

Annual Report to the General Assembly

Inter-American Children's Institute

2003

Document for the Thirty-fourth Regular Session

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PROLOGUE

Over the last four years, the execution of the IIN's 2000-2004 Strategic Plan – approved by its Directing Council and endorsed by the General Assembly of the OAS- in the necessary reconciliation of its fundamental orientation with the different national realities, available resources and possible international cooperation links with the Public Sector as well as Civil Society, has demonstrated the validity of the path taken.

The commitment undertaken in the promotion of child and adolescent issues in Political Fora – supporting processes of Planning National Child Systems in the Region; preparing and proposing systemic tools for this purpose; associating and processing the available information in order to make possible the effective transfer of knowledge; technically and academically training participants in child-related areas – has encountered no resistance or obstacles, but rather has been met with a persistent demand which already represents an exciting and enthusiastic, but also very real, challenge to our capacity for response.

From our point of view, the reality of our children and adolescents in the region has not improved; in fact, we might even say that it has worsened. However, never before have we had such a wealth of technical and intellectual tools to undertake the necessary, urgent changes to transform reality. This is a paradox that should no longer compel us to reflect, but rather to act.

Political will can be conquered; material and human resources can be rationalized and coordinated; and practical interventions in the territories of reality must attain the forcefulness and effectiveness required by the ethical dimension of the new millennium.

The XIX Pan American Child Congress, which we are currently preparing and which will be held this year in Mexico City, will be an invaluable opportunity for deeper reflection on Child, Adolescent and Family Issues, and to redouble efforts in the concrete actions of our inter-American community.

Alejandro Bonasso
DIRECTOR GENERAL

I. INTRODUCTION

In the preparation of this Annual Report, we took into account the GUIDELINES provided by the Office of the Assistant Secretary General (AG/RES-1452 (XXVII- O/97)).

1.1 The Inter-American Children's Institute

The Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN) is the specialized organization of the Organization of American States (OAS) for issues pertaining to Children, Adolescents and the Family.

Its mission is a technical and political one: to promote, research and prepare technical, political and legal tools and propose them to governments in order to effectively and efficiently address the real problems of Children and Adolescents in the Americas and the Caribbean.

The IIN is responsible for preparing the Annual Report on the Situation of Children in the Americas, for presentation to the General Assembly of the OAS.

In October 1924, at the 4th American Child Congress, held in Santiago, Chile, an International American Child Protection Institute was formally created, with headquarters in Montevideo, Uruguay.

On June 9, 1927, ten countries of the Americas signed the Institute's founding charter, which constituted its definitive creation. Gradually, all the rest of the countries of the Americas and the Caribbean came to be part of the Institute as well.

In 1949, the Organization of American States (OAS) invited the Institute to become a Specialized Organization of the OAS. In 1962, and without losing its technical autonomy, the Institute was fiscally and administratively incorporated into the OAS as the Inter-American Children's Institute.

1.2 Organs of the Inter-American Children's Institute

According to its Statutes, the IIN carries out its aims through the following organs:

- The **DIRECTING COUNCIL**: the maximum governing body, made up of one delegate from each OAS Member State.
- The **PAN AMERICAN CHILD CONGRESS**: intended to promote an exchange of experience and knowledge among the peoples of the Americas regarding the issues addressed by the Institute, and to make recommendations intended to solve them.
- The **DIRECTOR GENERAL**: appointed by the Secretary General of the Organization of American States, selected from a slate of three candidates proposed by the Directing Council. The Director General is responsible for carrying out the resolutions of the Directing Council and for guiding the action of the different programs.

The Director General is in charge of the IIN's Headquarters and its technical and functional staff. Since March 2000, the position of Director General has been held by Child Affairs Specialist Mr. Alejandro Bonasso.

1.3 The IIN on the Internet

The Institute has adapted its *modus operandi* to new technologies, working via the Internet to achieve the following:

- The IIN's headquarters in Montevideo currently have a real-time connection to OAS headquarters in Washington.
- There is constant, low-cost communication with Directing Council authorities and Delegates.
- The Virtual Meetings of the Directing Council have become a revolutionary innovation for the operation of these fora.
- Distance training courses, inter-American courses and other virtual activities have become a constant among the IIN's operations in the region.

The IIN's website, www.iin.oea.org, contains complete information on the Institute, its programs and its activities, as well as comprehensive information on child, adolescent and family issues in the region. The quality of the service provided through this website is evident in the geometrical growth in its number of visitors. The IIN has also developed specific websites to strengthen and compliment certain areas of action:

- www.cariin.org
- www.cetinf.org
- www.coordinacion.org

II. THE IIN'S PROGRAMS

In accordance with the 2000-2004 Strategic Plan, the IIN is structured around the following Programs:

II.1 Program for the Integral Promotion of Children's Rights (PRODER)

PRODER's objectives are:

- a. To design, implement and evaluate prototypes of targeted public policies on specific and emerging problems affecting children and adolescents, such as street children, child labor, sexual exploitation, conflict with the Law, different abilities, armed conflicts, adoption, etc.;
- b. To train those working in the areas addressed by the prototype, at different levels and using attendance-based and distance methods. This training is aimed at professionals, planners and policy-makers, as well as child program managers and operators;

- c. To foster horizontal cooperation in the region in the different areas covered by the program;
- d. To provide technical and methodological cooperation through the IIN's products and services, working toward participatory education and community mobilization.

II.2 Inter-American Child and Family Information Program (PIINFA)

PIINFA's objectives are:

- a. To promote a culture of information-based management;
- b. To develop instruments for promoting and monitoring children's rights;
- c. To collect and distribute information on children's rights.

The Program's governing principles aim to recover the Region's own identity, promote horizontal cooperation between countries, democratize the use of information, decentralize access to knowledge, and use information to build bridges between government and civil society.

PIINFA's strategy involves product development, training and technical assistance – all of which guarantee the sustainability of the proposals and the continuous monitoring and evaluation of all work undertaken.

The Program has promoted and created National Information Centers and Child Information Systems. It has even developed its own software, as in the case of the Child Information System (SIPI), which is already installed in several countries.

PIINFA provides technical assistance on the use of information for the design of child policies.

It is responsible for the development and maintenance of a Child Information Network (RIIN), with 79 Centers in 18 countries.

PIINFA develops systems for monitoring Children's Rights, coordinates the Virtual Link of the IIN's governing organs, and provides Regional Information Service over the Internet, with a Database of Organizations (OPD) (containing 11,500 organizations), Projects (containing 2,000 regional projects) and Documents (containing 80,000 documents).

It also administers a Legal Database (BADAJ), an Informative Journal, the Dr. Luis Morquio Library (which may be accessed both in person and remotely), and the IIN's website.

PIINFA's most recent products include: the development of a series of videos on the rights of the child and related issues, which are being widely broadcast in the Americas and the Caribbean; a pilot project on the participation of adolescents in the media; and an innovative site for coordination of activities for children and adolescents, which handles specific situations, in several countries, in which the rights of children and adolescents are violated.

II.3 Legal Program (PROJUR)

PROJUR's objectives are:

- a. To provide technical assistance in the field of child-related legislation in order to strengthen the integral protection of children, adolescents and the family;
- b. To develop and implement legal prototypes to address risk areas affecting children and adolescents; to date, four of these prototypes have been developed, on the following subjects:
 - Child Labor;
 - Sexual Exploitation;
 - Disability;
 - Drug Abuse Prevention;
- c. To promote and assist in the ratification of international laws to strengthen legal protection in the region;
- d. To conduct comparative and applied studies on the Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- e. To provide continuous technical updates to the Legal Database, as well as distance- and attendance-based training;
- f. To assist the Office of the Director General in the fulfillment of Directing Council and OAS mandates in specific areas, such as the international abduction of children by one of their parents, and other issues requiring the coordination of experts.

III. SUPPORT AREAS

III.1 Communications Division

The 2000-2004 Strategic Plan defined a Communications Division that deals with four central areas: Institutional Documentation, National and International Media, Promotional Activities, and Campaigns for Children's Rights in the Americas. In this framework and based on the outside advice received, the IIN is prepared to move forward with the definition of an Institutional Communications Policy.

A new esthetic, which has already been implemented, incorporates the image of children from a gender perspective, reaffirming the main targets of the IIN's work: girls and boys. Consequently and by extension, all institutional documents were totally renewed to incorporate this esthetic.

The continued publication of the Executive Letter in 2003 has strengthened communication with Directing Council Delegates, Missions of OAS Member States and senior officials at the OAS General Secretariat, keeping them informed of the IIN's political and technical activities. Furthermore, the IIN's virtual newsletters have reported the various activities and events carried out within the technical programs, as well as the negotiations in which the Office of the Director General has been engaged.

Work has continued on the series of Videos on Children's Rights, in which child affairs specialists interact with creative professionals and artists to impress upon the public the importance of children's rights. More and more, these videos are being broadcast on a mass

scale. A video on the Democratic Charter, created as part of an agreement with the UPD in the year 2003, will now begin to be broadcast. Furthermore, two new additions to the IIN's series of Illustrated Books are currently in production.

Through its website, the IIN continues to grow in its role as a digital bridge between people working for the Children and Adolescents of the Americas, with a growing number of page hits and consultations.

Finally, in the year 2003 the Communications Area led an activity for adolescent and youth media participation, which consisted of a weekly radio program (*PINTÓ RADIO!! ACT OIR!!*). In its development cycle, the project was evaluated as highly positive and exemplary; its final evaluation, with input from outside observers, will be available soon.

