



# GUIDING DOCUMENT

to review and strengthen systems  
for the promotion and comprehensive  
protection of child rights<sup>1</sup>



GOBIERNO DE  
**MÉXICO**

**GOBERNACIÓN**  
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**SIPINNA**  
SISTEMA NACIONAL DE PROTECCIÓN  
INTEGRAL DE NIÑAS, NIÑOS  
Y ADOLESCENTES



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<sup>1</sup> Work on this paper began in December 2020, following a proposal by Mexico SIPINNA in which the IIN-OAS offered technical assistance, jointly devising a roadmap to develop this material. In this development process, it was decided to consult key actors in the systems, by means of four consultation circles in which the following were taken into account: the SIPPINNA Forum organizing States, experts in the field, States that participated in panels on Systems during the XXII Pan American Congress, as well as in previous editions of the SIPPINNA Forum, civil society and organized groups of children and adolescents (GOT SIPPINNA) (SIPPINNA: acronym in Spanish for Systems for the Promotion and Protection of Children's Rights).

# PROLOGUES

Historically, States developed policies for the protection of children and adolescents through agencies whose actions focused on the most vulnerable children; they only intervened when there was absence or neglect on the part of children's families. This was the so-called "doctrine of the irregular situation".

Since the adoption of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, there have been significant changes in the ways in which children are viewed and the obligations of the States in their regard. Care for children no longer focuses only on the special protection of a small and clearly defined population, but has evolved to focus on so-called comprehensive protection: all rights for all children. This leads to the inclusion in children's policies of so-called "universal policies", that is, those aimed at the entire child population, such as education and health.

These new policies, in which the State as a whole assumes its responsibilities as a duty bearer, require strong inter-agency synchronization, differentiation and coordination between levels of care (promotion, protection and restitution) and territorial proximity strategies, bringing services closer to the territories in which children and families live. All of which implies synchronizing national levels of government with departmental, provincial and municipal levels, and the entire chain that leads from the national territory to the micro-territories, depending on the political organization of each State.

This requires overcoming the specialized and fragmented rationale according to which States function and moving forward with profound transformations of institutional cultures.

In the region, these transformative processes began decades ago, but degrees of progress and consolidation differ from State to State. Each State has sought to resolve issues such as the governance of the system, the circulation of financial resources, the participation of communities and of children and adolescents themselves, on the basis of their resources and political culture.

This makes it necessary to accept, as a matter of reality, the many different shapes that systems for the promotion and protection of rights adopt, the diverse forms of institutional engineering and the legacies of each of them in relation to the history of the child-related institutional-ity that preceded them in each State. Therefore, there is no such thing as a single system model: this is a maxim that we must always keep in mind. We can draw lessons from experiences, identify ways to solve certain "critical issues", but we cannot expect to extrapolate structures or organizational forms. The strength of a system will largely depend on its adequacy to the unique needs and possibilities of each State.

This paper is the outcome of two years of inter-agency work in which different actors involved in the subject participated: States, civil society, international organizations, experts and organized children and adolescents themselves. After a number of consultations and much redrafting, we have arrived at a text that systematizes a series of guidelines that will serve as a guide for people who carry out public and/or decision-making functions, and will enable them to review and strengthen the protection systems or subsystems in which they operate. It is not a decalogue, nor a recipe book, but a living document that aims to challenge, and promote dialogue and reflection in search of possible and appropriate solutions to singular realities.

Its purpose is to add to other valuable pre-existing documents, such as the Thematic Report, “Towards the Effective Fulfilment of Children’s Rights: National Protection Systems” by the IACHR (2017), General Comment No. 5 of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, and other relevant documents generated in SIPPINNA Inter-American Forums, considered opportunities for meeting and reflection by States, Civil Society, International Organizations and Organized Collectives of Children and Adolescents, which have outlined the agenda in the region. Derived from these events, there are documents such as “The Declaration of Montevideo” (2018), as well as the final report on the III SIPPINNA Forum (Asunción, 2020), which established an agreement to harmonize the programmatic provision of National Comprehensive Protection Systems, in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This paper is organized with reference to the focal points determined in the Declaration of Montevideo (2018), which are, namely: normative, programmatic and institutional. Although contributing to the organization of the analysis, we must not forget the unitary nature of the system as a functioning structure. In this respect, children and adolescents have made it very clear: “normative and institutional focal points/dimensions go hand in hand, one develops the idea, and then the others execute it; they are linked and they need to support each other. Structurally, it should be all together, and add the participation of children and adolescents, which implies being present in the entire public policy cycle.”

