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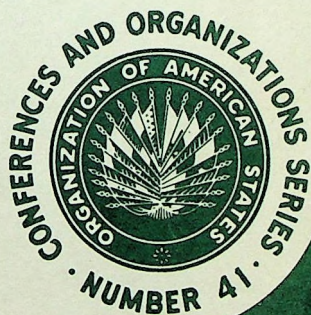
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TENTH PAN AMERICAN CHILD CONGRESS

Panama City
February 6-12, 1955

FINAL ACT



PAN AMERICAN UNION
Washington, D. C.

TENTH PAN AMERICAN CHILD CONGRESS

**Panama City
February 6-12, 1955**

FINAL ACT

**Division of Conferences and Organizations
Department of International Law**

PAN AMERICAN UNION • WASHINGTON, D. C., 1955

TENTH PAN AMERICAN

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
OFFICERS OF THE CONGRESS.....	1
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS.....	2
FINAL ACT	
Report of the Committee on Resolutions and Votes.....	21
Decisions proposed by Committee I (on Health)	
I. Vital statistics on children.....	22
II. Problems relating to the crippled child.....	23
III. Child feeding and nutrition.....	23
IV. Intensification of research regarding endemic goiter.....	24
V. Standards to be applied in a child-health program.....	25
VI. Day nurseries and day-care centers.....	25
VII. Infant mortality.....	26
Decisions proposed by Committee II (on Education)	
VIII. Strengthening family life through education.....	26
IX. Group undertakings in school.....	27
X. Regulation of films and other forms of rec- reation for minors.....	28
XI. Books and magazines for children.....	29
XII. Rural education.....	29
Decisions proposed by Committee III (on Social Service)	
XIII. Social service.....	31
XIV. Problems of the rural family.....	33
XV. The family and social assistance.....	35
XVI. Departments of Social Service in juvenile courts.....	36
Decisions proposed by Committee IV (on Sociology and Legislation)	
XVII. Juridical protection for children.....	37
XVIII. Social protection for the child.....	38
XIX. Tribunals for minors.....	39
Decisions proposed by Committee V (on Inter-American Cooperation)	
XX. Strengthening and expansion of the American International Institute for the Protection of Childhood.....	40

	Page
XXI. Inclusion of the topic "Vital Statistics Re- lating to Children" in the agenda of the Third Inter-American Statistical Conference.....	41
XXII. Regulations of the Pan American Child Con- gresses.....	41
Decisions added by the Committee on Resolutions and Votes	
XXIII. Studies on child psychology.....	41
XXIV. Vote of condolence.....	42
XXV. Votes of thanks.....	42
<p>Resolutions proposed by Committee I (on General Principles)</p> <p>Resolutions proposed by Committee II (on Statistics)</p> <p>Resolutions proposed by Committee III (on Social Services)</p> <p>Resolutions proposed by Committee IV (on Pedagogy and Legislation)</p> <p>Resolutions proposed by Committee V (on Inter-American Cooperation)</p>	
XXVI. Social services.....	
XXVII. Problems of the rural family.....	
XXVIII. The family and social assistance.....	
XXIX. Importance of social services in juvenile delinquency.....	
XXX. Social services for children.....	
XXXI. Social protection for the child.....	
XXXII. Problems for youth.....	
XXXIII. Strengthening and expansion of the National International Institute for the Protection of Children.....	(iv)

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F I N A L A C T

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS AND VOTES

(Submitted to the Congress on February 12, 1955)

In accordance with the provisions of Article 30 of the Regulations, the members of the Committee on Resolutions and Votes were appointed by the President of the Congress, His Excellency Professor Catalino Arrocha Graell, who chose for this purpose the chairmen of the five technical work committees: Dr. Víctor Escardó y Anaya, Delegate of Uruguay and representative of the American International Institute for the Protection of Childhood, Chairman of Committee I, on Health; Professor Luis Felipe González Flores, Delegate of Costa Rica, Chairman of Committee II, on Education; Mrs. Elisabeth Shirley Enochs, Delegate of the United States, Chairman of Committee III, on Social Service; Mrs. Clara González de Behringer, Delegate of Panama, Chairman of Committee IV, on Sociology and Legislation; and Dr. Rafael Salas Viloria, Delegate of Venezuela, Chairman of Committee V, on Inter-American Cooperation.