III.2 Administration Division

In the year 2003, as part of the policy implemented by the Office of the Director General of the IIN aimed at improving the services provided by the Administration Division, improvements were made to the management of this area, based on a close relationship with, and support provided by, the Financial Services Department of the OAS in Washington, contributing to a modern and transparent management system. All of the Administration Division's services and activities were carried out in optimal conditions of cost benefit between the Division's staff and the results achieved. The Administration Division is currently made up of two full-time people in Montevideo and one part-time person in Washington who follows up on the IIN paperwork. This improvement in management is evidenced by the following results:

- Operational resources from the Regular Fund as well as Specific Funds, totalling USD 572,154, were more efficiently and effectively managed.
- 646 requisitions were handled in the OASES system, for disbursements of diverse types, constituting a real service to the Office of the Director General and the technical programs receiving all necessary support from the Administration Division.
- 72 Performance Contracts (CPRs) were signed with contractors of 13 different nationalities.
- Progress was made in the conversion and consolidation of 29 accounts containing specific IIN funds in the OASES system; this process is expected to be complete in February 2004.
- Logistical and administrative support was provided by the National Offices of the General Secretariat of the OAS in Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Peru, allowing the smooth carrying out of various events and activities under IIN Programs.
- In compliance with the Office of the General Inspector, a full update of the IIN's **Physical Inventory** was taken of 562 fixed assets.

- Various accounting reports were prepared for donors of Specific Funds as part of agreements signed with the IIN.
- Support was provided to the Office of the Director General in the preparation of Reports on budgetary, financial and administrative matters for the political entities of the IIN and the OAS.
- Full building renovations, as well as subcontracts with professionals and service providers, were undertaken.

Thanks to its connection with the OASES system, we are certain that, within the new Strategic Plan, the Administration Division will be in a position to adapt quickly to all needs that arise from an increased demand for services.

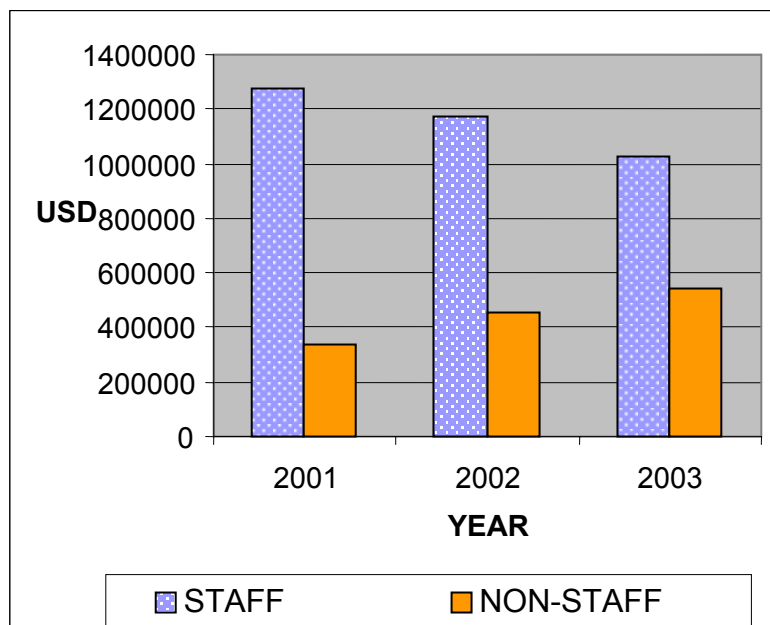
IV. THE IIN'S BUDGET FOR 2003

IV.1 Sources of Funding

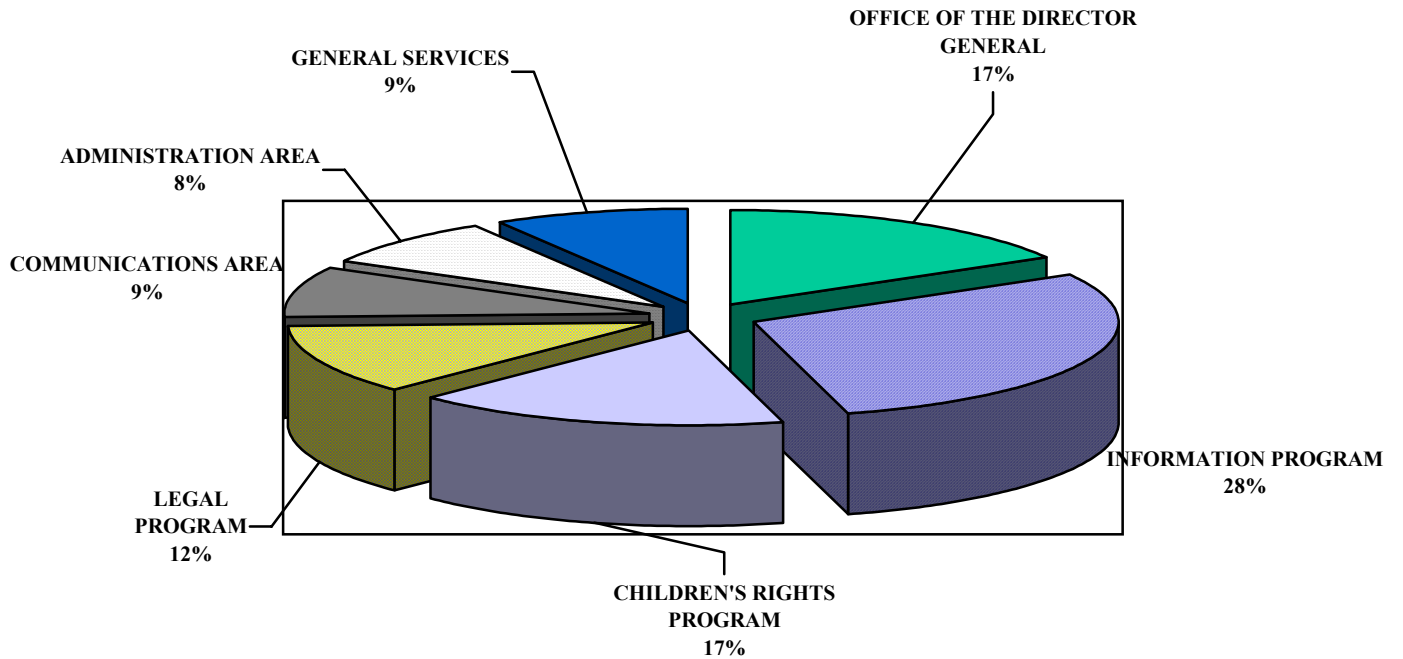
As a Specialized Organization of the OAS, the IIN is included in the Regular Fund of the OAS Program-Budget. The IIN's budget for 2003 was **USD 1,567,700**, which is 2% of the total OAS Regular Fund budget of **USD 76,000,000**.

In order to carry out its mission and services, the IIN also incorporates resources originating from agreements, governments, international organizations, NGOs and other donors and funding agents. As of January 1, 2003, the IIN's Specific Funds administered by the OAS totaled **USD 343,701**. Also in 2003, the resources provided and administered by counterparts, for projects involving technical assistance by the IIN, totalled **USD 1,913,404**.

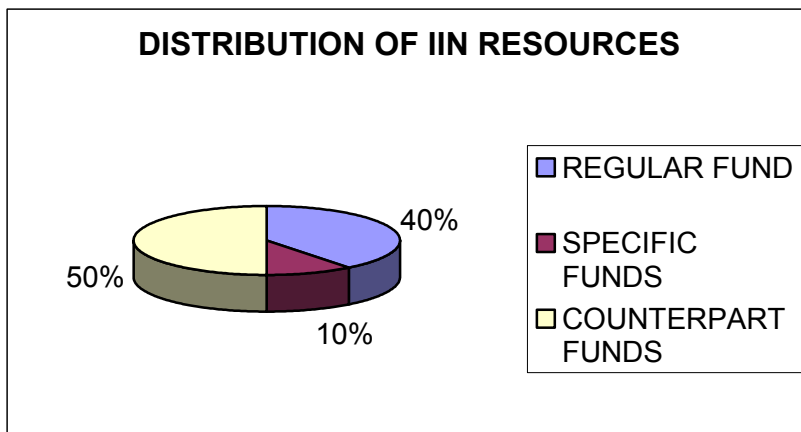
IV.2 Budgetary Distribution and Projection of the Regular Fund



IV.3 Budgetary Execution of the Regular Fund and Specific Funds by Area and by Program



IV.4. Percentage Distribution of All IIN Resources



IV.5 2004 Budget Projection

ITEMS	REGULAR FUND	SPECIFIC FUNDS	TOTAL
PERSONNEL	863,100		863,100
OPERATIONS	403,500	309,384	712,884
TOTAL	1,266,600	309,384	1,575,984

IV.6 Considerations regarding Interpretation and Projection

Within the framework of the 2000-2004 Strategic Plan approved by the Directing Council, the Office of the Director General of the IIN carried out a process of organic restructuring of its program and administrative areas. This involved reduction of staff and reassignment of roles. The graphs show that we have been moving toward a new balance between operational and staff expenses, progressively approaching the directives issued by the General Assembly and the General Secretariat, to reach a 50-50 equilibrium between operational and staff expenses.

Independently of the voluntary restructuring planned and carried out by the Office of the Director General of the IIN, the Institute was also affected by budgetary cuts in resources originating from the Regular Fund, due to the financial situation of the OAS. At the same time, a P-3 professional position and a G-6 administrative position were frozen, which was not included in the plans for organizational restructuring. These financial cuts and elimination of positions affected the execution of planned activities, and may also affect the projections for 2004 and the new Strategic Plan.

