

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMISIÓN OF THE PERMANENT INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE OF SOCIAL SECURITY

In the city of Fortaleza, Brazil, being the eight hours with thirty minutes of November twenty eighth, two thousand and one, the following members of the Executive Commission of the Permanent Inter-American Committee of Social Security met at the facilities of the Cesar Park Hotel: doctor Santiago Levy Algazi, Director General of the Mexican Institute of Social Security and CISS President; doctor Orlando Peñate Rivero, Advisor to the Minister of Labor and Social Security of Cuba and CISS Vice-president; mister Vinicius Carvalho Pinheiro, Executive Secretary of the *Ministerio da Previdencia e Assistencia Social* of Brazil; and doctor Teresita Aguilar Mirambell, of the *Junta de Pensiones y Jubilaciones del Magisterio Nacional*, of Costa Rica; also there were present doctor Jorge Melendez Barron, CISS Secretary General; doctor Luis Jose Martinez Villalba, Director of the Inter-American Center for Social Security Studies; and mister Reginald Thomas, Director of the *National Insurance Scheme*, of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

In use of the floor, doctor Santiago Levy cordially welcomed all the presents and proceeded with the Agenda. First of all, he verified if there was enough quorum; doctor Jorge Melendez, CISS Secretary General, informed him that there was the necessary quorum to validate the session, in compliance with Article 22 of the CPISS Regulations. Afterwards, doctor Levy submitted to the approval of the members of the Executive Commission the Minutes of the Meeting held on July fifth, two thousand and one, and it was approved; then he gave the floor to doctor Jorge Melendez, CISS Secretary General, so he could submit the Report of the General Secretariat corresponding to the year 2001 and the Program of Activities for the year 2002.

Doctor Jorge Melendez, CISS Secretary General, expressed that he would make a synopsis of the report that was in the ring binder handled to the members of the Commission.

As first item, he emphasize that in the month of July of the present year, there were carried out the meetings of that CPISS Executive Commission and of the CIESS Board of Directors, as well as the Seventeenth Coordination Meeting of the Secretariat General, the CIESS Directorate, the Chairmen of the American Social Security Commissions and the Coordinators of the Sub-regions.

In what referred to the activities developed by the American Commissions and the Sub-regions during the second semester of the current year, he pointed that that: in the month of August, the American Medical Social Commission (CAMS) held in Mexico City the Seminar “Social Security Challenges in the Field of Health in the XXI Century: Evaluation and Technological Management”, and that during that week in Brazil, the CAMS would develop the topic “Technology Management: Proposals of Development”.

Also in August, the American Commission on Older Adults (CADAM) in coordination with Sub-region I Andean, and under the auspices of the *Caja de Compensacion Familiar (COMPENSAR)* of Colombia, carried out the International Seminar “Population Aging and the Role of the Elder Adult in the Society of the New Millennium”, in Bogota, Colombia; and he added that in the frame of the works programmed for that week in Brazil, as technical event, CADAM will hold a workshop named “Legislation for the Third Age – Minimum Guaranteed Benefits; Evaluation and Current Application”.

In the month of September, the American Actuary and Finance Commission (CAAF) and the Sub-region V, Mexico and the Latin Caribbean, held the Sixth Conference of Actuary and Finance at International Level, in Mexico City, under the auspices of the Mexican Institute of Social Security and the *Caja de Seguro Social* of Panama. Its main topics were the dilemma of the informal sector and the population aging. Also, he mentioned that in like manner, the CAAF would carry out its Technical Meeting with topics such as “Problems of the Pension Systems”, “Life Annuity”, “Evasion in the Payment of Pensions Granted”, “Actuarial Audit”, “Legal Interpretations vs. Technical Aspects”, and “Management Costs of Expenditures”.

In what refers to the technical meetings of the American Legal Social, Organization and Administrative Systems, and Working Risks Prevention Commissions, the Secretary General expressed that the following topics would be dealt with: the American Legal Social Commission would raise the “Legal Trends of the Social Security Systems in America”, and also will carry out a meeting of the Study Group on Women on the subject “Women in Reformed Schemes”; the American Commission on Organization and Administrative Systems (CAOSA) would tackle the topics “How to Enhance the Insurance Quality”, “Internal Audit and Fraud Prevention Methods”, and “The Correct Management Performance”; the American Working Risk Prevention Commission (CAPRT) would analyze the topic “Homologation of Information Systems for an Adequate Management of Working Risks Prevention among Countries”.

