the Family to Utilize Mass Communications Media (COM.I/doc.4 rev.1) This resolution was the outcome of merging the draft resolutions presented originally by the delegations of Colombia (COM.I/doc.1), Uruguay (COM.I/doc.4) and Argentina (COM.I/doc.5), enhanced by the contribution of other participants.
2. Strengthening of the Family.(COM.I/doc.2). This draft resolution was presented by the Brazilian Delegation and approved without further objections.
3. Compulsory Education COM.I/doc.3 rev.1). Originally submitted by the Delegation of Brazil, this draft resolution was further enriched by the remarks and aggregates of several participants. From a generic proposal it became a set of actual recommendations on specific aspects of educational problems.

4. Implementation of Research Concerning the Degree to which Program Design and Evaluation are Influenced by Children (COM.I/doc.6). This resolution was submitted by the Argentine Delegation and approved without any objections.
5. Integrated Action of Psychosocial and Biological Factors at the Community Level in the Field of Education (COM.I/doc.8). This draft resolution was presented by the Delegation of Panama and approved without any objections.
6. Peace and Human Development (COM.I/doc.10). This draft resolution was presented by the Delegation of Colombia. Once submitted to discussion a brief debate took place in which some discrepancies arose among some delegates as to the interpretation of the spirit of the proposal. Finally agreement was reached as to interpreting peace not in an specific political sense, but as an essential condition to human development. The proposal was approved in this sense.

R. Report of the Rapporteur of the Second Committee

JURIDICAL-SOCIAL MATTERS

The Second Committee, for the study of Juridical-Social Matters, was composed of the following countries: Jamaica, Chile, Venezuela, Paraguay, Mexico, Costa Rica, United States of America, Ecuador and Uruguay.

Invited Observers from Argentina, Chile, United Nations, Organization of American States and the International Labour Organization also participated.

In the first session the officers of the committee were appointed under the Chairmanship of the Delegate of Paraguay.

The debate took place on the following basic ideas:

1. The legal norms that constitute the juridical statutes of minors and particularly the relations with the specialized judicature on minors' problems, should be conceived with a flexible criteria in their application or, according to many jurists with the necessary "valuation mobility", that will make the interpreter an essential element in finding the best solutions for the minor and the family group.

2. Importance and influence of the environment in which the minor lives, as determinant of his present and future behavior.



The committee discussed the importance of environmental protection for the minors since pre-school age, so that the environment may not exert a negative influence on children's actions.

In this sense, the various Delegations recognized that the influence of the environment should be inserted in a eminently preventive concept in which the juridical norm and the judicial organ may necessarily become supplementary entities which, as such, may only enter into action when the preventive protection system has failed.

3. Once an event in conflict with the norm arises, and therefore, once the judicial machinery enters into operation, the minor and his family should be furnished with an adequate system of free legal advice, when the socio-economic needs of those involved require it so.

In a situation of conflicting interests between the minor and his own family, free legal advice should be priority for the minor than for his family since he appears naturally without means.

4. The Committee discussed the following Documents:

1. Adhesion to the Inter-American Declaration of the Rights of the Family.
2. Study of the topics of Family Law and Law of Minors in Private International Law.
3. Justice and the Role of Juridical Institutions in the Latin-American and Caribbean Development Context, and with reference to the Ecological Problems that Influence Child and Family Welfare.
4. Influence of the System of Values on the Quality of Life.
5. Protection of the Working Child.

#### 5. Sessions

Immediately after the appointment of the officers, the Committee analyzed a proposal concerning the Declaration of the Rights of the Family.

A lack of consistency is observed between the English and Spanish versions of this resolution, and it is pointed out that for revision purposes, it is important to take into account the text formally approved by the General Assembly of the OAS, in its thirteenth regular session, November 1983, in accordance with Resolution AG/RES.678 (XIII-0/83). The Committee unanimously adopted this proposal and prepared document N° 1, rev. 1, in adhesion to this Declaration.

Having the Chairman of the Committee requested each Delegation to prepare a draft-project of the documents to be discussed, a

recommendation proposal was handed in on the study of the topic of Family Law and Law of Minors in International Private Law.

The major point of the recommendation is focused on the adherence to the conclusions of the Meeting of Experts on the Adoption of Minors held in Quito in March, 1983 and the efforts for unification of the legislation on the field.

In sum, the idea is adopted and the arrangement of the paragraphs is modified as it finally appears in document N° 8.

A draft resolution is submitted based on the topic: Justice and the Role of Juridical Institutions in the Latin-American and Caribbean Development Context, and with Reference to the Ecological Problems that Influence Child and Family Welfare.

The topic was exhaustively discussed and analyzed, and the consideranda was accepted in principle; the Rapporteur was requested to modify the phrasing of the articles of the recommendations.

In the third session, a draft resolution was submitted to the Committee concerning the influence of the system of values on the quality of life.

In principle the idea was accepted on that the Second Committee sponsor the project, but since it was too broad according to the field of specialization of the Committee, it was finally and unanimously agreed that it was not to be discussed in the Committee session but at the plenary session.

Immediately following, a draft resolution was put forward on the protection of the working child.

The text is argued upon since the Delegates state that they are not acquainted with the situation of their countries in view of the ratification of the international conventions signed with ILO, concerning minimum age for entering the labor market.