The Committee on Resolutions and Votes unanimously selected as its Chairman Dr. Víctor Escardó y Anaya, Chairman of Committee I. Three working sessions were held, on February 8, 9, and 10 respectively, beginning at 8:30 a.m. of the first day. The final session ended at 9 a.m. on February 10.

Article 33 of the Regulations of the Tenth Pan American Child Congress provides that the report of this committee shall be read at the Closing Session and that, having been approved, it shall constitute the Final Act of the Congress.

In compliance with that provision of the Regulations, the aforesaid committee submits to the Congress the present report, which contains the recommendations, declarations, resolutions, and votes already approved by the Congress at the plenary session held on February 11, 1955.

DECISIONS OF THE CONGRESS

I

VITAL STATISTICS ON CHILDREN

IN VIEW OF:

The replies obtained through the survey of vital statistics on children that was entrusted to the American International Institute for the Protection of Childhood,

The Tenth Pan American Child Congress

DECLARES:

1. That the said problem calls for serious consideration in the vast majority of American countries, inasmuch as the defective nature of these vital statistics prevents realization of the true magnitude of child problems and thus results in lack of a basic guide for the formulation of the plans and programs to be followed.
2. That the present known deficiencies in the vital statistics of certain American countries are due largely to unsatisfactory systems for the compilation of data.
3. That training of personnel, adequate organization and administrative structures, and development of a full awareness of the importance attaching to the problem, are the most suitable means for attaining the desired ends; and

RECOMMENDS:

1. That all of the American states utilize the educational facilities available at inter-American centers for the training of statistical personnel.
2. That the said states adopt the definitions, methods, and procedures recommended by the World Health Organization and the United Nations Commission on Statistics, with a view to securing uniformity and comparability.
3. That they support the decisions regarding vital statistics contained in the Final Act of the Fourteenth Pan American Sanitary Conference.
4. That the American International Institute for the Protection of Childhood continue its preliminary work, for which purpose it is advisable that the Institute engage in consultation on the subject with the Inter-American Biostatistical Center functioning in Chile under the auspices of the United Nations; and that the said Institute keep in mind, also, the decisions taken at the Fourteenth Pan American Sanitary Conference.

II

PROBLEMS RELATING TO THE CRIPPLED CHILD

WHEREAS:

It is necessary to rehabilitate crippled children as completely as possible and by means of the most up-to-date techniques that can be employed,

The Tenth Pan American Child Congress

RECOMMENDS:

1. That the same human rights be conceded to crippled children as to others, inasmuch as the physical condition of the former renders them more susceptible than normal children to the threat of psychological and emotional disturbances.

2. That crippled children lead independent lives, as nearly normal as possible, within the institutional régime of each country.

3. That the training of specialists in the treatment of crippled children be intensified; and that the cooperation of the appropriate international organizations be requested for this purpose, whenever necessary.

4. That the family and the community be given special education in the treatment and understanding of physically handicapped children.

III

CHILD FEEDING AND NUTRITION

CONSIDERING:

The statements presented on the problem of malnutrition among American children,

The Tenth Pan American Child Congress

DECLARES:

1. That there is an urgent need to intensify study and experimentation regarding the nutrition of mothers and children in the American countries.

2. That, in order to raise the levels of nutrition, it is necessary (according to the recommendations of various international congresses) that the American governments make an effort to increase food production, to utilize fully the food thus produced, and to facilitate the acquisition of food supplies, giving special attention to those that are of basic importance for mother and child nutrition.

3. That large sections of our population are markedly ignorant on the subject of nutrition, a circumstance that aggravates the problems in question; and

RECOMMENDS:

1. That research be intensified in regard to nutritional conditions among mothers and children, especially in so far as the preschool period is concerned; and that this research include in its scope the biostatistical, clinical, dietetic, anthropological, economic, and social aspects of the subject.
2. That, on the basis of these studies, standards for nutritional programs be developed in collaboration with all the government and private agencies closely concerned with the various problems of nutrition, such as those in the fields of economics, public health, education, agriculture, and similar matters.
3. That educational and welfare centers increase the distribution of public information regarding all matters related to the adequate nutrition of the population.
4. That groups lacking adequate economic resources be given access to more satisfactory means of nutrition, and especially to milk products for children as well as to fortified foods and vegetable mixtures that can be substituted for milk in areas where the production of the latter is inadequate.
5. That, as a temporary solution for the problems caused by malnutrition, supplementary-feeding programs and family-allowance programs be expanded, under socio-medical supervision.
6. That campaigns be undertaken against all habits, such as alcoholism and gambling, that are detrimental to the best utilization of family resources in the field of nutrition.