In what refers to the Activities of the CISS Sub-regions, indicated that he had already pointed out the actions carried out by the Sub-regions I Andean and V Mexico and the Latin Caribbean, and that in reference to the ones of Sub-region II, he would mention all the topics of the courses carried out by Sub-region II Central American, in coordination with the Inter-American Center for Social Security Studies (CIESS).

Likewise, he expressed that during October, and under the auspices of the *Caja de Compensacion de Los Andes*, Sub-region III, South Cone, held the International Seminar “The New Unemployment Insurance in Chile: A Modern Innovation for Social Security”, in Santiago, Chile.

Finally, he said that in August, the Sub-region IV, North America and the English-speaking Caribbean carried out the course “Training on Health and Occupational Health in Middle Size Companies”, in joint manner with ILO and in coordination with the CIESS.

About the presence of the CISS in other cooperation fora, he mentioned that during the month of July attended in Kingston, Jamaica, the XII Meeting of CARICOM Social Security Directors, and that in the said event, the CISS proposed a cooperation agreement with CARICOM, that is under discussion process, hoping that the first outcome will be an study on the “Status of Social Security in the Caribbean”.

Afterwards, doctor Melendez said that one of the functions of the Secretariat General established in the by-laws is to overview the CISS editorial policy, and therefore in order to strengthen that activity, he proposed to the Executive Commission to approve the creation of the Publications, Editorial Policy and Information Coordination, that will be in charge of doctor Nora Garro, whose professional career guarantees the good role she will do in this task. The entire Executive Commission approved the request.

In what refers to the publications edited by the Conference, he informed that the Journal *Seguridad Social* was restructured and that last October it made fifty years that it was first published; that from the issue 232 corresponding to September-October, the image of the journal was changed looking, among other things, to have a publication more agile and attractive for readers, from the point of view of the format as well as of the contents.

That the preparation of issue 233, corresponding to the last two month period, had a significant advance, hoping to conclude it by the end of the next month, and in this way would be eliminated the editorial backwardness.

He also indicated that, in compliance with the mandate of the CISS President, it had begun to plan the making of an Annual Report of the American Social Security, that every year would be especially devoted to the subject of the seminar that frames the CPISS meeting. That the idea is to achieve that this document might serve as an important international reference for all persons involved in the administration or study of social security; the first issue of this instruments will be submitted in the annual 2002 CPISS meeting. To conclude with this item he expressed that, in like manner, in the near future there would be looked for to redefine the objectives and format of the Studies and Monograph Series.

On the issue of Legal Aspects, he expressed that in compliance with the agreement of the Executive Commission, was done the registration of the Minutes corresponding to the meeting held on July 5th of the current year, and that was formalized the power of attorney for administrative acts that the CISS President granted to him, to represent the Conference in its legal aspects.

In what refers to the activities carried out by the Constitution Revising Commission, he commented that from the 8th to the 10th of last October most of its members met in Mexico City to hold work sessions where were picked up the proposals of reform that, in due time, were sent by the member institutions and after analyzing and discussing them, the Commission reached agreement on some modifications to the Bylaws, and it was drafted a preliminary document that was sent to all the institutions for them to send their observations in writing, and that doctor Orlando Peñate in his character as Chairman of this Commission, would present a detailed report in the coming CPISS Meeting.

On the item referring to CISS members, he informed that the *Superintendencia de Pensiones* of Costa Rica, was provisionally affiliated by that body in the month of July, and that its request would be presented before the CPISS during its coming meeting, for the definitive affiliation.

During the past semester there was no requests for members disaffiliations, and only will be submitted to the consideration of the CPISS Meeting, the definitive disaffiliation of the *Caja Colombiana de Subsidio Familiar (COLSUBSIO)*, which provisional disaffiliation was approved by this Collegiate body.

On the other hand, and in what refers to the CISS relations with other international agencies, he pointed out that in September he attended the XXVII General Assembly of the International Social Security Association (ISSA), as representative of doctor Santiago Levy, President of the Inter-American Conference of Social Security.

On the Financial and Budgetary Matters, he mentioned that for the first time and attending the request of that Commission, during the months of April, June and October of the current year the CISS Treasurer sent periodical reports on the behavior of the finances of the Conference. Up to date, there have not been received any observations or clarifications.

With respect to the External and Internal Audit of the CISS, starting the current year was selected and hired the firm *D. J. Servicios y Asesorías Profesionales, S. C.*, to rule on the financial statements of the Conference corresponding to the exercise 2001; that there is a preliminary report of the period January-August, where the said firm expresses that: “the Financial Statements of the Inter-American Conference on Social Security present in a reasonable form all the important aspects related to its financial status and its variations in the patrimony”, as can be seen in Annex One. In what refers to the internal audit, he pointed out that since the month of September was appointed an Internal Auditor who will carry out monthly observations and recommendations on the procedures of internal control.

