

# **Participation of children and adolescents in the Children's Rights and Businesses Principles Initiative**

## **Outcomes of the consultation carried out in Paraguay**

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Paraguay  
June - 2011**

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## 1. Presentation

This report intends to share the perception of a group of children and adolescents from different parts of Paraguay about businesses and the way they affect their lives, families, communities and the country, as well as the possibility of placing, or not, human rights within the philosophy of businesses.

The document was produced by Global Infancia, a Paraguayan NGO founded in 1995 by specialized, supportive personnel, committed to human rights. It seeks to strengthen citizens commitment in order to effectively guarantee children's and adolescents' rights in our country.

This meeting was carried out by using the methodology of the document "What is...?... Questions and answers for children and adolescents"<sup>1</sup>. This proposal was adapted considering the characteristics and needs of the participants —these adaptations will be shared in chapter 5 of the present document.

The participants were boys, girls, and adolescents linked with Global Infancia through the organisation projects. They were mostly members of the municipal or departmental committees which are organised groups that raise awareness on children's rights to the whole community, they carry out activities to promote and defend their rights, and prepare and submit projects to local authorities and other entities, and implement community projects. The specific data of the participants is shared in chapter 5.

In addition, as a complement to this document, a short video about the discussion group was made. The very voices of the participants told the working process of the discussion group, to which additional interviews were added —these interviews dealt with certain issues which were considered interesting to deepen, and their results are part of chapter 6, where the results of the consultation are presented.

In Appendixes I to III we present a sample of other documents that were used in the development of this consultation, for instance: the invitation letter, parental consent, and the note for the school consent.

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<sup>1</sup> "Consultation Package Children and Adolescents", produced by the Save the Children Alliance.

## **2. Main information of the consultation**

### **a. Where and when was the discussion held?**

**Country:** Paraguay

**City:** Asuncion

**Location:** Global Infancia

**Date of the workshop:** June 17<sup>th</sup> 2011

### **b. About the facilitators:**

**Names:** Ana Oviedo and Fernando Hamuy<sup>2</sup>

**Position:** Project Managers

**Organisation:** Global Infancia

**Are you an adult, a youth or a child?** Adults

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<sup>2</sup> Ana Oviedo (37); Educational Psychologist: She is part of the Global Infancia staff since 2001. She has accompanied several processes of child participation in different Global Infancia projects.

Fernando Hamuy (30): Psychologist: He is part of the Global Infancia staff since 2006. He has accompanied several processes of child participation in different Global Infancia projects, he is currently a point of reference in issues of ITs.

### 3. The participants. Demographic information

A total of 23 boys, girls, and adolescents took part in the discussion workshop. There were 8 boys and 15 girls; in any case, both male and female were invited in the same amounts (a total of 34 children and adolescents were invited).

Female	15
Male	8

<b>Ages</b>	
12 y-o	3
13 y-o	5
14 y-o	3
15 y-o	3
16 y-o	4
17 y-o	5

<b>Setting of origin</b>	
Urban	14
Outskirts	9

Coming from 8 municipalities of the departments of Capital, Central and Villa Hayes.

Children and adolescents with (visual impairment) disabilities, children and adolescents with HIV living in an institution, children and adolescents organised in municipal and departmental committees, and representatives of schools.

All participants had previous knowledge of children's and adolescents' rights, because they have been working these issues for many years in their own organisations.

Children and adolescents from Villa Elisa and Itauguá had also participated in the first Save the Children consultation on social corporate responsibility, carried out in 2010.

Apart from the discussion group other 6 interviews were carried out with adolescents from the following cities: Itauguá (Central), Nueva Italia (Central), Carapeguá (Paraguarí) and Itá (Central). Three boys and three girls were interviewed: two 13 year-olds, one 15 year-old, two 16 year-olds, and one of 18.