IV

INTENSIFICATION OF RESEARCH REGARDING ENDEMIC GOITER

CONSIDERING:

The prevalence of endemic goiter in the American nations, and the disturbances it causes in the growth and development of children,

The Tenth Pan American Child Congress

RECOMMENDS:

That the competent authorities in the American states, acting in collaboration with international organizations, undertake an intensified study of endemic goiter, its causes and effects, and provide prophylactic treatment through the means recommended by the Third Conference on Nutrition Problems in Latin America, held at Caracas in 1953.

V

STANDARDS TO BE APPLIED IN A CHILD-HEALTH PROGRAM



CONSIDERING:

The thesis presented in the paper on standards to be applied in a child-health program,

The Tenth Pan American Child Congress

DECLARES:

1. That the child is from birth a member of the community, and all actions affecting the community will have an effect upon him.
2. That, in planning programs of social significance to the community, the effect of such programs on children should be borne in mind.
3. That, in the execution of these programs, complete knowledge of the situation in each community is a requisite, and a proper evaluation of community resources should be made; and

RECOMMENDS:

1. That the decisions of the Ninth Pan American Child Congress, recognizing the need for integration of child-welfare services, be carried out.
2. That there be established in every country regulatory bureaus to study child problems and indicate ways of solving them.
3. That health services given directly to children be integrated within the general public-health programs.

VI

DAY NURSERIES AND DAY-CARE CENTERS

WHEREAS:

Large numbers of women have joined the ranks of industry;

Their children are abandoned or poorly cared for while these mothers are working; and

Infants and children of preschool age are the ones principally affected by this lack of care and abandonment,

The Tenth Pan American Child Congress

RECOMMENDS:

1. The increase of day-nursery services for the infants of every working mother.

2. The creation of day-care centers where children of preschool age can remain during the day, and where they can receive medical, dental, and nutritional attention, social-welfare services, and preschool education.

VII

INFANT MORTALITY

WHEREAS:

Infant mortality in the majority of American countries is still a serious public-health problem that affects the life potential of our peoples to an appalling extent,

The Tenth Pan American Child Congress

RECOMMENDS:

1. That the practice of premarital health examination be developed throughout America, in accordance with the varying circumstances in the different countries.
2. That improvements in prenatal and postnatal care be encouraged; and that childbirth care by trained personnel, with preferential emphasis upon hospital care, be increased at the same time.
3. That in high schools and universities greater importance be given to the study of health, with stress upon the health of mothers and children.
4. That emphasis be placed upon preventive measures directed toward protection of the child against communicable diseases and those of an epidemiological nature.

VIII

STRENGTHENING FAMILY LIFE THROUGH EDUCATION

WHEREAS:

The family is strengthened when its members achieve higher standards of conduct in their mutual relations regarding beliefs, ideals, and attitudes;

The school strengthens family life through the all-around development (physical, intellectual, emotional, and moral) of human personality; and

The community strengthens the family when it provides proper conditions for the integration and support of the latter,

The Tenth Pan American Child Congress

RECOMMENDS:

That educational activities be carried on in the following manner:

- (a) By providing optimum conditions for integrating and supporting the family as the basic nucleus of the social structure;
- (b) By orienting the philosophic bases of education in such a way as to contribute to the strengthening of the family, and by evaluating objectively the results obtained, with a view to the fullest possible realization of the educational purposes in view;
- (c) By utilizing democratic propaganda and example for the development of healthy attitudes and desirable standards of conduct; and
- (d) By encouraging the psychological, pedagogical, and sociological study of all students in order to guide and assist them in the selection of careers, according to their aptitudes.

IX

GROUP UNDERTAKINGS IN SCHOOL

The Tenth Pan American Child Congress

RECOMMENDS:

1. That programs of education, for urban as well as rural areas, include social work by school groups, since it is believed that the group method, when applied to school work, contributes greatly to the development of the student's personality in a relatively natural atmosphere.
2. That the technique of work groups be utilized in teaching at the normal-school level.
3. That recognition be given to the necessity and vital importance of appointing, as assistants in the schools, social workers with a technical knowledge of cases, groups, and community organization.
4. That recognition be given to the importance of cooperation, on the part of both volunteer and regular leaders, for attaining the objectives of group social work.
5. That seminars be held for the evaluation and improvement of group work in the schools, with mixed teams of teachers and social workers.