Therefore, for 2005, the Office of the Director General plans to develop a strategy, hopefully with the support of the Member States and the General Secretariat, to duplicate its operational budget. Given the situation faced by children in the region, a Specialized Organization of the OAS such as the IIN cannot carry out its activities in a creative and effective manner and meet existing mandates without an appropriate budget and without permanent first-rate technical staff who are not affected by new cuts. The 50-50 balance between staff and operational costs, which we continue to aim for, would have to emerge not through new cuts to staff (already reduced to a less than desirable level) but rather through an increase in operational funds, which in absolute terms do not represent a very significant sum, and which are justified by the reality faced by children –something that has been declared a political priority for the OAS and for its General Secretariat.

V. IMPLEMENTATION OF MANDATES AND RESOLUTIONS

V.1 Participation of Civil Society

Pursuant to Resolution **AG/RES. 1915 (XXXIII-O/03)** on increasing and strengthening the participation of civil society in the activities of the Organization of American States –

reaffirmed in specific national coordination mechanisms such as that mentioned in Resolution **CD/RES. 03 (78- R/03)** on national dialogues in favor of children, which emerged from an initiative proposed by Peru in 2002– the IIN has continued to strengthen ties of cooperation and interaction with civil society entities and organizations. The IIN is convinced that this line of action will be an effective contribution to the rationalization of available material and human resources and the involvement of the social body in empowering processes of change, opening up to public scrutiny and generating networks and links that contribute to transparency and fostering of trust and security in the Americas, in the spirit of Resolution **AG/RES. 1967 (XXXIII-O/03)**.

In this context, the IIN has established specific agreements of varying scope and purpose, or has participated in joint activities, with the following civil society institutions, entities or organizations:

- *Asociación Uruguaya para la Prevención del Alcoholismo y la Farmacodependencia* (OPTAR)
- Uruguayan Press Association (APU), Uruguay
- *Asociación Dominicana de Rehabilitación* (ADR), Dominican Republic
- Bernard Van Leer Foundation, The Netherlands
- *Casa Alianza*, Costa Rica
- *Centro de Altos Estudios Nacionales* (CALEN), Uruguay
- Centre for Development Information and Education (CIES), Italy
- *Centro de Información y Recursos para el Desarrollo*, Paraguay
- *Centro Internacional de Educación y Desarrollo Humano* (CINDE), Colombia
- Childwatch International Research Network, Norway
- *Defensa de los Niños Internacional* (DNI), Argentina
- International Federation of Journalists (IFJ)
- International Forum for Child Welfare
- *Fundación Arias*, Costa Rica
- *Fundación Indigo*, Ecuador
- *Fundación Rafael Pombo*, Colombia
- Suzuki Foundation, Argentina
- *Goal*, Honduras
- *Gurises Unidos*, Uruguay
- *Instituto Universitario del Centro Latinoamericano de Economía Humana* (CLAEH), Uruguay
- National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, USA
- International Catholic Child Bureau (BICE), Uruguay
- *Voces* NGO, Uruguay
- *Plan Rocca*
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), Sweden
- *Universidad Católica del Uruguay Dámaso Antonio Larrañaga* (UCUDAL), Uruguay
- *Universidad Católica Santa María la Antigua de Panamá* (USMA), Panama
- *Universidad de Columbia*, Paraguay
- *Universidad de la República, Regional Norte*, Uruguay
- World Vision, El Salvador

V.2 Indigenous Peoples

As a response to Resolution *AG/RES. 1919 (XXXIII-O/03)* on the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the IIN has paid particular attention to the contents of the materials intended for dissemination and promotion of child and adolescent rights (books and videos), always ensuring that they reflect ethnic and racial plurality.

The IIN has participated at seminars and fora, lecturing on “Racial and Ethnic Discrimination Against Children and Adolescents” (PROJUR), and has completed an extensive document which opens up a process of reflection on this issue, titled “Reflections on the Rights of Indigenous Children and Adolescents” (PROJUR), which will soon be published on the IIN website.

V.3 Child Rights Protection Systems

Through their activities, the IIN’s Programs have followed point 18 of the Plan of Action of the 2001 Summit of the Americas, on “Children and Youth,” which states the following: **“(…) In order to protect and promote children's rights, develop and implement inter-sectoral policies and programs, which may include the promotion of civil registration of all children, and allocate appropriate resources to undertake these tasks; establish and support cooperation amongst states as well as with civil society and young people to ensure effective implementation and monitoring of children's rights, including country-appropriate indicators of the health, development, and well-being of children, and through sharing best practices on reporting through national reports by States Parties to the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (...)”** in line with *AG/RES. 1925 (XXXIII-O/03) Strengthening of Human rights systems pursuant to the Plan of Action of the Third Summit of the Americas*, *AG/ RES. 1948 (XXXIII-O/03) Fighting the crime of trafficking in persons, especially women, adolescents, and children*, and *AG/ RES. 1951 (XXIII-O/03) Promotion and protection of the human rights of children in the Americas*.

In fulfillment of Resolutions *CD/ RES. 05 (78-R/03)*, *CD/ RES. 06 (78-R/03)*, *CD/ RES. 10 (78-R/03)*, *CD/ RES. 11 (78-R/03)*, *CD/ RES. 13 (78-R/03)* and *CD/ RES. 14 (78-R/03)*, the IIN:

- Has disseminated Advisory Opinion No. 17, “Juridical Status and Human Rights of the Child,” issued by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (PROJUR);
- Has supported and developed activities and products aimed at mass dissemination of information on the Rights of Children and Adolescents (Videos and books – PIINFA);
- Is developing a Targeted Public Policy Prototype on Article 23 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, on Educational and Social Integration and Inclusion of Children with Disabilities, in cooperation with civil society organizations, and has carried out training and dissemination activities such as the “Seminar on Integral Care of Children with Different Capabilities” for professionals from State and civil society institutions;
- Has promoted the Prototype of Targeted Public Policies for Children and Adolescents in Circumstances of Vulnerability and Social Risk as a form of Intervention for the Recovery of their Violated Rights, which has also taken the form of academic and training work (PRODER);

- Has created and implemented a Site for Coordination of Activities for Children and Adolescents, which handles specific cases of children and adolescents whose situation involves more than one country (PIINFA);
- Has given special effort and attention to the evolution of the Inter-American Program of Cooperation to Prevent and Remedy Cases of International Abduction of Minors by One of Their Parents (PROJUR).

V.4 Conflict with the Law

With respect to Resolution *AG/ RES. 1927 (XXXIII-O/03) Study of the rights and the care of persons under any form of detention or imprisonment*, the IIN has focused fundamentally on the situation of adolescents and youth. In this area, it has carried out dissemination and awareness-raising work, such as the lecture “The Situation of Adolescent Parents Deprived of Liberty” (PROJUR). In coordination with the highest-level authorities on child affairs from several countries in the region (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico and Nicaragua), the IIN is planning a seminar on “best practices of care for youth in conflict with the law” and systematization of laws on the subject.

V.5 Gender Equity and Equality

The *appointment of women to senior management positions at the OAS* is the subject of *AG/ RES. 1954 (XXXIII-O/03)*, a topic taken up by the IIN through *CD/ RES. 08 (78-R/03)* for the implementation of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women’s Rights and Gender Equity and Equality, leading to the design and application of a Training Seminar for managers and operators of child and adolescent programs titled “Human Rights, Gender, Children and Citizenship.”

V.6 Democracy-Building

AG/ RES. 1957 (XXXIII-O/03) Promotion and strengthening of democracy. Follow-up to the Inter-American Democratic Charter received a swift response from the IIN, with PIINFA’s production of a video on the Democratic Charter for mass broadcast in cooperation with the Unit for the Promotion of Democracy (UPD) of the OAS. Also planned is an illustrated children’s book on the Democratic Charter.

V.7 International Abduction

Point 18 of the Plan of Action of the 2001 Summit of the Americas, on “Children and Youth,” called on countries to “(...) **Encourage cooperation to reduce cases of international abduction of children by one of their parents(...)**”; this found a response in Resolution *AG/ RES. 1958 (XXXIII-O/03) International Program of Cooperation to Prevent and Remedy Cases of International Abduction of Minors by One of Their Parents*.

IIN Resolutions *CD/ RES. 14 (78-R/03)* and *CD/ RES. 03 (E/03)* stipulate the creation of a Committee made up of one staff member of the IIN’s Legal Program and one representative of each state wishing to make remarks on the latest document of the Inter-American Program of Cooperation to Prevent and Remedy Cases of International Abduction of

Minors by One of Their Parents, establishing November 30, 2003 as the final deadline for written remarks to be made on this document.

This Committee will establish a methodology and work timeline that does not require a final resolution before January 31, 2004 in order to present to the Office of the Director General, a definitive document for the Inter-American Program of Cooperation to Prevent and Remedy Cases of International Abduction of Minors by One of Their Parents.

The Director General will then submit this final version to the Permanent Council for analysis, requesting it to present the results of its analysis for the consideration of the Thirty-fourth Regular Session of the General Assembly, reporting on the fulfillment of the aforementioned Resolution. The Director of the Inter-American Children's Institute will be entrusted with the application of this Resolution and the preparation of a Special Report on the Program to be presented to the IIN Directing Council in 2004.

V.8 Communication and Coordination Between the IIN and the IACD

As regards point 6 of Resolution *AG/RES. 1951 (XXXIII-O/03)* on communication and coordination between the IIN and the IACD, the Inter-American Children's Institute has coordinated activities with the Agency, as demonstrated by the Project for the English-speaking Caribbean that began in 1998, sustained by IACD funds (which, at that time, were administered directly by the IIN). IACD regulations subsequently changed, to stipulate that it had to be the Member States that presented their bilateral or multilateral projects, instead of specialized organizations such as the IIN. In order to give sustainability to the regional proposal for the English-speaking Caribbean, the Government of Suriname offered, on two occasions, to be the Member State to present the multilateral project to the IACD. The Office of the Director General has called attention to this gesture and continues to emphasize it, because of the generosity and solidarity that it demonstrates. The IIN hopes to strengthen cooperation ties with the IACD even more, through channels that allow for smoother management of IIN projects for children in the Americas.

