

*Embassy
of the
Argentine Republic*

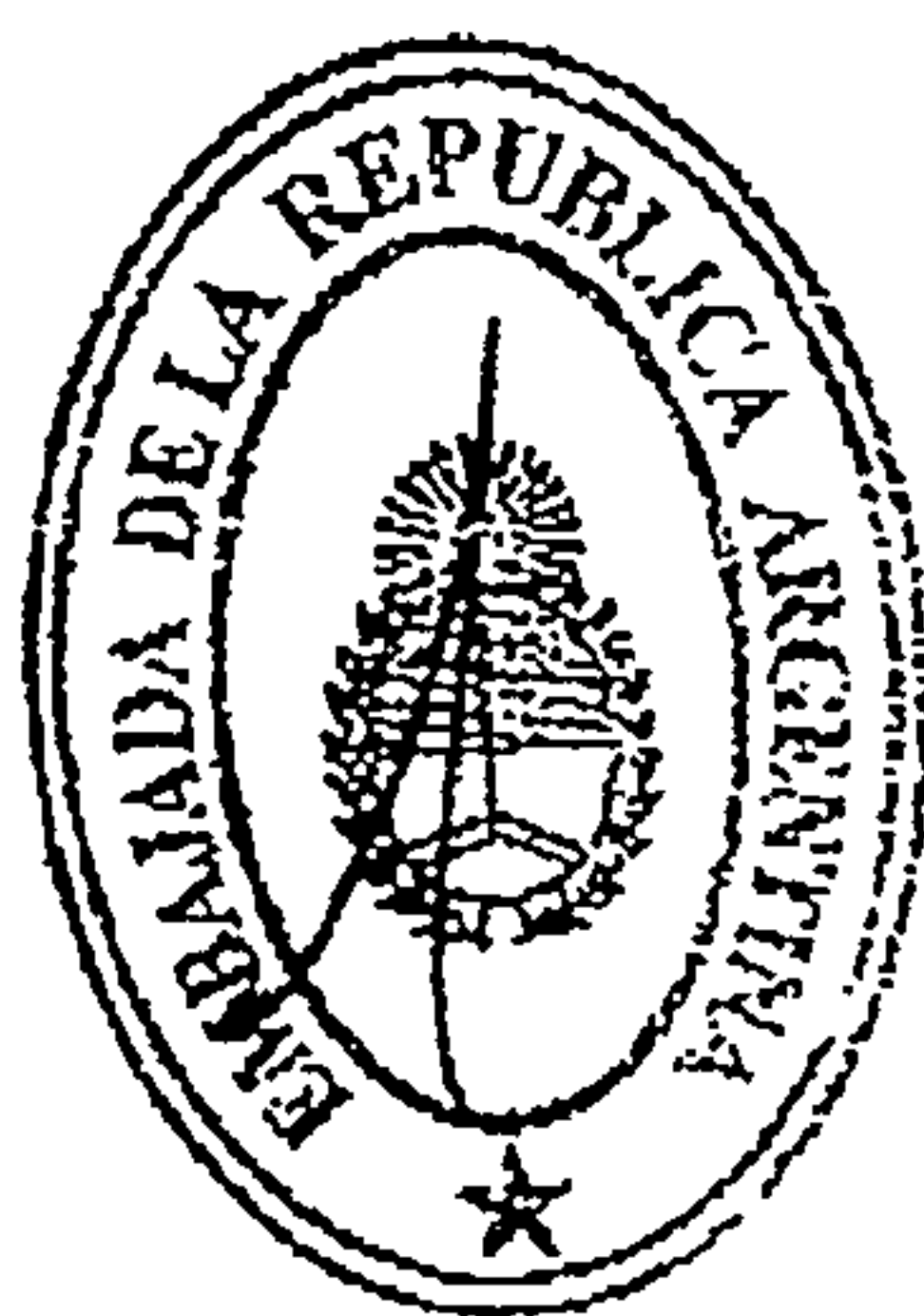
N.E. No. 15/2012

The Embassy of the Argentine Republic in Bangkok presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand – Department of American and South Pacific Affairs – and has the honour to inform the latter that there will be a “**V World Congress for the Rights of Children and Adolescents**” in the City of San Juan, Argentina, during 15-19 October 2012.

In the Congress, there will be conferences and panels in which many famous experts in the matter of children, adolescents and family around the world, including UNICEF, participate.

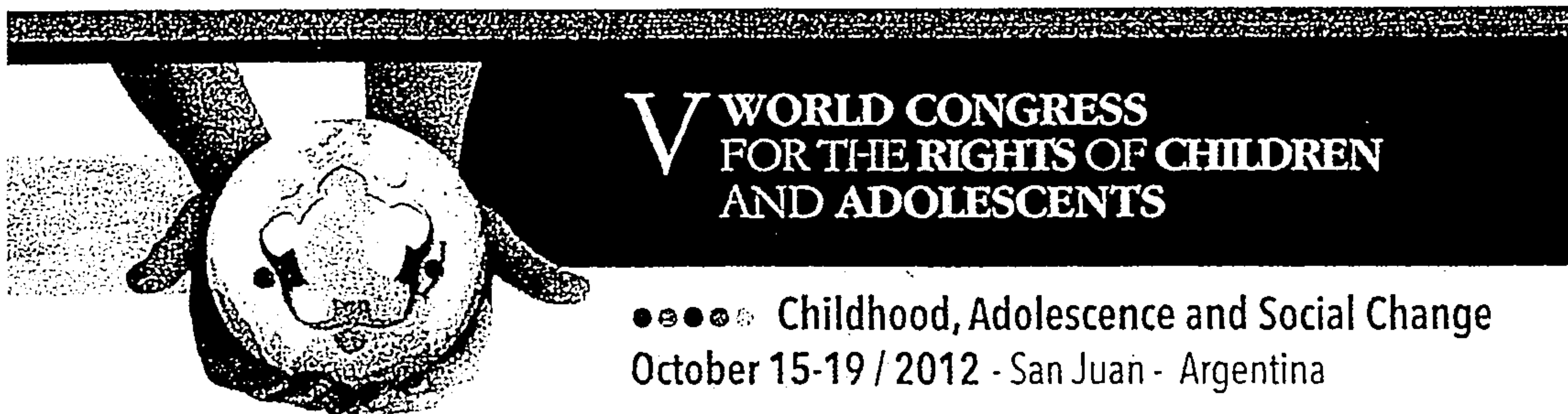
It would be very thankful if the Ministry could help diffuse the information of this Congress among Thai Authorities related to the above-mentioned matters. In case there are some experts who would like to discourse on some specific subjects, it would be very appreciative to inform the Embassy so that the organizers will properly send them an invitation. The travel and accommodation expenses of the expert(s) who will participate in the panel will be paid by the organizers depending on cases. More information regarding the Conference could be found in www.vcongresomundialdeinfancia.org

In expressing the Ministry's cooperation in promoting this event, the Embassy of the Argentine Republic in Bangkok avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand –Department of American and South Pacific Affairs – the assurances of its highest consideration.



Bangkok, 3 April 2012

Department of American and South Pacific Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
BANGKOK



V World Congress for Rights of Children and Adolescents

- San Juan, Argentina 2012 -

Why the "V World Congress, Argentina 2012"?

World Congresses for Rights of Children and Adolescents have been organized since 2003 in different parts of the world with the participation of civil servants, civil society organizations, and international representatives of the UNITED NATIONS, OAS AND THE EUROPEAN UNION, and Universities from different parts of the world. The congresses are the responsibility of an International Organizing Scientific Committee led by citizens of the country appointed as a venue though no formal recognition has been received yet.

The congresses have been carried out upon approval by the United Nations of "A WORLD FIT FOR CHILDREN", a declaration issued by the UN General Assembly on Children at a Special Session held May 8-10, 2002 in New York, which has served as a starting point for the meetings held so far.

Since then, their purpose has been to improve the international commitment to child and adolescent defense, to exchange mutual collaboration experiences in that sense and to fight for the effective exercise of their fundamental rights as contained in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which has been effective since September 2, 1990, for 21 years now.

Venezuela hosted the I **WORLD CONGRESS** from 23 to 28 November, 2003 in Isla Margarita, under the slogan "The Right to Childhood and Adolescence: An Autonomous Need," and the congress concluded with the issuance of two documents: The Porlamar Declaration and the Great Document.

Peru hosted the II **WORLD CONGRESS** from 21 to 25 November, 2005 in Lima. The central theme was "Child and Adolescent Citizenship: Demanding for the Rights of Children and Adolescents from the point of view of Human Rights and Development." At the Congress, the Declaration of Lima was issued.