X

REGULATION OF FILMS AND OTHER FORMS OF
RECREATION FOR MINORS

WHEREAS:

Motion pictures, television, and other dramatic presentations are undoubtedly effective instruments of education; and

When misused, they are agents for the promotion of vice, and may be converted into anti-social instruments,

The Tenth Pan American Child Congress

RECOMMENDS:

1. That censorship systems be established for films and theatrical productions in general, in the form of technical agencies directed by persons having the necessary moral qualifications for determining the types of entertainment suitable for minors.
2. That children under five years of age be excluded from motion-picture theaters.
3. That night attendance at plays be prohibited for children under 12 years of age.
4. That penalties be fixed for companies that violate the provisions regarding censorship and the admission of minors into motion-picture theaters.
5. That movies, radio, television, and children's plays be used in schools as valuable aids in the education of children as well as in the general dissemination of science and culture.
6. That the production and international exchange of educational films for children be encouraged.
7. That prior approval by censorship agencies be required for all advertising material used by motion-picture and general theatrical companies, when such material is to be exhibited to minors.
8. To promote, through the appropriate international organizations, the production of film and television programs beneficial to the moral growth and mental health of minors; and to arrange for the suppression of programs detrimental to minors from either point of view.
9. That arrangements be made for all radio broadcasts to be automatically recorded by special government agencies, with a view to controlling any threat against good moral conduct and imposing responsibility upon the authors of such broadcasts.

10. That television broadcasts be checked upon, for the same purpose.

11. That steps be taken to ensure that programs intended for adults only will be presented to the public at suitable hours of the night, after previous public notification by the broadcasting station.

XI

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES FOR CHILDREN

The Tenth Pan American Child Congress

RECOMMENDS:

1. That, in each country, the organizations, libraries, educators, authors, and editors concerned with child welfare give attention to furnishing, at a cost within the reach of interested families, well-written and well-illustrated books and magazines that are adapted to the understanding and interests of the different age groups.

2. That exchange of books and magazines among the American republics be developed, so that children and young people may learn about the life and customs, as well as the languages, of other countries; and that the celebration of a Pan American Book Week form a part of this exchange program.

3. That each country create, or strengthen, a committee or similar group responsible for analyzing, and finding the way to improve, current conditions relating to publications that are harmful for children and young people; and that the cooperation of editors and booksellers be obtained for setting the corresponding standards and criteria.

4. That efforts be continued to establish improved library services for children and young people, in both public and school libraries; and that special attention be given to the selection of good books and magazines.

5. That inter-American library cooperation be strengthened, through the American International Institute for the Protection of Childhood, the Pan American Union, and other international agencies.

XII

RURAL EDUCATION

The Tenth Pan American Child Congress

RECOMMENDS:

1. That the governments of the American states, acting through their Ministries of Education, devote themselves, with a deep sense of social justice and a clear understanding of the worth and significance of rural children, to the urgent task of formulating, for the effective education of such children,

global and long-range plans and programs that have been scientifically drawn up and arranged for execution in progressive stages, as the resources necessary for carrying out each step are allotted.

2. That such plans be evolved and put into practice with a view to the following purposes:

- (a) To provide the entire rural-school population with acceptable educational facilities in the greatest measure consistent with a fair distribution of the national wealth;
- (b) To ensure regular and punctual school attendance on the part of rural children during a period of time that will permit of an education providing for the apprenticeships and permanent changes in behavior patterns designed to facilitate their integration with the social and natural environments in which they are to live;
- (c) To draw up educational plans and programs whose purposes and content will be in harmony with the conditions in which the pupils live, with the values, aspirations, and beliefs appropriate to their culture and vocational aptitudes, and with the principles governing such matters as the child's growth, formation, primary training, and apprenticeship;
- (d) To train and perfect rural teachers, first, for directing the training of rural children, while conforming to the particular program involved, with an understanding of the feelings and reactions of the children and the factors and conditions that determine the entire formative process, and secondly, for obtaining the participation of the family and the community in the processes of social action that tend to create conditions favorable for the education of the child and for his integration with both groups -- the family and the community; and
- (e) To provide materials that will facilitate the work of teaching and social action entrusted to rural teachers.

3. That, in order to obtain as speedily as possible the most beneficial results in the drafting and initiation of the aforesaid plans and programs, the national governments aid one another through an exchange of ideas and of information on their undertakings and achievements, calling upon the appropriate international organizations for technical collaboration.