V.9 The Pan American Child Congress

Finally, in line with Resolutions *AG/ RES. 1961 (XXXIII-O/03)*, *CD/ RES. 19 (78-R/03)* and *CD/ RES. 05 (E/03)* on the XIX Pan American Child Congress, it has been decided that the Congress will be an Inter-American Specialized Conference. Its theme will be **The Family**, given its importance in the integral development of children and adolescents, and considering that 2004 is the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family.

The Pan American Child Congress is planned for October 27, 28 and 29, 2004, in Mexico City, following the 79th Regular Meeting of the Directing Council, which will be held on October 25 and 26. This schedule complies with the Statutes of the IIN, whose Article 15 stipulates that when a Pan American Child Congress is held, the Council will seek to hold its Regular Meeting in the city that hosts the Congress.

We reiterate the call made by Resolution *AG/RES. 1961 (XXXIII-O/03)* for Member States to provide the financial support required by the Inter-American Children's Institute, as a

Specialized Organization of the OAS, in order to properly meet its technical responsibilities during the different stages of the Congress.

The Congress Organizing Committee is entrusted with the preparation and dissemination, in the first four months of 2004, of a basic document including the agenda of the Congress, the requirements for participation, the logistical information newsletter, and all other pertinent information.

VI. ACTIVITIES IN THE YEAR 2003 BY PROGRAM AND COUNTRY

In line with Resolutions *AG/ RES. 1952* and *AG/ RES. 1974 (XXXIII-O/03)* regarding the **inclusion of a section with quantifiable results obtained**, in the year 2003 the IIN carried out a total of **160 activities**, divided into **119 Technical Interventions** (assistance, training, workshops, seminars, conferences, and distance and attendance-based courses) and **41 Interventions at the Policy Level** (negotiations, signature of agreements, diplomatic procedures and participation in Fora and Events on Children, Adolescents and the Family).

Below are details of the technical and political activities carried out in each country by the Office of the Director General of the IIN and the three Programs, in accordance with the 2000-2004 Strategic Plan.

The activities carried out at IIN Headquarters are considered to have an inter-American scope, given their regional character.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Program for the Integral Promotion of Children's Rights (PRODER)

- Participation in the Fourth Phase of the Project on Child Policies for Drug Abuse Prevention. An initiative funded by the OAS Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD) through the IIN and the Government of Suriname.
- Participation in the Fourth Regional Meeting of the Project, held in Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
- National Training Workshop on Participatory Education for the Prevention of Drug Abuse for Adolescents, Parents, Educators, Health Promoters and Community Leaders.
- Participation in the Website of the Caribbean.
- Technical assistance relative to the Fourth Report to the Secretary General of the OAS on the Situation of Sexual Exploitation in the Americas.
Counterparts in the above-described activities: the Office of National Drug Control & Money Laundering (ONOCP) and the Ministry of Health and Social Improvement.

ARGENTINA

Office of the Director General

- Signature of an Addendum to the Agreement in force with the National Council for Children, Adolescents and the Family.

- Presentation at the Federal Meeting and 4th Plenary Session of the Council.
- Presentation at the Opening Ceremony of the Meeting on Adoption.
- Meetings with officials from the National Council for Children, Adolescents and the Family.
- Interdisciplinary meeting with authorities of the Catholic University on Child Labor.

Inter-American Child and Family Information Program (PIINFA)

- Signature of an Addendum to the Agreement with the National Council for Children, Adolescents and the Family and presentation on “Social Information Marketing.”
- Meetings with new authorities of the National Council for Children, Adolescents and the Family.

Program for the Integral Promotion of Children's Rights (PRODER)

- Training Workshop on the Integral Care of Children with Different Capabilities.

Legal Program (PROJUR)

- Participation at the Meetings on Youth Violence held in the city of Posadas (Province of Misiones), lecturing on the situation of adolescent parents deprived of liberty.
- Technical assistance to the Legislature of the Province of Río Negro, on the subject of the Doctrine of Integral Protection and the Rights of Children and Adolescents.

BAHAMAS

Program for the Integral Promotion of Children's Rights (PRODER)

- Participation in the Fourth Phase of the Project on Child Policies for Drug Abuse Prevention. An initiative funded by the OAS Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD) through the IIN and the Government of Suriname.
- Participation in the Fourth Regional Meeting of the Project, held in Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
- National Training Workshop on Participatory Education for the Prevention of Drug Abuse for Adolescents, Parents, Educators, Health Promoters and Community Leaders.
- Participation in the Website of the Caribbean.
- Technical assistance relative to the Fourth Report to the Secretary General of the OAS on the Situation of Sexual Exploitation in the Americas.
Counterparts in the above-described activities: the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Social Services and Community Development.

BARBADOS

Program for the Integral Promotion of Children's Rights (PRODER)

- Representation in the Fourth Phase of the Project on Child Policies for Drug Abuse Prevention. An initiative funded by the OAS Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD) through the IIN and the Government of Suriname.
- Participation in the Fourth Regional Meeting of the Project, held in Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
- National Training Workshop on Participatory Education for the Prevention of Drug Abuse for Adolescents, Parents, Educators, Health Promoters and Community Leaders.
- Distance Education. Participation in the Training Course: Drug Prevention Educator (DPE).
- Participation in the Website of the Caribbean.
Counterpart: National Council on Substance Abuse (NCSA).

BELIZE

Program for the Integral Promotion of Children's Rights (PRODER)

- Representation in the Fourth Phase of the Project on Child Policies for Drug Abuse Prevention. An initiative funded by the OAS Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD) through the IIN and the Government of Suriname.
- Participation in the Fourth Regional Meeting of the Project, held in Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
- National Training Workshop on Participatory Education for the Prevention of Drug Abuse for Adolescents, Parents, Educators, Health Promoters and Community Leaders.
- Distance Education. Participation in the Second Training Course: Drug Prevention Educator (DPE) 2003-2004.
- Participation in the Website of the Caribbean.
- Technical assistance relative to the Fourth Report to the Secretary General of the OAS on the Situation of Sexual Exploitation in the Americas
Counterparts in the above-described activities: the National Drug Abuse Control Council (NDACC) and the Ministry of Human Development, Women and Children and Civil Society.

BOLIVIA

Office of the Director General

- Presentation at the opening session of the Training Course of the National Child and Family Information Network.
- Participation in the 5th Ibero-American Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials responsible for Child and Adolescent Affairs.
- Signature of an Addendum to the Agreement signed in October 1995 for the creation of a Focal Center.

Inter-American Child and Family Information Program (PIINFA)

- Training Course of the National Child and Family Information Network, at the Bolivian Government's Vice-Ministry for Youth, Children and Seniors.
- Participation in the 5th Ibero-American Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials responsible for Child and Adolescent Affairs.

Program for the Integral Promotion of Children's Rights (PRODER)

- Course and Certificate of Specialization on Children's Rights and Drug Addiction.

BRAZIL

Office of the Director General

- Meetings to define and plan IIN technical assistance in Brazil, with:
 - The Director of the Child and Adolescent Department of the State Secretariat for Human Rights, Ministry of Justice;
 - The Assistant Secretary for Human Rights;
 - The Advisor to the Secretariat on Human Rights.

Inter-American Child and Family Information Program (PIINFA)

- Introduction of the IIN's Information Program. Negotiation of a cooperation agreement with the Ministry of Justice for the installation of a Network in Brazil as part of the RIIN, the translation of the Dictionary of Key Words (DPC) into Portuguese, and the dissemination of videos on Children's Rights.

CHILE

Office of the Director General

- Speech entitled "Synthesis of Parts One and Two" at the International Seminar "Reforms in the Field of Child and Adolescent Affairs," organized by the National Child Service of Chile (SENAME).
- 78th Meeting of the Directing Council of the IIN (2003). Santiago, Chile.
- Signature of a cooperation agreement for the development of policies and activities for children, adolescents and the family in Chile, and an agreement for the production of a promotional video based on an article selected from the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Inter-American Child and Family Information Program (PIINFA)

- Technical assistance for the 78th Meeting of the Directing Council of the IIN (2003). Santiago, Chile.
- Technical assistance on the SIPI and the RIIN.
- Production of a video on the Right to Play.

Program for the Integral Promotion of Children's Rights (PRODER)

- Technical assistance for the 78th Meeting of the Directing Council of the IIN (2003). Santiago, Chile.

Legal Program (PROJUR)

- Technical assistance for the 78th Meeting of the Directing Council of the IIN (2003). Santiago, Chile.

COLOMBIA

Office of the Director General

- Participation in the International Forum on “Early Childhood and Development – The Challenge of the Decade.”

Inter-American Child and Family Information Program (PIINFA)

- Advisory services on the preparation of Reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child.
- Operative Agreement with the Colombian Institute for Family Welfare (ICBF) for the development of two films, each one minute long, based on the Articles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to be chosen by mutual agreement. Reference: Cooperation Agreement of May 9, 2001.

COSTA RICA

Office of the Director General

- Opening ceremony of the 2nd Workshop: “Training for the Site for Coordination of Activities for Children and Adolescents” and speech “The Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Contents.”
- Signature of an agreement with the National Child Board (PANI) establishing the basis for use of the “Site for Coordination of Activities for Children and Adolescents.”

Inter-American Child and Family Information Program (PIINFA)

- II Training Session for the Site for Coordination of Activities for Children and Adolescents.