It was expressed that since child labor is a reality, its regulation is essential, in order to protect the minor.

Taking into consideration the interests involved, the need is pointed out of establishing priorities: mainly the regulation of child labor, that is, through institutionalization or, that for biological, psychological reasons, and so forth, the child DO NOT WORK.

The need was then stated of protecting the child who works in an independent form and who, being exploited, is not directly dependent of his employer.

In sum, the agreement of the Delegations gives shape to document N° 10 of the Second Committee.

6. It was specifically included in the proceedings of the Committee, the unanimous withdrawal of the draft resolution on justice and the role of juridical institutions in the Latin-American and Caribbean development context, and with reference to the ecological problems that influence child and family welfare, because of problems stated by the delegations in the timely translation.

The draft resolution on Updating of Family Law was not examined by the Committee session because of the absence of a translation of its text into the four languages, and it was proposed that it were directly examined in the plenary session.

7. The conclusions of this Committee were included in documents N° 1, N° 8, N° 9 and N° 10.

The Inter-American Children's Institute will be responsible for making available these documents to the Delegations.

### C. Report of the Rapporteur of the Third Committee

#### HEALTH AND HABITAT MATTERS

In my capacity as Rapporteur of the Third Committee on Health and Habitat Matters, I am honored to present the report of the work conducted during the XVI Pan American Child Congress, held in Washington D.C., from 14 to 18 May, 1984.

#### Officers of the Committee

After the appointment of the members of the Third Committee, the following were elected officers by acclamation: Chairman, Mr. Gualberto Arias, Delegate of Ecuador; Vicechairman, Mr. Jorge Suescun, Delegate of Colombia and Rapporteur, Mr. Julio Bello, Delegate of Argentina.

#### Sessions

The Committee sat during the morning and the afternoon of May 17, 1984.

#### Conduct of the Work

The following resolutions were submitted to Committee III for consideration and approval:

#### 1. Drug and Alcohol Abuse (COM.III/doc.1)

The resolution on Drug and Alcohol Abuse was submitted to Committee

III for consideration and approved with some modifications.

2. Strategy for Health of Children in the Americas by the Year 2000  
(COM.III/doc. 2)

Committee III approved the Resolution on Strategy for Health of Children in the Americas by the Year 2000, with modifications.

3. Health Education (COM.III/doc.3)

The Resolution on Health Education was adopted with modifications.

4. Dissemination of the Ecological Approach to Child Health  
(COM.III/doc.4)

The Resolution on Dissemination of the Ecological Approach to Child Health was approved with modifications.

5. The City and the Child (COM.III/Doc.5)

The Committee approved the resolution The City and the Child with modifications.

6. Participation of Children in Urban Development (COM.III/Doc.6)

The resolution on Participation of Children in Urban Development was approved by Committee III, without any modifications.

7. The Handicapped in the City (COM.III/Doc. 8)

The Resolution on The Handicapped in the City was approved by Committee III with modifications.

8. Cooperation with the Republic of Bolivia

Committee III recommended that the resolution on Cooperation to the Republic of Bolivia, once approved without modifications were submitted to the plenary session.

9. Civil Registration and Vital Statistics of the Region of the Americas

Committee III recommended that this resolution once approved without any modifications were submitted to the plenary session.

The Chairman underscored the work performed by the Committee, whose members made their best for the approval of the resolutions dealt with by the Committee, and in turn, several delegations praised the correct conduction of the sittings.

D. Report of the Rapporteur of the Fourth Committee

SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND HABITAT MATTERS

In my capacity as Rapporteur of the Fourth Committee concerning Social, Economic and Habitat Matters, I am honored of presenting the report of its work during the XVI Pan American Child Congress, held in Washington D.C., from 14 to 18 May, 1984.

Topics dealt with by the Committee

1. Creation of Community-Based Mechanisms of Support for the Family.
2. Importance of Diagnosis.
3. Inclusion of Social Facilities in Environmental Programs.
4. Recognition of Development and Domestic Economic Order as its Fundamental Determinant.
5. Budgetary Support for the IACI.
6. Function of the Inter-American Children's Institute in Arranging Alternative Financing and Technical Assistance to Countries.
7. Improvement of Management Technology.
8. Legislation on Habitat.
9. Cooperation with the Republic of Bolivia.

Officers of the Committee

After the installment of the Fourth Committee, the following officers were elected by acclamation: Chairman, Lic. Susana Avila C., Delegate of Mexico; Vicechairman, Mr. Rolando Visconti, Delegate of Uruguay; and Rapporteur, Mrs. Lucy C. Biggs, Delegate of the United States of America.

Sessions

The Committee held two sessions during the 16 and 17 May, 1984.

- 
- (1) Approved in plenary session under heading: "Importance of Participative Planning".
  - (2) Approved in plenary session under heading: "Inclusion of Social facilities in environmental Programs".
  - (3) Approved in plenary session under heading: "Right to development".
  - (4) Approved in plenary session under heading: "Support for the IACI".

Conduct of the Work

1. Creation of Community-Based Mechanisms of Support for the Family  
(COM.IV/Doc. 1, rev.1)

With reference to this document, the Delegate of Uruguay proposed that, in view of the length of the draft resolution, it be analyzed paragraph by paragraph. Such proposal was unanimously approved. The consideranda were approved as originally proposed. The resolutions were discussed and the style modified by request of the Delegate of the United States. The changes proposed by the US Delegation were endorsed by the Delegate of Uruguay, and the resolution was unanimously approved.

