

29-415

Veg 3/13  
Bil de  
Dir 1980

INSTITUTO INTERAMERICANO DEL NIÑO  
ORGANISMO ESPECIALIZADO DE LA O. E. A.



POPULATION CHARTER OF QUITO  
RECOMMENDATIONS

XIII PAN-AMERICAN CHILD CONGRESS

Quito - Ecuador 1968

MONTEVIDEO - URUGUAY 1970

432-BA.28  
✓ 1/1

O. E. A.  
INSTITUTO INTERAMERICANO  
DEL NIÑO

Volúmenes de la Obra ..... 1

Clasificación BA.28 ✓ 1 1/2

Nº de orden 23315

El INSTITUTO INTERAMERICANO DEL NIÑO es el organismo especializado de la O.E.A., encargado de promover el estudio de los problemas que afectan a la infancia, adolescencia, juventud y familias americanas y de recomendar las medidas conducentes a su solución.

Dirige el INSTITUTO el Consejo Directivo, integrado por los Representantes de los Estados Miembros. La acción del I.I.N. se cumple a través de la Oficina — cuya sede se encuentra en Montevideo, Uruguay, y la que está a cargo del Director General, Dr. Rafael Sajón.

Corresponde al Consejo Directivo considerar y dar su aprobación a los programas técnicos propuestos por la Dirección General, en cuestiones de salud, educación, estudios jurídico-sociales, retardo mental, servicio social y estadística, debiendo la Oficina proceder a su realización.

Asimismo la Dirección General dispone las misiones de asesoramiento técnico que se cumplen mediante requerimiento de los Gobiernos de los Estados Miembros.

El Congreso Panamericano del Niño, es un órgano del I.I.N., que se reúne cada cuatro años y tiene el carácter de conferencia especializada interamericana. Sus recomendaciones son divulgadas por el I.I.N., que debe procurar su cumplimiento.

La Biblioteca del INSTITUTO prepara bibliografías especializadas y mediante el servicio de fotocopias atiende solicitudes de instituciones y personas. Igualmente se permite la consulta directa de los fondos bibliográficos.

El INSTITUTO edita el Boletín, publicación trimestral, desde el año 1927, obras y folletos referentes a la protección integral y al bienestar social de los menores y la familia.

El Programa - Presupuesto anual del I.I.N. forma parte del presupuesto global de la Unión Panamericana conforme a lo dispuesto por el Acuerdo suscripto por la O.E.A. y el INSTITUTO, el 31 de mayo de 1962.

150.-  
23215  
slg 38  
Dulce  
Dic 1970

**INSTITUTO INTERAMERICANO DEL NIÑO**  
ORGANISMO ESPECIALIZADO DE LA O. E. A.

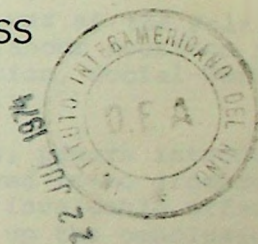


# POPULATION CHARTER OF QUITO

## RECOMMENDATIONS

XIII PAN-AMERICAN CHILD CONGRESS

Quito - Ecuador 1968



00001402

MONTEVIDEO - URUGUAY 1970

## FOREWORD

The XIII Pan-American Child Congress, Inter-American specialized conference held at Quito, Ecuador, June 15 to 22, 1968, was a great event both scientific and cultural. Its central topic was "Population growth and its impact on children, adolescents, young people, and the family in America".

17 American countries were represented. Also attended observers from Canada, special guests and a large delegation from Ecuador as well as a number of Executives from international organizations within the United Nations and Organization of American States.

The honorable President of the Republic of Ecuador, Dr. Otto Arosemena Gómez, presided the inauguration ceremony together with Ministers and leading key-men in the Government and Diplomatic Body.

Dr. Gonzalo Sánchez Domínguez was elected President by the Congress. Dr. Sánchez Domínguez is an outstanding physician at Ecuador and already President of meeting's Organization Committee.

The seat of the Congress was at the Palacio Legislativo wherein the following various labour sections performed: Statistics, Economy, Health, Education, Social-Work, Socio-Legal and Inter-American Cooperation.

National Reports, surveys, papers introduced by the experts and reference documents proved to be groundwork of high technical value which served as an invaluable offset to the different sections in order to draw up the conclusions and final minute on recommendations.

The recommendations approved by the XIII Pan-American Child Congress which its whole constitutes the "Population Charter of Quito", is a document of overwhelming importance for the People and Governments of America.