DOMINICA

Program for the Integral Promotion of Children's Rights (PRODER)

- Representation in the Fourth Phase of the Project on Child Policies for Drug Abuse Prevention. An initiative funded by the OAS Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD) through the IIN and the Government of Suriname.
- Participation in the Fourth Regional Meeting of the Project, held in Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
- National Training Workshop on Participatory Education for the Prevention of Drug Abuse for Adolescents, Parents, Educators, Health Promoters and Community Leaders
- Distance Education. Participation in the Second Training Course: Drug Prevention Educator (DPE) 2003-2004.
- Participation in the Website of the Caribbean.
- Technical assistance relative to the Fourth Report to the Secretary General of the OAS on the Situation of Sexual Exploitation in the Americas.
Counterparts in the above-described activities: the National Drug Prevention Unit and the Ministry of Health and Social Security.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Office of the Director General

- Participation in the Awareness-raising Workshop for the Implementation of a “System for Children’s Rights Monitoring in the Dominican Republic” and the “First Workshop for the Dominican Child Information Network.”
- Launch of the video “I Participate,” created with funding from the Government of the Dominican Republic.
- Signature of the General Cooperation Agreement with the Supreme Court of Justice.
- XII Conference of First Spouses and Representatives of Heads of State and Government of the Americas.

Inter-American Child and Family Information Program (PIINFA)

- SIPI Awareness-raising Workshop.
- Technical assistance in the creation of the video “I Participate.”

EL SALVADOR

Office of the Director General

- Consultation meeting jointly organized by CIDA and the IIN, with the participation of governmental and non-governmental organizations and international agencies, for the purpose of establishing strategic priorities related to children and adolescents in the region.
- Signature of an agreement establishing the basis for use of the “Site for Coordination of Activities for Children and Adolescents.”

Inter-American Child and Family Information Program (PIINFA)

- Training Session on the Site for Coordination of Activities for Children and Adolescents.
- Technical Assistance for the SIPI system.
- Analysis and evolution of the SIPI at the Child and Adolescent Integral Development Institute of El Salvador.
- Consultation meeting jointly organized by CIDA and the IIN, with the participation of governmental and non-governmental organizations and international agencies, for the purpose of establishing strategic priorities related to children and adolescents in the region.

GRENADA

Program for the Integral Promotion of Children's Rights (PRODER)

- Representation in the Fourth Phase of the Project on Child Policies for Drug Abuse Prevention. An initiative funded by the OAS Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD) through the IIN and the Government of Suriname.
- Participation in the Fourth Regional Meeting of the Project, held in Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
- National Training Workshop on Participatory Education for the Prevention of Drug Abuse for Adolescents, Parents, Educators, Health Promoters and Community Leaders.
- Distance Education. Participation in the Second Training Course: Drug Prevention Educator (DPE) 2003-2004.
- Participation in the Website of the Caribbean.
- Technical assistance relative to the Fourth Report to the Secretary General of the OAS on the Situation of Sexual Exploitation in the Americas.
Counterparts in the above-described activities: the Drug Control Secretariat of Grenada and the Ministry of Housing, Social Services, Culture and Cooperatives.

GUATEMALA

Office of the Director General

- Signature of an agreement establishing the basis for use of the “Site for Coordination of Activities for Children and Adolescents.”

GUYANA

Program for the Integral Promotion of Children's Rights (PRODER)

- Representation in the Fourth Phase of the Project on Child Policies for Drug Abuse Prevention. An initiative funded by the OAS Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD) through the IIN and the Government of Suriname.

- Participation in the Fourth Regional Meeting of the Project, held in Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
- National Training Workshop on Participatory Education for the Prevention of Drug Abuse for Adolescents, Parents, Educators, Health Promoters and Community Leaders.
- Distance Education. Participation in the Second Training Course: Drug Prevention Educator (DPE) 2003-2004.
- Participation in the Website of the Caribbean.
Counterpart: Ministry of Home Affairs.

HAITI

Program for the Integral Promotion of Children's Rights (PRODER)

Haiti joined the Project for the English-speaking Caribbean in 2003.

- Representation in the Fourth Phase of the Project on Child Policies for Drug Abuse Prevention. An initiative funded by the OAS Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD) through the IIN and the Government of Suriname.
- Participation in the Fourth Regional Meeting of the Project, held in Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
- Participation in the Website of the Caribbean: www.cariin.org.

HONDURAS

Office of the Director General

- Meeting with the Minister of the National Women's Institute and Auditor of the Honduran Child and Family Institute (IHNFA).

Program for the Integral Promotion of Children's Rights (PRODER)

- Sub-regional Workshop on Public Policies for the Educational and Social Inclusion of Children with Different Capabilities (Central America, Dominican Republic and Panama) in coordination with the National Women's Institute (INAM).

Legal Program (PROJUR)

- Attendance at sub-regional events on different capabilities.
- Assistance on the subject of adoption.

JAMAICA

Program for the Integral Promotion of Children's Rights (PRODER)

- Representation in the Fourth Phase of the Project on Child Policies for Drug Abuse Prevention. An initiative funded by the OAS Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD) through the IIN and the Government of Suriname.

- Participation in the Fourth Regional Meeting of the Project, held in Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
- National Training Workshop on Participatory Education for the Prevention of Drug Abuse for Adolescents, Parents, Educators, Health Promoters and Community Leaders.
- Distance Education. Participation in the Second Training Course: Drug Prevention Educator (DPE) 2003-2004.
- Participation in the Website of the Caribbean.
Counterpart: National Council on Drug Abuse.

MEXICO

Office of the Director General

- Lecture at the XIV Regional Workshop of the Inter-American Child and Family Information Network (RIIN).
- Participation at the International Family Congress: “The Family Today: Rights and Responsibilities.”
- Launch of IIN video “It is My Family.”
- Preparatory meetings for the XIX Pan American Child Congress.
- Signature of an Addendum extending the Agreement signed in May 2000, for the creation of the National Child and Family Information Network (RIIN).

Inter-American Child and Family Information Program (PIINFA)

- 2nd DIF National Meeting.
- Assistance in production of the video “It is My Family.”
- XIV Regional Workshop of the Inter-American Child and Family Information Network – RIIN.
- Participation in the International Family Congress. Presentation of the video on Child Abuse (part of the series on Children’s Rights developed by the IIN).
- Technical activities in preparation for the XIX Pan American Child Congress.

NICARAGUA

Office of the Director General

- Signature of an agreement establishing the basis for use of the “Site for Coordination of Activities for Children and Adolescents.”

Legal Program (PROJUR)

- Participation at the second Seminar for Operators in the Juvenile Justice System.

PANAMA

Office of the Director General

- 4th Meeting of First Spouses of Central America, Belize, Panama and the Dominican Republic.
- Signature of Memorandum of Agreement No. 1, part of the General Cooperation Agreement signed in November 2000, to carry out the Master's Program in Public Policies for Drug Abuse Prevention.

Inter-American Child and Family Information Program (PIINFA)

- Technical assistance for the 4th Meeting of First Spouses of Central America, Belize, Panama and the Dominican Republic.
- Training of the Child and Family Information Network.

Program for the Integral Promotion of Children's Rights (PRODER)

- Training and technical Assistance on Prototypes of Targeted Public Policies, Child Labor, Sexual Exploitation and Children in/of the Street.
- Third follow-up mission to review the 2003 agenda of activities on the issues of Child Labor, Sexual Exploitation and Children in/of the Street in Panama. Counterpart: Ministry for Youth, Women, Children and the Family.
- Promotion of the Executive Decree to establish the Unit for Management and Coordination of Targeted Public Policies.
- Fourth follow-up mission for the creation of a strategy for mobilizing resources for Plans of Action and training in negotiation techniques.
- Development of a Certificate and Master's Degree in Public Child and Adolescent Policies for Drug Abuse Prevention, through General Cooperation Agreements between the IIN, the CLAEH University Institute in Uruguay, and the *Santa Maria La Antigua* Catholic University in Panama (USMA).

PARAGUAY

Office of the Director General

- Official opening of the National Child and Family Information Center.
- Presentation at the *Columbia* University on National Child Systems.
- Workshop for introducing an Action Plan on Child Labor.

Inter-American Child and Family Information Program (PIINFA)

- Training of the managers and operators of the National Information Center at the National Secretariat for Children and Adolescents.

Program for the Integral Promotion of Children's Rights (PRODER)

- Technical Assistance on Children's Rights and Child Labor.
- First Seminar on the application of the Prototype of Targeted Public Policies on Child Labor and institutional strengthening of Children's Rights Coordinating Committees (CODENI), in coordination with the National Secretariat for Children and Adolescents.
- Cooperation in the National Child and Adolescent Policy (POLNA).
- Second Planning Seminar for the Plan of Action on Child Labor.

PERU

Office of the Director General

- Introduction to the Workshop: "Systematization of the Reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child."

Inter-American Child and Family Information Program (PIINFA)

- General coordination of the Workshop: "Systematization of the Reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child."

Program for the Integral Promotion of Children's Rights (PRODER)

- Technical assistance on Children's Rights and Child Labor.

SAINT KITTS & NEVIS

Program for the Integral Promotion of Children's Rights (PRODER)

- Representation in the Fourth Phase of the Project on Child Policies for Drug Abuse Prevention. An initiative funded by the OAS Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD) through the IIN and the Government of Suriname.
- Participation in the Fourth Regional Meeting of the Project, held in Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
- Participation in the Website of the Caribbean.
- Technical assistance relative to the Fourth Report to the Secretary General of the OAS on the Situation of Sexual Exploitation in the Americas.
Counterparts in the above-described activities: the National Council on Drug Abuse Prevention and the Ministry of Social Development, Community and Gender Affairs.