2. Importance of Diagnosis (COM.IV/doc.2)

After the draft resolution was read, it arose that it was not clear enough, wherefore the Committee did not recommend its approval.

3. Inclusion of Social Facilities in Environmental Programs  
(COM.IV/Doc.3)

The Committee sympathized with the draft resolution presented by the Delegation of Argentina, but since no representative of that delegation was present, it considered pertinent that such resolution be submitted to the Plenary Session in the hope that it be explained and elaborated upon by the proposing delegation.

4. Recognition of Development and Domestic Economic Order as its Fundamental Determinant (COM.IV/Doc.4)

The Committee considered the draft resolution presented by Argentina and Brazil, but since none of the proposing delegations were present to explain and elaborate upon its substance, it resolved to submit it to the Plenary Session for its analysis and adoption.

5. Budgetary Support for the IACI (COM.IV/Doc.5, rev.1)

After the reading of the text of the draft resolution by the Secretariat, the Chairman proposed several changes. As to the title, she indicated that the term "budgetary" was not exactly consistent with the sphere of action of the Committee itself, because, such committee was to deal with economic rather than with budgetary matters. As Delegate of Mexico, she also requested to amend the text of the resolute part, proposing a new full text. The new text was submitted to the consideration of the delegates present, and was unanimously approved.

6. Function of the Inter-American Children's Institute in Arranging Alternative Financing and Technical Assistance to Countries (COM.IV/Doc.6 rev.1)

This draft resolution was read by the Secretariat and the floor was given to the delegations for its discussion but since there were no objections it was unanimously approved.

7. Improvement of Management Technology (COM.IV/doc.7 rev.1)

Once the draft resolution was read, the Delegation of Chile requested that in the operative part specific reference were made to what type of financing was being considered, wherefore it was decided to add "through external sources". This suggestion was accepted and the resolution was unanimously approved.

8. Cooperation with the Republic of Bolivia (COM.IV/Doc.8)

Once read, this draft resolution by the Secretariat and after the debate, the Bolivian Delegation was requested to withdraw and modify it in accordance with the remarks of the Committee and then present it directly to the Plenary Session.

9. Legislation on Habitat (COM.IV/Doc.9)

The draft resolution was read and upon a proposal of the Delegation of Mexico, some changes in style were introduced. It was unanimously approved.

Closing of the works of the Committee

The Fourth Committee would like to state for the record the upset of its members for the absence of any expert of the Inter-American Children's Institute during their deliberations.

At the end of sittings, several delegations praised the Chairman, Vicechairman and the Rapporteur for their excellent work. In turn, the Chairman expressed her acknowledgement to the Legal Advisor of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States, as well as to the Secretary of the Committee, and thanked the wonderful collaboration of all the participating delegations.

V. APPROVED RESOLUTION



CPN/RES. 1 (16-84)

STRENGTHENING OF THE FAMILY

THE XVI PAN AMERICAN CHILD CONGRESS,

CONSIDERING:

The importance of the role of the family in child development;  
and

The family as the basic unit of society;

RESOLVES:

To suggest to the Inter-American Children's Institute that it make the following recommendations to the governments of OAS member states:

- a. Develop strategies that make the family aware of its true worth and, consequently, to its position vis-a-vis children;
- b. Implement programs designed to produce specific actions in support of the family;
- c. Provide families with conditions that will ensure that the basic needs of their children are met;
- d. Ensure that all specific programs for the benefit of children represent an effective means for child development and family participation; and
- e. Ensure that these programs be participatory so as to promote inter-relationships with groups of which the family is a part.

CPN/RES. 2 (16-84)

COMPULSORY EDUCATION

THE XVI PAN AMERICAN CHILD CONGRESS,

WHEREAS:

Education is the right of all children and the state has the duty to guarantee the observance of that right, with the participation of the family;

Education is important to personal advancement and the construction of a more just, more humane society; and

Education is one of the most effective ways to achieve the democratic ideals of a government,

RESOLVES:

To propose to the IACI that it recommend observance of the constitutional precept of compulsory education to the governments of the OAS member states:

- By increasing budgets for education, with priority placed on basic education;
- By seeking strategies aimed at reducing the high rates of illiteracy, repetition, and school dropout through more practical and more appropriate approaches;
- By adapting educational patterns more effectively to local requirements and diversifying traditional teaching methods;
- By attempting to broaden educational opportunities in rural areas;
- By giving particular attention to special education and the comprehensive rehabilitation of the handicapped, as well as special attention to the gifted;
- By including from the first year of primary education a course in the curriculum that might be called "Education for Family Life", with the intent of providing children, in a systematic, gradual and continuing fashion, with knowledge to prepare them for future marriage and parenthood.

