

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. Presentation

The Inter-American Forum on Systems for the Promotion and Comprehensive Protection of the Rights of Children and Adolescents is a commitment to advance in coordination and articulation mechanisms between 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 an ideal reference for this purpose. In previous editions, topics of absolute importance were addressed, including the post-pandemic effects on children and adolescents. The results have been significant and it is hoped that this V Forum will continue to comply with the agreements established in previous versions.

The V Forum seeks to consolidate itself as a scenario for dialogue of knowledge on the promotion and protection of the rights of children and adolescents, organized in four thematic axes: the first, defined by the children and adolescents themselves; the second, by the host country (Colombia); the third, focused on the experience of the host countries of previous editions (Mexico, Uruguay and Paraguay); and the fourth, proposed by civil society organizations.

The forum also aims to strengthen coordination, articulation and cooperation between the systems for the promotion and comprehensive protection of the rights of children and adolescents in the region, as well as to generate follow-up and new agreements that stimulate inter-institutional cooperation and encourage critical reflection on the conditions that favor or limit the effective enjoyment of rights in different contexts.

In this framework, on September 25 and 26, 2025, the V Forum on Systems for the Promotion and Comprehensive Protection of the Rights of Children and Adolescents will be held in Bogotá D.C., Colombia.



2. Background

- **2017 – Mexico City, Mexico (I Forum):** First regional space for dialogue, exchange of experiences and construction of good practices around integrated systems.
- **2018 – Montevideo, Uruguay (II Forum):** Production of the Montevideo Declaration, with normative, programmatic and institutional consensus; articulation of systems with the SDGs and emphasis on children in contexts of human mobility.
- **2020 – Paraguay (III Forum, virtual):** Reflection on the effects of the pandemic on children's rights. Production of a regional synthesis and realization of an extraordinary cycle of dialogues on the role of protection systems in the context of COVID-19.
- **2023 – Nuevo León, Mexico (IV Forum):** Hybrid and intergenerational event that concluded with the Nuevo León Declaration, 16 specific recommendations, and a renewed commitment to gender mainstreaming, inclusion, and effective participation of children and adolescents.

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 between the actors that make up the systems (States, civil society, international organizations, and organized groups of children and adolescents), which will promote the promotion and comprehensive protection



of rights, 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 a reference the four previously defined themes.
- Identify good practices and experiences of the national systems for the promotion and comprehensive protection of children and adolescents in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, in order to develop proposals for action aimed at mainstreaming the perspective of children and adolescents, gender and intersectionality in the functioning of the forums.
- Generate proposals for tools for coordination and strategic articulation between the forums and the different levels of government (federal, state and municipal) of the States.
- Follow up on the recommendations and working documents agreed upon in the previous forums.

4. Scope of the V Forum

Under Colombia's leadership, the fifth edition of the International Forum is projected as a key scenario to evaluate 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 real protagonists: the voices of children and adolescents.

Its disruptive methodology combines technical sessions with the presentation of successful experiences, up-to-date 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. A call to turn commitment into concrete actions that have a positive impact on new generations.

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

STRATEGIC SCOPE OF THE FIFTH INTER-AMERICAN FORUM - SIPPINNA

Positioning the forums

As spaces for open dialogue between 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.

Making 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 recognition of work

Of positive and significant experiences at the national and local levels, focused on articulation, coordination and cooperation between diverse actors and at different levels.

Develop working days

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 themes are presented.

Promote dynamics of reflection

On the mechanisms and tools that can be developed or deepened to consolidate effective and sustained coordination and cooperation between the systems of the countries of the region.