The body of doctrine comprised within the "Population Charter of Quito" is synthesized in its General Recommendation which beholds the demographic fact, growth and accelerated increase of Population in America and its impact on childhood, adolescence, youth and family; a deontological purpose, the child's right to life and the fundamental principles either social, moral and legal of freedom and dignity.

The XIII Pan-American Child Congress recom-  
mends:

"That the American States formulate popula-  
tion policies that include family planning but respect the  
fundamental principles of and the child's right to life, free-  
dom, and human and family dignity".

This document has been edited with the pur-  
pose of providing a widespread circulation to these recom-  
mendations and to have them performed contriving the opera-  
tional means fit to the needs and resources of each country.

The Inter-American Children's Institute  
entitled as specialized organization from the OAS, will re-  
quest each Government the fulfilment of such recommendations  
as were solemnly and unanimously approved by the official  
representatives from Governments of the American States.

Rafael Sajón  
General Director

## POPULATION CHARTER OF QUITO

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Central Topic: Population growth and its impact on children,  
adolescents, young people, and the family in America

The Thirteenth Pan American Child Congress,

#### WHEREAS:

The rapid population growth in America, and particularly in Latin America, where the rate is the highest in the world and where more than 50 per cent of the inhabitants are minors, makes it essential to adopt short-, medium-, and long-range measures on population policy in order to keep problems of malnutrition, disease, illiteracy, unemployment among young people, mental and physical defects in children, begging, antisocial behavior by adolescents and youth, and family breakdown from becoming even more serious.

#### RECOMMENDS:

That the American states formulate population policies that include family planning but respect the fundamental principles of and the child's right to life, freedom, and human and family dignity.

#### 1. STATISTICAL ASPECTS

Subtopic: Biodemographic statistical aspects of population  
growth in Latin America since 1900

Chapter I. Statistical series for each of the Latin American countries.  
Overall and comparative study

#### WHEREAS:

The population of Latin America has more than quadrupled since 1900, from 60 to over 240 million inhabitants; and, with only 12 persons per square kilometer, the population problem does not lie in this number or density but in the speed of growth, the effects of which are analyzed in the report,

#### RECOMMENDS:

That the countries formulate, as soon as possible, population policies that take account of national conditions. However, formulations of this policy is not prerequisite or indispensable to the promotion of birth-control programs.

## Chapter II. Causes affecting the pattern of representative curves.

### WHEREAS:

Analysis and comparison of the statistical series of the Latin American countries reveal inconsistencies and contradictions in many of the basic data,

### RECOMMENDS:

1. Improving the registration of vital and health statistics that are very obviously inadequate; also, systematizing and speeding up preparations for the 1970 census. In these tasks it is advisable to adopt the definitions and the methods of data collection and processing recommended by the United Nations and its specialized agencies. It would likewise be desirable to make every effort to expedite the prompt publication and widespread use of the data, and it is noted that there is considerable room for improvement in the registration of fetal deaths.

2. Training professional demographers and statisticians at various levels. It would be advisable for this purpose to get the international institutions to increase the number of fellowships they offer and to have the countries, for their part, make fuller use of existing resources now available to them. Many benefits could be obtained in this field through country-to-country as well as international collaboration.

3. Reasserting that physicians have a duty to provide data, particularly with regard to death certificates and the registration of births. Training in these subjects and in basic demography should be included in the medical-school curriculum.

4. Introducing household surveys and samplings, which could be extremely useful and reasonable in cost, for completing valid data and rectifying errors and defects.

## Chapter III. Extrapolation; forecasting

### WHEREAS:

The considerable reduction in mortality rates reaching modern levels in some countries, has been the main factor influencing population curves, but high mortality rates persist for the first five years of life and, for causes that could be prevented, at other ages as well,

### RECOMMENDS:

1. Redoubling efforts to combat preventable diseases, improve nutrition and sanitation, and promote health education.

2. Proper organization and administration of birth-control programs.

Chapter IV. Migratory curves. Implosion

WHEREAS:

If present trends continue, the population may reach 758 million toward the end of the century; its rate of growth may accelerate even more, rather than decline, since some countries have shown slight increases in births and considerable margin remains for further reduction of mortality rates; and

Experience and the available figures show that extreme fertility is related to lack of education, early marriage, and consensual unions,

RECOMMENDS:

1. Even greater attention to family formation, to preventing early marriage, and to legalizing consensual unions.
2. Investigation of the facts related to the physiology of human reproduction and its regulation.
3. Encouraging nonurban populations to remain in their customary places of abode if local conditions are propitious. Particularly effective for this purpose are the construction of housing, which is usually easier in the countryside than in the city, and the establishment of schools not limited to elementary and secondary instruction but oriented toward training in agriculture.