CPN/RES. 3 (16-84)

RIGHT OF THE FAMILY TO UTILIZE MASS COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA

THE XVI PAN AMERICAN CHILD CONGRESS,

CONSIDERING:

That the efficacy of mass communications media, that is, radio, television and the press, is acknowledged;

That the family is necessarily the proper intermediary between the child and the world of technology;

That the content of the communications is not always designed to preserve the ethical, cultural and social values of the community receiving it, and frequently distorts items concerning the family and the environment,

RESOLVES:

1. That the family be reminded that it has the option of selecting any of the communications media available to it, in accordance with its own wishes,
2. That programs which are conducive to the development of a critical spirit in the family in connection with the mass communications media be implemented;
3. That a program of action be drawn up by community agents, advised by communications experts, to promote an entrepreneurial approach that what is profitable must also be of service;
4. That the entrepreneurs of the communications media be alerted to the fact that they are an active part of the surroundings to which they belong and that their own families will derive such benefits or harm as may be generated by the media;

5. That the community be urged to convey to the communications media their approval or disapproval as a means of pressure on such media;
6. That activities in the communications media, especially television, be guaranteed for the purpose of motivating governments and advising them in the area of current law so that the media may accomplish educational purposes without altering the balance between the regulatory powers of the government and freedom of speech;
7. That the IACI be able to advise the member countries on the development of programs designed to blend the interest of the family with the interest of business;
8. That the IACI promote research on the impact of radio and television on children and adolescents;
9. That curricular standards be included in the schools and in teacher education programs in all areas related to teaching value of the media, and a critical analysis of commercial television be encouraged;
10. That it be recommended that the IACI convene a meeting of experts with the communications media, using available and external resources, in order to inform the latter of the relevant conclusions of the XVI Pan American Child Congress;
11. That it be recommended that all steps by the IACI regarding this matter be taken in coordination with the other organs of the OAS.

CPN/RES. 4 (16-84)

IMPLEMENTATION OF RESEARCH CONCERNING THE DEGREE TO  
WHICH PROGRAM DESIGN AND EVALUATION ARE INFLUENCED BY CHILDREN

THE XVI PAN AMERICAN CHILD CONGRESS,

CONSIDERING:

The participatory role children must assume in all social activities to which they are subject (education, recreation, health, housing, and disciplinary measures),

RESOLVES:

To recommend the implementation of research to determine the present status of institutions and programs relevant to the degree of influence and importance of children in the design, implementation, and evaluation of such institutions and programs, and to propose courses of action fostering projects that will ensure children's participation, to the extent of each individual's potential.

CPN/RES. 5 (16-84)

INTEGRATED ACTION OF PSYCHOSOCIAL AND BIOLOGICAL FACTORS  
AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION

THE XVI PAN AMERICAN CHILD CONGRESS,

CONSIDERING:

The interrelationship between psychosocial and biological factors and the need for integrated action at the community level,

RESOLVES:

1. To give priority to early prevention rather than to risk situations, with emphasis on nonformal education among people who are psychosocially most disadvantaged;
2. To promote more efficient use of financial and human resources as a way of expanding coverage of state programs at the community level;
3. To combine educational actions aimed at early psychosocial stimulation with health care programs by expanding the traditional standards of development and growth;
4. To promote urgent measures to avoid situations of homeless minors and to help such children through comprehensive plans that take a less institutional approach and place greater reliance on family and community participation;
5. To include education in the national planning of each country's government and set it as a priority since it is the foundation of development, beginning with education for the family;
6. To coordinate the actions of communications media and governmental and nongovernmental groups relating to guidance for the community through campaigns and/or programs promoting family life, the united couple, health, nutrition, sexuality, and the responsibilities of parents and children, to promote the development and strengthening of the family as the basic unit of society.

CPN/RES. 6 (16-84)

SPECIAL AND PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION

THE XVI PAN AMERICAN CHILD CONGRESS,

CONSIDERING:

The increasing need of the child population and the lack of institutionalized special and pre-school education services in most countries,

RESOLVES:

To request that the appropriate agencies recognize and reinforce the Special and Pre-School Education Unit of the Inter-American Children's Institute in order to enable it to undertake advisory and research activities throughout the hemisphere.

CPN/RES. 7 (16-84)

PEACE AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

THE XVI PAN AMERICAN CHILD CONGRESS,

WHEREAS:

Peace is a prerequisite for social and human development,

RESOLVES:

To recommend that the Institute urge the international community to strive for peace throughout the hemisphere.



CPN/RES. 8 (16-84)

INTER-AMERICAN DECLARATION OF THE  
RIGHTS OF THE FAMILY

THE XVI PAN AMERICAN CHILD CONGRESS,

CONSIDERING:

That the thirteenth regular session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States, through resolution AG/RES.678 (XIII-0/83), adopted the INTER-AMERICAN DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE FAMILY,

RESOLVES:

1. To express its gratification for the adoption of the Inter-American Declaration of the Rights of the Family by the General Assembly of the Organization of American States.
2. To urge the governments of the member States to adopt appropriate measures to enforce the rights set out in that Declaration, the text of which follows:

DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE FAMILY

The General Assembly of the OAS,

WHEREAS:

The importance of the family institution as indispensable framework for the physical, affective and social growth of the individual and as the basis of every orderly society;

The economic, social, technological and cultural transformation of society have an impact in the structure and significance of the family, which is particularly sensitive to social dynamics changes;

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaimed by the General Assembly of the United Nations, recognizes the fundamental right of each individual to establish a family, placing emphasis on the importance of some family rights;

The American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, adopted by the Ninth International Conference of American States, Bogota, 1948 and the American Convention of Human Rights, signed at the Inter-American Specialized Conference on Human Rights, San José, Costa Rica, in 1969, make special reference to the right to establish a family and to its protection;

The Inter-American Commission of Women, in its XIX Assemblies requested the General Assembly in Bogotá the declaration of an Inter-American Year of the Family;

The Directing Council of the Inter-American Children's Institute, in its 62nd and 63rd Meetings, approved resolutions on the declaration of the rights of the family;

The year 1983 has been proclaimed by the General Assembly of the OAS, in its Eleventh Regular Session, as International Year of the Family, by resolution AG/RES.553 (XI-0/81).