4. That, in order to facilitate execution of the foregoing recommendations on moral education, the schools be provided with the minimum requisites for a sanitary environment that are necessary to ensure the health of pupils and teachers.

XIII

SOCIAL SERVICE

-1-

WHEREAS:

The profession of social worker, or social assistant, although relatively new, has found acceptance in the different American states,

The Tenth Pan American Child Congress

RECOMMENDS:

That the profession of social worker, or social assistant, be regulated in accordance with the abilities and conditions of each country; and that it be accorded a legal status;

-2-

WHEREAS:

There is a lack of, and a constantly increasing demand for, professionally trained social workers and assistants, and such professional workers cannot be quickly trained,

The Tenth Pan American Child Congress

RECOMMENDS:

That courses be organized, under the auspices of schools of social service, for the training of social service aides who will work under the supervision of professional social workers or assistants;

-3-

WHEREAS:

In the majority of the American countries, the rural population is greater than the urban, and the schools of social service are placing chief emphasis at the present time upon the training of social workers or assistants for the urban areas,

The Tenth Pan American Child Congress

RECOMMENDS:

That, in accordance with the special characteristics and conditions of the different countries, there be established schools, or courses, of social service for the training of social workers, social assistants, and social aides who have specialized in rural social service and are therefore competent to attend to the needs of rural areas;

WHEREAS:

There is a recognized basic educational procedure for training professional social-service workers, although the various school programs contain special features resulting from local peculiarities in the different countries,

The Tenth Pan American Child Congress

RECOMMENDS:

That the International Committee of Schools of Social Work be consulted as to the possibility of creating a Pan American Federation of Social-Service Schools charged primarily with studying ways to facilitate increased exchange of social-service students and professional workers among the schools of the American states, as well as with promoting an exchange of literature on social service among the different American countries and of information on the experiences which those countries have had in training social workers or assistants; and

WHEREAS:

The profession of social worker or assistant is relatively new, and consequently it is necessary to educate people as to the need for that profession and the benefits to be derived from it;

Those who practice the profession cannot work apart from the community that they seek to serve;

Social-welfare programs can be carried into effect only when the community takes part in them; and

It is the community which in the end finances social-welfare services,

The Tenth Pan American Child Congress

RECOMMENDS:

1. That the schools of social service and the social agencies conduct a permanent campaign to publicize their work programs and the services that they render to the community.

2. That the schools of social service, in their courses on community organization, place special emphasis upon the teaching of techniques for interpreting social service to the community.

PROBLEMS OF THE RURAL FAMILY

-1-

WHEREAS:

The Inter-American Indian Institute is fully qualified to study Indian problems,

The Tenth Pan American Child Congress

RECOMMENDS:

That the American International Institute for the Protection of Childhood maintain contact with the Inter-American Indian Institute in order to receive from the latter information relating to the manner in which Indian problems are being solved;

-2-

WHEREAS:

The United Nations General Assembly approved, in 1950, a resolution recommending that measures be taken immediately for studying the degree to which existing agrarian conditions were working counter to the development of underdeveloped countries;

The Tenth Inter-American Conference, in examining the resolutions of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council, approved recommendations tending toward the same end; and

The General Conference of UNESCO, at its Eighth Meeting, held in Montevideo, authorized its Director-General, in cooperation with the United Nations and the specialized agencies thereof, to continue lending advice and assistance to member states and to international organizations, while utilizing the resources of the social sciences as contributions toward a solution of the problems caused by technological changes and industrialization, as well as toward agrarian reform, community development, and the growth of good local government,

The Tenth Pan American Child Congress

RECOMMENDS:

That a study be made of land distribution through rural cooperatives in order to determine the efficacy of this practice as a means of improving the conditions of rural life;

WHEREAS:

It is necessary to protect the heirs of landholders from any negligence in, or obstacle to, the payment of debts resulting from the purchase of land,

The Tenth Pan American Child Congress

RECOMMENDS:

That long-term credit be provided through governmental institutions, but always on the basis of life insurance that will automatically guarantee repayment;

WHEREAS:

In many countries, the laws protecting rural families are antiquated or inoperative,

The Tenth Pan American Child Congress

RECOMMENDS:

That such laws be amended, when this is feasible, with a view to finding a practical method of enforcement by adaptation of the laws to the circumstances existing in the respective countries;

WHEREAS:

It is necessary to provide rural communities with instruction that will enable them to improve living conditions by means of their available resources, and such a measure should also be of assistance in checking the exodus of rural populations to the cities,

The Tenth Pan American Child Congress

RECOMMENDS:

1. That the American states study the feasibility of organizing courses for the clergy, for teachers, and for other persons interested in public health, rural problems, social security, agriculture, household economy, or similar matters.
2. That clubs for children and adults be created, and cultural activities and health services developed, in order to establish an agreeable mode of living that will keep the farmers interested in the rural life.
3. That the Pan American Union organize social seminars on rural life.

