

CONCEPT NOTE



V Foro Interamericano de **Sistemas de Promoción y Protección Integral de los Derechos** de las Niñas, Niños y Adolescentes

SIPPINNA    





CONCEPT NOTE

Colombia - 2025



1. Introduction

The Inter-American Forum on Systems for the Promotion and Comprehensive Protection of the Rights of Children and Adolescents represents a collective effort to advance mechanisms for coordination and articulation among the systems and subsystems for the promotion and comprehensive protection of rights in the region. The experience accumulated in the four previous forums has consolidated it as a suitable reference point for this purpose. In earlier editions, issues of utmost importance were addressed, including the post-pandemic effects on children and adolescents. The results have been significant, and this Fifth Forum is expected to continue fulfilling the agreements established in the previous editions.

The Fifth Forum seeks to consolidate itself as a space for knowledge exchange and dialogue on the promotion and protection of the rights of children and adolescents, structured around four thematic pillars: the first defined by children and adolescents themselves; the second by the host country (Colombia); the third focused on the experience of countries that hosted previous editions (Mexico, Uruguay, and Paraguay); and the fourth proposed by civil society organizations.

Furthermore, the Forum aims to strengthen coordination, articulation, and cooperation among the systems for the promotion and comprehensive protection of children's and adolescents' rights in the region, as well as to foster follow-up actions and new agreements that enhance inter-institutional cooperation and encourage critical reflection on the conditions that enable or hinder the effective enjoyment of rights in different contexts.

Within this framework, on September 25 and 26, 2025, the Fifth Forum on Systems for the Promotion and Comprehensive Protection of the Rights of Children and Adolescents will take place in Bogotá D.C., Colombia.



2. Background Information

In 2017, at the initiative of Mexico, the first Inter-American Forum on Comprehensive Systems for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Children and Adolescents was organized, with the purpose of fostering a process of dialogue, exchange of experiences, and good practices among the comprehensive systems for the promotion and protection of childhood in the Americas, together with civil society actors. Likewise, actions were promoted for the development of public policies aimed at protecting the rights of children and adolescents, as well as mechanisms for dialogue and cooperation among countries in the region. As a result, the Forum's records and conclusions were prepared, serving as key inputs for the work carried out in 2018 and 2020. ([Available here](#))

The second Forum, held in 2018 in Montevideo, Uruguay, focused on analyzing actions aimed at strengthening national systems for the promotion and comprehensive protection of rights. As a result of this meeting, important working inputs were produced, such as the Montevideo Declaration ([Available here](#)), which reflects consensus in the normative, programmatic, and institutional dimensions for the systems. The Report of the Second Forum was also prepared, establishing an agreement to harmonize the programmatic offer of the national systems for the promotion and comprehensive protection of rights with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as the Call of the Second Forum, addressed to States and other actors within the systems responsible for safeguarding the rights of children and adolescents in the context of human mobility.

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Third Forum was held virtually in 2020 under the leadership of the State of Paraguay. The discussions addressed the impact of the pandemic and access to rights for children and adolescents. This was an intersectoral



and intergenerational dialogue exercise, with the participation of States, civil society organizations, and delegations of children and adolescents from different countries. As a result of these virtual sessions, a synthesis was prepared that compiles the main ideas, lessons learned, and challenges from each presentation ([available here](#)).

Also in 2020, an extraordinary activity was carried out, entitled “First Cycle of Inter-American Dialogues: The Role of Protection Systems during the COVID-19 Pandemic,” a joint initiative of SIPINNA Mexico, MINNA Paraguay, Tejiendo Redes Infancia of Latin America and the Caribbean, and the IIN-OAS. This cycle brought together States, civil society, international organizations, and experts, with the purpose of gathering their reflections around a central theme over the course of four meetings, and learning about the measures adopted during the health emergency.

Finally, it is important to highlight that over the past three years, relevant regional studies and position papers have been produced, such as:

The joint statement of the IIN and the American members of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, entitled Children First. (2020) , which compiles lessons learned and recommendations for addressing the post-pandemic period:

- Protect the budgets allocated to the promotion and comprehensive protection of the rights of children and adolescents, increasing them when necessary and according to circumstances, and redirecting resources in line with the best interests of the child, with special attention to groups in situations of vulnerability.
- Strengthen the systems for the promotion and comprehensive protection of rights, enhancing their comprehensiveness, management, coordination, and efficiency, prioritizing their presence in the region; defining clear leadership roles and equipping them with the institutional capacities necessary for the proper fulfillment of their functions. The tasks of promoting, protecting, and restoring rights require strong alliances and multisectoral cooperation to reinforce inter-institutional, intergenerational, and interdisciplinary work.
- Rethink the experiences lived during the crisis, including the weaknesses and strengths of educational systems, and promote the necessary transformations to achieve a human-centered, friendly, efficient education that fosters responsible citizenship. This includes advancing the democratization of internet access, providing teacher training, and offering children and adolescents greater digital literacy, as well as criteria and tools for the safe use of new technologies and the proper management of situations that, due to their vulnerability, threaten their rights both online and offline.