Chapter V. Study of changes over time in death, birth, and fetal-mortality rates

WHEREAS:

Almost all our countries are macrocephalic, which is to say that usually a fifth or more of their populations live in their capitals,

RECOMMENDS:

Encouraging the development of other urban centers in order to promote a better territorial distribution of the population with special consideration of the places chosen, which should not be limited to those in which the people are now living. It would be advisable to establish neighborhood centers and satellite towns for their accommodation.

Chapter VI. Changes in proportion between active and inactive population

WHEREAS:

The high birth rate of our population keeps the proportion of persons under 15 years of age very high (over 40 per cent), thereby causing and exceedingly young population structure and placing a very heavy burden on the active sector,

RECOMMENDS:

1. Prohibiting child labor and setting the minimum working age at 14 years.
2. Encouraging systems that offer job opportunities to minors above the age limit, with practical training and comprehensive education; legislating a system of obligatory apprenticeship whereby industrial, commercial, and agricultural enterprises would be required to employ a minimum number of minors to whom they shall provide useful training under proper government supervision.
3. Encouraging women to work by providing fair wage scales and other favorable conditions, while taking care not to interfere with the nurture and bringing up of their children.

ECONOMIC ASPECTS

Subtopic: Population growth and economic development

Chapter I. Participation of adolescents, young people, and the family in  
accelerating economic growth

WHEREAS:

Many disputes and errors of interpretation regarding the relation between population growth and the economy arise from failure to consider both as essentially dynamic phenomena operating in different spheres and at different speeds and having highly complex reciprocal relationships,

RECOMMENDS:

1. Undertaking tax, land, and other reforms that will contribute to more equitable distribution of income, national progress, and improved living standards; introducing scientific and technical procedures, planning, and incentives to stimulate certain activities; incorporating educational reforms and all levels, with technical training and instruction in trades and skills and the promotion of extracurricular technical training services.
2. Recognizing the importance of reinvestment of profits and setting priorities for investments that yield the greatest economic and social returns.
3. Stimulating the promotion and education of businessmen with a new outlook suitable to present-day conditions in Latin America.
4. Stressing the need for more effective utilization of natural resources in the Latin American countries through the establishment of priorities for capital investment in the public and private sectors.

5. That production, be oriented, as much as possible, toward the use of techniques that take into consideration the large potential manpower supply, and that specialized organizations study the feasibility of an appropriate biotechnological model.

## Chapter II. Social Security

### WHEREAS:

Comparative study of social-security systems reveals great anarchy in their structural principles, financing, benefits, and coverage;

Payments exacted from workers and particularly from employers raise production costs and makes the sale of products on the world market more difficult; and

Pensions and other benefits are usually overgenerous,

### RECOMMENDS:

1. The preparation of careful comparative studies in depth as the basis for social-security policies more or less similar in fundamental principles, with due regard for the special conditions of each country.
2. Seeking broader coverage and preventing waste.
3. Giving preference to the protection of pregnant women, mothers, and minor children.
4. Incorporating medical care into social-security services or providing it in cooperation with them, in order to prevent duplication and administrative confusion. Both favorable and unfavorable experiences in various countries should be made known for the benefit of all the others.

## 2. HEALTH

Subtopic: Population growth in relation to food production, undernourishment, and child malnutrition in Latin America

## Chapter I. Population growth and expansion of farm production

### WHEREAS:

The rate of population growth in Latin America is now the highest in the world and everything seems to indicate that it will continue to increase rapidly;

In all the Latin American countries this growth is most marked at the lowest socioeconomic levels, where child malnutrition is greatest;

Diet in Latin America is inadequate both in quality and in quantity and in many areas is below minimum calorie and protein requirements;

Low food consumption, poor sanitary conditions, more frequent pregnancies, low educational level of parents, and small family incomes in these groups are determinants of the low nutritional level of children and their deficient growth and mental and physical development; and

Inadequate methods of producing, storing, and marketing food reduce its availability, cut down consumption, and give rise to nutritional deficiencies, particularly in the most needy and vulnerable groups,

RECOMMENDS:

1. Taking steps for increasing food production to the point where it will cover existing deficits and insure an expansion at least proportional to population growth in the Latin American countries.

2. Studying and determining, in each country, feasible goals for foods, production, availability, and consumption, which involves the improvement of production methods, land reform, better utilization of land and seas, the bringing of new lands under cultivation, the modernization of storage, distribution and market organization, with priority to the application of agricultural and fishing science and technology.

