

Declaration of Managua

Under the auspices of the Inter-American Confederation of the International League of Associations on behalf of Persons with Mental Disabilities (CILPEDIM), The Inter-American Children's Institute (IACI) and the Canadian Association for Community Living (CACL), representatives from 36 countries in the Americas, including persons with disability, children, young people, parents, professionals and representatives of governments, have met to launch the project "Partnerships in Community Living."

The participants have committed ourselves to work together towards the development of social policies to benefit children and youth with disabilities and their families, based on a common vision of social well-being and concrete goals to facilitate the realization of this vision. The concrete strategies are found in the companion document resulting from the final report of "Partnerships in Community Living, an International Seminar: Towards a New Model for the Development of Social Policies for Children and Youth with Disabilities and their Families."

To ensure social well-being for all people, societies have to be based on justice, equality, equity, inclusion, and interdependence, and recognize and accept diversity. Societies must also consider their members, above all, as persons, and assure their dignity, rights, self-determination, full access to social resources and the opportunity to contribute to community life.

Societies and governments have the duty to foster the participation of people with disabilities and their families in the formulation of coordinated policies and legislation to achieve the vision.

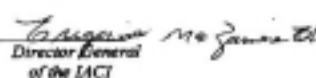
Further, we commit ourselves to put in practice policies that support social integration adapted to the specific community that a child lives in; policies that will enable secure employment and adequate financial support for families; social programs oriented to families; policies that do not restrict immigration and emigration; and information to families that fosters the achievement of the vision.

The participants will pursue our vision by addressing government policy, legislation and advocacy; building partnerships and cooperation; raising public consciousness; developing information and research; and ensuring supports and services.

Signed this 3rd day of December, 1993, International Day of Persons with Disabilities, in Managua, Nicaragua


President of
CILPEDIM


President of
CACL


Director General
of the IACI

in the presence of


President of
the Republic of Nicaragua