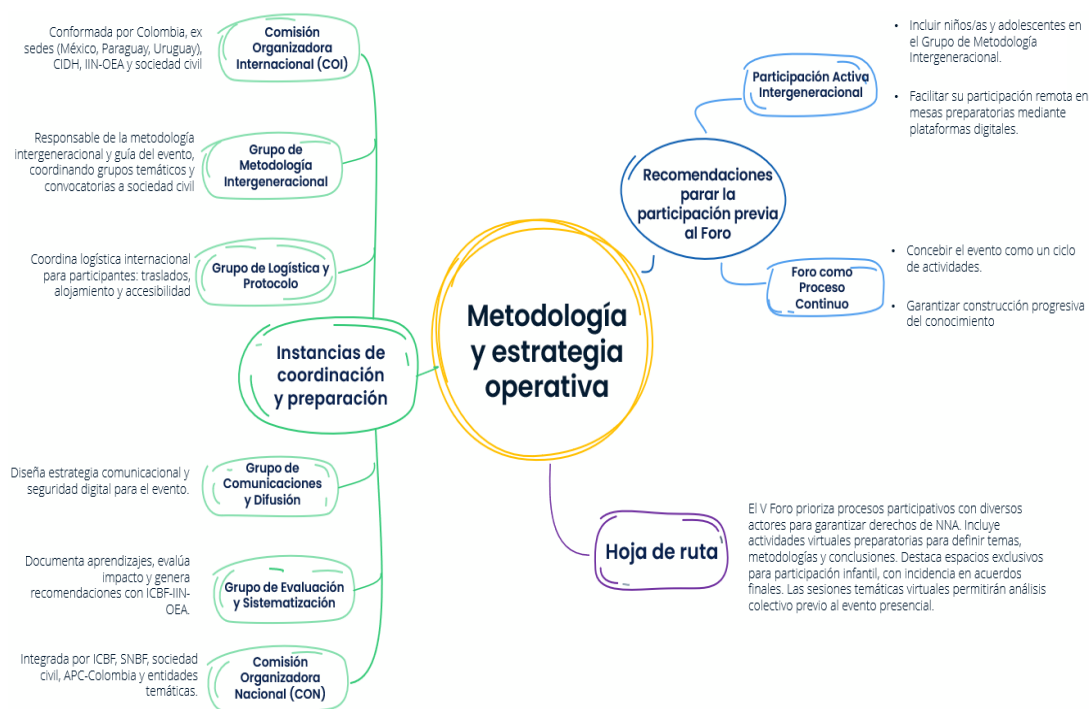
2. <http://novedades.iinadmin.com/orientacion-para-el-fortalecimiento-de-los-sippinna/>



5. 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 transcends traditional formats. It combines rigorous analysis, practical experiences and protagonist participation of the target population, in 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 real differential lies in its operational architecture, which turns dialogue into action through interconnected phases of co-creation and implementation through a work plan. Likewise, the effective inclusion of the voices of the participants and the mechanisms of intergenerational oversight that ensure transparency in the execution of agreements are prioritized. The result is a qualitative leap from theoretical reflection to concrete impacts on national protection systems, setting a new standard for regional cooperation.



6. Theme

The following are the four topics that will be addressed within the V Forum according to the criteria indicated in point 5 of this Concept Note:

Ítem	Actor	Theme
1	Colombia (Host State)	Right to peace.
2	Children and adolescents	Protection against abuse.
3	Mexico and Uruguay (host States of previous versions of the forum)	Access to justice for children and adolescents.
4	Civil society	Municipal SIPPINNAs: the community dimension of its institutionality.



6.1. Right to peace

The right to peace is at the heart of the international framework of children's rights. The Convention on the Rights of the Child establishes that education should prepare children and adolescents for a responsible life in a free society, in a spirit of peace, tolerance, dignity, freedom, equality and solidarity. This mandate is complemented by the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict, which reaffirms the obligation to ensure their development in peace and security.

In coherence, the Sustainable Development Goals recognize in their Goal 16 that peace is an essential requirement for social and economic development, setting as a goal the elimination of violence, abuse and exploitation against children and adolescents.

The Inter-American Court of Human Rights has held that the CRC and the American Convention constitute a corpus juris of comprehensive protection, which obliges States to adopt positive measures to guarantee the full enjoyment of children's rights. Along the same lines, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights has pointed out the need for comprehensive, preventive, and reparative State interventions that ensure both protection and justice in the face of rights violations.

This international framework is linked to the Colombian context, where peace is a constitutional principle and foundation of the State. In the National Development Plan, the government promotes the construction of comprehensive protective communities, with a territorial approach, community participation and intersectorality, placing children and adolescents at the center of action to overcome historical gaps.

With a view to the Fifth Inter-American Forum on Systems for the Promotion and Integral Protection, it is proposed to recognize the right to peace as an articulating axis, highlighting three priority areas:

1. **Territorial approach to peace**, which links peace with fundamental rights such as food, security, sustainable development and the environment.



2. **Participation of children and adolescents for peace**, as a tool for empowerment, risk prevention and transformation of historically unequal power relations.
3. **Community structures for the protection of peace**, which strengthen safe, inclusive and equitable environments through the articulation of institutions, families, communities and children themselves.

6.2. Protection from abuse

ICBF, together with regional participation networks, conducted a participatory consultation with more than 1,500 children and adolescents from 12 countries in the Americas. Protection from abuse, education, and equality emerged as priorities from this exercise, and protection against abuse was collectively selected as the central theme of the Fifth Inter-American Forum.

More than 70 children and adolescents from 14 countries participated in the preparatory sessions *Here we choose!*, *Here we count!*, *Here we agree!* and *Pre-Forum Details*. There they reflected on their experiences regarding the right to protection, highlighting:

- The need for preventive policies that prevent abuses from occurring.
- Accessible and secure reporting mechanisms, which eliminate the fear of reprisals.
- The importance of addressing all forms of violence, including bullying, cyber abuse, child labor, and loneliness.
- The recognition that protection must be a co-responsible effort between States, families, communities, schools and civil society.