On the other hand, he stressed the financial participation from the IMSS to the CISS, by indicating that besides granting with no cost the facilities of our seat, during 2001 the Mexican Institute of Social Security contributed to the CISS with thirty one million pesos, that is around US Dollars 3.3 million, while the incomes derived from the payment of fees of all the CISS member institutions amounted to 5.8 million pesos, or US Dollars 600,000; this information is in Annex two.

With respect to the behavior of the Budget authorized for the year 2001, he pointed out that the incomes up to the month of October showed a negative variation of US Dollars 69,498, which represented 6.99% of the estimated, as it was consolidated in Annex three, and that this was due to the fact that up to the month of October, the possibility of renting the facilities in the times available for the so-called especial events, had been lower than what had been forecasted.

As result of an adequate fund investment and compared to what was budgeted, it is relevant to outstand the increase of 120.9% in the financial interests received during the periods where its application is not necessary.

He also reported that some institutions affiliated to the CISS have not paid their fees on time, and up to date, some of them have debts corresponding to the year 2001 and to previous years, as it is shown in Annex four.

On the item of Expenditures, he presented the behavior of what was exercised in each one of the concepts of expenditures, by doing a comparison with the same period of the previous year as it can be seen in Annex five. The Secretariat General presents up to October 2001, a decrease of US Dollars 10,685 in the total expenditure, in spite of the need of hiring additional staff and the review of its workers earnings, as well as the need of covering extraordinary expenditures for the updating of the editorial program that, at the beginning of the year, showed a backlog of five two-month periods.

On the financial ceiling of the CIESS, he informed that this reflected savings in concepts such as fees for professors, travel allowances and tickets.

In what refers to the budget for the period October-December 2001, he indicated that it was expected to conclude the present exercise within the financial ceiling authorized by the Executive Commission, and informed that the Annex six includes the Budgetary results of the Triennium 1999-2001.

About the remnants of the Conference, he pointed out that up to the month of October the Conference had a reserve of US Dollars 430,000 in round numbers, and that during November it would be reduced in some US Dollars 20,000 because of the expenditures related to the meetings held in Brazil. He also said that his future commitment is to take the best advantage of the resources, reduce the operation expenditures and a very clear submission of accounts.

Afterwards, he mentioned some actions that will be carried out in the year 2002, such as: the renewal of the vehicles for the Secretariat General and the CIESS, which maintenance and fuel consumption is very expensive due to its age and physical condition; continue the fitting out and updating of the computer systems and investment in the CISS web site; modernization of the Conference's facilities to make them functional and according to the new structure that is being implemented.

To pay for each one of the referred actions, the Secretary General submitted to the consideration and approval of the Executive Commission the partial utilization of the remnants that the Conference has at its disposal. The entire Executive Commission approved the request.

Continuing his presentation, he submitted the Budget Proposal for the year 2002 and the Triennium 2002-2004, making reference to Annex 7 and outstanding that its contents includes the incomes and expenditures expectations for the next triennium, that is, how would be exerted the CISS financial ceiling. He also mentioned that it was important to point out that these projections meant an additional effort to affiliate new institutions, as well as obtaining greater benefits derived from the renting of the facilities and the increase of the enrollment to the CIESS courses, and finally he commented that if the projections of that financial ceiling are not fulfilled, these will have to be reviewed during the year together with the expenditures.

Afterwards, he submitted to the consideration of the CPISS Executive Commission, the 2002 Program of Activities, with the dates of the events that the Secretariat General will carry out, and that is as follows:

- First Six Month Period Coordination Meeting of the CISS Bodies
Seat: CISS Facilities, Mexico City
Date: June 10th and 11th, 2002.
- XLVI Meeting of the Permanent Inter-American Committee of Social Security (CPISS)
Seat: Mexico City
Date: October 7th to 11th, 2002.
- Seminar "Social Security Coverage Extension: the Challenges"
Seat: CISS Facilities, Mexico City
October 2002

Likewise, he added that it will continue the support for the American Social Security Commissions and for the Sub-regions in what refers to the organization and implementation of their meetings.

On the issue of the Editorial Program, he reiterated that the unresolved matters would be: the making of the Annual Report of the American Social Security; the modernization and continuous improvement of the Journal *Seguridad Social*; implement a close collaboration with the CIESS to turn its Journal that appeared this year into a scientific publication, which processes shall be subject to the judgment of international experts in social security, and finally, the redefinition and reactivation of the Studies and Monographs Series.