In conclusion, I would like to acknowledge the commitment and leadership of SIPPINA Mexico in the process of preparing this document, which we are making available today to all those who feel called to action on this issue.

**Víctor Giorgi**  
**Director-General**  
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As we know, the importance of a National Protection System lies in the fact that it is the body that determines and synchronizes the implementation of policies and programmes for children and adolescents, linking all sectors and government orders and, above all, establishing specific responsibilities for each of them in order to fulfil the rights of children and adolescents.

One of the most significant characteristics of these Systems is that those who make up this sector of the population actively participate in the design of public policies and in the foundations to ensure respect for their human rights.

It is a fact that the States of the region have undertaken a general and legislative commitment in relation to children and adolescents, and that there have been tangible and transformative achievements. However, the deep gap that persists between the rights established in law and the reality in which millions of children and adolescents live is very worrying, and we observe that the States share a great many problems in dealing with their rights.

In this context and based on General Comment No. 5 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, we must broaden and generalize the concept that for the protection of children and their rights it is necessary to standardize the set of elements that make up a method applied to ensure them, such as institutional mechanisms for the planning, design, approval, application, monitoring and evaluation of public policies, considering the various territorial levels, information systems, specialized human resources and, in adequate amounts, sufficient economic resources to finance policies, programmes and services, protocols and standards of performance and provision of services, among others.

We know that Protection System models are not uniform and that they vary from country to country, depending on the context and reality of each State, its Constitution, regulatory framework, territorial structure, jurisdiction distribution and available resources. This is in addition to the fact that systems are not static and are constantly shifting, which allows modifications to their structure and operations to take place in order to better adapt to changing needs and thus ensure the protection of children.

Thus, the overriding aim of this document is to provide a substantive contribution to the design and strengthening of the Systems of the region, by acting as a guiding tool to determine the obligations and standards applicable in their design and operation, all in accordance with the obligations derived from international human rights law. Notwithstanding, we should emphasize that this is not a definitive document and that new contributions may be made to the ongoing process, un-

derlining good practices and any other relevant contributions, as a result of its application.

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# INTRODUCTION

This paper reflects a collective effort made in order to develop a tool that, together with other reference materials, facilitates work from and on Systems for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Children and Adolescents (SIPPINNA). It is aimed at people who perform public and decision-making functions and must be interpreted and applied taking into account the peculiarities of each system, as well as the implementation point at which each State finds itself.

In view of the breadth of the issue and recognizing that there is no single operational model of systems for the promotion and protection of rights to be adopted and followed, but, rather, that there are multiple prototypes in the region, this paper's approach includes consultation with and consensus on the part of the different system actors (States, civil society, experts and organized groups of children and adolescents). In this respect, the need has been identified for the systems, in their different examples, to be designed and managed from a human rights-based perspective, with an entity, agency or governing body to facilitate coordination, review and strengthening.

With regard to terminology, reference is made to the "Systems for the Promotion and Protection of Children's Rights" (SIPPINNA), in view of the progress made and agreements reached in inter-American forums. Likewise, as there is no single definition of these systems, we have adopted the definition proposed by the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN) (2018), which considers that, when referring to SIPPINNAs, we mean: "...a set of concepts (rights, principles, etc.), processes, entities (State, Civil Society, Family, Children, Adolescents) acting in a differentiated, orderly, coordinated and complementary way in order to implement universal and targeted laws and public policy and achieve the promotion and comprehensive protection of child rights in all areas of society." <sup>2</sup>

It should be noted that, in preparing this document, work was carried out according to a roadmap divided into four consultation circles:

- The first was formed with the organizing States and headquarters of the I, II and III SIPPINNA Forums. To this end, comments were obtained from the children's governing bodies of Mexico, Uruguay and Paraguay, States which were joined by Honduras when it assumed the Presidency of the Directing Council of the IIN-OAS and because of its extensive experience in the subject.
- The second consisted of experts in the field of the inter-American and universal rights system.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup> IIN-OAS working paper 2018.