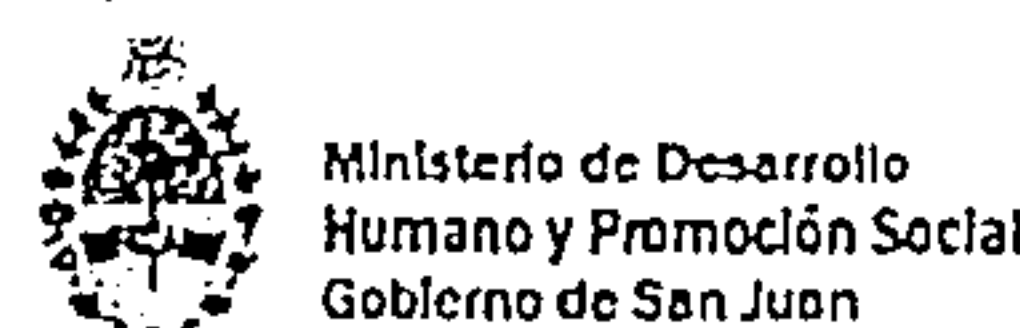
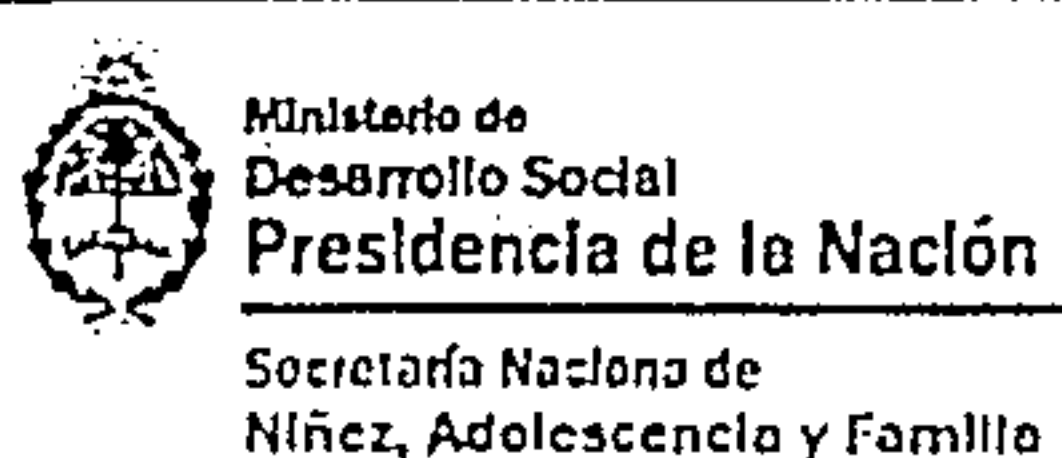
Spain held the III **WORLD CONGRESS** from 14 and 19 November, 2007 in Barcelona, and the central theme was "Social Participation of Children and Adolescents: For their Participation as Active Citizens."

Puerto Rico held the IV **WORLD CONGRESS** from 15 to 18 November, 2010 under the slogan "The Best Interests of Children and Adolescents: Their Well-Being and Development in the New World Economic Order."

The Argentine Republic will host the "**V WORLD CONGRESS ON CHILD AND ADOLESCENT RIGHTS**", which will be held from 15 to 19 October, 2012 in the province of San Juan.

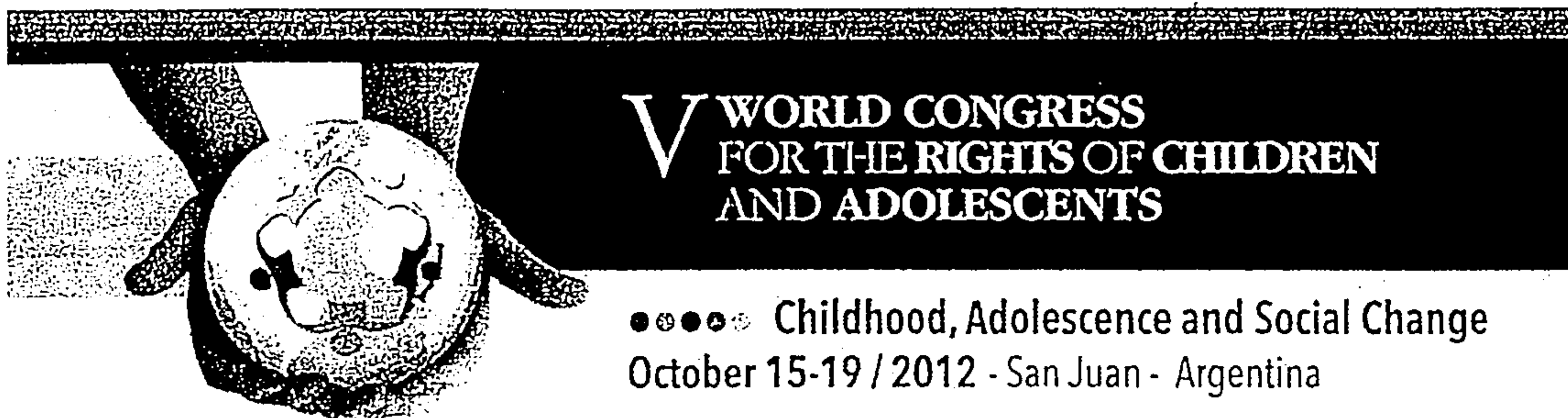
Appointment of the Argentine Republic

Our country was nominated as a venue for the World Congress 2012 and then appointed with the consent of the representatives of the countries participating in the IV WORLD CONGRESS.



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●●●●● Childhood, Adolescence and Social Change
October 15-19 / 2012 - San Juan - Argentina

The International Advisory Committee considered the achievements made by our country as regards childhood and adolescence public policies over the last five years, including the implementation of the child universal insurance called Universal Child Allowance, which also covers pregnant women and currently has 3.6 million children, adolescents and pregnant women as beneficiaries.

In 2003, aid to children accounted only for 5.7% of the Product in the Argentine Republic, and during 2003-2008 the expenses in constant pesos for this sector increased by 160%.

In 2011, the Argentine Federal Government will use nearly USD 2,500 million for the Universal Child Allowance. This progress, as well as the success of the South American Congress on Child and Adolescent Rights, www.precongresoinfancia.com, held in August 2010 in Morón, Buenos Aires, Argentina, were the deciding factors for the Argentine Republic to be unanimously chosen as a venue.

On July 18, 2011, at an Official Function held at a Government seat in San Juan, a Collaboration Agreement was made to formally organize the **"V WORLD CONGRESS FOR RIGHTS OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS, San Juan, Argentina 2012"**.

Outline of the Meeting

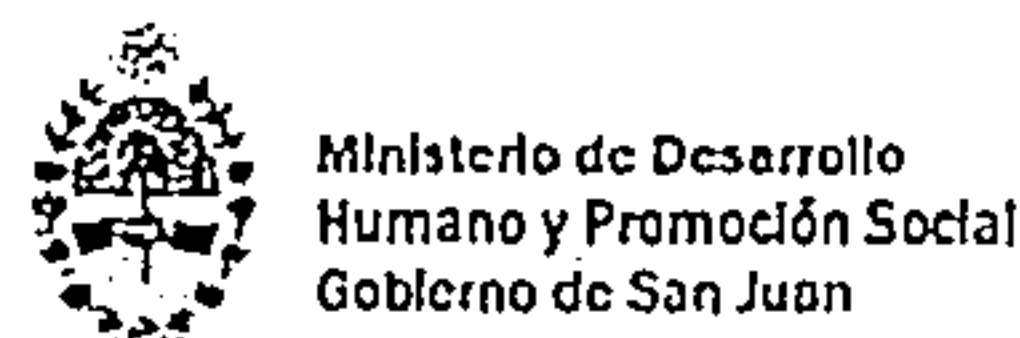
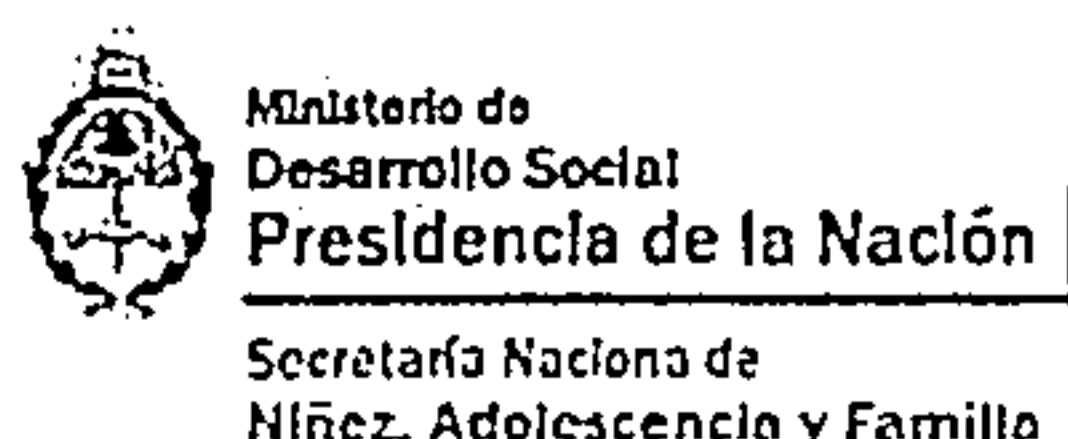
Committed to organizing the V WORLD CONGRESS FOR RIGHTS OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS, we understand that Childhood and Adolescence represent a strategic sector in the social, political and economic development of countries. In fact, the countries that have made most progress made continuing and sustained investments in child and adolescent well-being. Also relevant is the defense of Childhood and Adolescence during the strengthening, expansion and deepening processes of democracy, which could be clearly manifested by their committed defense.