#### 4. Agenda of the discussion group

Time	Duration	Activity
08:30	30 minutes	a. Welcome – Introduction dynamics. Presentation of the Activities.
09:00	20 minutes	b. Recap on the rights of the child
09:20	40 minutes	c. Defining what a business is:
		What is a business?
		What does a business do?
10:00	15 minutes	Break
10:15	1 hour	What can businesses do? – Work in groups on the 7 principles based on the 3 questions.
11:15	10 minutes	Break
11:25	45 minutes	Relay: Group sharing on the previous issue for review.
12:15	1 hour	Lunch. Break
13:15	15 minutes	Dynamics
13:30	45 minutes	Group plenary: Final conclusions.
14:15	65 minutes	Making them happen: Benefits and monitoring. Next steps.
15:20	15 minutes	Break
15:35	25 minutes	Presentation of the dramas
16:00	15 minutes	Workshop evaluation

## 5. Methodology working guidelines of the workshop

### I. Discussion Group

a. At the beginning, the activity was introduced and they worked on the following issues:

- What summons us here: What is this research about? How were we contacted? Other similar processes in the region, objectives of the meeting and research.
- Methodology of the meeting and consent for filming the meeting: How will we be working? And what do we record the workshop for?
- Sharing the agenda of the workshop.
- House rules, location of toilets and security rules of the office. (Appendix IV: Agreements for the meeting)

b. Next we worked on the key concepts about children's rights:

- PowerPoint presentation on the basic concepts of the Convention and children's rights.
- Dynamics: Rights vs. Needs (APPENDIX 3: PowerPoint presentations)

c. Then we began working on the following issue of the consultation package: "Defining what a business is".

- The basic concepts on businesses and the private sector were discussed with the participants, and there was also a debate on the role of businesses regarding the respect for children's rights and human rights.
- There was a plenary with the mediation of the facilitators where the following question was proposed: What is a business? There was a brainstorming regarding the different types of businesses the group see in their communities, near their homes, on TV, the papers, magazines and the radio, etc. They were encouraged to think both at a local and a global level.
- What does a business do? Then four cards were given to each participant, asking them to respond the following: In what ways do businesses affect you at a personal level? In what ways do businesses affect you at a family level? In what ways do businesses affect you at a community level? In what ways do businesses affect you at a country level? Before participants had time to answers the cards, they were given examples of answers in order to check that they had understood the questions.
- Once the work was done, each participant presented their answers, grouping those similar or identical, and also naming (with the assistance of the group) what 'rights' were being affected by businesses in these situations.
- The 7 principles or "themes" of how businesses may affect children and adolescents were described. A PowerPoint presentation was used for this purpose.
- Seven groups of 3 participants were formed, each with a specific principle. The triggering questions of this dynamics were the following: In what ways can businesses support and respect

children's rights?, What should they do?, and Where are the opportunities? Once the explanations of the dynamics and of this part of the work were over, the groups were asked to provide summary answers of what they had been working on based on the questions. The following list of questions was provided for each group:

1. What are the current problems related with this issue?
2. What should businesses be doing in order to solve these problems and to better support and respect children's rights?
3. What other things could businesses do in general to support and respect children's rights? In other words, businesses shouldn't only focus on existing problems which need a 'solution', but should try to think what can be done in order to prevent problems and promote and support good work/efforts in favour of children's rights.

Once the group work was done, each one presented their answers to the other participants. The principles worked by each group were placed in seven different parts of the premises. The idea was to work in relays of 7 minutes each, where every group could check the remaining 6 principles worked by the other groups, in order to provide new ideas or to add more information. Each group was given blank cards, and an additional one with the following questions, in order to make the examination easier:

1. Are there any missing things in this section?
2. Are there things included which the group hadn't considered? (in other words, did you find strong points in the existing draft?)
3. What do you think are the most important points that should be included?
4. Do you have any further comments or recommendations about this section?

After this, a plenary session was carried out in order to read the observations of the principles.

#### d. Making it happen and next steps

- Once again, three groups were formed of approximately 7 participants each. In plenary session, they were explained the goals of this part: gather information about ways to work potential benefits for businesses when they face these problems within their businesses, and future settings or working ideas that should be taken into consideration.

The following working guide was presented:

- Projections: What would it be like working issues like social responsibility, the role of businesses regarding children's rights in your group/committee/school?  
What activities would be achievable?  
What issues could be proposed?  
With whom should we be working?  
Why would businesses be interested in supporting the principles?  
Perform a play (drama) simulating a conversation with a business where you are going to explain the concepts reviewed during the day, and suggest future joint endeavours; remember it is important to have a strategy in order to "hook" them with your group proposal: How would you explain why is it important to commit?