SAINT LUCIA

Program for the Integral Promotion of Children's Rights (PRODER)

- Representation in the Fourth Phase of the Project on Child Policies for Drug Abuse Prevention. An initiative funded by the OAS Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD) through the IIN and the Government of Suriname.

- Participation in the Fourth Regional Meeting of the Project, held in Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
- National Training Workshop on Participatory Education for the Prevention of Drug Abuse for Adolescents, Parents, Educators, Health Promoters and Community Leaders.
- Distance Education. Participation in the Second Training Course: Drug Prevention Educator (DPE) 2003-2004.
- Participation in the Website of the Caribbean.
Counterpart: Substance Abuse Secretariat.

SAINT VINCENT & THE GRENADINES

Program for the Integral Promotion of Children's Rights (PRODER)

- Representation in the Fourth Phase of the Project on Child Policies for Drug Abuse Prevention. An initiative funded by the OAS Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD) through the IIN and the Government of Suriname.
- Participation in the Fourth Regional Meeting of the Project, held in Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
- National Training Workshop on Participatory Education for the Prevention of Drug Abuse for Adolescents, Parents, Educators, Health Promoters and Community Leaders.
- Distance Education. Participation in the Second Training Course: Drug Prevention Educator (DPE) 2003-2004.
- Participation in the Website of the Caribbean.
Counterpart: Ministry of Health and the Environment.

SURINAME

Program for the Integral Promotion of Children's Rights (PRODER)

- Representation in the Fourth Phase of the Project on Child Policies for Drug Abuse Prevention. An initiative funded by the OAS Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD) through the IIN and the Government of Suriname.
- Participation in the Fourth Regional Meeting of the Project, held in Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
- National Training Workshop on Participatory Education for the Prevention of Drug Abuse for Adolescents, Parents, Educators, Health Promoters and Community Leaders.
- Distance Education. Participation in the Second Training Course: Drug Prevention Educator (DPE) 2003-2004.
- Participation in the Website of the Caribbean.
- Technical assistance relative to the Fourth Report to the Secretary General of the OAS on the Situation of Sexual Exploitation in the Americas.
Counterparts in the above-described activities: the National Anti-Drug Council and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Program for the Integral Promotion of Children's Rights (PRODER)

- Representation in the Fourth Phase of the Project on Child Policies for Drug Abuse Prevention. An initiative funded by the OAS Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD) through the IIN and the Government of Suriname.
- Participation in the Fourth Regional Meeting of the Project, held in Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
- National Training Workshop on Participatory Education for the Prevention of Drug Abuse for Adolescents, Parents, Educators, Health Promoters and Community Leaders.
- Distance Education. Participation in the Second Training Course: Drug Prevention Educator (DPE) 2003-2004.
- Participation in the Website of the Caribbean.
Counterpart: National Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Programme (NADAPP).

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Office of the Director General

- Special Meeting of the IIN Directing Council. Report of the Office of the Director General for the 2000-2003 period (updated November 2003).
- Presentation to the Permanent Council of the OAS. “Report of the IIN: June 2002 – October 2003.”
- Presentation at the Videoconference on “Trafficking of Persons (Women, Children and Adolescents),” Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) – Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN).
- Meetings with Permanent Observers to the Organization of American States.
- Meetings with authorities from the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States.
- Visit to Headquarters of the International Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Recognition of the work and prestige of the IIN.
- Fundraising mission to governments of Qatar and Korea.

Inter-American Child and Family Information Program (PIINFA)

- Coordination of actions and links between the Intranets of the IIN and the OAS.
- Coordination of actions with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.
- Technical assistance in fundraising missions.

URUGUAY

Office of the Director General

- Ceremony at the Office of the President of the Republic for the presentation of four animated video clips on Children's Rights and copies of two illustrated books to the

National Child Institute (INAME), the National Public Education Administration and NGOs working in the field of children's issues.

- Speaker at the Round Table on the Juridical Status and Human Rights of Children and Adolescents within the Framework of the Inter-American System.
- Participation as lecturer at the Seminar “Child Sex Tourism: A Challenge for Serious Journalists,” organized by the Uruguayan Press Association and the International Federation of Journalists.
- Presentation to the Embassy of the United States of America in Uruguay: proposal for a project for the MERCOSUR Region, Bolivia and Chile on Child Pornography on the Internet, Trafficking of Children for the Purposes of Sexual Exploitation and Adjustment of Domestic Criminal Legislation in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Art. 34).
- Introduction of the Members from the Americas on the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child to the President of the IDB, Enrique Iglesias, and Proposal for Coordination between the Committee, the IDB and the IIN.
- Lecture in the Psycho-Social Area of the National Higher Education Centre.

Inter-American Child and Family Information Program (PIINFA)

- Technical assistance in the creation of institutional videos on children's rights and illustrated books.
- Coordination of the Preparatory Workshop on the Systematization of the Reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Program for the Integral Promotion of Children's Rights (PRODER)

- Training of officials of the National Child Institute (INAME) on the Policy for Prevention and Eradication of Child Labor, in coordination with the National Committee for the Eradication of Child Labor (CETI).
- Participation at meetings of the CETI in representation of the IIN as advisory body.
- Selection of the Coordinator of the National Plan and design of the Website.
- Course and Certificate of Specialization on Children's Rights and Drug Addiction, in coordination with the University of the Republic and civil society organizations.
- Training on Children's Rights and the Gender Approach.
- Development of a Seminar on the Protection of the Rights of Child Victims of Sexual Violence, in conjunction with the NGO *Voces* and the BICE.

Legal Program (PROJUR)

- Technical advisory services to the Uruguayan Committee for the Preparation of the 2002-2010 Plan of Action for Children.
- Meeting on Racial Discrimination, lecture on “Racial and Ethnic Discrimination Against Children and Adolescents.”

VENEZUELA

Office of the Director General

- Signing of an Agreement, inauguration and training session at the Information Center of the National Child and Adolescent Council.
- Participation in the High Level Meeting on Poverty, Equity and Social Inclusion convened by the OAS General Secretariat.

Inter-American Child and Family Information Program (PIINFA)

- Installation and training of the Information Center based in the National Child and Adolescent Council.

IIN HEADQUARTERS

Office of the Director General

- Meeting with the new Ambassador of Brazil to Uruguay.
- Participation in the regional Seminar “For a Violence-free Continent,” organized by the BICE as part of the *VOCES* Project.
- Meetings with Members of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, with the President of the International Child Welfare Forum and the Delegation of the Government of Mexico.
- Participation in a teleconference in commemoration of the Day of the Americas.
- Meetings with the Director for International Affairs of Mexico's National System for Family Integral Development of the Family (DIF).
- Meetings with Representatives of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).
- Meeting with three members of the Committee on the rights of the Child from Latin American countries.
- President of the Jury for the Inter-American Contest of Monographs on “Justice Systems for Adolescents in conflict with the Law.”

Inter-American Child and Family Information Program (PIINFA)

- Project: “Systematization of the Reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child”: Development of software SMD 1.0. Coordination with Save the Children Sweden.
- Project: “Site for Coordination of Activities for Children and Adolescents.” Agreement with three countries in which the pilot project will be carried out.
- Preparation of a document related to the XIX Pan American Child Congress, sent to DIF Mexico.
- Negotiation with the *Fundación Rafael Pombo* for the relaunch of the Information Network in Colombia in conjunction with the Colombian Institute for Family Welfare (ICBF).
- Draft agreement sent to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, for the installation of a Child and Family Information Network in the USA.

- As part of the IV Meeting of First Spouses, coordination of a Training Session for the Information Network in Panama, August 29, 2003.
- Creation and coordination of a project for the production of a video on adoption, in conjunction with *Adopsjonsforum* (Forum on Adoption).
- Creation of the Bibliographic Journals, Yellow Pages and Green Pages, and their inclusion on the IIN Website.
- Site for Coordination of Activities for Children and Adolescents: Detection and solution of first cases. Acquisition of equipment.
- Coordination with the counterpart in Bolivia for the development of training for the relaunch of the Information Center.
- Coordination with the DIF in Mexico for the XIV Regional Workshop of the RIIN (Creation of the Program and guide for presentations).
- Completion of the video on the Inter-American Democratic Charter.
- Quality control on the information received from the National Child and Family Information Centers.
- Selective dissemination of information to users of the Information Network in Uruguay.
- Technical assistance for the Meeting with the three Members of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child from Latin American countries, for the Systematization of the Reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child and presentation of the Site for Coordination of Activities.
- Meetings with the Director of International Affairs for the Mexican government's National System for Family Integral Development of the Family (DIF).
- Meetings with Representatives of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).
- Receipt of the updates to the databases of documents, institutions and projects from the different National Centers in the RIIN; quality control of these updates and generation of the new database.
- Contact with Mexican photographers associated with the DIF Mexico, regarding the traveling??? work by professionals which will culminate in a photo exhibition on Children and the Family, to be shown at the Pan American Child Congress in Mexico City in 2004.
- Technical assistance and preparation of documents for presentation at the Special Meeting of the IIN Directing Council, to the Permanent Council of the OAS and at meetings with Ambassadors to the OAS.
- Updating of the BADAJ Legal Database.
- Exchange with the Colombian Institute for Family Welfare (ICBF) for the creation of two films on children's rights.
- Analysis and formulation of terms for the signature of a cooperation agreement with the Government of Brazil.
- 53 updates to the contents of the IIN Website, which has now received 3.5 million hits. In light of this growth, we predict that there will be more than 5 million hits per year.
- Negotiations with World Vision Canada to implement the SIPI Project in the Dominican Republic.
- Negotiations with the Government of Panama for the 4th Meeting of First Spouses of Central America.