4. That international organizations not only include in their programs the subject of rural life but also seek to establish more effective cooperation with one another;

WHEREAS:

The Pan American Union is conducting an inquiry to determine the causes for the exodus of rural populations to the cities,

The Tenth Pan American Child Congress

RECOMMENDS:

1. That all of the American states collaborate as fully as possible in that investigation.

2. That the ministries and other appropriate agencies, such as the schools of social service, sponsor national competitions and conduct studies in an effort to determine the causes of this problem; and

WHEREAS:

The failure of immigrants to adapt themselves to their new surroundings creates serious difficulties,

The Tenth Pan American Child Congress

RECOMMENDS:

That the immigrants who come to live in rural areas be carefully selected, and that services be organized to promote harmonious relations between these immigrants and the native farmers.

XV

THE FAMILY AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

WHEREAS:

The family itself is the social institution that provides the most effective means for the proper development of the child's personality,

The Tenth Pan American Child Congress

RECOMMENDS:

1. That the State shall not take the place of the family, but shall rather orient its action toward the maintenance and reconstruction of the family unit, replacing this unit only in cases where the continued residence of the child with his family would be harmful for him or for the community; and that it shall consider this

purpose to have been achieved when public institutions for the housing of children are reduced to an indispensable minimum and are used only to serve the needs of those minors who require this type of care.

2. That laws for the protection of children be passed in the countries where such laws do not yet exist.

3. That, with due regard for varying national conditions and characteristics, there be established in the countries where such action has not already been taken, systems of financial protection for the family -- possibly systems providing for family allowances (social allowances for maternity, for child care, and for training expenses), or any other social-aid plan that has proved effective -- to the end that protection for children may be ensured on a universal scale and the normal development of the child may be facilitated from the prenatal period to the time when maturity and the training acquired will enable him to be self-supporting.

4. That, subject to the special conditions and characteristics of each country, and in compliance with the recommendations of earlier Congresses, insistent demands be made for the creation of central child-welfare agencies, in the countries not yet possessing such agencies, charged with coordinating the programs and efforts of public and private institutions, with facilitating application of the laws, rules, or systems established to protect the family, with studying and solving by a coordinated approach the over-all problem of child welfare, and with endeavoring, first and foremost, to coordinate the diverse factors that influence at different stages the child's development within the family circle.

XVI

DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICE IN JUVENILE COURTS

WHEREAS:

Juvenile delinquency is a social problem that should be considered not only by juridical and medical specialists, but also by social workers or assistants operating in collaboration with such specialists,

The Tenth Pan American Child Congress

RECOMMENDS:

The creation of Departments of Social Service, as units within the Juvenile Courts, which will collaborate closely with family-welfare and child-welfare agencies.

JURIDICAL PROTECTION FOR CHILDREN

WHEREAS:

In the most recent technical studies on the etiology of juvenile delinquency, stress is laid upon the broken home as the main factor responsible for this phenomenon, since such a home constitutes both a biological agent, and a psychological and social environment, whereby the personality of the child is moulded under socially dangerous conditions;

The problem of the broken home -- characterized by unsatisfactory personal relationships and conditions of tension and conflict arising from economic, social, moral, and cultural causes -- is one that today confronts all the nations of this hemisphere, in greater or lesser degree; and

It is the clear duty of the American democratic states to watch over the moral health of the younger generations and to facilitate their adjustment to the American way of life,

The Tenth Pan American Child Congress

RECOMMENDS:

1. That wage boards be set up to regulate such matters as minimum wages and salaries for workers and other employees, and supplementary family allowances based upon the number of minors in each worker's family; and that services be established to aid families involved in economic difficulties because of the death or sickness of parents.

2. That laws be passed protecting family inheritances in both rural and urban areas.

3. That each of the American states enact a new body of laws on minors, social in character, protective rather than punitive, whose precepts will be incorporated in a single legal document known as the "Code", or "Statute" of "the Child", "the Minor", or "the Family".