3. Assigning sufficient human and material resources for the achievement of these goals, with special preference to the production of foods rich in protein, and, in general, improving distribution and consumption.

4. Devoting special attention to the health, education, and income of rural workers as one of the most effective means of ensuring their productivity and, consequently higher food output.

Chapter II. Protective nutrition policy with special attention to the nutritionally vulnerable groups: children, pregnant women, and nursing mothers.

WHEREAS:

The undernourishment and malnutrition of the population, particularly in the vulnerable groups (children, pregnant women, and nursing mothers) is a serious public-health problem in America as a consequence of a multiplicity of economic, sociocultural, and sanitation factors;

Despite the concern of the countries and their efforts to solve those problems, no significant improvements have been obtained in the nutritional status of the vulnerable population groups, where deficiencies are most marked at the low socioeconomic levels; and

Although uniformity of opinion exists with regard to priority of attention for those groups, striking differences are evident in the nutritional policy or programs or the various countries of the Hemisphere,

RECOMMENDS:

1. That within their economic and social development programs, the governments of the American states intensify or formulate explicit and realistic policies for the special benefit of children, pregnant women, and nursing mothers.

2. That such policies and the plans arising out of them include immediate action programs capable of preventing the grim repercussions of malnutrition upon the affected group, as well as long-term programs for eradicating the causes of these problems.

3. That, so far as possible, standard criteria and methodologies be adopted at the inter-American level to facilitate and to permit comparability in diagnosis, evaluation, and prognosis with regard to the nutritional and dietary status of the population, with special emphasis on the maternal-and-infant sector.

Chapter III. Nutrition education applied to food production and preservation programs

WHEREAS:

Nutrition education applied to food production and preservation programs is primarily the responsibility of agricultural and fishing organizations through their extension services;

It is of fundamental importance to make sufficient material and financial resources available for the implementation of effective programs of nutrition education; and

There is a pressing need for coordinating agricultural, health, and education services so as to make optimum use of available resources and carry out systematic, permanent, and progressive health education on food production and preservation, reaching the family as a unit throughout the various population groups,

RECOMMENDS:

1. That priority be given to instruction on food production and preservation in the agricultural, health, and educational programs.

2. That services be coordinated for this purpose and that agricultural and fishing extension personnel, home demonstrators, doctors, nurses, nursing auxiliaries, health promoters, teachers at all levels, and others be given training in the interests of regulating the management of the family budget and improving methods of food production and preservation for the benefit of the community, in accordance with the nutritional requirements of the various population groups.

Chapter IV. Population growth and planning of health and, particularly,  
maternal-and-infant services

WHEREAS:

The rapid population growth in almost all the American countries calls for a proportionate increase in resources for meeting health needs, particularly in the maternal-and-infant sector, which is the largest; and

In view of the limited resources available, population growth threatens to lower the health levels attained among mothers and children,

RECOMMENDS:

1. Proper planning of health and, particularly, maternal-and-infant services, in order to achieve maximum utilization of available resources.
2. The drafting of health programs as part of national economic and social development plans, the integration of services, and the allocation of adequate funds for maternal and infant care.
3. Adoption of the recommendations of the specialized international organizations with regard to methodology, integration, and regionalization of medical services to avoid overlapping and dispersal of resources.

Chapter V. Maternal-and-infant child services in relation to the family  
planning problem

WHEREAS:

There is a shortage of medical, paramedical, and institutional resources in almost all the American countries, as is indicated by the low ratio of doctors and hospital beds to population and the low proportion of deaths accompanied by medical certificates and of professionally attended births, and this situation is more acute in the rural sector where the highest indices of morbidity, mortality, and fertility are to be found;

Rapid population growth is reflected principally in a growing demand for prenatal, obstetric, and child care, which is further stimulated by greater community awareness of its needs and rights; and

Family planning is a procedure for preventing induced abortion and the deterioration of the health of the population, particularly of the maternal-and-infant sector,

RECOMMENDS:

1. That the governments of the American states consider family planning a necessary element of their health policies and include such a program in the activities of maternal-and-infant services.

2. That family-planning activities be carried out with respect for human freedom and dignity, so that couples may decide on the limiting and spacing of their children in a free and responsible manner.

3. That family-planning activities include a sufficient educational component and be made available to both partners with no restrictions.

4. That it be the duty of the doctor, as the person principally in charge of family-planning activities, to give the couple guidance on the advantages and disadvantages of the various contraceptive methods.

5. That, in view of the lack of trained medical and paramedical personnel, procedures be sought for teaching both parents how to space their children and how to ensure the comprehensive development of the child.