Upon approval by the UN General Assembly in 1989 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, a change of approach occurred in the doctrines related to Childhood and Adolescence. At present, the United States of America is the only country that has not ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This means that almost every country has adopted this international regulation on human rights and has made it part of their legislation and international commitments.

The specific laws for full protection of children and adolescents have enabled: i) to establish new competences for all branches of Government in relation to this subject, thus eradicating the paradigm that it has not efficiently responded to social conflicts, a paradigm marked by childhood fragmentation, childhood policy segmentation and exclusion and criminalization of poverty; and ii) to implement an institutional reform with a transversal design that engages the areas that take part in situations involving "every" childhood and adolescence.

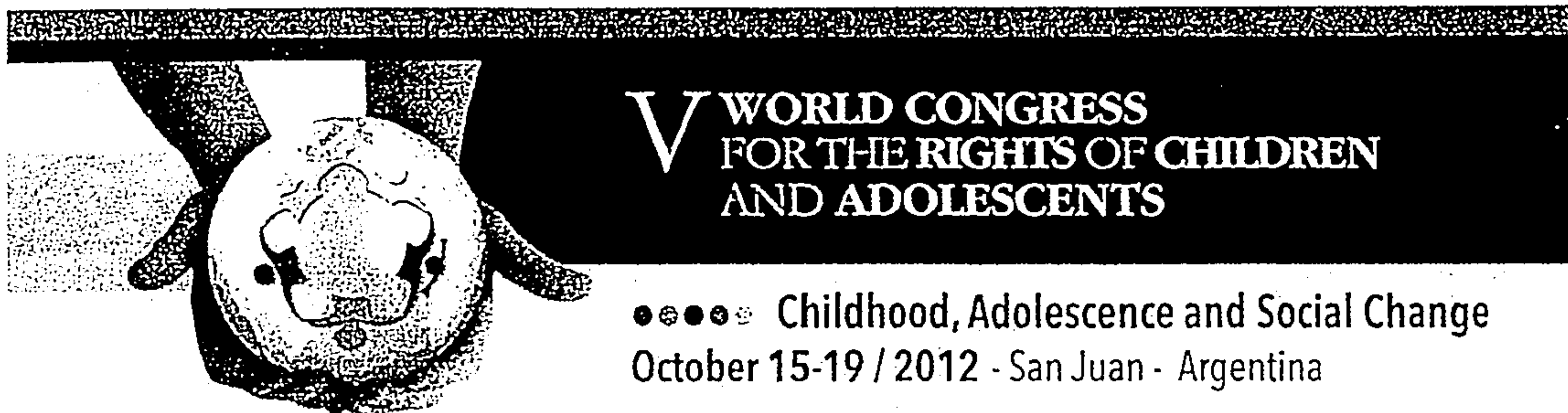
However, laws are necessary but not enough. Despite these improvements made by the countries on Childhood and Adolescence, they still have some work to do to meet their priorities according to the expectations created after the International Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989 was sanctioned.

Thus, we are not for a system of "obsessive legality" for the benefit of adults. That has nothing to do with child defense and has much to do with corporate actions taken from the professional field.



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●●●●● Childhood, Adolescence and Social Change
October 15-19 / 2012 - San Juan - Argentina

The legal system is at all times necessary but it is not of great significance for the Defense of Childhood and Adolescence. It is a condition necessary, but not enough, so it is not relevant to discuss it as a central theme.

Overacting about this legal conflict and this "minoritized" Childhood and Adolescence means accepting the agenda proposed by the media to criminalize poverty and segregate the different, leaving Childhood and Adolescence with no social and political content, and denying their rights, including their human rights. Within such framework, it all comes down to discussing about the "guarantees of procedural rights" and the "legal system" related to Childhood and Adolescence.

We should then go deeper into practical strategies along with the international community to go beyond the written role of right guarantor played so far by the International Convention and national laws, working for a more active participation in the promotion and protection of Childhood and Adolescence, incorporating their social and political aspects and above all, investing economic resources and materials that can be verified from a budgetary and tax point of view, thus including Childhood and Adolescence as part of the agenda for income distribution.

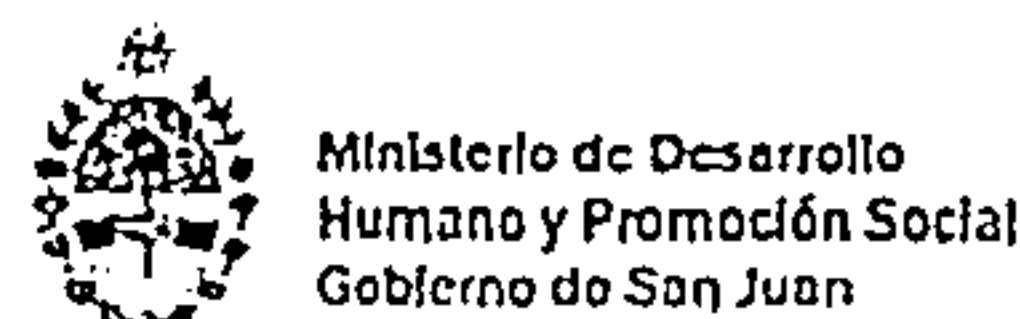
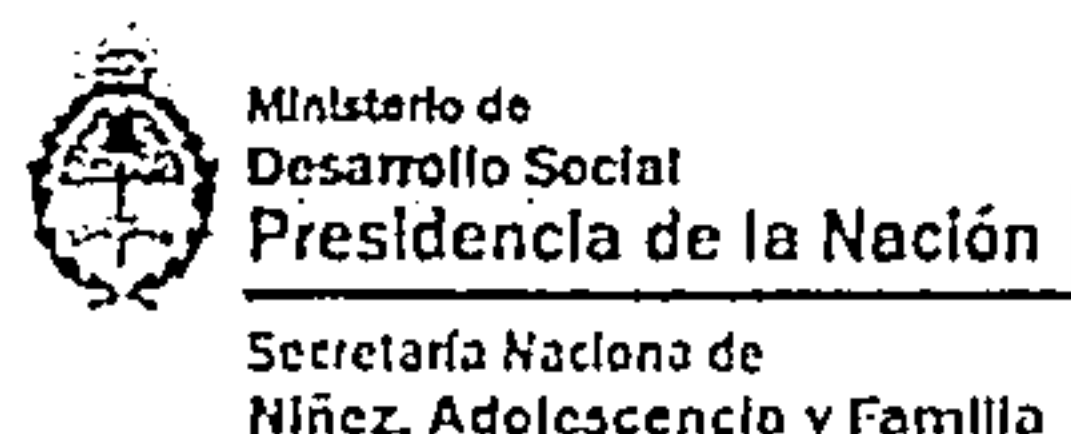
This debate, present in our South American region, shows that the progress made at an economic and political level in the field of Childhood has been as significant as that made as regards the legal system, but has more real impact on child and adolescent daily lives. By way of example, notice the implementation of the Universal Child Allowance in Argentina. The integration of parents that are not formally employed has reduced poverty and children in abject poverty and has improved the school attendance and vaccination rates.

However, we are concerned about the fact that injustice - as a result of the "state of exception" declared regularly at neoliberal times - is not assumed in some debates held for teaching purposes. In many speeches and proposals by those intending to become international judges of new South American regional public policies, they do not mention any of the terrible consequences for Child and Adolescent rights caused by the market's kidnapping of the state and the subordination of politics to corporations.

Fighting for equality is none of our business. We only fight against poverty. This is mainly a fight for a more equal distribution of wealth, for equal opportunities. Civil society actions should not only be the structural condemnation of state action, which is functional to politics-discrediting and an increased corporate power that has hardly made improvements to Childhood and Adolescence.

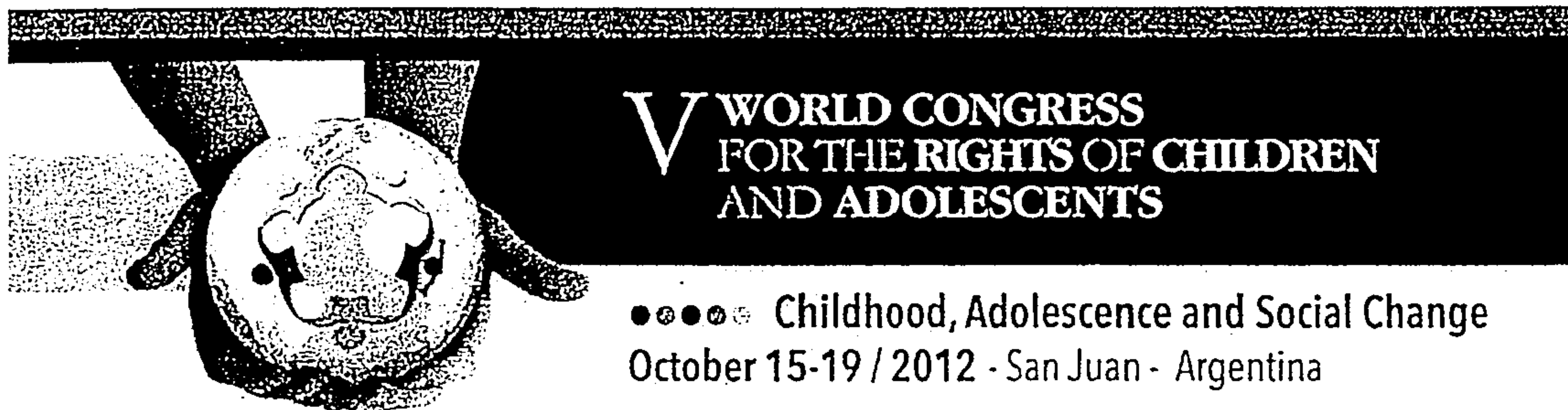
Old time's task of helping reduce the roles of the State, leaving the market in charge of "assisting" the poor and "saving" them from politics, brought the poor and their families nothing more than injustice and inequality.