1. http://novedades.iinadmin.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Pronunciamento_La_Ni%C3%B1ez_Ante_Todo.pdf



Figure 1. Timeline of spaces for the promotion and comprehensive protection of the rights of children and adolescents in Latin America. Source: IIN-OAS.

The guiding document for the review and strengthening of the SIPPINNA (2022) , The result of an inter-institutional effort that consulted various actors committed to the issue: States, civil society, international organizations, experts, and organized groups of children and adolescents. This systematization provides guidelines that serve as a reference for those performing public or decision-making functions, enabling them to review and strengthen the systems or subsystems for the promotion and comprehensive protection in which they participate. It is a living document, conceived to present challenges and to promote dialogue, reflection, and the search for possible and appropriate solutions to specific realities. The Fourth Inter-American Forum on Comprehensive Systems for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Children and Adolescents took place in Nuevo León, Mexico, in 2023, as a two-day hybrid and intergenerational event. It included the participation of States, civil society, international organizations, and organized groups of children and adolescents from Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Forum aimed to strengthen and institutionalize these spaces through open dialogue that would promote the protection and guarantee of rights, taking into account regional diversity.

Its main objectives included identifying good practices within national systems, developing tools for intergovernmental coordination, and monitoring the agreements reached in previous forums.

2. <http://novedades.iinadmin.com/orientacion-para-el-fortalecimiento-de-los-sippinna/>



The main outcome was the Nuevo León Declaration, which establishes a comprehensive framework for action and highlights the importance of the participation of children and adolescents in the formulation of public policies. This intergenerational and regional commitment seeks to strengthen systems for the promotion and protection of rights, ensuring continuity of the efforts initiated in the 2017–2020 forums, with a renewed focus on gender mainstreaming, inclusion, and the participation of children and adolescents ([available here](#)).

The Forum produced 16 specific recommendations, derived from prior consultations and debates, which were approved through electronic voting. These recommendations were organized into normative, institutional, programmatic, and political dimensions to address each of the thematic areas discussed.

It is important to clarify that a system for the promotion and comprehensive protection of children and adolescents is a set of concepts (rights, principles), processes, and actors (State, society, families, children, and adolescents) that act in a differentiated, orderly, coordinated, and complementary manner, in order to implement universal norms and policies to achieve the promotion and comprehensive protection of the rights of children and adolescents in all areas of society (IIN-OAS, 2018).



3. Objectives

To generate a process of reflection aimed at strengthening and institutionalizing the Inter-American Forums on Systems for the Promotion and Comprehensive Protection of the Rights of Children and Adolescents, as a platform for open dialogue among the actors that make up the systems (States, civil society, international organizations, and organized groups of children and adolescents), fostering the promotion and comprehensive protection of rights, while considering the economic, political, social, and cultural diversity of the region.

Specific objectives

- Promote critical reflection on the conditions and barriers that limit the effective enjoyment of the rights of children and adolescents in the region, taking as reference the four previously defined themes.
- Identify good practices and experiences of national systems for the promotion and comprehensive protection of children and adolescents in Latin American and Caribbean countries, in order to develop action proposals aimed at mainstreaming the perspectives of children and adolescents, gender, and intersectionality in the functioning of the forums.
- Generate proposals for tools of coordination and strategic articulation between the forums and the different levels of government (federal, state, and municipal) of the States.
- Monitor the recommendations and working documents agreed upon in previous forums.



4. Scope of the Fifth Forum

Under the leadership of Colombia, the fifth edition of the International Forum is projected as a key space to assess progress, promote innovative solutions, and strengthen regional commitment to the rights of children and adolescents. This meeting brings together OAS Member States, civil society, academia, international organizations, and the true protagonists: the voices of children and adolescents.

Its disruptive methodology combines technical sessions with the presentation of successful experiences, updated research, and practical tools, all aimed at reducing vulnerabilities and guaranteeing rights. A key differential will be the visibility of the leadership of children and adolescents, recognizing their active role in social transformation.