<sup>3</sup> American members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (Luis Pedrera, Faith Marshall, Jose Ángel Rodríguez), Ricardo Pérez Manrique (IACourHR), Esmeralda Arosemena (HDI Commissioner) and Alejandro Morlachetti (PAHO/WHO Regional Human Rights Advisor).

- The third was composed of civil society organizations that took part in SIPPINNA forums and States that have participated in the Pan American congresses, in particular, the XXII Pan American Congress – Systems Panel.<sup>4</sup>

- Finally, the fourth circle of consultation was formed with the Thematic Organized Group on Systems for the Promotion and Protection of Rights (hereinafter, GOT SIPPINNA), a body created by the IIN-OAS in which children and adolescents from different parts of the Americas, people interested in the topic, with specialized vocabulary, experiences and previous knowledge about participation and the promotion of their rights, were invited to participate.<sup>5</sup>

Over the course of nine meetings held through video calls, co-coordinated by the Regional Child and Adolescent Participation Advisory Group (GRAPIA)<sup>6</sup> and those responsible for the Inter-American Programme for the Consolidation of IIN-OAS Systems, central aspects of this document were discussed in a child-friendly manner in order to gather their opinions and contributions. The contributions that appear here are a synthesis developed on the basis of the opinions, comments and reflections gathered from GOT SIPPINNA, respecting the literal features of their statements.

Based on the above, all of the comments issuing from the different actors that made up the consultation circles resulted in significant inputs for the development of this working instrument, contributing to the review and fine-tuning of each of the guidelines described here.

<sup>4</sup> Civil society: Save the Children, GMC-LAC. States: Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala and Nicaragua.

<sup>5</sup> Natalia Hernández (Mexico - 11 years), Ángel Antonio Torres (Mexico - 10 years), Cindy Pichardo (Dominican Republic - 16 years), Fernanda Medina (Uruguay - 14 years), Igor Antúnez (Uruguay - 15 years), Ulises López (Paraguay - 16 years). Members of GOT SIPPINNA 2022.

<sup>6</sup> Gladys Ramírez (Peru - 19 years old). Member of the GRAPIA 2022 group.



**BACKGROUND**

Undoubtedly, the most profound transformation established by the Convention on the Rights of the Child (hereinafter CRC) was the recognition of children and adolescents as holders of rights, as well as also being recognized (as are all people) as holding the right to special protection, adapted and reinforced due to their status as people who are developing and growing.

On this basis, and with the challenge of implementing the rights recognized in the CRC, each of the States that ratified it has undertaken legislative harmonization in order to progressively incorporate it into its legal framework.

In this process, the creation and consolidation of systems for the promotion and protection of rights in the region represents an important step forward in the area of rights, taking into account the corpus iuris<sup>7</sup> composed of treaties, laws, jurisprudence, guidelines, principles, etc., from both the Universal and the Inter-American Human Rights System.

In this regard, the GOT is of the opinion that: “For us, a system for the promotion and protection of the rights of children is a set of institutions that work for our rights and security.”

For its part, General Comment No. 5 of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (2003), among other recommendations, notes the importance of “(...) coordination among central government departments, among different provinces and regions, between central and other levels of government and between Government and civil society. The purpose of coordination is to ensure respect for all of the Convention’s principles and standards for all children within the State jurisdiction”.<sup>8</sup>

In the same vein, it is worth highlighting the significant contribution made by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), in its Thematic Report: “Towards the Effective Fulfilment of Children’s Rights: National Protection Systems (2017)”,<sup>9</sup> where different system standards are proposed both for the regulatory framework, and for the development of institutionality for the systems, in order to apply the rights stipulated in an operational manner at all levels.

Likewise, there are noteworthy documents arising from SIPPINNA Inter-American Forums, considered to be opportunities for meeting and reflection by States, civil society, international organizations and organized groups of children and adolescents, which have outlined the

<sup>7</sup> Regulatory body.

<sup>8</sup> Points 37, 38, 39, 40 and 41 of UN General Comment No. 5.