He also commented that it would be looked up to develop a program to promote the CISS and the affiliation of new members; contribute to the works of the Constitution Revising Commission, supporting it for programming a meeting during the first quarter of the year 2002, and collaborating in its making; give more attention to the CISS internal and external communications, offering especial care in the relation with the English-speaking institutions; that would try to attend the meetings of the international agencies, looking for to strengthen the collaboration links between the CISS and them, and in particular, he would insist in signing a collaboration agreement with the CARICOM; there would be investments in the equipment, re-adaptation and modernization of the infrastructure of the Secretariat General; it would be bought the necessary computer equipment for the proposed works, and that it would be developed and introduced a new web site for the CISS.

In terms of organization, he requested the approval so that the work of the Secretariat General were grouped in three Coordinations: the General Coordination under the responsibility of Mrs. Maria del Carmen Alvarez Garcia, who has a long career in the Conference; the Administrative and Financial Coordination, under the responsibility of the Treasurer of the CISS Secretariat General, mister Ruben Sotomayor Gallardo, who will continue acting as Treasurer, and finally, the Editorial Policy, Publications and Information Coordination under the direction of doctor Nora Garro.

Once he ended his participation, doctor Jorge Melendez submitted his work report to the consideration and approval of the members of the CPISS Executive Commission.

Doctor Orlando Peñate requested the floor to specify that, with respect to the proposal of transforming the CIESS journal in a scientific instrument which process would be subject to the judgment of international experts in social security, he had some reserves if what the institutions write or send is going to be judged by an specialist, that is, he was worried if there is going to be censorship.

Doctor Jorge Melendez answered that the main idea was that the Editorial Program of the Conference shall be considered in a comprehensive way, so that the publications of the Secretariat General and of the CIESS be part of an editorial strategy of the Conference, and the second idea to this respect was

that some of the publications such as the Journal *Seguridad Social*, be more oriented to the spreading out of lectures, non-technical conferences, interesting articles, short notes related to social security, and that the publication of the CIESS, that is our academic body, be specialized mainly in technical articles, with absolute freedom to present approaches, positions and conclusions of the articles published, and is in this aspect where the works would be submitted to judgment in methodological terms, in order for them to adjust to a scientific-technical format, because if the scientific protocols are followed for the determination of articles, not their positions or approaches, but their methodologies, at least in Mexico one could seek that the National Council of Science and Technology could give some resources to finance the said Journal, but in order to count on these scientific standards would mean that it would be necessary to create an Editorial Committee that would receive the articles and would make the judgments.

Doctor Luis Jose Martinez Villalba requested the floor to add that the concern expressed by the Vice-president, doctor Peñate, was really legitimate and natural, since the words of the Secretary General referred to a manifestation in the field of cooperation, collaboration and understanding among the diverse CISS bodies; that in what referred to the contents of the CIESS journal, he appealed that according to the By-laws, corresponds to the Secretariat General the application of the CISS editorial policy, and therefore, all the publications of the Conference will be analyzed as a whole, studying the range of possibilities and necessary objectives that shall contain; that the CIESS journal will be eminently scientific and a channel for the diffusion in that area, and that the works of divulgation of events would eventually be assigned to other publications of the Conference.

Once ended the participations of the Secretary General and of the CIESS Director, doctor Orlando Peñate expressed his gratitude for their precisions on his request.

Afterwards, mister Vinicius Carvalho requested the floor to express firstly a wide recognition to the management carried out in the year 2001 by the President and the Secretary General, since it had been very fruitful, and specially to doctor Luis Jose Martinez, for the CIESS activities; that the new format of the Journal *Seguridad Social* seemed excellent to him; that in the field of collaboration and cooperation he submitted to the consideration of all presents the possibility of creating in America a databank to consolidate the basic information on social security of the member countries, considering that the Secretariat General or the CIESS could carry it out, because some times the information that the institutions count on is obsolete, and it would be a great contribution that the CISS could integrate a databank that could be available in its web site, which would gather basic information of the institutions, such as the coverage expenditures, for example.

That another concern he had was closely linked to the editorial program, suggesting to encourage the making of studies on social security through the granting of a prize for the development of monographs and technical knowledge on social security; that it would be necessary to establish the mechanism for its implementation, and that it was clear that this would need a budget, since he considered convenient the said prize were five thousand US dollars; that he considered that in case the prize were established, this would have a very important impact that would allow to get more concrete contributions to the development of the social security of the countries.