This Forum represents a unique opportunity to build alliances, learn from good practices, and consolidate sustainable regional cooperation mechanisms. It is a call to turn commitment into concrete actions that positively impact new generations.

Special emphasis will also be placed on the articulation among heterogeneous actors and at different levels, recognizing their role in guaranteeing the rights of children and adolescents.



STRATEGIC SCOPE OF THE FIFTH INTER-AMERICAN FORUM - SIPPINNA

Strengthen the visibility of the forums

As spaces for open dialogue among the different actors that make up the systems for the promotion and comprehensive protection of rights, including States, civil society, academia, international organizations, and organized groups of children and adolescents.

Highlight experiences

Led by children and adolescents, promoting the recognition of their rights and highlighting their actions in prevention, mobilization, and social awareness in their communities.



Facilitate the exchange and acknowledgment of work

Of positive and meaningful experiences at the national and local levels, focused on articulation, coordination, and cooperation among diverse actors and across different levels.

Conduct working sessions

Prior to and during the Forum, in which research, systematizations, and significant experiences related to the promotion and comprehensive protection of rights in the four defined thematic areas will be presented.

Foster reflective dialogue

On the mechanisms and tools that can be developed or further strengthened to consolidate effective and sustained coordination and cooperation among the systems of the countries in the region.



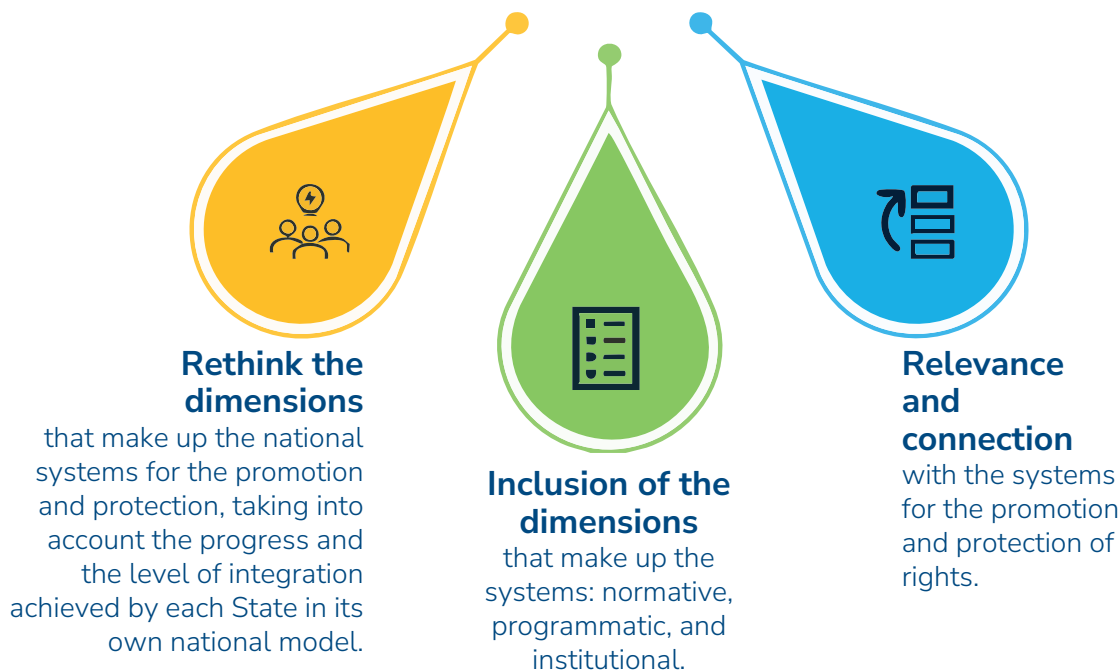
5. Criteria for the Selection of Themes

The Forum will structure its agenda around four key thematic pillars, selected by consensus of the International Organizing Committee under strategic criteria.

This methodology ensures solution-oriented debates, prioritizing issues with the potential to generate transformative public policies and effective mechanisms of articulation among Member States. Each pillar will be analyzed from comparative perspectives, identifying replicable good practices and opportunities for regional cooperation.

For the consolidation of the criteria that enabled the selection of the themes, the participation of key decision-making actors was taken into account.

