OUR VOICE IN SPANISH HAS LEGALITY AND IDENTITY: WE ARE THE WORLD ORGANIZATION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (OMEP)

To the World Assembly of OMEP:

Through this letter, we, Presidents and Representatives of the 13 Committees of Latin America, made up of 78 chapters and 13,032 associates, educators, academics and researchers from the early childhood education sector, express our support for the right to communicate in Spanish, in compliance with the OMEP Constitution, section 1: "Identity of the organization", which, in point 1.5, states that: "The official languages of the Organization are English, French and Spanish."

We express our disagreement with the growing rejection of the use of the Spanish language in world events, documents, projects, and communications of the OMEP, despite the fact that it is a legal guarantee. We understand that questioning the use of Spanish hampers participation, dialogue, exchange, production and dissemination of key processes for the work for children, which undermines the internal democracy of the OMEP.

It is pertinent to look at who we are, recognizing that communication gives us identity within a cultural diversity which we, in turn, demand. By denying the use of Spanish, the participation of the Region is put at risk and we are denied what culturally defines us: our language.

We emphasize the relevant facts:

- We are the only region of OMEP that communicates almost entirely in one language: Spanish.
- Twenty countries in the world speak Spanish: eighteen in Latin America, one in Europe and one in Africa. Of these, fourteen are actively involved in OMEP.

Today more than ever, Latin America requires participation in OMEP and OMEP requires it in return. It should be recognized that in the Latin American Region there are foundational committees of OMEP, with histories of 50 to 60 years in the organization, that entered with the recognition of the Spanish as an official language, and that the English is not generalized, nor is it used in communication in the Region.

In summary, we firmly request that the legal validity and use of Spanish as an official language, present since OMEP’s founding moment, be ratified in all world events, documents, projects, annual reports, communications, bulletins, website and social networks of our beloved organization.

Latin American Assembly of OMEP, Montevideo, May 11, 2017

Sign: Presidents and / or representatives of the Committees of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, México, Panamá, Perú, Uruguay y Venezuela.

Adhere: Cuba and others