

BICE special report for 25 years of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Latin America - The view of **Norberto Liwski**

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The Convention has been ratified by all the countries of Latin America, but the cultural changes necessitated by its implementation still face obstacles, including the development of children as subjects of law, because this necessitates a new social contract around the participation of children.

These 25 years have certainly not been in vain. They allowed an evolution of the vision and attitudes of civil society as well as family regarding children.

It is nevertheless necessary to assess the progress that has been made in the daily reality of children to identify the challenges that lie ahead. It is in the area of legislation that the concept of child rights has increased the most, on the whole continent. In several Latin American countries, the Convention has inspired numerous measures in public policy. In the area of juvenile justice, however, where the application of the precepts of the Convention would require significant changes in structure and modes of operation, it appears that the traditional view remains predominant.

Leaders of Latin American countries, largely meeting within MERCOSUR, UNASUR and CELAC, respond more and more to the democratic aspirations of society. They understand that the Convention is an ally and a legal tool that contributes to the structural and functional changes necessary for the States to fully assume their "intransferable role" as guarantors of the rights of the child.