Four themes were agreed upon with the International Organizing Committee, which included the following criteria:

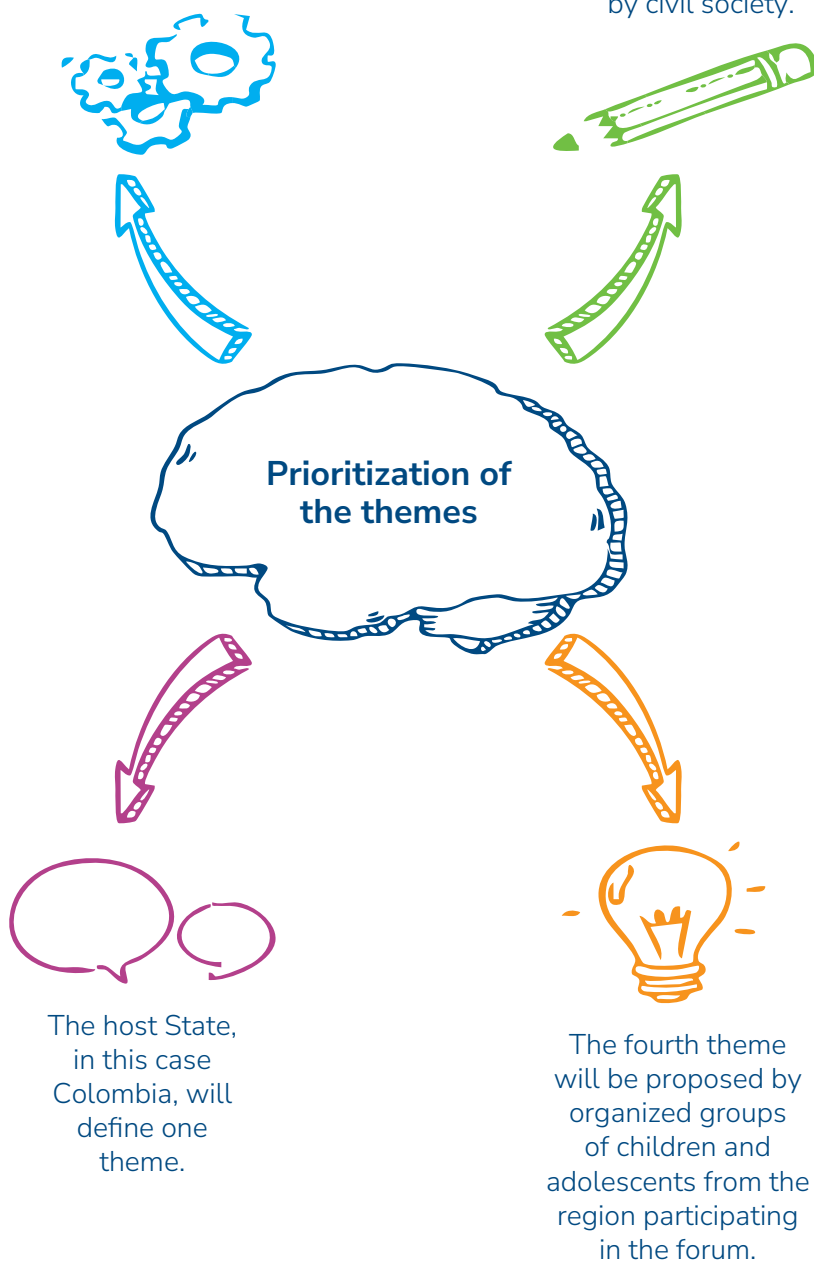




On the other hand, the Forum's agenda was developed through a unique collaborative model based on a methodology of representativeness, positioning children and adolescents as agents of change. For this reason, it was decided that the themes would be proposed as follows:

The second theme will be defined by the States that hosted previous forums (México, Paraguay y Uruguay).

The third theme will be proposed by civil society.