6. That scientific research be stimulated in such fields as the physiology of reproduction; demography, the social, economic, eugenic, and psychological repercussions of human fertility and its control; fertility and sterility; methods of sex and marriage education; and that these data be compiled and disseminated.

7. That sex education activities in schools and colleges be under the direction of educational and health authorities.

### 3. EDUCATIONAL ASPECTS

Subtopic: Growth of child population and educational planning

#### Chapter I. Schooling

##### WHEREAS:

In view of the high rates of population growth in all the countries of Latin America, manifest in statistics revealing a veritable population explosion, education is imperative for all the American states, which should provide in their constitutions and specialized legislation, for schooling from the child's early years to the end of his developmental stage, including retarded children and those with behavioral problems who therefore need specialized care, and vocational to enable young people to find a satisfactory socioeconomic situation; and

The governments must therefore increase their budgets in order to provide properly for this important human potential,

##### RECOMMENDS:

1. That the states provide free compulsory elementary education, bringing their methods up to date in accordance with modern pedagogical practice.

2. That rural areas be given priority in planned and adequate form.



3. That, for the better implementation of these programs, school-construction programs be promoted, with encouragement of community cooperation in their maintenance,

4. Improvement of teacher training.

5. That an attempt be made to provide free textbooks and study materials, for which purpose the government and private enterprise should make adequate contribution to stimulate the establishment of school cooperatives (book and educational-material banks).

#### Chapter II. Specialized education. Mental retardation

##### WHEREAS:

It is estimated that 4.3 per cent of the child population is mentally retarded, and this calls for corrective therapy,

##### RECOMMENDS:

1. Reiterating the need for carrying out the resolutions on the organization of services for mentally retarded children in the Latin American countries discussed at the Inter-American Regional Seminar on mentally retarded children <sup>1/</sup> and the proposals of the International Society for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled, approved by UNESCO. <sup>2/</sup>

2. Extending the recommendations of the Seminar to other groups of physically and mentally ill children and to those with antisocial tendencies.

#### Chapter III and IV. Intermediate and vocational education

##### WHEREAS:

The number of students at the intermediate level is constantly increasing, which, however, does not mean that more adolescents and young people are trained and skilled, since the achievement of this goal is hampered by dropouts and by lack of access to and opportunities for such education for huge masses of young people because of their desperate financial plight and the rigidity of curriculums,

##### RECOMMENDS:

1. That all the American countries exert every effort to avoid the failure of intermediate and vocational education of young people by replacing outmoded training methods with currently recommended resources and methods (classification vocational guidance, diversification of educational institutions suited to the environment and field of work).

---

<sup>1/</sup> Montevideo, 1967.

<sup>2/</sup> See Boletín del IIN, N° 161, p. 255

2. That equal efforts be made, in the same way and of identical quality, in the rural sector.

3. That appropriate resources be created to enable elementary-school students to enter intermediate and vocational schools: scholarships, loans, nutritional attention, medical care, social welfare, school stores and cooperatives.

4. Promoting proper use of children's leisure time for integrated development through such cultural and recreational facilities as libraries, theater, music, scouting, Junior Red Cross, and YMCA.

5. That courses suitable for children on family life and sex education be provided in accordance with age groups, in order to prepare young people to be future parents.

#### Chapter V. Accelerated vocational training 3/

1. Reiterating the recommendations of the three Inter-American Regional Seminars on Vocational Education for Adolescents and Young People held by the Inter-American Children's Institute in Guatemala (1964) and in Caracas, Venezuela; and Sao Paulo, Brazil (1966), and requesting the governments to implement them.

#### Chapter VI. Education of parents, Responsible parenthood.

##### WHEREAS:

Parent education is one of the means used at the present time for achieving the main objective of parenthood, responsibility, and one that should be widely recommended and supported;

Parent education is not a panacea for this important problem but is part of a permanent attitude of the community, whose responsibility to children is inescapable and indicative of its cultural level;

Parent education should involve means of reaching all parents, since those who need education most are the farthest from its reach; and

By "parent" should be understood any person who has begotten a child, and the obstacles to voluntary acknowledgment of parenthood existing in current legislation, for reasons of traditional defense of the legitimate family, should be eliminated.

##### RECOMMENDS:

1. Reiteration of the resolution of the Eleventh Pan American Child Congress to the effect that more vigorous action with regard to the education of parents, taking into account family cultural level, is necessary and that there fore parents' schools, comprehensive adult-education campaigns, parent-teacher associations, and all other means of contributing to a greater sense of responsibility among parents towards their children are recommended.