4. That these Codes regulate every question pertaining to the over-all protection of minors from the time of conception to the time when they attain their majority, including moral, hygienic, social, educational, occupational, and legal questions.

5. That court judgments calling for payment of support for minors be given extraterritorial application by as simple and speedy a process as possible, so that they may become effective under the laws governing this matter in the country of application.

6. That the crime of abandonment of families be included as such in the penal texts of the entire hemisphere.

7. That the laws of every American country provide for adoption as a factor contributing to the protection of abandoned or orphaned children.

XVIII

SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR THE CHILD

The Tenth Pan American Child Congress

RECOMMENDS:

1. That orientation institutes for children and families be established where such institutes do not already exist; and that a psychosomatic study be made of all pupils.
2. That the American International Institute for the Protection of Childhood be entrusted with the study and unification, in principle and practice, of the multiple aspects of family law (filiation, patria potestas, aliments, care of minors, adoption, and so on), taking as guides for this purpose the tenets most recently adopted by sociology and allied sciences in regard to family needs in modern society.
3. That all of the services concerned with the protection of the child and the family be adequately financed by the governments, so that it may be possible to conduct a complete social-welfare program in this field.
4. That well-organized systems of foster homes be established for children who do not have homes of their own.
5. That, in all city districts, clubs for minors be organized, staffed with technical personnel, and financed jointly by the State and by private contributions.
6. That the curricula of public high schools and officially sponsored universities (and also, it is suggested, those of private schools) include courses on family organization (to be studied both from the historical and from the contemporary standpoints), on relations between individuals in the home, and on marital problems, so that the fathers and mothers of the future may be scientifically trained for the social functions they will be called upon to fulfill.
7. That official agencies be created to control and protect rural children who have moved to the cities.
8. That the member countries of the Organization of American States pass special laws to regulate fully the work of minors, in accordance with the international standards already established.
9. That the American International Institute for the Protection of Childhood be asked to study, in collaboration with the technical authorities of the American countries, the areas where there is the heaviest concentration of juvenile delinquency; and that, in such areas, a program of social action be carried out in an effort to correct the situation.
10. That special training courses be organized for persons intending to work with minors who are in trouble.

11. That encouragement and assistance be given to families of all social classes for the acquisition of their own homes.

12. That the governments of the countries represented at the present Congress be urged to take legal steps, and to impose penalties, tending to prevent owners of houses offered for rent from refusing to accept families with children as tenants; and also that consideration be requested, in the construction of such houses, for the needs of children in regard to both comfort and safety.

XIX

TRIBUNALS FOR MINORS

The Tenth Pan American Child Congress

RECOMMENDS:

1. That agencies of justice for minors be composed of one person only for passing judgment in the first instance, and of more than one person for appeals; and that, in both cases, such persons have at their disposal technical auxiliary bodies (behavior clinics, observation centers, social-service agencies, and similar institutions), suitably organized and directed by specialists.

2. That judicial protection for minors include panels of defense attorneys skilled in this field of justice, from which counsel will be provided to represent minors and defend their interests -- both as to their persons and as to their property -- before special or ordinary tribunals, in cases where such services are needed.

3. That agencies of justice for minors employ informal methods of procedure, in hearing and deciding cases; and that all acts and processes involved in the conduct of these cases be absolutely secret, any publicity being strictly prohibited.

4. That, for this phase of judicial activity, suitable terminology be adopted, preventive detention and forcibly repressive measures be eliminated, and only reeducational methods be employed.

5. That the American states organize special training courses for persons charged with the delicate functions of judges on tribunals for minors.

6. That the Organization of American States promote and organize, through the American International Institute for the Protection of Childhood, international meetings of judges and officers attached to American juvenile courts and tribunals for minors, so that the participants in these meetings may discuss and decide upon the various questions relating to judicial protection for minors.

7. That an adequate number of juvenile courts and family courts be created in every American country where this has not already been done, together with the auxiliary agencies necessary for their efficient functioning.

8. That judicial systems for the protection of minors be established in all American countries; and that the American International Institute for the Protection of Childhood formulate directions for the efficient operation of such systems.

9. That steps be taken to obtain the cooperation of competent and benevolent persons who will act, under the direction of a minors' tribunal or some other social-service agency, as volunteer protectors of minors who are in trouble.