Program for the Integral Promotion of Children's Rights (PRODER)

- Distance Training on Drug Abuse (Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago).
- Coordination of Institutions related to Children's Rights, Disabilities and Child Labor.
- Research and Fourth Report to the Secretary General of the OAS on Sexual Exploitation.
- Technical exchange with the Embassy of the United States of America in Uruguay for the implementation in 2004 of a subregional project for the MERCOSUR Region, Bolivia and Chile on Child Pornography on the Internet, Trafficking of Children for the Purposes of Sexual Exploitation and Adjustment of Domestic Criminal Legislation in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Art. 34).
- Online publishing of the Distance Course on Integral Care of Victims of Sexual Violence and Exploitation.
- Training and publication of the Prototype of Targeted Public Policies on Article 23 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child at the Seminar on the Integral Care of Children with Different Capabilities.
- Online publishing of the Seminar on the Integral Care of Children with Different Capabilities.
- Negotiation for the application of the Prototype of Targeted Public Policies on Child Labor and Sexual Exploitation in the Caribbean, with the support of CIDFA-Canada.

Legal Program (PROJUR)

- Creation, organization and execution of the Distance Course on Family rights: “The Child Horizons within the New Family Geography,” with 25 participants from 9 different countries.
- Organization of the First Inter-American Contest of Monographs on Justice Systems for Adolescents in conflict with the Law.
- Comparative Law Study on Legislation in the American Continent regarding *Patria Potestas*, or Parental Authority.
- Opinion papers on Adolescent Parenthood, to be published in the next IIN Information Journal.
- Research on “Types of Families in the Countries of the Region, from the Perspective of National Legislation and Social Reality.”
- Document of reflection and analysis within the framework of the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, entitled “Reflections on the Rights of Indigenous Children and Adolescents.”

VII. COORDINATION OF THE IIN WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

We will now summarize the IIN's relationships, coordination and cooperation with other inter-American organizations and regional and worldwide organizations, both public and private. Also detailed, are the activities carried out in 2003:

- Round Table in Montevideo on “The Juridical Status and Human Rights of Children and Adolescents within the Framework of the Inter-American System.” A joint effort by the **Office of the OAS in Uruguay**, the **Regional Representation of UNICEF for the Southern Cone**, the **Inter-American Court of Human Rights**, the **Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IAHCR)**, the **Justice Studies Center of the Americas (JSCA)** and the Inter-American Children's Institute. More than one hundred judges, district attorneys, lawyers, legislators, university professors and educators from Argentina, Chile and Uruguay participated at this event.
- In Uruguay, IIN Director General Alejandro Bonasso was invited to speak at a Seminar on “Seminar on Child Sex Tourism: A Challenge for Serious Journalists,” organized by the **International Federation of Journalists (IFJ)** and the Uruguayan Press Association (APU).
- **Members of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child**, Norberto Liwski (Argentina), Marilia Sardenberg (Brazil) and Rosa María Ortiz (Paraguay), visited IIN Headquarters to meet with the Director General and the technical team. Central topics included the analysis of the methodology developed for the “Systematization of the Reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child” and the presentation of progress made on the information technology tool for monitoring rights. The “Site for Coordination of Activities for Children and Adolescents,” a tool developed by the IIN with the support of “**Save the Children Sweden**,” was also presented to the visitors, with very positive response.
- Work and coordination sessions with Dr. Rolando Quiros, President of the **International Forum for Child Welfare**.
- Coordination meeting between the IIN and Carlos Raúl Anaya Moreno, Director of **International Affairs** for Mexico’s **National System for Family Integral Development of the Family (DIF)**. Progress was made in the details of events on the agendas of both institutions. The foundations were also laid for the organization of XIX Pan American Child Congress, to be held in Mexico City in 2004.
- Representatives of the **Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)**, Delmer Bjorklund, Pascal Médiéu and Isla Paterson, visited IIN Headquarters for working and coordination sessions. The results of the First Phase of cooperation were analyzed, as well as the possibility of a Second Phase in the following areas: life skills, human rights, conflict resolution, the gender approach, resilience, family violence, and child trafficking.
- The training session for the establishment of the National Child and Family Information Network in Bolivia, convened by the Vice-Minister for Youth, Children and Seniors, was held at the offices of the **German Technical Cooperation Agency (GTZ)** in La Paz, Bolivia, with the participation of 19 representatives of government and civil society. IIN Director General Mr. Alejandro Bonasso presided over the opening ceremony, lecturing on information in the framework of a child rights protection system. The Information Program was responsible for the technical aspects of this activity.
- In Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Mr. Alejandro Bonasso attended the **5th Ibero-American Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials responsible for Child and Adolescent Affairs**.

- Negotiations were undertaken with **World Vision Canada** to implement the IIN's SIPI Project in the Dominican Republic.
- In Uruguay, the Director General of the IIN participated at a Seminar organized by the **International Catholic Child Bureau (BICE)** as part of the VOCES Project, with the support of the European Commission and the OAK Foundation. This project seeks to protect girls and avoid situations of violence and sexual exploitation which both girls and boys experience more and more frequently, and to develop strategies to make these issues a priority for public opinion and the political agendas of governments, fostering the participation of civil society in the defense of children's right to live and grow up free from violence.
- In El Salvador, an **Inter-Agency Meeting** was co-organized by the IIN and the **Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)**, and attended by representatives of the **OIM, UNICEF, Plan Rocca, Save the Children, World Vision** and **Casa Alianza**. Participants presented institutional information and priorities, which included: trafficking of children and adolescents, immigration, eradication of child labor, commercial sexual exploitation, abuse, violence, youth gangs or *maras*, democratization of justice, strengthening of civil society, participation, and youth in conflict with the law. It was proposed that progress be sought on five basic issues: armed conflict, trade and trafficking of children, criminal justice, youth gangs, and migration.
- An Agreement was signed with the Governing Body on Child Affairs in El Salvador, establishing the terms of reference for the use of the "Site for Coordination of Activities for Children and Adolescents."
- The production of a video on the Inter-American Democratic Charter was coordinated with the **Unit for the Promotion of Democracy (UPD)** of the OAS. This was presented to the OAS Permanent Council as part of the IIN's Report for the June 2002 – October 2003 period.
- IIN Director General Mr. Alejandro Bonasso participated in a Videoconference in Washington on "Trafficking of Persons (Women, Children and Adolescents)" organized in cooperation with the **Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM)**.
- Actions were coordinated in Washington with the **International Center for Missing and Exploited Children**, to exchange experiences and find common lines for the application of the "Site for Coordination of Activities for Children and Adolescents."
- Thanks to the good offices of the IIN, two Members of the **Geneva Committee on the Rights of the Child**, Dr. Norberto Liwski and Ms. Rosa María Ortiz, attended a meeting with the President of the **Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)**, Enrique Iglesias, as well as IDB Representative Martín Francisco Stabile, IDB Sub-Representative César Williams, IIN Director General Alejandro Bonasso and PIINFA Coordinator Julio Rosenblatt, held on December 15, 2003 at IDB Headquarters in Uruguay. The central objective of this meeting was to establish a cooperation agreement between the IDB, the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the IIN, for projects and issues of common interest.

In sum, in the year 2003 the IIN coordinated actions and activities with the following organizations:

- Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
- German Technical Cooperation Agency (GTZ)
- Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
- Justice Studies Center of the Americas (JSCA)
- Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR)
- Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM)
- Committee on the Rights of the Child (UN)
- Inter-American Court of Human Rights
- International Federation of Journalists (IFJ)
- International Forum for Child Welfare (IFCW)
- International Center for Missing & Exploited Children (ICMEC)
- Office of the OAS in Uruguay
- International Catholic Child Bureau (BICE)
- Save the Children Sweden
- UNICEF – Regional Representation (TACRO)
- Unit for the Promotion of Democracy (UPD/OAS)
- World Vision Canada (WV)

VIII. 78th MEETING OF THE DIRECTING COUNCIL OF THE IIN

The 78th Meeting of the Directing Council of the Inter-American Children's Institute was held June 4-6, 2003 in Santiago, Chile. On the meeting's Order of Business were the following central issues:

- Annual Report of the Director General;
- Presentation of the National Child System;
- Report on the Meeting of Government Experts on the International Abduction of Children By One of Their Parents;
- National Reports;
- IV Meeting of First Spouses of Central America, Belize, Panama and the Dominican Republic: August 2003;
- IV Summit of the Americas, 2005, Buenos Aires, Argentina;
- XIX Pan American Child Congress (Program, Regulations, Date and Venue).