<sup>9</sup> Report, “Towards the Effective Fulfilment of Children’s Rights: National Protection Systems” (2017) IACHR. Pages 15 and 16.

agenda in the region. The first of these took place in Mexico (2017),<sup>10</sup> the second in Uruguay (2018)<sup>11</sup> and the third in Paraguay (2020).<sup>12</sup>

Issuing from these events, there are papers such as “The Declaration of Montevideo” (2018),<sup>13</sup> which contains general, normative, programmatic and institutional principles for systems, as well as the final report on the III SIPPINNA Forum, which established an agreement to harmonize the programmatic provision of National Comprehensive Protection Systems, in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).<sup>14</sup> To these are added the recommendations arising from the inter-American dialogues,<sup>15</sup> and the regional position papers of the IIN,<sup>16</sup> the IA-CHR<sup>17</sup> and the Committee on the Rights of the Child, among others.<sup>18</sup>

In view of the importance of these materials, the GOT suggests: “For us, the right to information is important in order to be aware; it is important and necessary to have child-friendly versions, not only of the children’s codes, but also of other laws and documents that protect children.”

In this respect, although it is recognized that progress has been made in developing and strengthening SIPPINNA, it is also necessary to take into account the challenges still facing the region, where institutionality is particularly important when extraordinary situations arise that massively affect the population, such as the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, or scenarios generated by climate-related emergencies, among others.

It is in these circumstances where the need to promote more efficient and effective coordination of the various institutions through the systems becomes evident as a means of ensuring the operation of essential services, such as physical and mental health, adequate nutrition, education, social protection, protection against violence, etc. In this regard, and given that, as mentioned above, the systems are composed of three focal points or dimensions that are interdependent and interre-

<sup>10</sup> Participants at the first SIPPINNA FORUM: The Inter-American Children’s Institute (IIN), the Executive Secretariat of the National System for the Comprehensive Protection of Children and Adolescents (SIPPINNA) of Mexico, the IACHR’s Office of the Rapporteur on the Rights of the Child, the UNICEF Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, the National Children’s Board of Costa Rica (PANI), the Latin American and Caribbean Network for the Defence of the Rights of Children and Adolescents (REDLAMCYC), representatives of national institutions for the protection of children and adolescents from 16 Latin American and Caribbean countries, as well as 35 representatives of civil society belonging to REDLAMCYC, and 30 representatives of international agencies and experts.

<sup>11</sup> Participants at the second SIPPINNA forum: The IIN, the Children’s Institute of Uruguay (INAU), UNICEF, 13 States, Civil Society Representatives from 18 States, 18 countries represented by at least one actor. In total, 52 adolescents and 120 adults

<sup>12</sup> Participants at the virtual and extraordinary activities of the third SIPPINNA FORUM: Governing bodies for children and adolescents and the Systems for the Protection and Promotion of Children and Adolescents of the Americas, civil society organizations with a regional presence, regional child and youth organizations, multilateral agencies and academia.

<sup>13</sup> Documents - Declaration of Montevideo. Towards National Systems for the Comprehensive Protection of Children and Adolescents. (inau.gub.uy).

<sup>14</sup> The final report refers to “producing and organizing the information available in keeping with the Sustainable Development Goals, in order to identify the progress generated both nationally and regionally”.

<sup>15</sup> Síntesis-del-primer-ciclo-de-diálogos-interamericanos-Act.-extraordinaria-SIPPINNA.pdf (iinadmin.com)

<sup>16</sup> Available at: <http://novedades.iinadmin.com/en-tiempos-de-pandemia-que-lo-esencial-no-sea-invisible-a-los-ojos/> (reviewed 01/July/2022)

<sup>17</sup> Available at: <https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/decisiones/pdf/Resolución-1-20-es.pdf> (reviewed 01/07/2022)

<sup>18</sup> Available at: <https://www.educatorcerencia.com/el-comite-de-los-derechos-del-nino-de-nuuu-advierde-del-grave-impacto-fisico-emocional-y-psicologico-del-covid-en-los-ninos-y-pide-a-los-estados-que-tomen-medidas> (reviewed 01/July/2022)

lated (normative dimension, institutional dimension and programmatic dimension), a number of recommendations are suggested that serve as a guide for people who carry out public and/or decision-making functions, insofar as it allows them to review and strengthen the protection systems or subsystems in which they operate.