The private sector's responsibility, which is not mentioned in the Convention, should be highlighted at this new time of globalization. The private sector provides goods and services, including education and health, but Childhood and Adolescence may not and should not be considered subjects of trade nor consumers.



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The profits made by companies providing education and health should be in line with unrestrictedly respecting Child and Adolescent rights. Current debates in Chile and the claim made by young people and adolescents excluded from the educational system due to a elitist and privatized model are a clear sign that these policies have been exhausted, since they consider Child and Adolescent health and education as goods.

The private sector beyond State control and Law enforcers should put an end to some of their evil practices, especially those related to child labor and all kinds of "child services." Childhood and Adolescence should not be used by companies or corporate foundations for "social marketing" either. The worst violations of Child and Adolescent rights have been more related to the markets than to the state. Thus, its moral authority to lead the vindication of Child and Adolescent rights should be both welcomed and suspected at the same time, mainly due to the fact that it has been permanently questioned as to its democratic legitimacy that comes from the political authorities elected by the peoples.

Fortunately, our country, Argentina, and South America go another way nowadays. They call for the vindication of citizen participation and politics as a moral and democratic method for Child and Adolescent rights to be recognized as existing and being exercised.

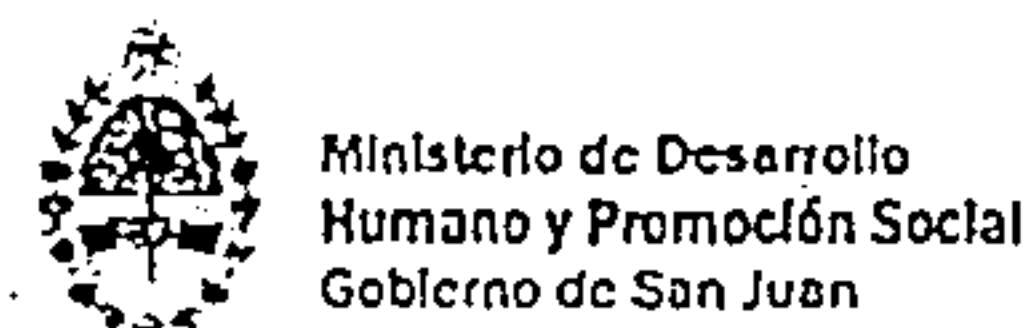
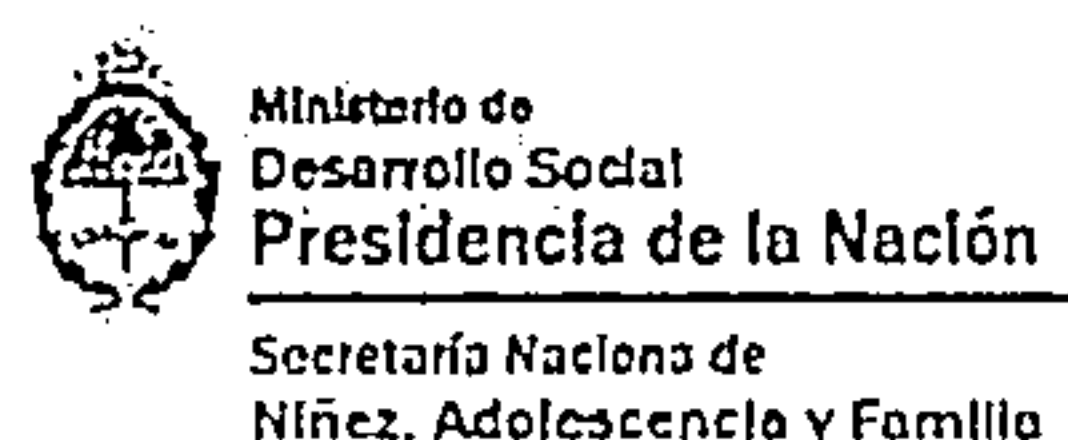
This idea of regarding Children and Adolescents as citizens should be a central theme for discussion at a state and citizenship level, distinguishing a child as an individual subject with abstract rights, outside of a community.

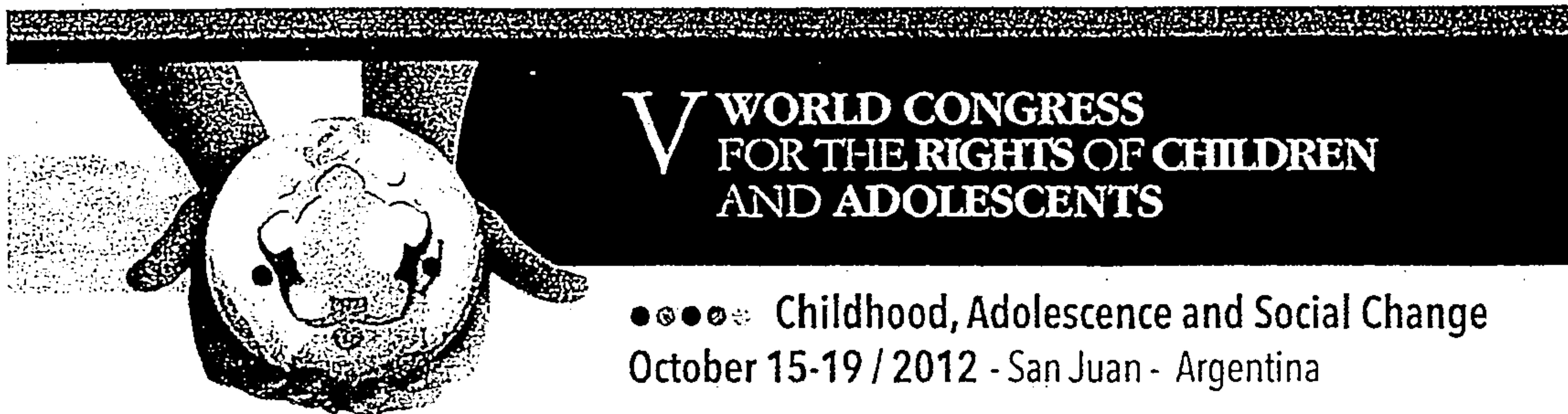
We should also take into account the mass media implications for their relationship with Children and Adolescents. According to the school schedule and the convention, a child in any part of the world should have at least 180 days of class, that is, almost 900 hours of class a year. However, children watch 1000 hours a year of TV on average in many places of the world. The mass impact in terms of value transmission, lifestyles and consumption are often related to individual success paradigms with no values involved. Childhood is thus developed within a "subjected subjectivity" and the process of cognitive autonomy is then questioned.

So the following becomes relevant to this context: citizen and democratic regulation of concentration and self-proclamation of business groups interested in mass media as "representatives of common good."

Knowing that Child autonomy is constructed during the early years of life, we should have a strategic priority to focus our efforts on health, promotion and education to turn Childhood into a emancipating subject. It is at that first development stage that there is a battle to construct this incipient subjectivity. Support to families and child community environment is essential at this stage in order to continue with the support and driving force of the potential emancipator of childhood during primary school. The role of educators is key, as well as that of the families and the contents being taught.

Pedagogy and commitment should be clearly the priority as a process for building adult labor relations.