3/ See La educación profesional recommendations approved at the Inter-American Regional Seminars. Montevideo, Instituto Interamericano del Niño, 1967.

2. That the government, through special legislation, assume responsibility for promoting and facilitating the fulfillment of the foregoing principles and should not consider its participation to end with mere laws but should become the zealous guardian of their fulfillment through every mean at its disposal. Therefore, the advisability of establishing and maintenance of parent schools on a national scale is especially urged upon governments and private agencies.

3. That educational organizations introduce into their programs appropriate methods for training future parents -this to be understood as starting at the nursery school and continuing throughout all stages of their development.

4. That the pertinent government agencies and the institutions concerned with community welfare use all possible means of mass communication to help educate all parents and increase their sense of responsibility.

5. That in the American countries having marginal Indian populations special programs for their benefit be adopted through all specialized organizations and the private agencies concerned with social welfare so that this valuable human sector may be incorporated into contemporary civilization.

#### 4. SOCIAL-WORK ASPECTS

Subtopic: Role of social work in the problem of population expansion

Chapter I. Investigation of existing needs and resources in the centers of acute population growth. Effectiveness of resources and adaptation to needs.

##### WHEREAS:

Many of the programs put into effect have not yielded the expected results because they were applied without full knowledge of the real conditions arising out of rapid social and economic change and extreme population growth in these countries,

##### RECOMMENDS:

Intensification of scientific research into the social, economic, and cultural factors affecting the population, and particularly children, young people, and the family, in order to have a more realistic basis for planning and conducting programs for the protection and fostering of the family.

Chapter II. Contribution of the community to the solution of problems of population increase.

##### WHEREAS:

The community's contribution to the solution of the problems of population increase is vitally important to the achievement of objectives in this regard,

RECOMMENDS:

1. That social work, which should act as interpreter of individual, family and community needs, assume the fundamental duty of creating the necessary motivation and sensitization in relation to the population problem and offer the sustained aid that will make possible the change of attitude essential to the development of an awareness of this problem in the individual and the community.

2. That community organization and development programs be established or intensified as instruments for achieving the active participation of the population in the solution of the problems and for obtaining popular support for national development plans.

Chapter III. General social welfare policy and special coordination of programs and services. Emergency assistance and short- and long-range priorities.

WHEREAS:

Rapid population growth disproportionate to the resources of the region may become an obstacle to comprehensive national development and may unfavorably affect the welfare of children, adolescents, young persons, and the family,

RECOMMENDS:

That the countries establish a social and population policy the basic elements of which are scientifically integrated into over-all national planning and objectively adjusted to both their immediate priorities and their long-term programs.

Chapter IV. Strengthening of the family through the rural and urban family-welfare program and development of the sense of parental responsibility. to and integration in national development plans.

WHEREAS:

a) A policy for the protection and fostering of the family should not be a mere palliative assistance policy but a comprehensive formulation aimed at reforming economic and social structures so as to consciously adapt them to welfare of the family regardless of its situation;

b) The effects of population explosion are felt more acutely in families at the lowest social, economic, and cultural levels;

c) Social work has an important role in sex education, which should be aimed at developing an awareness of responsible parenthood that leads to procreating only as many children as the parents can support and educate;

d) Marriage and nonlegalized unions take place at an early age in our countries; and

e) The incidence of and the substantial increase in nonlegalized unions and illegitimate children in various countries are due to sociocultural factors,

RECOMMENDS:

1. The adoption of an over-all policy that includes legal provisions for family protection and their effective application; measures that assure a stable source of income in keeping with changing needs; the medicosocial care necessary for the complete health of the family group; a balanced diet; proper housing to meet the physical and environmental needs of the family in accordance with its makeup and dynamics; comprehensive protection of minors; and so forth.

2. The establishment or application of rural family-welfare programs to prevent a continued increase of marginal groups in the big cities, without neglecting the special attention required by families already settled in urban areas.

The carrying out of sex education programs at all social and cultural levels; further, the establishment of family-planning services available to all sectors of the population so that procreation may take place within marriage to assure optimum development and upbringing of children.

4. Specific training of youth for marriage and procreation so that they may plan their families in accordance with their means and space their children at reasonable intervals.

5. That social work assume its urgent responsibility to take an active part in the education of parents and in the development of the idea of responsible parenthood in all sectors of the population, and that at the same time it provide information and mechanisms for referring cases to the appropriate specialized services.