In the same vein, the girls, boys and adolescents who make up GOT SIPPINNA consider that: “normative and institutional focal points/dimensions go hand in hand, one develops the idea and then the others execute it; they are linked and they need to support each other. Structurally, it should be all together, and add the participation of children and adolescents, which implies being present in the entire public policy cycle. It is necessary that we ourselves, as children and adolescents, should not view participation as a privilege: it is our right, we have to work more from this point of view. Unfortunately, adult-centrism is still predominant, it is the reality that we experience and witness. Our participation is often decorative, we are still not validated and not given the value and weight that our rights should have. Participation must be real, it is necessary to exhaust all the stages, we do not need photo opportunities, we are a long way off from achieving intergenerational dialogue.”

# GUIDELINES

to review and strengthen systems  
for the promotion and comprehensive  
protection of child rights

## I. THE NORMATIVE DIMENSION:

**I.I.** Promote the incorporation in the national legal framework, of guiding principles in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child: the best interest of the child, the right to priority, equality and non-discrimination, joint responsibility in providing safeguards, the right to participation and respect for the views of children and adolescents, taking into account their age and degree of maturity, with a view to establishing, within existing legislation, that children and adolescents are holders of rights with all that this implies and that this should result in a paradigm shift in practice.

In this regard, children and adolescents of GOT remark that: “We understand that the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as an international treaty, serves to establish all of our rights in all the countries that have accepted it. The principles of the Convention are those that serve to guide duty bearers in their application. Regardless of countries and their national structure, each has a particular national context, so they need to develop their own national codes.”

**I.II.** Adopt and/or strengthen national laws and/or codes that include the creation of an entity, agency or governing body that:

- Facilitates the synchronization of measures in normative, institutional and programmatic dimensions.
- Designs and coordinates public policy.
- Implements in a coordinated manner actions to promote, protect and prevent violations of the rights of children and adolescents.

In the same line, the GOT notes: “It is important that our rights should be in writing and in a law, because it allows us to pressure other actors regarding the rights of children and adolescents and to have enforceability. It is very important to know that there is a law that protects our rights, and that they can be enforced. All this makes us visible, shows that children are worthwhile and that we are people. As children and adolescents, we are often not valued and our interests are the least meaningful in society. The existence of laws, children’s codes, etc., protect and safeguard us, and also gives us value before society.”

**I.III.** Design and institutionalize, through laws, mechanisms for coordination within the System and for cross-sectoral co-responsibility of bodies for the implementation of public policy, plans, programmes and projects for the protection, defence and restitution of the rights of children and adolescents. These synchronizations must ensure that due process is respected, and that trials are expeditious and fair to prevent impunity, in order to ensure the highest levels of comprehensive protection at the different phases of intervention.

In this regard, the GOT children and adolescents are of the view that: **“Coordination mechanisms are ways of getting information from one institution to another. It is about assembling the pieces so that it works as a whole. Like the nervous or circulatory system of the human body, for example, where it is necessary for each organ to fulfil its function so that all of the organs function properly. The distribution of the tasks to be carried out by the agencies working in the State is necessary in the systems; for rights to function well, it is necessary that State institutions ensure that this mechanism functions day after day. Co-responsibility, for its part, means giving everyone their bit of homework. The importance of this is that if the tasks are not divided, the work cannot be done. If a single institution intends to do this on its own, it will not succeed. All institutions must work together. This means synchronized work, making it possible to promote and protect rights in a better way.”**

**I.IV.** Establish in legislation the regulation of the general budgetary provisions of each State, where the budget for children is protected and assured, to the maximum of available resources, according to the principle of non-regressiveness and progressivity; in order to guarantee the comprehensive protection of children and adolescents. The budget forecast may in no case be lower than the highest forecast or execution of previous years.

**I.V.** Install and/or strengthen legal and institutional structures, mechanisms and scenarios that promote the participation of children, according to their progressive autonomy.