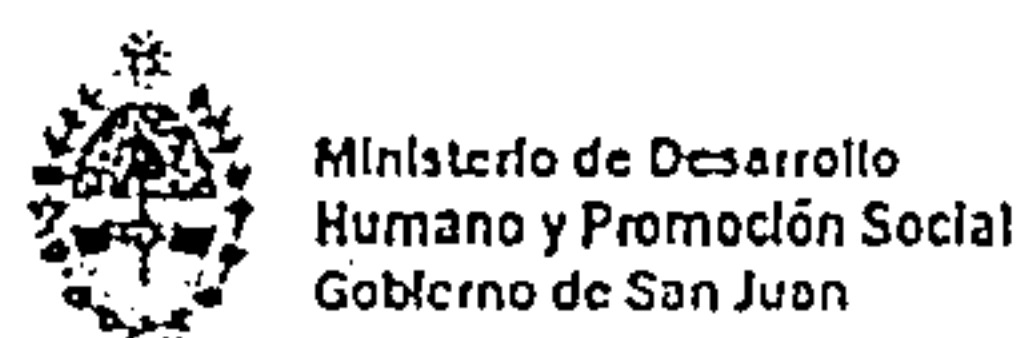
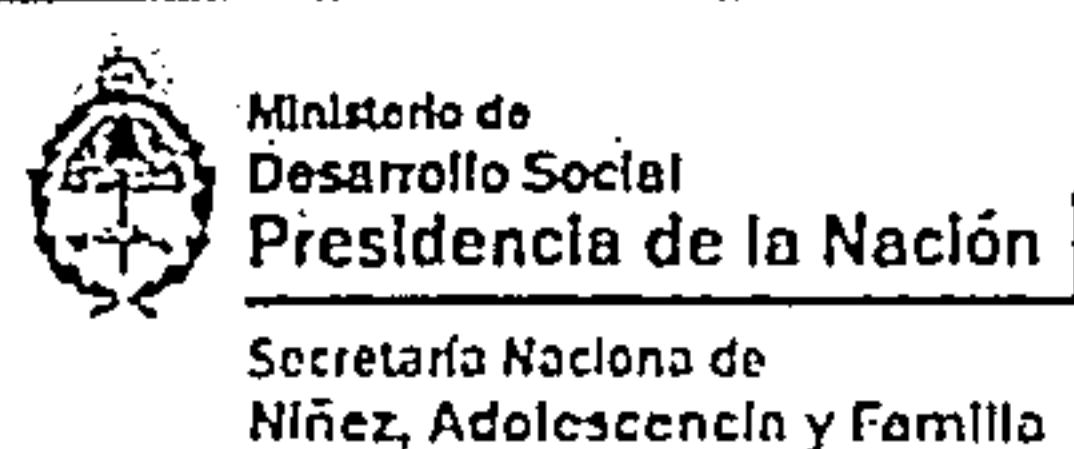


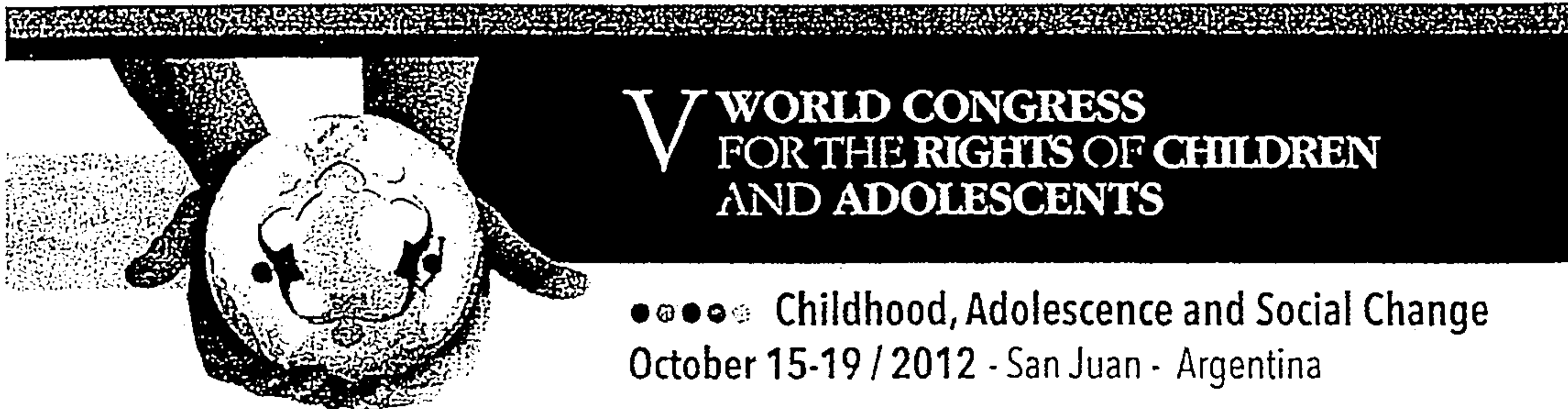
We thus state that the central themes of the political principles supporting our action as organizers of the V WORLD CONGRESS FOR RIGHTS OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS in order to have a democratic and enriching discussion with the congress participants in San Juan, Argentine Republic, from 15 to 19 October, 2012, will be to understand that:

- ✓ Childhood and Adolescence are the bonding principle and social change and emancipation drivers.
- ✓ Childhood and Adolescence are key in strengthening public institutions and deepening democracy at all levels.
- ✓ Childhood and Adolescence are a priority as to social and economic policies for redistribution based on equality.
- ✓ Childhood and Adolescence are the principle that shapes social and political citizenship.

We, as organizers of the V WORLD CONGRESS FOR RIGHTS OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS, promote a debate on the following strategic courses of action along with and for children.

- ✓ Childhood and Adolescence are a social category and thus, they play a key role in fighting for emancipating movements. Child and adolescent rights are one aspect of that fight. Childhood and Adolescence policies are the main area to ensure a more just society since affirming them as a priority means, as a high principle, affirming another start, another construction model and social transformation.
- ✓ Democracy is the development area for Childhood and Adolescence. This means that democracy starts when children, as subjects with rights, get involved in their development process inside their families and the community, with a right to participate, to get organized, and to defend their rights against all social actors. Democracy expands through Child citizenship. This means that a democratic system should guarantee that all discretionary, discriminatory and authoritarian forms against children and adolescents are removed. It is relevant to continue with those law reform processes that respect their human rights at an international level.
- ✓ Economy should prioritize Childhood and Adolescence as an innovating principle driving growth and as the most significant opportunity for sustained development in the medium term.
- ✓ For subjectivity purposes, Childhood and Adolescence should develop their autonomy as a constituent principle. In this sense, the mass media and the international entertaining industry must be regulated according to an international consensus to ensure full Childhood and Adolescence citizenship rather than only the reproduction of their condition as consumers with models and values that make them being subjected and controlled and that put their full citizenship at stake.





- ✓ Education plays a key role. It is not only about educating Children for their integration into the market. Childhood and Adolescence should be part of an educational process as relevant actors for social and political citizenship, which will ensure that they are fully integrated as a transformation subject. The educational system should continue with its strong transformation process, removing the old authoritarian and despotic idea of educational process, with children playing a key role.

Therefore, we, as organizers of the V WORLD CONGRESS FOR RIGHTS OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS, invite all those who exercise their citizen rights for the defense of Childhood and Adolescence and fight on a daily basis so that:

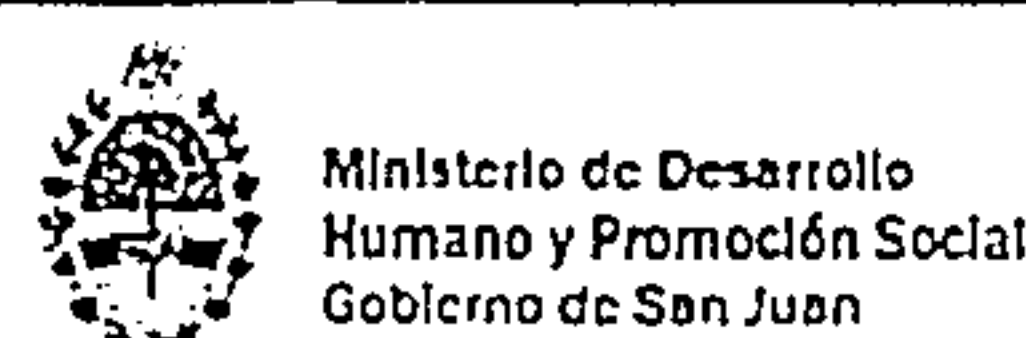
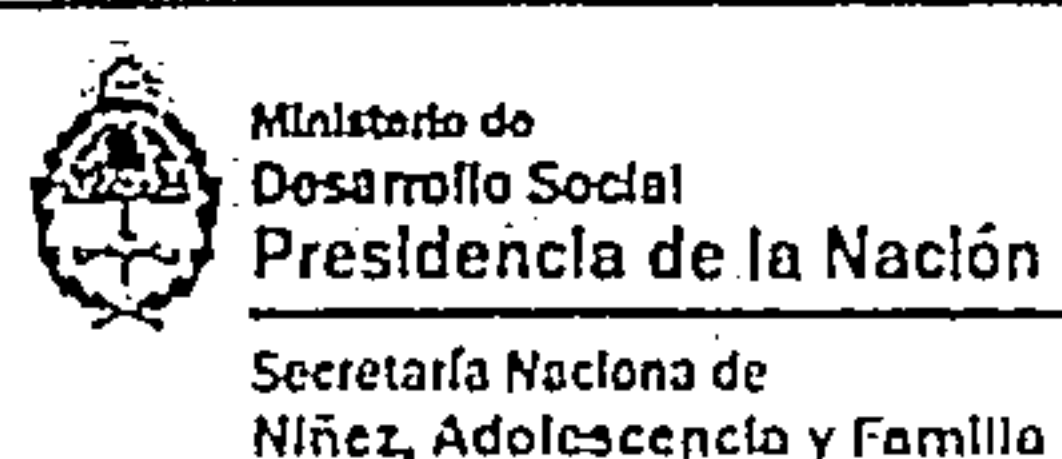
- ✓ No child or adolescent starves;
- ✓ No child or adolescent is abused or exploited;
- ✓ All children and adolescents have access to preschool education and have access to, and keep attending, primary school and secondary school;
- ✓ All children and adolescents remain with their families and their community environment;
- ✓ All children and adolescents' human rights are unrestrictedly respected and this becomes a principle for both the private and public sectors.