## II. Interviews

For the interviews, members of different committees of children and adolescents were chosen. They had previously had some contact with Global Infancia, which allowed working with adolescents who already knew the rights of the child, and had some experience in accountability settings and other participation settings outside their original committees.

The work was done based on four questions, previously established and created as a complement to the discussion group. These were:

1. What is a business for you?
2. What impact do businesses have in your life, your family, your community or the country? How do you think businesses affect or influence these settings?
3. Imagine the committee gets a million dollars from one of the companies in order to carry out a project regarding one of the rights the committee is working on. What would you do in the project? What activities would you include in the project?
4. Do you think businesses respect, or consider, children's and adolescents' rights, as well as human rights? Please provide examples (either positive or negative).

## 6. Outcomes of the consultation

The outcomes obtained from the conversation group are detailed below, as well as additional information from the interviews —which is marked at the end of each quote, and what is not marked comes from the discussion groups.

The outcomes we provide were reached by the participants with no analysis and no additions from the facilitators. These outcomes were written directly from the posters developed by the different groups, therefore they are the exact words of the opinions and productions of the participants, unless stated otherwise. These testimonies only underwent minor grammar proofreading.

The first part, “Defining what a business is”, was reached by answering the questions, “What are businesses? What types of businesses do you know?”

Businesses were defined as follows:

- “A committee” with many components (banks, supermarkets, etc.) which seek to benefit people (users). The actions of a business are undertaken for the good of the people. (*Source: interview*)
- Businesses offer goods or services, they sell merchandise, which help by creating jobs and helping people. (*Source: interview*)
- A group distributing objects or assets. (*Source: interview*)
- A society of people (free association of people with a given goal).
- An institution that provides the basic needs of a family or a society. (*Source: interview*)
- In comparison with previous ideas, another participant defined businesses as a group of people that work for their own benefit.
- Businesses are also seen as groups with purchasing power, and thus wealthy and powerful, focused on getting maximum benefits for themselves and cooperating little with society or even rewarding consumers very little. (*Source: interview*)

Regarding the types of businesses quoted by the participants, we have the following:

- Coal companies.
- Food companies, companies which produce alcoholic beverages, companies producing coffee, oil, soybeans, herbal teas (producers of the traditional yerba maté). (*Source: interview + Discussion group*)
- IT companies (*Source: interview + discussion group*)
- Transportation companies, urban transportation companies.
- Fuel companies
- Companies producing building materials like ceramics, steel.
- Multi-national companies selling different types of products.
- Companies selling bottled water.
- Shipyards.
- Companies producing and selling motorbikes
- Companies making cigarettes.
- Supermarkets.
- Cooperatives.
- Businesses dedicated to education, like universities.
- Companies producing clothes.

- Multimedia mass media.
- Medical labs.
- Audio-visual producers.
- Technological, IT, software and social networking businesses.
- Companies producing cleaning supplies.
- Businesses “in charge of managing football”. (Source: interview)

Next we present a chart with the outcomes of the second moment, “defining what a business is”, when the following question was answered: In what ways do businesses affect us at a personal, family, community, and country level? The answers were compiled according the corresponding level, and in case there was more than one similar answer, these were grouped into one alone, which is marked by an “x”, and the number of times the answer was repeated.