RESOLVES:

To proclaim the present DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE FAMILY so that it may enjoy for its own benefit, and for the benefit of society, the enunciated rights, urging the American Governments to recognize and enforce these rights through appropriate measures.

Article 1. Every person and, particularly every child, has the right to have a family and to the stability of the institution.

Article 2. The parents have the right to exert their responsibility as to the transmission of life and the protection of their children.

Article 3. The family has the right to privacy.

Article 4. The family has the right to supervise the education of their children and to transmit to them their own cultural, social, moral, religious values, etc.

Article 5. The members of the family have the right to profess and defend their own religious faith.

Article 6. The family has the right to enjoy the social, economic and cultural conditions that will allow for its integral strengthening and development.

Article 7. The family has the right to receive from the state the necessary support and help, so if in jeopardy, it may meet its own basic needs and have access to a protection and social security system.

Article 8. The family has the right to decent and humane housing.

Article 9. The family has the right to leisure for fostering the development of cultural and family values.

Article 10. The family has the right to be part of any civil, cultural and particularly public welfare association.

CPN/RES. 9 (16-84)

INFLUENCE OF THE SYSTEM OF VALUES ON THE QUALITY OF LIFE

THE XVI PAN-AMERICAN CHILD CONGRESS:

CONSIDERING:

The meaning and scope of the characteristics of the ecosystem that influence the well-being of children and families, and the importance of the system of values prevalent in the community on that well-being,

RESOLVES:

That stress be placed on the importance, to the attainment of a better quality of life, of a system of values that affirms human dignity, equality before the law, democracy as a way of life and not merely an electoral option, and the creation of room for freedom all of which are essential to personal and social growth and a harmonious relationship between man and his environment.

CPN/RES.10 (16-84)

UPDATING FAMILY LAW

THE XVI PAN AMERICAN CHILD CONGRESS,

CONSIDERING:

That in countries with a youthful population, such as those of the American hemisphere, child and family protection services, like the juridical and institutional system on which they are based, should be effective instruments for achieving the full integration and participation of young people in society.

That law as a social science plays a fundamental role in shaping social order, since the legal system should offer a suitable response to social, economic and cultural phenomena, establishing a fair balance among acts, values and standards.

That in spite of the progress made by family legislation in American countries, many regions show disparities and contradictions between family legislation and the prevailing social situation.

That family law reflects the projection of social reality very intensely, with great sensitivity to the evolution and transformations that operate within it.

RESOLVES:

1. To suggest to the governments of the member countries, when applicable, to update their family and child protection legislation, taking into consideration the factors affecting its development, such as technological and scientific progress, development of social security and educational development.

2. To recommend the creation of Family Courts to deal exclusively with family matters, without detriment to the intervention of Juvenile Courts in other matters of their competence. The characteristics of these courts should reflect the urgency and promptness of procedures, since they should have a team or corps of family advisors which act in a preventive, and even mandatory way to inform, counsel and advise on matters brought before them.

CPN/RES.11 (16-84)

STUDY OF THE TOPICS OF FAMILY LAW  
AND LAW OF MINORS IN PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL LAW

THE XVI PAN-AMERICAN CHILD CONGRESS,

WHEREAS:

The Organization of American States, through the Specialized Inter-American Conference on Private International Law (CIDIP), has been working assiduously on the preparation of new standards in this field for the countries of the Americas.

During the process of reviewing private international law conducted in the Americas through CIDIP, this Conference is planning to address topics of family law, which is one of the items on the agenda of the Third Specialized Inter-American Conference on Private International Law (CIDIP III) being held now in La Paz, Bolivia.

The Inter-American Children's Institute achieved excellent results in a Meeting of Experts on the Adoption of Minors, held in Quito.

RESOLVES:

1. To recommend to the member states of the OAS that they examine the conclusions of the Meeting of Experts on the Adoption of Minors, held in Quito, March 7-11, 1983, which led to approval of the draft Bases for a Uniform Law and Convention on Conflict of Laws, pertaining to the adoption of minors, with a view to achieving conformity between their internal legislation and the Draft Bases for a Uniform Law and adopting through proper channels, the Draft Convention on Conflict of Laws, both issued by that meeting.

2. To urge the Inter-American Children's Institute to continue its study and research in areas pertaining to the adoption of minors, especially in regard to legislative aspects and administrative and jurisprudential application.

3. To recommend to the Inter-American Children's Institute that it continue its study and analysis of other subjects relating to family and minors' law in the context of private international law (international return of minors, maintenance obligations, international protection of minors, guardianship, visiting rights and the like) by convoking technical meetings, insofar as budgetary constraints permit, to address these problem areas in the belief that such meetings are clearly needed by the states of the region.

