DECLARATION

The undersigned, educators, academics and researchers, specialists in various sciences, project and public policy managers, and communicators, all of us connected to Early Childhood in Latin America and the Caribbean, declare:

1. Early Childhood is one of the most important moments in human history. In those first stages of life, boys and girls discover themselves, their bodies, the world around them and their emotions. A path of constant discovery and learning begins, one that needs to be sustained, accompanied and guaranteed by the adult world that welcomes the new generations.
2. We recognize the impact of poverty and inequality in the first years of life. In this region, the most unequal on the planet, millions upon millions of boys and girls cannot access their rights to health, food, education, play and a healthy, safe and caring environment.
3. That this situation is fundamentally due to the lack of funding for public policies aimed at Early Childhood, and to shortfalls in the budgets approved by national and subnational parliaments. These shortfalls lead to a lack of investment in adequate infrastructure, in basic health and education services, and in the training and recognition of the working conditions of those who work with the youngest children, as well as to the defunding and dismantling of projects and programs for the inclusion and participation of families and communities committed to the new generations.
4. In many countries of the region, the international commitments related to children's most basic living conditions, from gestation onward, are not being met.
5. There are significant obstacles to offering political and financial responses to the new phenomena that directly affect children's lives in their first years, such as the climate crisis, the falling birth rate, the growing number of children among migrants, the impact of screens, malnutrition, and the rise in violence against children and, above all, against girls, among others.
6. That social and political conflicts shape the lives of boys and girls, because basic supplies such as fuel, vaccines and food to protect life are not guaranteed, nor is electricity in their homes, schools and health centers.

Therefore:

a) We urge national and subnational authorities, parliaments and the judiciary of every country, international organizations, development support organizations and society as a whole to give effective, fundamental priority to early childhood, respecting the critical importance of this stage for the growth and development of every boy and every girl.
b) We call on the government authorities of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to reflect on the need to increase funding percentages and annual budgets to implement policies and programs that protect and promote the rights of Early Childhood, prioritizing health, care and education, nutrition, violence prevention and support for the most vulnerable families in our societies, with particular attention to boys and girls from before birth to age 3, and with regard for ethnic, geographic and gender diversity.
c) We demand that the living conditions of boys and girls living in conflictive, tense and uncertain social and political situations, and their access to education and health services, be guaranteed.
d) We propose that international organizations, multilateral banks and development support organizations give absolute priority to projects aimed at early childhood.
e) To promote the participation of mothers and fathers, communities, social organizations and churches in the debate on, and commitment to, defending the rights of children in Early Childhood.
f) To spread the need to build intersectoral and interdisciplinary networks, alliances and coordination that take part in defending the rights of Early Childhood and promote the inclusion of this issue on the public and media agenda.
g) To involve academia, professional and scientific associations, and trade associations and unions in this debate and in driving the necessary actions.

We invite all those who identify with these ideas and proposals to add their signature to this Declaration.

Monterrey, Mexico, November 6, 2026