XX

STRENGTHENING AND EXPANSION OF THE AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE
FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDHOOD

WHEREAS:

The American states are interested in everything connected with the improvement of child-welfare services and programs;

The American International Institute for the Protection of Childhood has demonstrated its ability to render important services in this field, although its program has been restricted in consequence of insufficient financial resources;

Despite the provisions of Resolution XXV of the Ninth Pan American Child Congress, held in 1948, which calls upon the governments to give more adequate support to the Institute, thus enabling it to render more effective service for the health, social welfare, and education of children and adolescents, the requested additional support has not been received; and

The Tenth Inter-American Conference specifically recommended that the Institute study the social-welfare programs tending to strengthen family life, and furthermore listed various problems affecting the lives of children, in order that these problems might be studied both by the Institute and by the present Congress,

The Tenth Pan American Child Congress

RECOMMENDS:

1. That the speediest possible expansion of the activities and services undertaken by the American International Institute for the Protection of Childhood be regarded as absolutely essential.

2. That the Directing Council of the Institute, or its Director General, prepare, after consultation with the several countries, a draft budget setting forth in detail the scope of the Institute's activities; and that it refer this document to the different governments, in order that the draft may be considered and approved by the said Council at its next annual meeting.

3. That the American International Institute for the Protection of Childhood exhaust every available means to ensure that the next meeting of the Directing Council be composed of technical delegates, with due official credentials.

4. That, in developing this program of work, the Institute consult with the national, inter-American, and world organizations that render service to children and adolescents, with a view to increasing the efficiency of each of these organizations and avoiding any duplication of effort.

XXI

INCLUSION OF THE TOPIC "VITAL STATISTICS RELATING TO CHILDREN" IN THE AGENDA OF THE THIRD INTER-AMERICAN STATISTICAL CONFERENCE

The Tenth Pan American Child Congress

RECOMMENDS:

That the Inter American Statistical Institute include the problem of vital statistics relating to children, as a special topic, in the agenda of the Third Inter-American Statistical Conference.

XXII

REGULATIONS OF THE PAN AMERICAN CHILD CONGRESSES

The Tenth Pan American Child Congress

RECOMMENDS:

That the American International Institute for the Protection of Childhood seek the assistance of the Pan American Union in drafting the Regulations for future Pan American Child Congresses.

XXIII

STUDIES ON CHILD PSYCHOLOGY

WHEREAS:

The Pan American Child Congresses have as their objective the advancement of child welfare in every conceivable sense of the term,

The Tenth Pan American Child Congress

RECOMMENDS:

That future Pan American Child Congresses place increasing emphasis upon the study of child psychology and adolescent psychology in relation to the social and educational problems of children.

XXIV

VOTE OF CONDOLENCE

WHEREAS:

The illustrious former President of the Republic of Panama, His Excellency Colonel José Remón Cantera, favored and enthusiastically promoted the organization of the present Congress, thus furnishing renewed evidence of his interest in the economic and social progress of Panama;

In the practical execution of his program for advancing the welfare of the people of Panama, his inseparable and indefatigable companion was his distinguished wife, doña Cecilia Pinel de Remón; and

Justice demands honor for the memory of the noble sponsors and agents of social service in America, as well as recognition and encouragement for their achievements,

The Tenth Pan American Child Congress

RESOLVES:

To reiterate that it shares in the mourning of the Republic of Panama, and to urge Her Excellency doña Cecilia Pinel, widow of President Remón, that she continue her work in behalf of the families and children of Panama.

XXV

VOTES OF THANKS

The Tenth Pan American Child Congress

RESOLVES:

1. To repeat its expressions of gratitude to His Excellency Ricardo M. Arias Espinosa, President of the Republic of Panama, for his devotion to the ideals of this Congress, and for the outstanding contribution made by him, both as Chief Magistrate of Panama and as Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the Congress, to the preparatory work and successful conduct of this meeting.

2. To express appreciation to the officials of the host government for the innumerable favors and courtesies extended by them, in this exceedingly hospitable land, to all of the participants in the Congress.

3. To extend to the noble people of Panama, on behalf of the sister nations represented at the Congress, assurances of deep and fraternal affection.

4. To offer a vote of thanks to the press and radio agencies of Panama, and to the international communications services, for the interest and understanding shown by them in the performance of their task of distributing ample and accurate information on the activities of the Congress.

5. To extend a vote of applause and appreciation to Miss Elsa Griselda Valdés, vital guiding spirit of the Congress, for her brilliant work as its Secretary General, and also to the members of the Secretariat who functioned under her direction.