CPN/RES.12 (16-84)

PROTECTION OF THE WORKING CHILD

THE XVI PAN AMERICAN CHILD CONGRESS,

WHEREAS:

It is evident that increasing numbers of children are working in most of the countries of the region;

One of the strategies for survival of families facing the present economic crisis is allowing their children to enter the labor market;

As a rule, those children work without the minimum protective measures necessary for their physical, mental and moral well-being.

RESOLVES:

1. To suggest that, within the framework of their domestic laws, the governments of the American states implement the measures to protect working children set out in the decisions of the International Labour Organisation.

2. That until the economic and social situation is such that it allows proper growth and development of children in the countries of the region, the governments should undertake to establish operational mechanisms that help promote legal, economic and social protection.

3. That the Inter-American Children's Institute should secure technical advisory services from the International Labour Organisation through a cooperative program to prepare guidelines for and conduct studies on protection of the working child.



CPN/RES.13 (16-84)

DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE

THE XVI PAN AMERICAN CHILD CONGRESS,  
BEARING IN MIND:

The Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 and the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances;

CONSIDERING:

The devastating physical, mental and social consequences of alcohol and drug abuse on the unborn child, infants, children, adolescents and families, is a cause of great concern;

The waste of human talent due to drug and alcohol abuse, and its destructive impact upon children and families, including child abuse, addiction of children, and parental abandonment;

The effect of the illegal cultivation of narcotic plants and the illegal production and illegal distribution of psychotropic substances on escalating drug abuse;

The need to develop carefully planned educational and public service awareness programs in the mass media illustrating the pernicious influence of drug and alcohol abuse;

The hope for a future when future generations --infants, children, teenagers and parents-- will live in a world free from drug and alcohol dependence;

RESOLVES:

1. To urge each member state to take all necessary steps, within their respective constitutions, legal systems and domestic laws, to combat the illegal production and illegal use of drugs and psychotropic substances and the abuse of alcohol.

2. To urge that each member state give the highest priority, within their respective capabilities, to cooperate with other governments and all relevant international and intergovernmental organizations, to combat the illicit distribution of these substances; and

3. To urge member states to take full advantage of the mass media to combat drug and alcohol abuse.

CPN/RES.14 (16-84)

STRATEGY FOR HEALTH OF CHILDREN IN THE AMERICAS BY THE YEAR 2000

THE XVI PAN AMERICAN CHILD CONGRESS,

Recognizing that health has an integral role to play in development, and that the future of all countries in this hemisphere is dependent on the health of each country's young people;

Further recognizing that the Organization of American States, particularly through its associated bodies such as the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, has an important role in enhancing the efforts of member countries to address the health and related needs of children;

BEARING IN MIND:

The World Health Organization's goal and strategy, of "Health for All by the Year 2000";

The United Nations Children's Fund's concern for child survival through its Child Health Revolution, which emphasizes growth monitoring, oral rehydration, breast feeding, immunization, food supplementation, family spacing and female literacy;

The importance of nutritional and child feeding programs as administered by FAO and the World Food Program; and

The important and necessary contribution made by other UN organizations and elements of the international community;

Taking note of the concerns expressed by the Committee on Health-Habitat on the XVI Pan American Child Congress on such problems as malnutrition, abandoned children, high fertility and its consequences for children, child control, immunizable diseases, diarrheal diseases, children with disabilities, and economic limitations placed on mothers and children and the related health effects:

RESOLVES:

1. That the Inter-American Children's Institute, in consultation with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and, through the PAHO, with other relevant organizations and bodies, should begin the delineation of an action program on child health taking into account the General Agreement of cooperation between the Institute and PAHO, signed May 3, 1984 and presented for consideration to the Directing Council of the Institute at the second session of its 64th Meeting.

2. That the Inter-American Children's Institute should, within resources presently available to the Organization, convene a meeting of experts, to develop a plan with specific goals and objectives for the Institute to address the problems (to be defined by the Committee - e.g. abandoned children, etc., etc.).

3. To urge Member Governments to implement the policies and strategies of the "Health for All by the Year 2000" strategy, particularly the strengthening of primary health care systems.

4. To further urge the Inter-American Children's Institute to strengthen its relationship with UNICEF with particular reference to programs carried out in connection with the Child Health Revolution.

CPN/RES.15 (16-84)

HEALTH EDUCATION

THE XVI PAN AMERICAN CHILD CONGRESS,

CONSIDERING:

The importance of health to harmonious and integrated development of the family and to public well-being, and

The indissoluble unit formed by the child and its family,

RESOLVES:

To suggest to the Inter-American Children's Institute that it recommend to the governments of OAS member countries that have not yet done so, the expansion of community health education programs, utilizing the help of professionals from the medical, paramedical, and educational fields and, most importantly, representatives of the community itself, in such a way that educational action will ensure the improvement of public health conditions.

CPN/RES.16 (16-84)

DISSEMINATION OF THE ECOLOGICAL APPROACH TO CHILD HEALTH

THE XVI PAN AMERICAN CHILD CONGRESS,

WHEREAS:

The optimum growth and development of children and their health, like that of the rest of the population, is promoted, maintained, or damaged by biological, social, and environmental factors,

RESOLVES:

To recommend to the Governments:

1. That they continue to promote the inclusion of this concept of health and disease in the training of health personnel of all levels in order to ensure a change in attitude that will encourage actions giving priority to health maintenance in preference to the treatment of disease;

2. That they step up actions designed to control biological, social, and environmental factors with a view to promoting the health of children and preventing disease by coordinating all the sectors involved, based on broad and dedicated participation by the family and the community.