This process confirms that children and adolescents should not only be seen as victims, but as actors of change and subjects of law, capable of proposing solutions, questioning the normalization of violence and demanding more effective policies.

The V Forum is proposed as a space to articulate these voices with the experience of adults, favoring the joint construction of protective, safe and inclusive environments that guarantee the full exercise of the rights of children and adolescents in the region.



6.3. Access to justice for children and adolescents in Latin America

Effective access to justice is a fundamental right of children and adolescents and an international legal commitment that forms the basis for more just, cohesive and democratic societies.

Within the framework of the V Inter-American Forum SIPPINNA, we propose to address this issue from institutional strengthening and with a comprehensive and preventive approach, which articulates systems of protection, justice, health and education. This approach seeks to guarantee not only attention and reparation to victims, but also the prevention of violence and the protection of the best interests of each child.

The Forum is intended as a space for:

- Exchange good practices between States, civil society and multilateral organizations.
- Strengthen technical capacities and review innovative experiences.
- Generate concrete commitments towards inclusive justice adapted to children.

Suggested topics for dialogue:

- Justice adapted and sensitive to childhood.
- Effective participation of children and adolescents in judicial proceedings.
- Access in rural, indigenous, and human mobility contexts.
- Alternative and restorative justice with cultural relevance.
- Data, monitoring and accessible dissemination of rights.

The contributions of this Forum can serve as inputs to the Committee on the Rights of the Child in the construction of General Comment 27, reinforcing the role of the region in the promotion of a more inclusive and transformative justice.



6.4. SIPINNAS Municipales, the community dimension of its institutionality

The Convention on the Rights of the Child transformed the tutelary paradigm by recognizing children and adolescents as subjects of rights with autonomy and their own voice. However, adult-centric and centralized approaches persist that limit the allocation of resources, make local diagnoses invisible, and hinder effective responses to problems such as family violence, school exclusion, or child labor.

In this context, the Community Dimension is proposed as a strategic axis for the strengthening of protection systems (SIPINNA). It means recognising the co-responsibility between local authorities, families, civil society organisations and children and adolescents themselves, articulating efforts from the territories.

Through municipal councils, town halls and local forums, children and adolescents can actively participate in the supervision of commitments and in the design of policies, consolidating a rights-based culture that goes beyond welfare and promotes active citizenship from childhood.

The intergenerational dialogue around the Community Dimension will allow reflection and agreement on the following axes:

- Financing with a territorial approach: allocation of budgets based on local diagnoses, with citizen participation and transparency.
- Inter-institutional coordination: coordination protocols between health, education, social protection and security at the municipal level.
- Participation of children and adolescents: permanent mechanisms for consultation, deliberation and monitoring of local policies.
- Community networks and civil society: strengthening of neighborhood collectives, indigenous, Afro-descendant and family organizations as key actors of protection.
- Culture of prevention: community actions to denaturalize abuses and promote protective environments in homes, schools and public spaces.



This axis seeks to situate the community as a mediating space between the family, the State and social institutions, recognizing that comprehensive protection is only sustainable when it is rooted in the local social fabric and children and adolescents are recognized as protagonists of transformation in their territories.

7. Conclusion

The Fifth Inter-American Forum on Systems for the Promotion and Comprehensive Protection of the Rights of Children and Adolescents aspires to become a regional milestone in the consolidation of an intergenerational, intersectoral and inter-American space, unique in its nature and scope. Under Colombia's leadership, this meeting transcends the traditional conference format, adopting an innovative methodology that combines rigorous academic analysis, the exchange of practical experiences and, most significantly, the leading participation of children and adolescents as agents of change, not only as beneficiaries of policies.

The choice of the thematic axes – Right to Peace, Protection from Abuse, Access to Justice and Municipal SIPINNA – reflects a comprehensive approach connected to the most pressing challenges in the region. In particular, the axis of Protection against Abuse, defined by the children and adolescents themselves, places at the center of the debate the urgent need to denaturalize violence, strengthen early prevention mechanisms and promote effective co-responsibility between States, families, schools and communities.



This Forum is not starting from scratch: it builds on the legacy accumulated in its previous editions and the commitments embodied in declarations such as those of Montevideo and Nuevo León, which laid fundamental foundations in terms of regional cooperation. Its added value lies in an action-oriented operational architecture, designed to transform dialogue into concrete, verifiable and sustainable commitments, through a follow-up work plan that ensures continuity and impact.

In short, the V Forum represents a strategic opportunity to evaluate progress, renew commitments and plan common actions that strengthen national and local protection systems. Above all, it constitutes an ethical and intergenerational call to transform the promotion and protection of the rights of children and adolescents from an inspiring discourse to a tangible reality, in which every child and adolescent in the Americas can live free of abuse and violence, with all their rights fully guaranteed.

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