MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

26th International Conference on Early Childhood and Preschool Education

“Global Challenges in Early Childhood: New Demands, New Perspectives, New Opportunities”

Monterrey, Nuevo León, November 5, 2026.

Good morning, everyone.

I extend my most respectful greetings to the Constitutional Governor of the State of Nuevo León, Samuel Alejandro García Sepúlveda; to the Secretary of Public Education, Mario Delgado Carrillo; to Luz Marcela López Vázquez, Director of Curriculum Development for Early Childhood and Preschool Education at the Secretariat of Public Education; and to the authorities from the different levels of government, the representatives of national and international organizations, and the special guests who are with us today.

I also extend a special acknowledgment to our speakers, researchers, academics, specialists, teachers and school leaders who join us from different parts of Mexico and the world.

Welcome, all of you, to Monterrey and to this 26th International Conference on Early Childhood and Preschool Education.

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to this gathering, which over 26 editions has brought together goodwill, knowledge and experience with a common purpose: to help transform early childhood care and education.

Today we have the privilege of bringing together 59 speakers from 17 countries, who will share research, experiences and proposals from different disciplines and realities. Their participation is a valuable opportunity to strengthen international dialogue and build new responses to the challenges facing children.

The theme that brings us together, “Global Challenges in Early Childhood: New Demands, New Perspectives, New Opportunities”, responds to a reality that demands our attention. Technological change, social and family transformations, new knowledge about neurodevelopment and neurodiversity, as well as inequalities and the challenges facing education systems, compel us to broaden our perspectives and rethink our responses.

Over these three days we will address seven major thematic areas: technology and artificial intelligence; inclusion and neurodiversity; play as the organizer of child development; demographic change and inequality; education funding; teacher well-being and leadership; and the shared responsibility of families and communities.

With more than 36 years of experience leading the Child Development Centers of the Frente Popular Tierra y Libertad, we have held one conviction: the education and holistic development of young children must be a social priority and a shared responsibility.

Our project was born of the certainty that every girl and every boy deserves opportunities to develop fully, regardless of the circumstances into which they are born.

Today, in the face of scientific and technological progress, we must adopt new tools without losing sight of what is essential: human bonds, affection, play, movement, exploration, creativity and social interaction.

We must also recognize that educational quality depends on the well-being of those who teach, and that child development is not the sole responsibility of institutions, but of families, governments, communities and society as a whole.

That is why we hope this conference goes beyond academic exchange, and that the reflections shared here become alliances, projects and concrete actions for the benefit of our girls and boys.

I would like to conclude by reaffirming a conviction that has guided our work for more than three decades: every global transformation has a concrete impact on the life of a girl or a boy, and every decision we make today can expand or limit the opportunities of an entire generation.

We cannot change the world overnight, but we can transform the conditions in which our girls and boys grow, learn and develop.

After so many years of working for this cause, there is one thing I am very clear about: we must never lose sight of who we do all this for.

Behind every program, every public policy, every piece of research and every educational effort, there is a girl or a boy waiting for us to give them an opportunity.

May we never lack the sensitivity to see children, the will to defend their rights and the determination to build a fairer world for them.

Let us continue to make early childhood our cause, our commitment and our hope.

Thank you very much for joining us, and welcome, everyone.