To recommend to the Inter-American Children's Institute:

That it continue actions in the tasks outlined above, expanding dissemination to the countries of the findings and recommendations of the XVI Pan American Child Congress, through appropriate publications.

CPN/RES.17 (16-84)

THE CITY AND THE CHILD

THE XVI PAN AMERICAN CHILD CONGRESS,

CONSIDERING:

The close connection that exists between the urban habitat and children's health.

RESOLVES:

1. To recommend the promotion of a series of pilot studies combining the following:

- a. The quality of the environment in different communities as it relates to the status of infants living in them; births and death rates and the causes of mortality; nutrition, disease, schooling, access to information and psycho-social development.
- b. The availability, operation and utilization of health, educational and recreational services existing in those communities in terms of community needs in general and children in particular.

The results of these studies would make it possible:

- a. For national and provincial medical authorities to detect or identify shortcomings in order to reorient their programs and initiate specific projects.
- b. To work with the community and local services to achieve better coordination between them and evaluate the result of their work for the purpose of making recommendations.

2. As a consequence of the above, to recommend the preparation of manuals, audiovisual aids, bulletins and other means of community interaction to afford the local community a better understanding of its problems and lead to proper community participation in programs aimed at improving the health, habitat and education of children.

3. To recommend that the participation of children in the different phases of these studies be deemed essential.

CPN/RES.18 (16-84)

PARTICIPATION OF CHILDREN IN URBAN DEVELOPMENT

THE XVI PAN AMERICAN CHILD CONGRESS,

CONSIDERING:

That it would be essential to reconsider Latin American cities in terms of the needs of cities' users, including the needs of children,

RESOLVES:

1. To recommend to the Inter-American Children's Institute that it promote studies in selected cities and rural centers in Latin America as the basis for a thorough discussion of the future of Latin American and Caribbean cities that takes into account the needs of children and the respect for their opinions.

2. To recommend that based on these experiences, specific projects be started for housing, improvement of the mass habitat, school buildings and urban recreation areas which incorporate children's needs and respect for their opinions.

CPN/RES.19 (16-84)

THE HANDICAPPED AND DAILY LIVING

THE XVI PAN AMERICAN CHILD CONGRESS,

WHEREAS:

The cities of the Americas have not met the needs of persons including many children, who suffer from varying degrees of handicap, and the blind, the deaf and the disabled find it difficult to travel on public transportation, move about the streets, and understand the functioning of cities and households without assistance,

RESOLVES:

1. To request these cities to take the needs of the handicapped population into account in city design and construction;
2. To recommend to the Inter-American Children's Institute that it prepare a manual describing different solutions to ease the lives of the handicapped in cities and households, and
3. To promote an active campaign, in cooperation with specialized national agencies and nongovernmental organizations, to resolve such shortcomings.



CPN/RES.20 (16-84)

CIVIL REGISTRATION AND VITAL STATISTICS OF THE REGION OF THE AMERICAS

THE XVI PAN AMERICAN CHILD CONGRESS,

WHEREAS:

From the ecological standpoint the family is the most important social institution for support of minors;

The family plays an essential role in the early stimulation and socialization process of the minor child;

Statistics show that minors born and brought up in the bosom of an established and stable family present the community with fewer health and social maladjustment problems than children who have no family;

The declarations on the Rights of the Family issued in the past year by the General Assembly of the Organization of American States and the Holy See are predicated on the rationale of the established family;

It may be stated as a rule that families in the Americas are not always organized on a solid foundation, as is evident from the birth every year of more than two million children whose parents are not married and do not have a stable union;

This situation is largely the product of the marked shortcomings typical of most civil registration services in the region, which thwart the formation of families because of cost, complexity of operation and lack of properly trained local officials; and

Furthermore, the laws of Latin American countries make civil registration responsible for compiling the data that are the basis of vital statistics, which in turn are essential for all social and economic planning processes,

RESOLVES:

1. To call on the governments to make every possible effort to review legislation pertaining to civil registration and to simplify the organization and operation of the agencies responsible for such duties.

2. To urge the Inter-American Children's Institute to maintain and, if possible, expand its technical assistance to the countries in the field of civil registration and vital statistics; and

3. To request the Inter-American Children's Institute to strive to use the stipulated mechanisms within the Inter-American system for raising resources originating from external sources, with a view to continuing with the technical assistance activities aimed at improving the region's civil registration and vital statistics.

CPN/RES.21 (16-84)

CREATION OF COMMUNITY-BASED MECHANISMS OF SUPPORT FOR THE FAMILY

THE XVI PAN AMERICAN CHILD CONGRESS,

WHEREAS:

Children's sense of security arises in socially stable and economically adequate families, and parent-child attachments develop best when families function in support networks of extended families, friends, and neighbors and teachers residing in a shared community;

Children are more likely to become socially responsible people themselves in sharing and caring living places ;

Children growing up in chaotic and overwhelming living places think that fate determines the course of their lives and that there is little they can do to make any difference; therefore they may never recognize that through collaborative efforts with others they may be able to cope with their environments; and

With support from outside their immediate community --from local government, churches, labor unions and community groups-- young people living in places of extreme poverty can develop the ability to help themselves and contribute responsibly to their society; and

There is a need for the active involvement of parents in family self-improvement efforts, community problem-solving, and the education of their children.

