The Inter-American Children’s Institute (IIN), a specialized agency of the Organization of American States (OAS), has convened the XXI Pan American Congress on Children and Adolescents (CPNNA). It is a specialized intergovernmental conference held every five years since 1910. The XXI Congress took place at the Event and Convention Center “Brasil 21” of the city of Brasilia, Brazil; participants included ministerial level representatives of 27 member states of the OAS, 74 children and adolescents from 16 countries and civil society delegates of Brazil and other countries worldwide, including OMEP.

Preparatory Session and 89th Regular Meeting of the Directing Council of the IIN

The preparatory session and 89th Regular Meeting of the Directing Council was held on December 9th during which the Member States were informed of the actions taken by the Directing Council and the Technical Secretariat of the IIN. They also adopted resolutions on matters of procedure and formal aspects of the Congress, including:

- Identification of the Style Committee, final agenda and duration of the Congress.
- Deadline for submission of draft resolutions; and,
- Presentation of reports regarding the progress made in response to the commitments of the Plan of Action 2011-2015 of the Directing Council and to the mandates of the 88th Regular Meeting held in Medellin, Colombia, from September 16th to 17th, 2013. They presented reports regarding:
  i. Conclusions of the 2nd. Civil Society Forum prior to the XXI Pan American Child Congress,
  ii. Recommendations of the Regional Consultation on guidelines for alternative care for children;
  iii. Childhood and the media,
  iv. Advancing on the elimination of corporal and humiliating punishment of children and adolescents in Latin America and the Caribbean; and,
  v. Update on the situation of helplines to children and adolescents in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Plenary Sessions of the XXI Pan American Child and Adolescent Congress (CPNNA).

The Congress was held from the 10th to 12th, December 2014. The slogan of the Congress was “Childhood and adolescence: building environments of peace,” with three sub-themes:

- Juveniles in conflict with the law and criminal liability systems; and,
- The sexual exploitation of children.

On December 10th - International Human Rights Day - the inaugural session was conducted and chaired by authorities of Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil and the Organization of American States. The President of the XXI Congress was the Minister of Human Rights of the Presidency of the Republic, Ms. Ideli
Salvati, alternating with the National Secretariat for the Promotion of the Rights of Children and Adolescents, Ms. Angelica Goulart Moura.

They highlighted three keynote lectures presented by Ms. Marta Santos Pais, Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations on Violence against Children, Ms. Rosa Maria Ortiz, Commissioner Rapporteur on Children IACHR-OAS, and Ms. Paulina Duarte, Director of the Department of Public Safety the General Secretariat of the OAS. Expert panels and workshops were designed in order to exchange experiences on the central themes of the XXI Congress.

**Resolutions approved:**

- CPNNA/Res. 01 (XXI-14) Unified resolution of the XXI Pan American Child and Adolescent Congress “Childhood and adolescence: Building peaceful environments” which includes three sub topics covered during the XXI Congress; and
- CPNNA/Res. 02 (XXI-14) Acknowledgement to the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil for Hosting the XXI-Pan American Child and Adolescent Congress and II Pan-American Child Forum.


**Being of particular interest for OMEP, we underline the essence of the commitments adopted unanimously by the 27 Member States:**

- Strengthen mechanisms to prevent violence, bring the legislation and allocate resources to fight, prevent and eliminate violence.
- Design and implement public policies that include comprehensive actions of protection-health-education.
- Optimize comprehensive proposals using coordination mechanisms, planning and monitoring to eliminate violence against children and adolescents.
- Conduct awareness campaigns and promote educational environments free from physical and emotional violence.
- To train qualified human talent to support the elimination, combating and preventing violence against children and adolescents.
- Conduct studies about and exchange of best practices.


**NOTE:** We are grateful to Dr. Maggie Koong, World President, who financed part of the costs of participation for the delegates of OMEP.

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**Gaby Fujimoto**  
World OMEP Representative to the OAS and alternate representative to ECOSOC United Nations and UNICEF

**Mercedes Mayol Lassalle**  
Regional Vice President for Latin America of the OMEP