Personal	Family	Community	Country
They make breathing impossible because of the smell. They pollute the air I breathe. (x3)	It allows you to meet relatives from other places. (x2)	They pollute the air, water, rivers, the environment. (x4)	Conduce a muchas personas al vicio y la muerte.
Get in touch with friends, family and acquaintances. (x4)	It gets my family ill with breathing conditions.	They pollute the city with ashes.	Increasing production of motorbikes causes accidents and deaths. (x4)
They get me dressed.	Work. (x6)	We cannot breathe because of the pollution. (x5)	Fuel.
They inform me on what is happening in my country and in the world. (x2)	Brings well-being at a social level. (x2)		Information of what is happening at a country level.
They take me to different places, they move me around. They take me where I want to go. They take me to school and home. (x5)	Feeling good and healthy. Medical assistance. (x2)	We can have fun with the ramps in the plazas.	Alcohol is bad for health, family, community and work, etc. (x2)
They better my health.	Hazardous to health, death.	Workers commute in motorbikes and accidents occur when they leave their work.	It helps people to communicate. (x3)
It affects my vision. (x2)			Health.
They make my study easier	Alcohol: It affects the economy.	Study.	They pollute the environment.
They make me gain weight.			They pollute the environment.
I cannot live without Facebook and my mobile credit (note: top-up mobiles)	Makes communication easier between close and distant relatives. (x7)	They make shopping groceries easier. (x2)	Tobacco: Affects the nervous system. (x4)
Allows me to meet people I didn't know before. Helps getting people in touch. (x2)		They generate job opportunities. (x2)	Make products which are consumed in the country and in other countries.
It gives me energy.		They make you be late.	Prices rise and affect the economy. (x2)
It fills my belly.		Medicine.	

The following part, “defining what a business is”, presented the answers regarding the workplace based on the 7 principles proposed by the consultation package.

**For the first principle, related to “work”, participants proposed and debated the following ideas:**

One of the major problems found regarding work in the companies is the lack of hygiene in certain workplaces, in addition to the current exploitation, because in some cases workers get paid less than the minimum wage.

It is essential that businesses respect the labouring legislation in order to avoid the economic exploitation of people in need.

It is believed that sanitary and hygiene controls should be improved; workers should know their rights and obligations through talks and training.

It is believed that businesses play a crucial role in the creation of policies against child exploitation, because there has to be a balance between child labour and the children population—due to current conditions, children and adolescents have to look for work. This is why businesses should deny them opportunities. It is important to be sensitive in this issue. A safe and healthy environment, free of abuse and ill-treatment for children and adolescents. It would be a good idea to have businesses coordinate strategies with the CODENI in order to protect working children and adolescents so they can go to school and have leisure time.

**For the second principle, related to “services and products”, participants proposed and debated the following ideas:**

Participants pointed out the bad conditions, bad quality, and bad supply of the products, and above all the poor service towards customers, both by employees and by businesses. They sense that businesses use people regardless of the consequences, because businesses do not understand that they are actually benefitted by the people who purchase their products.

They demanded more control over product supply, improve customer service, for these allow businesses to exist, and they also demanded businesses to return a part of their profit to society. This could be carried out through donations to groups in need as well as promoting citizens initiatives.

They considered that the products businesses made should not only bear in mind the present but also the future, this means that those products should respect children’s and adolescents’ integrity, human life and the environment.

The realization of awareness-raising workshops for children and adolescents is a priority, especially to know their rights in general and also their roles as consumers. This way their voices can be considered and they can advocate positively on the image the business has before consumers. It is also important that these workshops are held not only once, but several times so all people may take part.

**For the third principle, related to “marketing”, participants proposed and debated the following ideas:**

One thing that participants pointed out was that businesses should adapt the contents of their advertising to the watershed hours in order to protect children and adolescents. Participants also said that advertisements should have a human rights approach according to the services or

products they sell; they also recommended that businesses could carry out events disseminating and promoting human rights.

For instance, participants said it would be a good idea that the approved age remains, provided that a child-rights approach continues beyond the Month of the Child (August).

It would also be a good idea to have children and adolescents with a positive approach participate in a TV programme.

It would be good to have businesses address their publicity to supporting already existing participation settings for children and adolescents.

It is also a participants' concern that businesses producing goods or services for adults make their advertisements carefully, especially when they offer products that may affect children and adolescents, such as beer and tobacco advertisements.

**For the fourth principle, related to the “environment”, participants proposed and debated the following ideas:**

The major problem in this issue is the pollution generated by different businesses such as cold-storage chambers, hospitals, oil companies, public marketplaces, shipping factories and tanneries, which apparently do not comply with national legislation, and create an unsafe and unhealthy environment for people's lives. As a consequence, respiratory and skin diseases, among others, appear in children and adolescents.

Children's proposal to solve this problem is further investment in infrastructure, which allows waste to be treated and minimize pollution, as well as filtering gases or aerial polluting agents, implementing pipes that do not dispose waste into rivers or any other body of water. They also propose that businesses should respect urban areas, but this didn't mean that they should go to rural areas in order to pollute green areas.