Chapter V. Participation and activities of social work in multiprofessional multifunctional, and multi-institutional maternal and infant welfare programs

WHEREAS:

The socioeconomic development of the countries, and especially the application of a national population policy, calls for the participation of social work in many fields, in interdisciplinary programs, and through multiprofessional and multi-institutional teams,

RECOMMENDS:

That social workers be given regular and up-to-date training using all educational and technical resources. Schools of social work, social workers' associations, and institutions responsible for programs should be in charge of such training so that these persons will be adequately equipped to cope with the population problems.

Chapter VI. Team social work with groups for advisory and educational purposes in rural and urban areas.

WHEREAS:

Rapid population growth has given rise to serious problems in the protection of children, adolescents, young people, and the family whose immediate needs call for social-work intervention,

RECOMMENDS:

1. Special attention to the training of professionals who attend these sectors of the population so that they are equipped to apply the most advanced and suitable methods in this task, especially in group work.

2. Lastly, in view of the fact that the family is the basic social institution for the reproduction and upbringing of the members of society, and is identified with man's concern for society, both biologically and in terms of fundamental values, reiteration of adherence to the recommendations and resolutions of other congresses on the need for increasing efforts to foster and strengthen the family unit by all possible means.

5. SOCIOLEGAL ASPECTS

Subtopic: The family and population growth

The Sociolegal Section considers it necessary for existing institutions to be adapted to the new circumstances arising out of the acute population increase and its repercussions on family and child in order to perpetuate this social unit and assure the proper upbringing of minors within its framework. Accordingly, it indicates principles that it feels should be incorporated, for the achievement of this purpose, into the legislations of the Hemisphere.

Chapter I. Family desertion

WHEREAS:

Serious problems arise from family disorganization resulting from family desertion or abandonment,

RECOMMENDS:

1. Reiteration of the conclusions of previous congresses regarding neglect of parental obligations, with special reference to those of the Ninth Pan American Child Congress, held in Bogotá, Colombia, in 1959, and the incorporation of the crime of family abandonment or desertion into the legislation of the American states, with the penalties considered appropriate for suppressing it in accordance with the conditions of each country.

2. That the American states ratify the convention on procurement of food abroad (United Nations, New York, June 20, 1959).

Chapter II. Undermining of parental authority

WHEREAS:

It is undeniable that parental authority is weakening,

RECOMMENDS:

1. That, in defining patria potestas, the legislative systems of the American states adopt as the central idea the concept that it is a SOCIOLEGAL institution; and that the rights and duties of parents with regard to minor children, irrespective of the legal status they may have, imply the fulfillment of a social function.

All parents shall be responsible to society for the proper care of the children they have procreated while these are minors or incapacitated.

2. On summary verification of failure to carry out the duties implicit in patria potestas, a judge of the juvenile or family court shall temporarily suspend its exercise and provide the proper protective measures. Under the above conditions, judicial action shall be obligatory and automatic. Any person aware of a case of abandonment should report it; he shall incur no responsibility in so doing unless it is proved that his action was malicious.

Chapter III and IV. Physical and moral abandonment of children; crisis in parental authority.

WHEREAS:

The movement of the rural population to the cities and industrial centers has increased, thereby aggravating problems of employment, begging, and prostitution,

RECOMMENDS:

1. The creation of bodies for the protection of minors (Juvenile Protective Police) made up of specially trained agents of both sexes.

2. In view of the rise in illegal international transit of minors, the ratification and fulfillment by the American states of the convention approved by the Conference on Private International Law (The Hague, 1960).

3. That courses for men and women in child-rearing and in sexual and family behavior be included by the American states in school and university curriculums and that such training be provided through all existing audiovisual means.

4. That the Inter-American Children's Institute promote the dissemination of such knowledge and encourage meetings of experts for the study of juvenile prostitution, homosexuality, and drug addiction.

Chapter V. Women who work outside the home

WHEREAS:

Women are entering the labor market to an increasing extent and such activity must be reconciled with unavoidable family duties;

An attempt should be made to give children a comprehensive education, which will be beneficial for women's family and working life,

RECOMMENDS:

1. Enforcement of measures for the protection of employed women and severe penalties in cases of violation.
2. That government and private organizations promote the establishment of services aimed at alleviating the problems of working mothers, such as nurseries, kindergartens, child centers, and youth clubs.
3. Utilization of community resources involving the cooperation of volunteers, who should be properly trained.
4. Promotion of studies and research into the true situation of women who work outside the home, especially those with minor children, in order that an adequate proper social policy may be adopted.

Chapter VI. Policy for the protection and fostering of the family

WHEREAS:

The Eleventh and Twelfth Pan American Child Congresses adopted recommendations in the field of legislation on minors based on the general conclusions of international meetings of jurists specializing in family and child law held in Quito (1959) and Rio de Janeiro (1965), very particularly with respect to the need for establishing family courts and for juvenile courts to be specialized at all levels.