The following resolutions were approved as a result of the 78th Meeting of the Directing Council of the IIN:

CD/RES. 01 (78-R/03)	Approval of the Final Report of the 77 th Meeting of the Directing Council
CD/RES. 02 (78-R/03)	Special Meetings of the Directing Council
CD/RES. 03 (78-R/03)	National Dialogues in Favor of Children
CD/RES. 04 (78-R/03)	Approval of the Report of the Office of the Director General
CD/RES. 05 (78-R/03)	Dissemination of Advisory Opinion No. 17, "Children's Legal Status and Human Rights," issued by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights

CD/RES. 06 (78-R/03)	Support to the Mass Promotion of the Rights of Children and Adolescents
CD/RES. 07 (78-R/03)	Fourth Meeting of First Spouses
CD/RES. 08 (78-R/03)	Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Rights and Gender Equity and Equality
CD/RES. 09 (78-R/03)	<i>(This number was intended to be assigned to a Draft Resolution, which was later withdrawn during the Plenary debates. Due to involuntary omission, the number was not used.)</i>
CD/RES. 10 (78-R/03)	Children with Different Capabilities
CD/RES. 11 (78-R/03)	Promotion of the Prototype of Targeted Public Policies for Children and Adolescents under conditions of Vulnerability and Social Risk, as a form of Intervention for the Recovery of their Violated Rights
CD/RES. 12 (78-R/03)	The IIN in the English-Speaking Caribbean Sub-Region
CD/RES. 13 (78-R/03)	Site for Action Coordination in Favor of Children and Adolescents
CD/RES. 14 (78-R/03)	Inter-American Program of Cooperation to Prevent and Remedy Cases of International Abduction of Children by One of their Parents
CD/RES. 15 (78-R/03)	Representation of the Americas in the Committee on the Rights of the Child
CD/RES. 16 (78-R/03)	Style Revision of the Spanish version of the Statutes
CD/RES. 17 (78-R/03)	Agreements signed by the Office of the Director General
CD/RES. 18 (78-R/03)	The Right of Children and Adolescents to Participate
CD/RES. 19 (78-R/03)	XIX Pan American Child Congress

The Assistant Secretary General of the OAS, Amb. Luigi Einaudi, presided over the meeting's closing ceremony.

IX. SPECIAL MEETING OF THE DIRECTING COUNCIL OF THE IIN

A Special Meeting of the Directing Council of the IIN was held on November 17 and 18, 2003 at OAS Headquarters in Washington, D.C. On the meeting's Order of Business were the following central issues:

- Annual Report of the Director General, Mr. Alejandro Bonasso, for approval and submission to the OAS General Assembly;
- The Best Interest of the Child and the Right to Education in the Reality of the Region;
- Inter-American Program of Cooperation to Prevent and Remedy Cases of International Abduction of Minors by One of Their Parents;

- Progress Report on the XIX Pan American Child Congress, to be held in Mexico City in 2004, on the subject of the Family;
- Reform to the Statutes of the IIN;
- 2005-2008 Strategic Plan.

The renowned International Center for Missing and Exploited Children, which is coordinating activities with the IIN, welcomed the Delegates of the Institute at its Headquarters in Washington to show its recognition for the Institute's work.

The following resolutions were approved as a result of the Special Meeting of the Directing Council of the IIN:

CD/RES. 01 (E / 03)	Approval of the Final Report of the 78 th Meeting
CD/RES. 02 (E / 03)	Follow-up of Resolution AG/RES 1951 (XXXIII-O/03) adopted by the General Assembly on 10 June 2003
CD/RES. 03 (E / 03)	Inter-American Program of Cooperation to Prevent and Remedy Cases of International Abduction of Minors by One of Their Parents
CD/RES. 04 (E / 03)	Patrimonial Funds of the IIN
CD/RES. 05 (E / 03)	XIX Pan American Child Congress
CD/RES. 06 (E / 03)	<i>(Draft Resolution under discussion)</i> The Best Interest of the Child and the Right to Education
CD/RES. 07 (E / 03)	Reform of the Statutes of the Inter-American Children's Institute
CD/RES. 08 (E / 03)	Approval of the Report of the Office of the Director General

The Final Report of the Special Meeting will be submitted for approval at the next Regular Meeting (the 79th), to be held in October 2004.

The Assistant Secretary General of the OAS, Ambassador Luigi Einaudi, presided over the Council's closing ceremony.

X. RECOMMENDATIONS

Over the 2000-2004 period, the Inter-American Children's Institute implemented a Strategic Plan, providing an operational vision to political entities and a management structure which encouraged fidelity to its institutional mission and fulfillment of the mandates of the Summits of the America, General Assembly Sessions and Directing Councils.

This operational method was recognized by the General Secretariat and the Directing Council as being highly efficient and effective, but the Member States did not make this conviction felt at the Budget Administration Committee. While the IIN undertook a process of organizational restructuring and attempted to implement Strategic Planning as recommended to all entities of the OAS, it was affected by unplanned cuts to both staff and operating budget. As a result, the search

for overall balance disfavored those who, like the IIN, sought to connect mandates and priorities established by political bodies with the managerial capacity to carry them out.

Through its organizational restructuring by program, the rationalization of its operational expenses, and the modernization of its administration by connecting it to the Oracle system, the IIN prepared to design, execute and evaluate its budget on the basis of results, services and products generated by the Institution. In fact, this management was evaluated positively thanks to its results in obtaining Specific Funds and Counterpart Funds, the latter representing 60% of the IIN's funding. In 2003, despite all this, cuts were made to the IIN's operational funds originating from the Regular Fund and positions were eliminated. This poses a serious threat to the IIN's ability to fulfill mandates, operate in accordance with a Strategic Plan, implement a results-based budget, and successfully obtain new external funds.

Therefore, the Office of the Director General of the IIN recommends that –based on the priority given to children by the Québec City Summit, the resolutions of the General Assembly (2003) regarding children and their consequences for the IIN (Res. AG/RES. 1951 (XXXIII-O/03), and the conclusions reached in the Audit conducted by “Tea Deloitte y Touch”– a strategy be developed to promote the creation of a new Strategic Plan for the 2005-2008 period. To this end, the appropriate budget from the Regular Fund should be sought, in order to ensure that the IIN can operate and meet its commitments, and to act as a counterpart to the external funds that the IIN has been obtaining increasingly.

XI. CONCLUSION

The Office of the Director General feels that the 2000-2004 Strategic Plan was successfully and completed concluded in , and that a new and innovative Strategic Plan adapted to new circumstances and needs, while incorporating the lessons learned in the previous stage, has been developed.

A preliminary evaluation seems to conclude that, despite reductions in technical staff and the limitations of its budget, the Institute has been able to make a name for itself in the region, where hitherto it had been unknown. The IIN has continuously endeavored to comply with the mandates entrusted to it by the General Assembly, the Directing Councils and the General Secretariat.

Also worth noting is the fact that, as we can see in the corresponding section, the IIN has been capable of using its resources to work on the basis of seed funds, from which the countries disburse what we call Counterpart Funds, which make possible, for example, the operation of more than 60 Information Centers in the countries, as well as many other undertakings at the national level, which on the whole represent 50% of the funds utilized by the IIN.

Two Directing Council Meetings were held in the year 2003, one of them a Special Meeting. These provided an opportunity to convene the region's Senior Representatives for children's issues and other authorities from the Member States and the IIN's Director General and Technical Staff to jointly analyze the reality experienced by the children of the Americas and seek alternatives to this reality from both the technical and political perspective.

The governments and governing bodies on child affairs have repeatedly stated, directly and through the Delegates to the Directing Council, how much they value the activities carried out by the Institute in their own countries and in the region. The increase in demand for technical assistance that the IIN has been receiving through the Office of the Director General and the Program Coordinators, and the fact that the governments (through their child affairs organizations or cooperation agencies) are devoting funds for national or regional IIN projects and activities, provide ample proof that the IIN's policy of accompanying the process of change with commitment and technical assistance has been well-received and has the governments' endorsement.

In this community of 34 OAS Member States, it is a source of great satisfaction for us to be able to say that 31 them have been involved in the IIN's activities and efforts to improve the situation of children –a political priority of the Summit of the Americas, the General Assembly, the General Secretariat and the Meetings of the IIN Directing Council.

The IIN is now seen via the audiovisual media of many of these countries, which is a real innovation, and which is making clear to the public throughout the region that the OAS is committed to children's rights.

While mindful of the fact that it is part of an intergovernmental organization, the IIN has also sought alliances with civil society organizations and non-governmental agencies, on the understanding that it is only by joining efforts and pooling resources that we will begin to reverse the risk situation experienced by 50% of the under-18 population.

At the end of 2003 and in the first months of 2004, we also completed the organizational restructuring of the IIN, a process that was undertaken on the basis of an ethical imperative and managerial conviction. This unavoidable process of institutional candor was undoubtedly painful for some, although this was not the intention. In all the proposals we made, it was always clear that we had nothing against anyone. For us, this stage has now ended. We believe that the effects on specific staff members were as minimal as possible, with no pyrrhic victories; this was made possible thanks to the role played by certain individuals and various services in Washington, which conducted the process in a manner that was balanced and considerate of both individual interests and institutional necessities. Our objective in using the savings in staff spending for improving the operational budget was only partly achieved, due to the fact that other cuts were also made to the IIN, in addition to the voluntary adjustments.

However, the IIN's Budget, also the result of the organizational restructuring, is moving progressively towards a new balance between staff and operational expenditure. In its presentations to political bodies of the OAS and the Institute itself, the Office of the Director General has also sought to use the new method of presenting the IIN's activities and budget distribution in a way that reports the quantity and quality of the products generated by the Office of the Director General itself and the IIN's Programs, fully justifying its budget and the desire to develop a strategy for motivating the Member States to support an increase in the IIN's operational funds. The Administration Area, the Communications Area and the Secretarial staff have all played an important supporting role in this and other tasks, as mentioned above.

The Institute now faces new political, technical and financial challenges.

The Office of the Secretary General and the Office of the Assistant Secretary General and their respective Cabinets have continually given their full support to the policies and programs of the IIN. The OAS services in Washington, through their great willingness to meet our requests, have also shown that they share our commitment to children, even though they are not always given the opportunity to make this commitment visible. However, there is no doubt that without this support, it would not have been possible to mobilize all the activity which has been channeled through the IIN in this and other periods.

The Office of the Director General would also like to acknowledge the confidence that has always been shown by the authorities of the Directing Council and the Directing Council Delegates, showing the utmost respect for the technical competence of the IIN Office. Special mention should also be made of the fact that all the positive elements described in this report were made possible by the staff at IIN Headquarters and the team of External Consultants, and thus any associated merit must be shared with them.