Recycling is another essential point in environmental issues, where not only businesses have an important role to play but also the State and the citizens. Underground pollution was one of the group's big concerns, for it is not easy to see the extent of the hazards.

They think it is important that businesses work in training workshops in order to better understand human rights and the implications their actions have over people's lives. Businesses can also contribute to form a recycling culture in citizens, because “waste on the environment was like killing lives”.

They also believe that the government should enforce current laws regarding the environment and should not allow companies to do whatever they want with their waste they generate. Governments should also propose recycling strategies for the products companies make.

Finally, they said it was important that companies growing soy didn't destroy fertile soil.

**For the fifth principle, related to the “community”, participants proposed and debated the following ideas:**

It is clear that businesses are united in to big spheres: the environment and the labour sector.

The pollution on the environment generated by the companies may cause diseases and affects people's life. The role of the state is essential in order to guarantee the fulfillment of environmental policies which benefit the community and not only the businesses. In some cases, the extent of the pollution may even cause the closing of the company.

Working policies as well as the closing of factories generate an economic dependence, because if factories close, then many people will be without jobs, so it is difficult for people in the community to demand their rights to be fulfilled for fear of finding themselves jobless.

Another thing pointed out by the participants was that big businesses should not “close” small businesses, because many companies would become jobless (promoting small businesses). This happens with supermarkets and the popular stores or marketplaces.

Beyond all this, it is believed that the role of businesses is essential in the communities for they can help services such as health or education to grow.

**For the sixth principle, related to the “government”, participants proposed and debated the following ideas:**

The main focus on the discussion of this principle was the role of the government should be to enforce the law in order to prevent further pollution to the environment —violating the rights of workers, exploiting children and adolescents—, and protecting consumers.

It is also believed important to have the government control that businesses are paying their taxes.

Another thing pointed out by participants was that the government should help businesses every way necessary in order to promote production. But above all, that the government may control multinational companies so these do not eradicate small national companies.

It is also believed that the government should promote the creation of businesses in rural areas in order to reactivate abandoned sectors of production, and allowing people to have working options in their places of origin.

**For the seventh principle, related to “emergencies”, participants proposed and debated the following ideas:**

They emphasized the lack of medical attention in hospitals, the scarcity of medication and the limited medical staff available —also the need to have more ambulances and more medical equipment. Once hospitals receive patients, they believe it necessary to have more speed and more assistance for them.

They believe it necessary to have the Ministry of Health provide technical support to hospitals in order to attend emergencies and seriously ill people.

It is clear that there need to be more trained personnel for a better and faster operation in emergency processes.

The media becomes greatly important during emergencies because through them information is broadcasted and it may promote the prevention of diseases as well as minimizing risks and deaths.

Businesses could also support people in need of services and basic supplies.

They could also help in case of accidents during working hours: companies could have medical assistance insurance. It would also be important to propose family insurance for workers.

The best way to prevent the event of emergencies, for participants, was to have everything in order; by having continuous workshops, thick vests, meeting to give advice, and ways of preventing potential risks.

Participants made mini-plays corresponding to the “making them happen” section, where they were supposed to hold meetings with the businesses in order to develop working plans with them. After the presentation of each play, a summary of ideas from the different plays was made. From this section, we can highlight the following conclusions:

- Human rights, and children’s rights, are an issue that participants believe can give businesses a lot of visibility, because it is a new area neither explored nor yet exploited in terms of dissemination, where there are many ideas and pre-existing settings with quality activities, which only need a small boost in order to gain momentum and become more inclusive instead of being for just a few. The good image a business has before society, when respecting and supporting the rights of the child and the human rights, can easily become a potential source for the very businesses.
- In the participants’ plays it becomes clear a need to “speak the language of businesses”, for children and adolescents have to adapt their own language and their working schemes to the more formal and bureaucratic formats of businesses in order to get resources or support. This was highlighted in the speeches that businesses gave in the participation settings (which generally had little to do with the context of what had been worked during the workshop).
- It is worth noting that participants also believe that businesses have a traditional view on childhood and adolescence, and therefore are unable to consider them as proactive people who take part in processes of social capacity.
- Participants believe that selling projects that are related to human rights and participation settings is tougher than selling welfare or direct-impact projects to businesses, because the other ones would be seen by businesses as “a waste of money”.
- Two means of getting support from businesses for the different initiatives were specified. The first one was through the achievements obtained by the participants, and also by the potentials they have. The second one was to have the inner support of someone, which could facilitate the lobbying —this inner support is usually a person already sensitised in the issues.
- Businesses are regarded as those with resources which could be obtained, and not so much as an agent of change with which is also possible to work.
- The media are the best allies in order to position the human rights as a social issue with an important impact that needs to be worked. The media should be strategically supported in order to promote a more fair society for people. It is also regarded by participants as the only means to control or monitor the work of the different businesses.