RECOMMENDS:

1. Using mass means of communication as extensively as possible to inform the population about family and child welfare laws.
2. Encouraging the establishment of measures that will make possible the highest degree of coordination of government, international, and private activities in the field of family and child welfare.
3. Creating family information and guidance services with ample counseling on family legal problems, the function of which would be basically conciliatory. These services would lead to the establishment of family offices consisting of multiprofessional teams in charge of social, economic, health, and psychological-educational guidance.

4. Reiterating the third recommendation of the topic Family and Social Welfare of the Eighth Pan American Child Congress, to the effect that, in accordance with the particular conditions and customs of each country, there be instituted or improved family-welfare systems contemplating family incomes to supplement the earnings of each employed worker, related to the number of dependent minors, or any other assistance method of proven worth, for the purpose of protecting children within their own family groups, thereby facilitating their normal development.

5. Formulating specific policy for the welfare and fostering of the family in keeping with the social, cultural, and economic characteristics of each country and planning the strategy required to carry it out within the framework of the development plans.

## 6. INTER-AMERICAN COOPERATION

### THE TWELFTH PAN AMERICAN CHILD CONGRESS

#### WHEREAS:

An agreement exists, within the cooperative relations with other organizations maintained by the OAS, between the Inter-American Children's Institute and the Inter-American Boy Scouts Advisory Committee, in the interests of contributing to child and youth welfare by means of the action and development techniques of scouting;

In the world of today, children and young people are faced with adverse and tragic situations that interfere with their physical and mental development, it is necessary to have the collaboration of formative institutions such as scouting that promote the welfare of children and young people;

Scouting associations or movements in some Latin American countries are not given the official support needed to enable them to develop and cooperate more satisfactorily with school and community;

Disappearances and runaways by minors and the existence of illegal international organizations that traffic in minors and trade in drugs and persons constitute a grave problem for the American countries,

#### RECOMMENDS:

1. That the ministries of education of the American countries that have not yet included scouting activities in educational programs put them into practice in rural and urban areas at all levels (elementary, intermediate, etc.) at the earliest opportunity.

2. That the American governments cooperate actively with national scouting associations, giving them moral, social and financial support and thus helping to promote more vigorously the principles and activities of the world scouting movement.

3. That the girl-scout movement promote the same scouting objectives in the mental and physical formation of girls and young women, and that it receive the same treatment from the government.

4. That the American governments, through their ministries of education, encourage educators and teachers who devote a considerable portion of their time gratis to scouting activities -taking training courses and directing this activity for the benefit of children and youth- by recognizing their professional advancement and promoting them within their grades.

5. That the dissemination of scouting principles be encouraged by the inclusion of instructive material in readers and text books.

6. That the American states carry out the recommendations on Inter-American cooperation approved by the Twelfth Pan American Child Congress (Mar del Plata, Argentina, 1963).

\*\*\*\*\*



00001402



50410000

## Canje - Exchange - Permuta - Echange

Solicitamos en canje el envío de libros, folletos, revistas, estadísticas, etc., etc., en particular aquellos que contengan leyes, decretos, estatutos, o que traten los problemas del niño en sus aspectos de higiene, asistencia, médico, social, de enseñanza, etc.

In exchange we request the remittance of books, pamphlets, magazines, etc., particularly those containing statistics, laws, constitution and regulations treating the child problem from its different aspects of hygiene, protection, education, medical, social, etc.

Pede-se a permuta de livros, folhetos, revistas, estatísticas, etc., particularmente aquêles que tenham leis, decretos, estatísticas e que tratem dos problemas das crianças em seus aspectos higiênicos, assistenciais, médicos, sociais, de ensino, etc.

Nous prions de nous envoyer en échange des livres, brochures, revues, statistiques, etc., en particulier ceux contenant des lois, décrets, statuts, ou s'occupant des problèmes de l'enfant sous ses aspects hygiéniques, d'assistance, médicaux, sociaux, d'enseignement, etc.

UNA OBRA DE AMERICA PARA LOS NIÑOS DE AMERICA



INSTITUTO INTERAMERICANO DEL NIÑO

Av. 8 de Octubre, 2904. Montevideo, Uruguay

TELEF. 4 35 44 - 4 47 30 — DIRECCION TELEGRAFICA: INAMPRIN

Precio del Ejemplar U\$S 0,15

LIGU S. A. - CERRITO 738 - MONTEVIDEO - URUGUAY