For the GOT, the participation of children and adolescents is essential, in this regard they indicate: **“Laws allow societies to organize and help institutions know where to start in order to ensure our rights. We know that just because a law exists, it is not enough to enforce our rights, but at least it helps us to have them and to demand them. At the same time, it is important that they should listen to us. It makes no sense for adults to take care of the world and the situations of children and adolescents without listening to our opinions and interests. It is clear that we are not going to do the work of adults; they do not understand many of our issues, that is why we need more opportunities for intergenerational dialogue. Nothing about us without us.”**

## II. THE INSTITUTIONAL DIMENSION:

### II.I. Composition and structure:

**a.** Establish a politically prioritized area with decision-making power and composed of ranking individuals, as an area for the synchronization and participation of different agencies and ministries of the public sector, the private sector and national civil society, in the context of the promotion, protection and restitution of the rights of children and adolescents.

In the opinion of GOT SIPPINNA: **“We understand a politically prioritized area to be a place/agency of the State that is the centre, the main office where the system and its actions are based. It may be divided into representatives of regions, provinces, mayors’ offices, etc., according to how each State is composed and structured.”**

**b.** Integrate into the system the various State bodies responsible for children and adolescents, acting in a systemic and coordinated manner at national and subnational levels, bolstered by appropriate governance models<sup>19</sup> and within their respective legal frameworks.

**c.** Ensure that this political coordination area has its expression at the territorial level in direct contact with children, adolescents and families. At the municipal level, provision should be made for the existence of a deliberative body to determine children’s policy and monitor compliance, where direct care services are permanent and free of charge, and to ensure that this population and their families have access to specialized care in issues involving their rights in their communities.

<sup>19</sup> An appropriate governance model is envisaged as a dynamic mechanism providing for the creation of bodies for deliberation, conciliation and formulation of policies and programmes, as well as the participation of civil society organizations specializing in children’s rights. In addition, these participation mechanisms include representatives of the subnational levels, so that policies may reach all girls and boys and adolescents in the country and must be linked to instruments for consultation, especially those that are formal and institutional, such as advisory councils, which serve as democratic support. This is also strengthened by having a high hierarchical level of Executive Branch authorities located in these structures at the national, subnational and local levels, since this represents a clear political message about the importance given to the rights of children and, above all, facilitates improved conditions for the coordination, cooperation and effectiveness of these bodies.

In this regard the GOT notes that: **“It is important that institutions work with support. They should work together and separately to be more independent and not have to do only what the ruling party says, because if not, they change later and what was done is lost; furthermore, the institutions need to support one other, but be independent to carry out their actions and not be tied to the government. They should work together so that each one has support, for example, when they have a problem they can ask for help, but they can also work alone to make them independent. Synchronizing areas implies working together and having support.”**

### **II.II. Operational modalities:**

**a.** With a focus on promoting the rights of children and adolescents, advocate for and strengthen coordination between systems (social protection, health, education, justice, participation, etc.), and levels of specialization (universal, targeted and restitution of rights, among others). To this end, implement mechanisms for systemic and cross-sectoral coordination of public policy and programme implementation agencies responsible for services and care for children and adolescents, in order to ensure comprehensive protection at the various stages of intervention.

In this regard, members of GOT explain: **“An all-encompassing approach is necessary for the structure and proper functioning of the systems. In addition to the governing body, there is a need for the synchronized work of all institutions that defend the rights of children. Everything goes together, as if in line, each working in their own time and in a synchronized way, so that decisions are made between all on the issues that affect us.”**

**b.** Develop national, regional and municipal institutionalities with political and technical responsibility for public policy design for children’s issues, and implementation and monitoring at national and local levels.

**c.** Promote coordination between government and civil society, fostering dialogue between central and territorial levels, and bring the system’s stakeholders closer to the places of residence of children and their families.

**d.** Generate parameters, protocols and institutional conditions for the implementation of measures for promotion, protection, defence, restitution of rights and reparation of damage in case of infringement, through administrative bodies for the protection of rights, the specialized judiciary and specialized ombudsmen.

e. Develop communication strategies for the promotion and protection of the rights of children, which will promote the paradigm of children as holders of rights and the doctrine of comprehensive protection, and promote the co-responsibility of families, society, and the State, including other actors such as business enterprises, unions, civil society, guilds, academia, the media, etc.