**Regarding the part of “next steps”, participants proposed the following activities and themes as future prospects to work with businesses.**

It is worth noting that facilitators had to re-address the proposals several times into a more proactive and participative fashion, because the answers were asking for direct assistance and did not aim to processes, such as the ones the majority of participants were doing from their participation settings —activities more related to participation and advocacy.

Participants proposed working in campaigns and trainings focusing on giving talks about human and civil rights. People already trained in a certain issue could reproduce this methodology in other meetings at a national level, thus contributing to processes of building citizenship and participation. Among potential issues for this training, the following subjects were mentioned: sexuality, the environment, violence, discrimination, and gender issues.

Another proposal was holding debates between organised committees and groups as well as with student sector on different issues —human rights, social responsibility, and the role of businesses in the Paraguayan society.

Potential groups to work with were: the school, organised children, children from rural areas, children with disabilities, aboriginal peoples, neglected children, etc. In the adult sector, they proposed working with neighbourhood committees, and municipal governments.

Another working group considers that businesses can have a major role in the realisation of forums and the sustainability of these in the future; even those plays made in the discussion groups had a strong tendency towards that direction —we could infer that they would become self-governing or independent from the municipal government, with their own resources managed through the businesses.

Another idea given by participants was the possibility that businesses may sponsor students' participation settings such as the school councils, so each school could have a student centre.

They highlighted the important role that businesses have in order to promote environmental initiatives or the fight against certain diseases because of the impact that some businesses have in the media. They also pointed out the essential role businesses can have in the productive development of the different municipalities and their populations.

They proposed businesses to build public recreational areas such as skate parks, basketball court, parks. They stressed the importance of having the community involved in these processes in order to guarantee that the investments were what the community really needed, and not so much pre-made models from abroad.

They also thought about creating groups that could monitor businesses' fulfillment of environmental laws in the country, this could be implemented by means of a committee with control powers, in order to find out whether the companies are complying with the environmental legislation.

As additional information, there were two very different positions in the complementary interviews, where the re-addressing or re-orientation of the answers to a more proactive and child-rights based approach (instead of a social-assistance approach) was not carried out. In the case of the interviews the two positions emerged naturally; most noteworthy was the fact that those answers oriented to social-assistance investment were given by members of municipal committees, and those in favour of a more reflexive and supporting approach came from the departmental committees.

The answers of the interviewees promoting social assistance were the following:

*"The first thing would be to build a shelter; that would be essential so children could sleep there... because there are many living in the streets and their parents do not want them and neglect them";*

*"To open a big house and to gather all kids living in the streets"*

*"The other day I found out that a girl had been abandoned, she is still underage, my goal would be to help her or others like her... look for people with limited means, help them, people who are in the streets, such as... a type of home for those who are homeless, you see it is very cold... blankets and such..."*

The answers of the interviewees promoting participation settings were the following:

*"Maybe with that money (the committee) can find a place to meet for many years to come, or maybe they can purchase something like a computer, a film recorder to assess situations when we go out, and such"*

*"The first thing I'd do would be to disseminate rights, so businesses can consider and acknowledge children, so when they can make decisions whenever they do an activity... Afterwards I'd do lectures, I'd promote the participation of citizens, and along with businesses I'd do activities with the different committees in the 19 departments... there are many ideas, and if there's money, many more things could be achieved"*