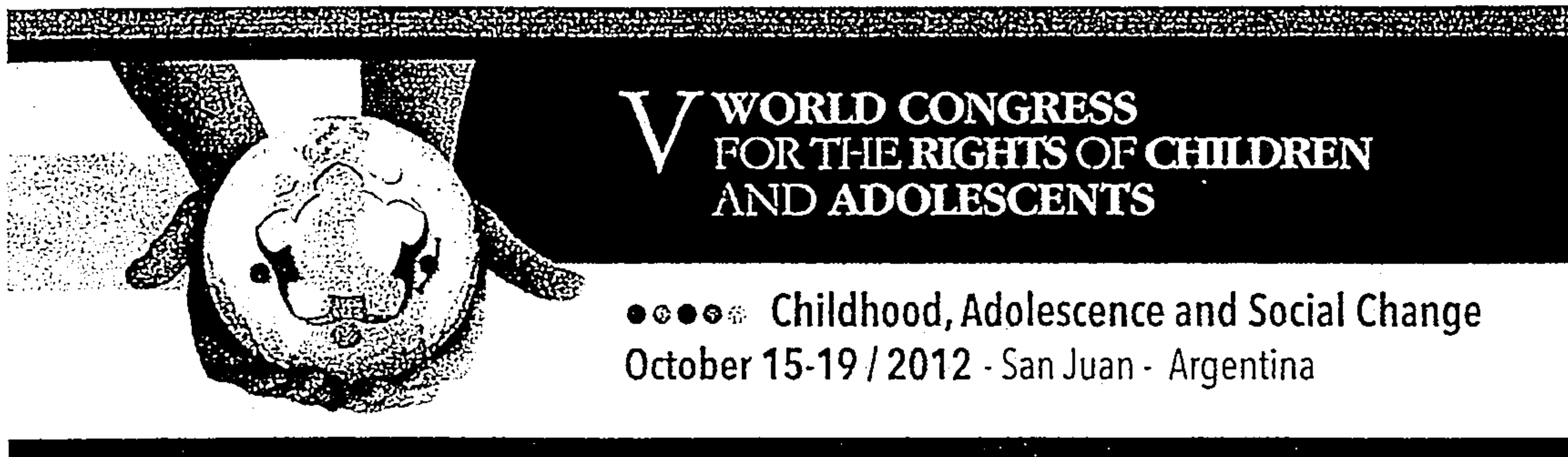
The most positive aspects of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child should help re-implement creativity, imagination and new social knowledge, accompanied by a strong political organization at an international level that uses economic and political resources for Childhood and Adolescence, thus empowering them and knowing that the Convention is a condition necessary for the full exercise of CHILD SOCIAL CITIZENSHIP.

It is time to go deeper into our agreements and commitments. It is time to improve our organization. It is time for Childhood and Adolescence to come. They have a lot to teach us.

We expect you to come to San Juan, Argentina, from October 15 to 19, 2012.

October 2011





AGENDA

Introduction:

The "V World Congress for the Rights of Children and Adolescents, San Juan, Argentina 2012" shall focus on Childhood and Adolescence and the social changes processes involved: childhood as a possibility of change and emancipation and at the same time, the way in which childhood and adolescence are affected by these ongoing social changes. It is aimed at surveying the way in which childhood affects and is affected by family schemes, public policies, educational institutions, mass media and cultural industry, legal routines and codes in the administration of justice, discipline-oriented knowledge and professional practices regarding the cultural construction for childhood. This never ended construction which should encourage us to revise the new existing bonds between adults with boys, girls and adolescents. Such cultural construction is permanently unstable and unbalanced and is causing some tension among an adult-centered perception and the essential dimension of freedom in childhood. Such asymmetric relationship where those involved are constantly absent when they are required to.

Organization:

The V World Congress shall be divided as follows: the Opening Ceremony, LECTURES, PANELS, Discussion FORUMS and the Closing Ceremony. The performance of some art and culture activities as well as the renewal of the congress authorities' public commitment and a Special Meeting with boys, girls and adolescents are planned to be developed at the same time.

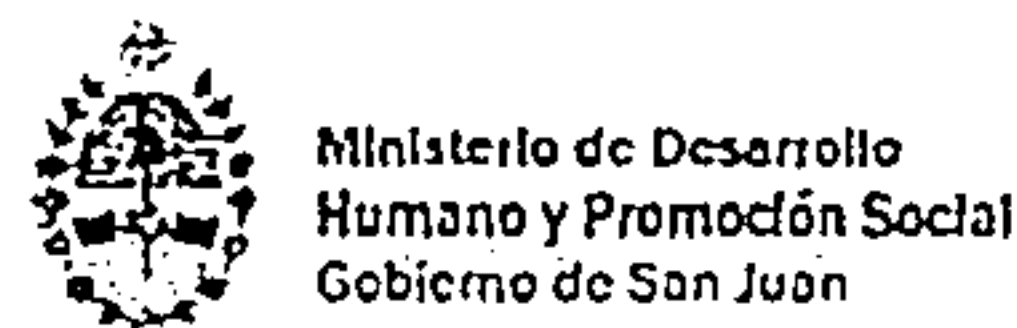
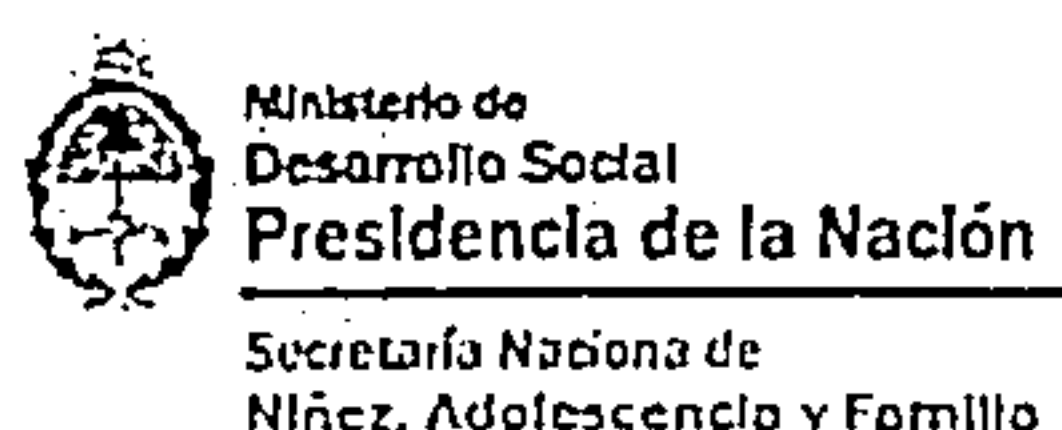
The V World Congress will start with a formal ceremony and a Magisterial Lecture on October 15th, 2012. The opening of the V World Congress shall be celebrated with some festive activities and then, the Special Meeting with boys, girls and adolescents will begin with the theoretic-methodological approach called "philosophy with children".

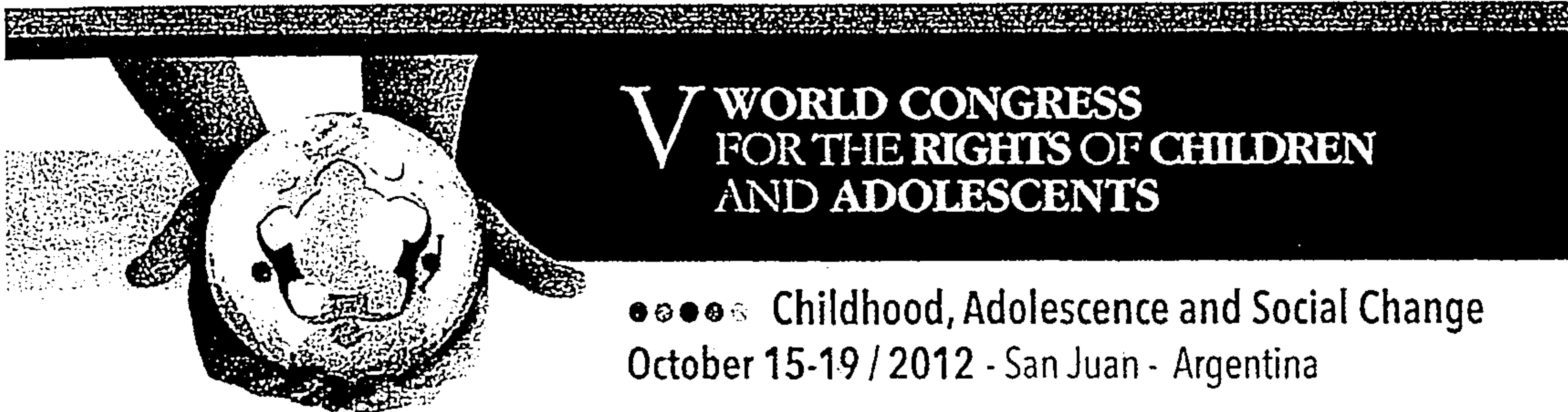
On October 16th, 17th and 18th shall be held 12 LECTURES, 12 PANELS and the Discussion FORUMS which main topics are given below.