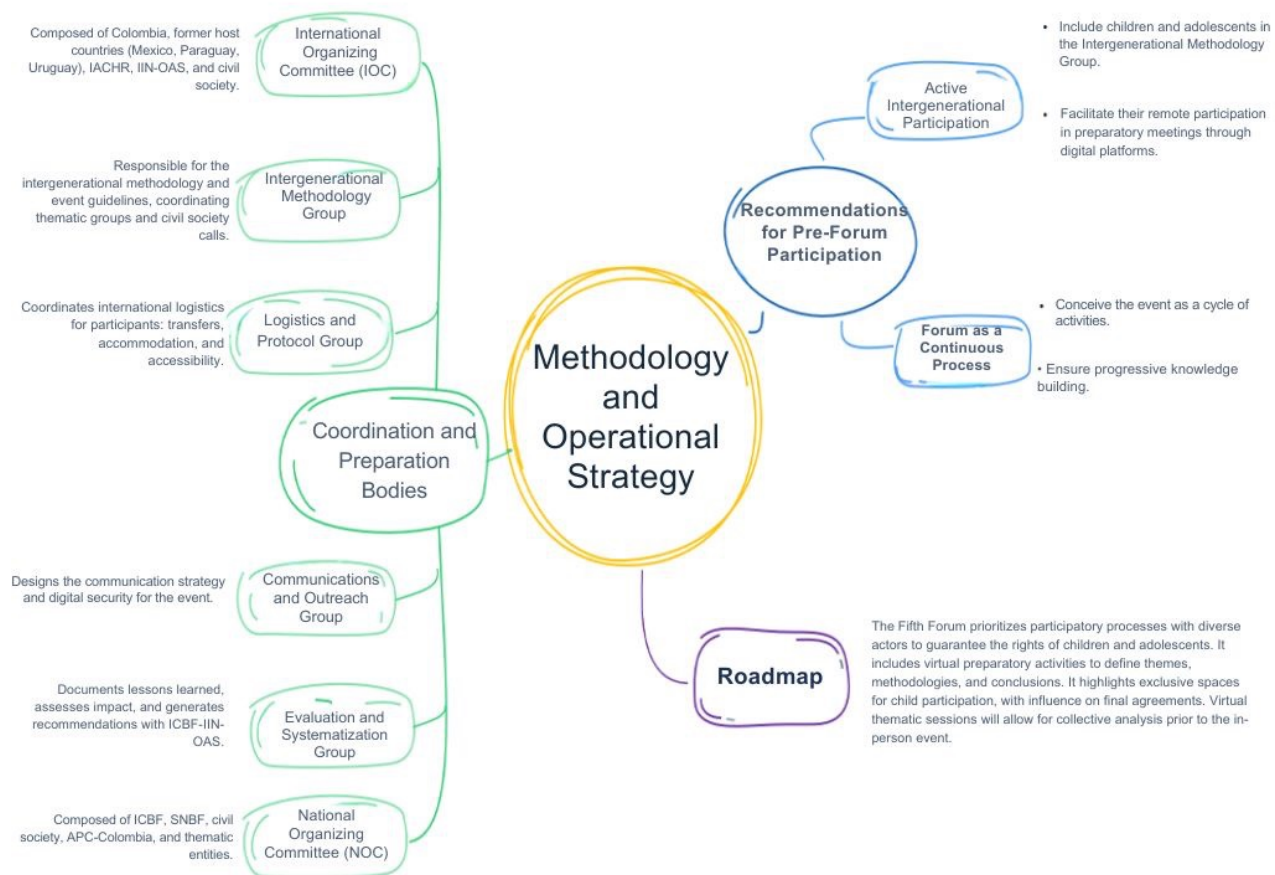




6. Methodology and Operational Strategy

The Fifth Inter-American Forum marks a milestone in the protection of the rights of children and adolescents by implementing an innovative model that goes beyond traditional formats. It combines rigorous analysis, practical experiences, and the active participation of the target population, within a continuous process with verifiable results. Its methodology integrates three key dimensions: identification of barriers, systematization of good practices, and development of executive tools, generating solutions adaptable to each regional context.

The true differentiator lies in its operational architecture, which transforms dialogue into action through interconnected phases of co-creation and implementation within a work plan. Likewise, a priority is placed on the effective inclusion of participants' voices and on intergenerational oversight mechanisms that ensure transparency in the execution of agreements. The result is a qualitative leap from theoretical reflection to concrete impacts on national protection systems, establishing a new standard for regional cooperation.





7. Themes (preliminary)

The following are the four thematic areas that will be addressed during the Fifth Forum, in accordance with the criteria outlined in section 5 of this Concept Note:

Item	Actor	Theme
1	Colombia (Host State)	Right to peace.
2	México and Uruguay (Host States of previous editions of the Forum)	Access to justice for children and adolescents.
3	Civil society	Municipal SIPPINNAS: the community dimension of their institutional framework.
4	Children and adolescents	Protection against abuse.

8. Calendar of Confirmed Dates

Activity	Dates
Launch of the Fifth Forum: "Information and knowledge management as tools for coordination in child and adolescent policies." Virtual modality.	June 12, 2025..
Fifth Inter-American Forum (main event). Venue: Colombia.	September 25–26, 2025.

August, 2025



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