RESOLVES:

To recommend to the governments of the member states that they include in their development programs the fostering of community self-support groups as an essential ingredient in any program to help children. This should include the creation of community based non-profit service corporations controlled by the local community, funded by the business and governmental sectors in partnership, and formed in the context of national culture and tradition.

To recommend that community measures be taken to help keep families together, to assist needy and handicapped children, to care for infants when mothers are ill or substitute care is not available.

To recommend the taking of measures towards trying out, successful models of family improvement through parental involvement in the early education of their children --such as the Head Start Program in the United States-- exploring, culturally adapting, and implementing them for use by local communities.

That Member States continue an active exchange of ideas, experts, managers and academicians in the substantive areas needed to strengthen this process.

CPN/RES.22 (16-84)

IMPORTANCE OF PARTICIPATIVE PLANNING

THE XVI PAN AMERICAN CHILD CONGRESS,

CONSIDERING:

The importance of participative planning in the elaboration of programs and projects in the social area;

The need to raise the material, human and financial resources as much as possible;

The need for a joint action in the social area, towards attaining a better efficiency of programs;

RESOLVES:

To recommend that all planning affecting social areas be based on diagnosis formulated on the local needs, taking into account the existing resources and the priorities established by the communities themselves. Likewise, the coordination of developed actions will be sought, in order to avoid duplication of means and dispersion of material, human and financial resources.

CPN/RES.23 (16-84)

INCLUSION OF SOCIAL FACILITIES IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

THE XVI PAN AMERICAN CHILD CONGRESS,

CONSIDERING:

The importance of proper socio-environmental facilities to the family ecosystem.

RESOLVES:

To recommend the inclusion in environmental projects of social facilities which include, besides family support services (health care, day-care establishments, and premises for community use), housing for specific programs in the welfare area such as small homes or foster families for handicapped children and the elderly.

CPN/RES.24 (16-84)

RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT

THE XVI PAN AMERICAN CHILD CONGRESS,

HAVING SEEN:

The Charter of the Organization of American States,

CONSIDERING:

The statements made on this topic and the close connection between the problems of families and children and socio-economic conditions,

RESOLVES:

That the right to development and, as the fundamental determinant of its achievement, the implementation of socio-economic relationships based on justice, solidarity and participation essential for international peace and security, be newly expressed as a basic right of our peoples.

CPN/RES.25 (16-84)

SUPPORT FOR THE IACI

THE XVI PAN AMERICAN CHILD CONGRESS,

CONSIDERING:

The importance and urgency of the topics and problems that have been examined by the Congress and the role that has been propounded for the IACI in the planning and solution thereof; and

RECOGNIZING:

What the invaluable support that IACI's action has meant to the children of the Americas; and

The need to continue the various programs and projects in member states,

RESOLVES:

To request the IACI to achieve closest possible coordination with other organs and agencies of the inter-American system and the United Nations and cooperation with the activities of other agencies for the development of its programs.



CPN/RES.26 (16-84)

FUNCTION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CHILDREN'S INSTITUTE  
IN ARRANGING ALTERNATIVE FINANCING AND  
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES

THE XVI PAN AMERICAN CHILD CONGRESS,

CONSIDERING:

The numerous sources of alternative financing available in the governmental, international and private spheres for the conduction of projects and programs for the family, youth and children,

RESOLVES:

To instruct the Inter-American Children's Institute to prepare a list of alternative financial resources and to offer technical and management assistance so that such funds may be used efficiently by the countries, consistent with the Project Bank approved by the Directing Council.

CPN/RES.27 (16-84)

IMPROVEMENT OF MANAGEMENT TECHNOLOGY

THE XVI PAN AMERICAN CHILD CONGRESS,

CONSIDERING:

The importance of developing accurate registration facilities and improving management technology for the administration and implementation of programs;

RESOLVES:

To recommend the encouragement of the financing through external sources, of projects and programs designed to improve management technology in the areas of human development and the family, especially all those referring to registration, administration of resources and statistics.

CPN/RES.28 (16-84)

COOPERATION WITH THE REPUBLIC OF BOLIVIA

THE XVI PAN AMERICAN CHILD CONGRESS,

WHEREAS:

The seriousness of the problems posed by the needs of Bolivian childhood framed in a crisis of the existing human and economic resources;

RECOMMEND:

1. That the Inter-American Children's Institute and the Government of Bolivia convene an inter and multi-agency meeting of organs and agencies of the Inter-American System and the United Nations System, as well as of international financial banks, to explore the situation of Bolivian childhood in the search of solutions, which will be implemented through the obligations that each one may undertake and the proper implementation channels they may recommend.

2. To request to the Permanent Council of the OAS to cooperate with this initiative when pertinent.

CPN/RES.29 (16-84)

LEGISLATION ON HABITAT

THE XVI PAN AMERICAN CHILD CONGRESS,

WHEREAS:

Development of industrialization and urbanization, through disorderly city growth, a predominant characteristic of large cities in Latin America, has given rise to adverse conditions for a normal integration of great many children and families, having a negative impact in their social well-being.

RESOLVES:

To recommend to the governments of the member countries to undertake a thorough study of the urbanization plans and of the relevant legislation, to foster a better integration and harmonious development of childhood and family in the urban areas, through an improved habitat.