On October 19th, the V World Congress Closing Ceremony shall be held in which the document named "Manifiesto of San Juan – Recommendation for a fairer world for Childhood and Adolescence" shall be put into consideration to the Congress.

A. LECTURES:

Their main objective will be the consideration of key topics as regards the development and conceptualization of a new approach over childhood and adolescence, which is conceived as a theoretical and practical political effort of identifying children as subjects of social change.





The key topics will be:

- 1.- Childhood, Adolescence and Social Change.
- 2.- Regulatory Policies: their impact on Childhood and Adolescence.
- 3.- Childhood, Adolescence and Pedagogy: Transmission or emancipation.
- 4.- Violence against Childhood and Adolescence.
- 5.- Childhood, Adolescence and Autonomy: Rights.
- 6.- Childhood and Adolescence: Subjectivity, Identity and Social allegiance.
- 7.- Childhood and Adolescence: Rebelliousness and Self-assertion.
- 8.- Child's best interest and the Collective cultural rights.
- 9.- Childhood and Adolescence: Family and Educational institutions.
- 10.- Childhood, Adolescence and Democracy.
- 11.- Childhood, Adolescence, Culture Industries and Mass Media.
- 12.- Childhood, Adolescence and Public Policies.

B. PANELS:

The objective of panels shall be the discussion or the exchange of opinions on specific matters or concrete and important problems concerning Childhood and Adolescence. Panels shall be composed of four people and will last 2 hours, counting questions.

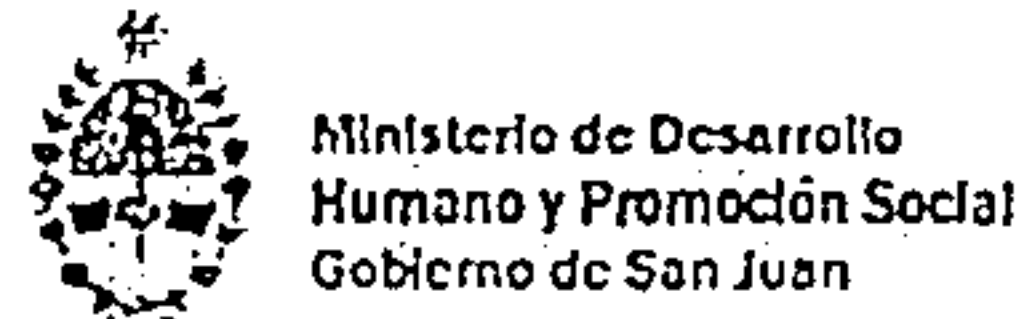
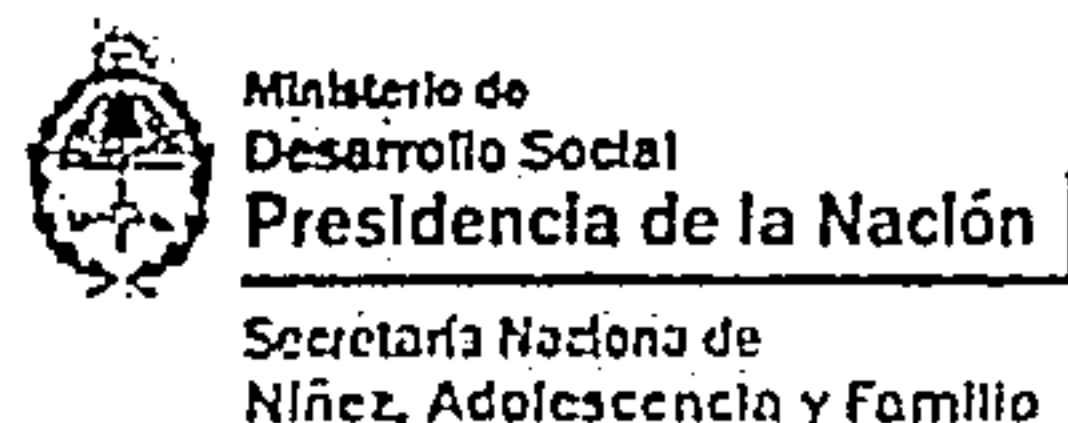
The key topics will be:

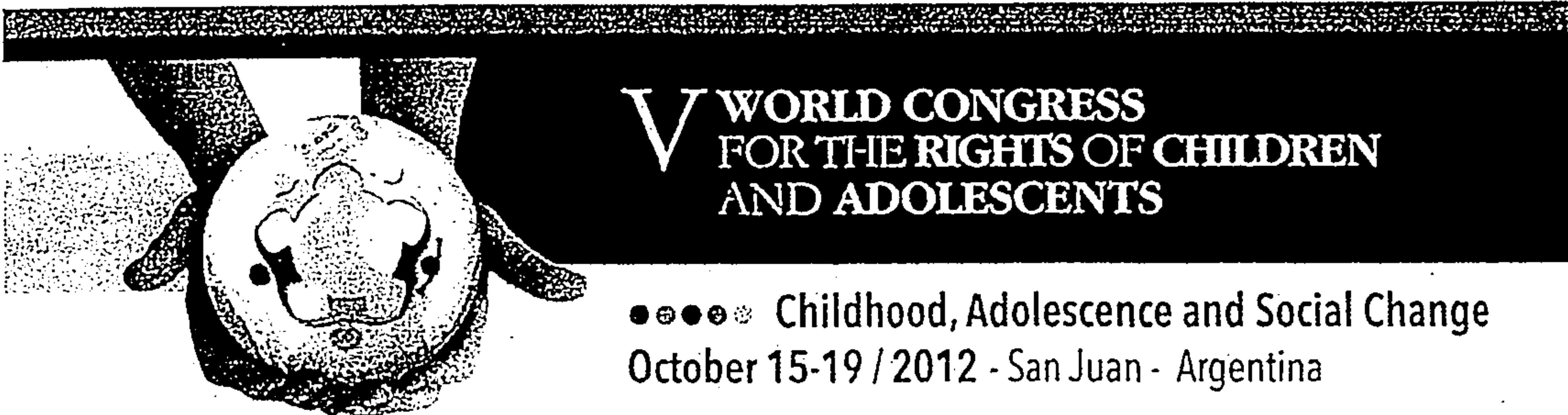
- 1.- Childhood, Adolescence and Justice system.
- 2.- Childhood, Adolescence, Gender and Segregation.
- 3.- Childhood, Adolescence and Human Rights Enforcement.
- 4.- Childhood and Adolescence: Representation and Civil Society Organisms.
- 5.- Childhood, Adolescence and Family.
- 6.- Labour, Abuse and Children exploitation.
- 7.- Childhood, Adolescence and Health (disabilities included)
- 8.- Childhood, Adolescence: Initial, Primary and Secondary Education.
- 9.- Childhood, Adolescence, Mass Media and TICs.
- 10.- Childhood, Adolescence and Bioethics.
- 11.- Childhood and Adolescence: Social Policies and Social Programming.
- 12.- Childhood, Adolescence, Violence and Armed Conflicts.

C. Discussion FORUMS:

Discussion forums will constitute the spaces in which all submitted PAPERS shall be discussed. The Scientific Committee, according to PAPERS presented, will be in charge of selecting the topics and participants on each forum with a Coordinator appointed by such Committee. Forums will last 2 hours.

- Only those selected PAPERS which were presented by the authors on the corresponding forums shall be compiled and published electronically with a copyright





registrar listed by the ISNB, controlled by the "Cámara Argentina del Libro". Furthermore, these PAPERS shall be of free distribution, as it shall be set forth by the V World Congress Organization Committee.

- Those PAPERS which were NOT presented by their authors shall be shown in a compiled form in the electronic publication.

A detailed list of organizing topics for forums is provided, which can be modified by the Scientific Committee:

1. Childhood, Adolescence and Rights.

- 1) Judicialization of Poverty.
- 2) Childhood, Adolescence, Abuse and Violence.
- 3) Childhood, Adolescence, Offences and Criminal System.
- 4) Adoption: Home and Abroad. (National and International)
- 5) Childhood, Adolescence and Families.
- 6) Childhood, Adolescence and Environment.
- 7) Childhood, Adolescence and Gender.
- 8) Childhood, Adolescence and Discrimination.
- 9) Childhood, Adolescence and Religious Freedom.
- 10) Childhood, Adolescence, Access to Law and Right to be heard.