## 7. Appendixes:

### I. Parental Consent

#### AUTHORISATION

I, \_\_\_\_\_ [name of the person responsible for the adolescent], with ID number \_\_\_\_\_, authorise \_\_\_\_\_ [name of the adolescent] to take part in a discussion group organised by Global Infancia and Save the Children, which will take place at 8 a.m. on the 17<sup>th</sup> of June 2011 at the premises of Global Infancia. Additionally, I authorise voice/video recordings of said adolescent, if necessary. These authorisations are conditioned to the guarantee offered by the organizers that the following proceedings will be observed: 1) the names, as well as any other personal information of the participants will be divulged at any time, meaning their identities will be preserved; 2) parents, legal guardians, and adolescents may ask for further information regarding this research at any given moment; 3) each and every participant may reject responding to any of the questions that may be asked later on; 4) each and every participant may ask for one or more of their comments to be excluded from the recordings; 5) each and every participant may quit taking part in the research at any given moment; 6) the research procedures will be conducted according to the international professional ethics in order to conduct this kind of research, and according to the Convention on Human Rights and on the Rights of the Child.

I hereby sign the present authorisation.

Asuncion, June, 2011.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Father/Mother or Guardian:

## II. Invitation letter

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

Do you ever think about your rights?

Have you ever asked yourself who is responsible of protecting and fulfilling your rights?

Do you ever wonder whether businesses and companies should care more about your rights?

Should they do more or less in order to support and protect your rights?

Right now, several different groups, organisations and people are asking themselves these same questions. For instance, UNICEF, Save the Children, Plan and even the very businesses are exploring these issues.

We would like to invite you to take part in a meeting in order to discuss and explore in what ways businesses and corporations affect your life, your family and your community.

This meeting will be organised by Global Infancia. Among the participants, different representatives of the children and adolescents organized sector will also be invited.

Please, do attend and share your ideas and recommendations for businesses with us.

Details of the meeting:

Place: Global Infancia main office. Av. Defensores del Chaco 268, Balpar Building 1<sup>st</sup> Floor. Asuncion.

Date: Friday, June 17th, 2011.

Time: from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Further details: The organisation will cover the transportation and food expenses.

Your recommendations will be shared with the 'Children's Rights and Businesses Principles Initiative'. To know more about the initiative, please read the attached file: 'questions and answers'.

We hope to see you soon.

For further information, please contact:

Ana Oviedo: 0971300907, 0984260082, 021510445.

Fernando Hamuy: 0981473127, 021510445.

### III. Note for school consent

\_\_\_\_\_, June 9th, 2011

Mr/Mrs

....., Headmaster/Headmistress

School.....

Dear Sirs,

Global Infancia, with the support of Save the Children Sweden, is currently undertaking a research on the corporate social responsibility called "Participation of children and adolescents in the Children's Rights and Businesses Principles Initiative", which seeks to formulate principles oriented to have businesses respect human rights.

We would like to invite your student \_\_\_\_\_ to take part in the workshop to implement the research, to be carried out in the Global Infancia office, located in Avda. Defensores del Chaco 268, Asuncion. This workshop will last approximately 8 hours.

Thanking your cooperation and hoping for a positive answer to the present note, yours sincerely.  
For further information, please contact:

-Fernando Hamuy: 0981473127, 021510445.

-Ana Oviedo: 0971300907, 021510445.

Johanna Walder  
Área Protagonismo Ciudadano  
Global Infancia

## IV. Agreements for the meeting

The following are the agreements met at the meeting:

- **Child Protection:** Details of all policies and procedures for child protection were shared among the participants.
- **Concept of Participation:** Participants were reminded that their participation was voluntary, and as such everybody was free to quit participating at any given moment, provided that this interruption or withdrawal from the discussion group is carried out respectfully towards the rest of the participants. También se compartió con ellos los estándares mínimos de la participación infantil.
- **Role of the rapporteur or the facilitators:** Participants were explained of the role rapporteurs will play during the workday.
- **Photos and Filming:** Participants were explained that some moments of the meeting will be filmed, and also how these filming/photos would be used.  
At this moment, participants should choose to say whether they wanted or didn't want to be filmed or photographed.
- **Logistics:** The location of the toilets, details about the transportation after the meeting, money refund, whether they would need to call their relatives, etc. were informed to the participants.