

AG/RES. 2028 (XXXIV-O/04)

INTER-AMERICAN PROGRAM OF COOPERATION TO PREVENT AND REMEDY
CASES
OF INTERNATIONAL ABDUCTION OF CHILDREN BY ONE OF THEIR PARENTS

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 8, 2004)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

The observations and recommendations of the Permanent Council on the annual reports of the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization (AG/doc.4332/04), in particular as they pertain to the Annual Report of the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN) to the General Assembly (CP/doc.3852/04); and

The Inter-American Program of Cooperation to Prevent and Remedy Cases of International Abduction of Children by One of Their Parents (AG/doc.4343/04);

BEARING IN MIND the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, of October 25, 1980; the Inter-American Convention on the International Return of Children, of July 15, 1989; and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, of November 20, 1989;

RECALLING its resolutions AG/RES. 1691 (XXIX-O/99), "International Abduction of Minors by One of Their Parents"; AG/RES. 1733 (XXX-O/00), "Inter-American Year of the Child and the Adolescent"; AG/RES. 1742 (XXX-O/00), "International Abduction of Minors by One of Their Parents"; and AG/RES. 1835 (XXXI-O/01), AG/RES. 1891 (XXXII-O/02), and AG/RES. 1958 (XXXIII-O/03), "Inter-American Program of Cooperation to Prevent and Remedy Cases of International Abduction of Minors by One of Their Parents";

CONSIDERING:

That, pursuant to resolution AG/RES. 1891 (XXXII-O/02), the Meeting of Government Experts on the International Abduction of Minors by One of Their Parents was held in Montevideo, Uruguay, on August 12 and 13, 2002, and gave rise to recommendations for a draft Inter-American Program of Cooperation to Prevent and Remedy Cases of International Abduction of Children by One of Their Parents; and

That the Draft Inter-American Program of Cooperation to Prevent and Remedy Cases of International Abduction of Children by One of Their Parents was presented to the Directing Council of the IIN at its 78th regular meeting, held in Santiago, Chile, in June 2003, and was later considered by the Directing Council at a special meeting held in Washington, D.C., in November 2003, which adopted resolution CD/RES. 03 (E/03);

REITERATING:

That the abduction of children by one of their parents is a problem with dire repercussions on their integral development and their well-being and one that may be exacerbated by the increasing movement of persons across national borders in a progressively more globalized society; and

That the Plan of Action of the Third Summit of the Americas recognizes that promoting the rights of children and their development, protection, and participation is essential to ensure that they reach their full potential, and encourages cooperation to reduce cases of international abduction of children by one of their parents; and

CONSIDERING the need to implement the Inter-American Program of Cooperation to Prevent and Remedy Cases of International Abduction of Children by One of Their Parents,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept the Inter-American Program of Cooperation to Prevent and Remedy Cases of International Abduction of Children by One of Their Parents and to recognize the work of the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN) in this area.

2. To urge member states to sign and ratify, ratify, or accede to, as the case may be, the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction and the Inter-American Convention on the International Return of Children, of July 15, 1989, and to urge the states parties to either of those Conventions to designate the appropriate central authorities and make them operational.

3. To urge member states to make their best efforts, in the framework of the Inter-American Program of Cooperation to Prevent and Remedy Cases of International Abduction of Children by One of Their Parents, to promote and strengthen the work of their government institutions so that, through inter-American cooperation activities, they may prevent the international abduction of children and adopt effective measures for their prompt return when they are abducted from or wrongfully retained outside their country of habitual residence, and so that visitation, custody, or guardianship rights are not violated.

4. To urge member states to promote the application of the Inter-American Program and to invite the Inter-American Children's Institute to lend its technical support, in particular through coordination with the central authorities and through cooperation with other international organizations having expertise in this field.

5. To instruct the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization, in particular the IIN, to continue directing their attention to the issue of the international abduction of children by one of their parents.

6. To direct that appropriate resources be allocated in the program-budget of the Organization for the development and implementation of the Inter-American Program, and to invite the states, international and regional organizations, and civil society organizations interested in this subject to collaborate and make financial contributions toward its application.

7. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth regular session on the implementation of this resolution.