2. Childhood, Adolescence and Public Policies.

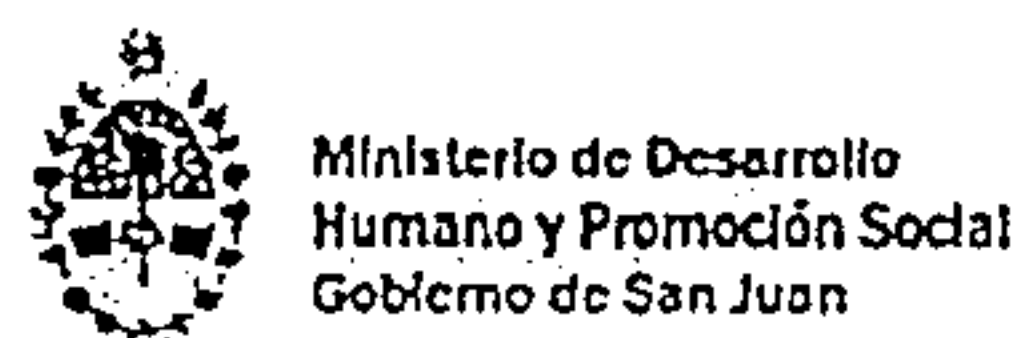
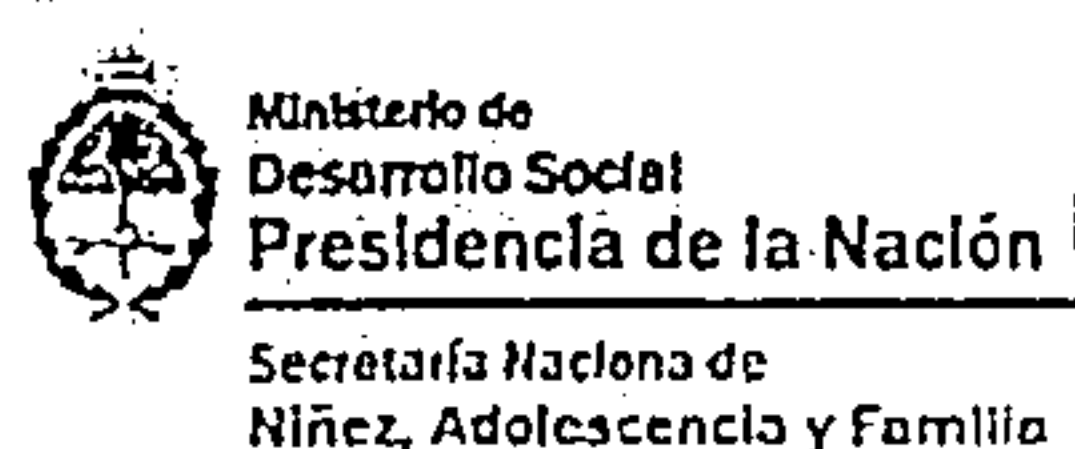
- 11) Policies and Social programming.
- 12) Childhood, Adolescence and Democracy.
- 13) Childhood, Adolescence, Despotism and Cruelty.
- 14) Childhood, Adolescence and Original Communities.
- 15) Local Programming and Participation.
- 16) Welfarism and Paternalism.

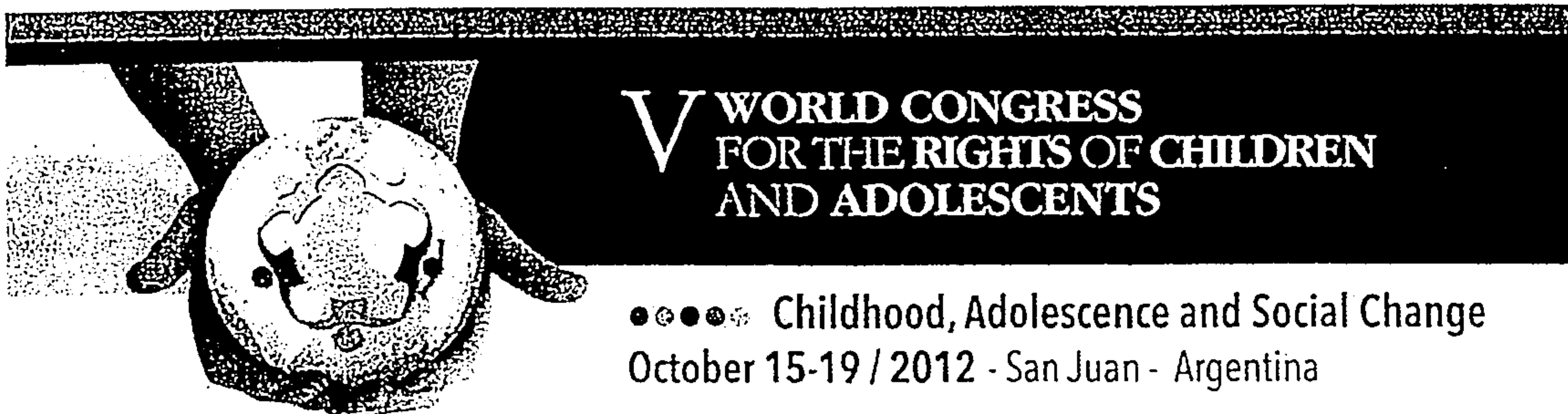
3. Childhood, Adolescence and Society

- 17) Enterprises Responsibility.
- 18) Childhood, Adolescence and Civil Organisms.
- 19) Childhood and Adolescence as social actors.
- 20) Childhood and Adolescence: Participation and Representation.
- 21) Volunteering.
- 22) Philanthropy and Compassion Ethics.

4. Childhood, Adolescence: Labour and Children Exploitation.

- 23) Slave traffic and Child trafficking.
- 24) Pornography and Sexual Exploitation.





25) Child Labour.

26) Cruelty, Abuse and Pedophilia.

5. Childhood, Adolescence and Economics.

27) Poverty: exclusion and inclusion.

28) Childhood and Adolescence Abandoned and in Street Situations.

29) Investment Economy for Childhood and Adolescence: Equitable distribution.

30) International Financial crisis and Dismantling of Childhood Protection Systems.

31) Childhood, Adolescence and Consumption.

6. Childhood, Adolescence and Education.

32) Childhood, Adolescence and Emancipation.

33) Childhood, Adolescence, Plays and Toys.

34) Pedagogy: Childhood and Adolescence.

35) Philosophy with children.

36) Childhood, Adolescence and Educational Policies (formal and non formal Education)

37) Childhood, Adolescence from the University and Higher Education view: Teaching, Researching and Community Insertion.

38) Sexuality and Sex Education.

7. Childhood, Adolescence and Health

39) Early Childhood.

40) Childhood, Adolescence and Nutrition.

41) Childhood, Adolescence and Disability.

42) Childhood, Adolescence and Social Security.

43) Childhood, Adolescence and Addictions.

44) Childhood, Adolescence and Mental health.

45) Early Pregnancy.

46) Childhood, Adolescence and Sports.

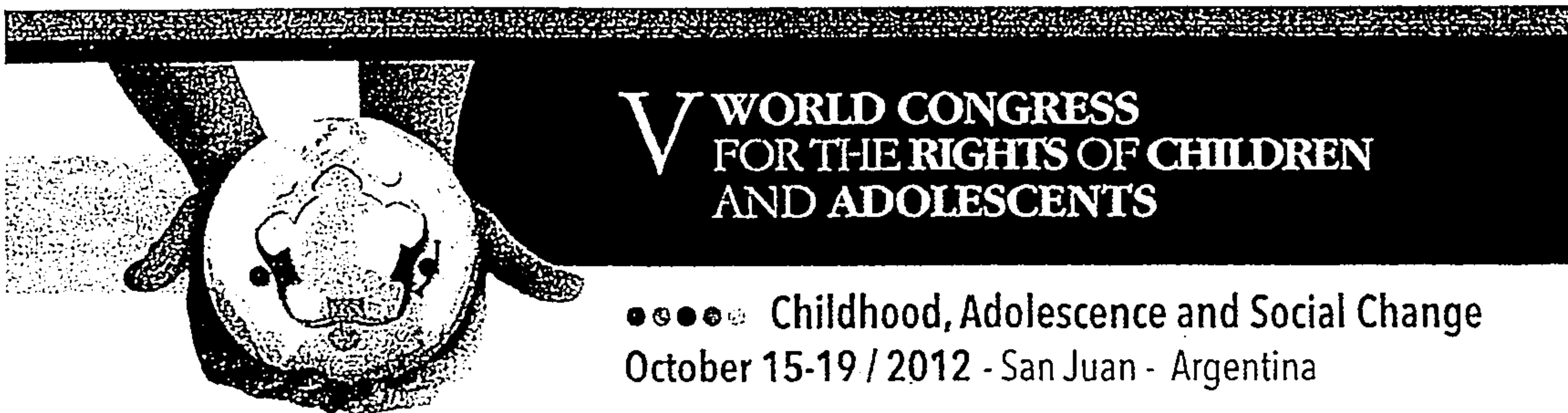
8. Childhood, Adolescence and Technologies.

47) Bioethics.

48) Genetic Engineering.

49) Childhood, Adolescence and the Entertainment Industry.

50) Childhood, Adolescence, Virtual and Social Networks: a communicated childhood?



9. Childhood, Adolescence and War Conflicts.

- 51) Refugee Childhood and Adolescence.
- 52) Childhood, Adolescence and Ethnic Conflict.
- 53) Childhood, Adolescence and Migrations.
- 54) Childhood, Adolescence and Armed Conflicts.

10. Childhood, Adolescence and Culture

- 55) Childhood, Adolescence, Fashion and Cultural Styles.
- 56) Childhood, Adolescence, Democracy and Politics.
- 57) Individualism and Tribal Organizations.
- 58) Discipline, Authoritarianism and Intergenerational Dialogue.
- 59) Childhood, Adolescence, History and Intercultural exchange.
- 60) Childhood, Adolescence and Mass Media.

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