Directly approaching children and adolescents is of the utmost importance, as the GOT comments: **“Campaigns should be conducted so that all children and adolescents are aware of their rights, but that adults should also know that they must respect them: parents, teachers, judges, technicians, etc., because they have to know them and allow them to be fulfilled.”**

### II.III. Budget:

a. Establish political and technical mechanisms to allocate the maximum available resources for the realization of the rights recognized in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and national legislation.

b. Continuously review national budgets for children and adolescents, in terms of both resource allocation and implementation, and make budgetary decisions with the best interest of the child as a primary consideration, especially taking into account groups of children in the most vulnerable situations.

c. Avoid regression in crisis situations or budget reductions by the State by means of commitments signed at the highest levels.

d. Promote the allocation of budgetary resources to protect and safeguard the rights of children at the subnational level, taking into account the characteristics of each country’s political organization and the constitutional powers in each case.

In this regard, the GOT is of the opinion that: **“Resources for the rights of children and adolescents are sometimes limited, like a river that becomes smaller and smaller and does not get to where it should have gone. It is necessary to have resources and a higher body to distribute them.”**

## III. THE PROGRAMMATIC DIMENSION:

### III.I. National policy:

- a. Design and implement national public policy for the promotion and comprehensive protection of the rights of children and adolescents, based on specific and general legislation on the subject, with the participation of this population throughout the policy cycle.
- b. Establish public policy measures and indicators for promotion, protection, defence and restitution of rights in cases of infringement of child rights, including the most vulnerable groups.

Child and adolescent GOT members highlight the importance of identifying the causes of problems and seeking solutions: **“Public policies are like something that we look for in order to respond to the problem. We have the problem and through public policy we generate an action plan to solve it. They are solutions created by the State to help society to improve its quality of life and meet the needs of children at the national, regional and local levels. Public policies should be carried out with the participation of society, children’s settings and children themselves, in order to achieve synchronized work.”**

### III.II. Training for human resources and knowledge building:

- a. Generate and strengthen interdisciplinary human resources training policies, from a perspective of promoting, protecting and restoring the rights of children, according to the needs of national policies and agendas.
- b. Establish coordination with training and academic areas with a view to researching and developing relevant, significant and specialized knowledge that can contribute to the design of intervention strategies and devices from the perspective of rights, tailored to the different contexts.
- c. Promote the sharing of successful experiences with a focus on the prevention, promotion and restoration of the rights of children.
- d. Design an Information System, and implement and keep it updated, focusing on the current situation of children and adolescents, with data disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity, municipality, etc., and other significant variables that shed light on degrees of access to rights and inequality gaps.

In this regard, the GOT is of the opinion that: **“Laws indicate what institutions have to comply with, but then they must have qualified personnel who know what they are there for and what they have to do.”**

### III.III Evaluation and Monitoring Mechanisms:

- a. Create and/or strengthen evaluation and monitoring mechanisms with pre-established indicators that monitor and allow for a thorough assessment of the scope and results of SIPPINNA, their difficulties, lessons learned and limitations.
- b. Generate accountability mechanisms that ensure transparency through clear, systematic, reliable and user-friendly information, accessible to different actors, including children and adolescents.
- c. Create and/or strengthen statistical information systems related to children, with a view to obtaining updated, itemized, disaggregated and good quality data, which make it possible to analyse information on the status of the fulfilment of their rights, shine a light on inequities and serve as a basis for the formulation of specific policies adapted to their needs.

Finally, the GOT SIPPINNA adds its reflections on evaluation and monitoring mechanisms, noting that: **“The importance of accountability mechanisms is based on regulating the issue of resources, controlling waste, theft, and that money should not be used for purposes other than those of the project. Transparency and monitoring the use of monetary resources is essential, since without a budget, there are no rights.”**

**Note:** The working paper “Guiding Document to review and strengthen systems” is intended as a useful input for the different actors that make up the systems and subsystems for the promotion and protection of rights in the region. In this respect, and taking into account that systems are dynamic, the IIN-OAS is committed to creating the necessary opportunities for consultation in order to keep this document alive and up to date. Finally, although this tool incorporates the opinion of children and adolescents who are members of the GOT SIPPINNA, it is far from being child-friendly material. We therefore hope, in the future, to continue working to achieve documents with accessible content in relation to this issue.

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