In use of the floor, doctor Santiago Levy expressed his welcome to both proposals, and that these would be incorporated into the 2002 Activities Program of the CISS, and therefore, he requested to the Secretary General and to the CIESS Director to prepare a methodological document to see how could be included a databank in the CISS web site, with a unified methodology that would allow the international comparison of databanks and the updating of the basic figures of social security of the countries, in what refers to budgets, coverage, programs, details, etc., that could be permanently consulted, as well as a draft of the rules that would allow to implement a CISS Prize of Research in Social Security, with some proposal between five and ten thousand US dollars; that such projects should be sent to the members of the Executive Commission for them to make their comments and

suggestions, in order to present them as additional projects during the year 2002. The entire CPISS Executive Commission approved the work proposals.

Mister Reginald Thomas requested the floor to indicate that he joined to the words of doctor Orlando Peñate and doctor Vinicius Carvalho Pinheiro, with respect to the work done last year by the CISS Secretary General.

Afterwards, he suggested to prepare some guidelines on the responsibilities and functions that must exist between the CISS officials and the Coordinators of the Sub-regions, so that they might be informed of such matters as the fees due by the member institutions, and in such way be able to collaborate on its fulfillment. He considered that it is very important to count on this document, above all because later on would be carried out the CISS elections, and maybe, the new officials do not know what is expected from them.

He expressed that he is very grateful because the communication with the English-speaking Caribbean is going to be stressed, and he mentioned that an effort must be done to develop the learning of the Spanish language in that region, because in that way there would be a considerable advance in that process.

In what refers to the initiative of signing a cooperation agreement between CISS and the CARICOM, he expressed that he considered it necessary in order to share and coordinate the information and works on social security carried out by the different international agencies that interact in the zone.

He also said that they will continue supporting the work of the Revising Commission and that, on the other hand, he considered very positive the idea of setting up a research prize on social security because in that way people will be foster to write and publish their many knowledge, and so share them with all the interested ones. Finally, he reiterated the total support of Sub-region IV for the Activities Program for the Year 2002, presented by the Secretary General.

Afterwards, doctor Teresita Aguilar Mirambell manifested a cordial greeting as representative of Costa Rica, and that with respect to the follow up of the agreements reaches in the meeting of the Executive Commission held in the month of July, she kindly requested the Secretary General to inform what actions had been taken in particular with the members that are in debt with the CISS.

In use of the floor, doctor Jorge Melendez expressed that he would make some precisions related with the previous interventions. First, he pointed out that with respect to the debtor CISS members, the Secretariat General had prepared communications requesting the payment and that, in some cases, they have made telephone calls, and even personally as for example, when he went to the *Instituto de Seguros Sociales*, of Colombia, where he expressed to its Director General his worry for the lack of payment. Going into great detail on the topic, he specified that most of the institutions really pay their fees on time, that there were some that practically were in a disaffiliation process, since their debt had more than five years, as well as those that do not take part in the Conference activities, annotating that they will continue insisting on the matter. He also commented that the regulation of these cases is been foreseen as a proposal of reform to the Constitution, to establish up to what point can be tolerated the backlog in the payment on the part of the institutions, and in what moment would proceed the disaffiliation from the Conference, because at present this is not explicitly provided in the Bylaws.

On the other hand, he pointed out that in what refers to the proposals made by mister Vinicius Carvalho, these topics had been commented during the meeting held in July; that there is the project of implementing a prize for the labor research, that the CIESS had made some progress with PAHO to finance it, and that in the financial ceiling were included allotments for both activities.

That in reference to the creation of the databank, he added that also one of the activities already programmed by the Secretariat General was the development and updating of the CISS website, in which would be recorded basic data on the social security of the countries, that would allow the exchange of communications through electronic means, and also the reactivation of the Studies and

Monographs Series, modernizing them to elaborate a databank with standard information that may be useful for comparisons and discussions.

Finally, in relation with what was expressed by mister Reginald Thomas, he pointed out that they would be very carefully to have a more close contact with the Sub-regions so they might be informed of all the CISS actions and activities, for example in basic facts as the one that the Coordinator of the Sub-region should be aware of what institutions have not paid their fees, so these do not go unnoticed.

In use of the floor, doctor Santiago Levy expressed that in relation to the Secretary General's report, it was outstanding that up to that date were being fulfilled all the work programs projected, such as the modernization of the Journal *Seguridad Social*, but the one that is seen with great expectations for next year is the making of an Annual Report of the American Social Security, considering that this annual report must be a window so that the different innovations made in the countries can be mutually known, since every year all the countries are making changes to their legislation, or incorporating new operative modalities in the implementation of the social security programs, and if one knows them, these could serve as a springboard to make further investigations, make more questions, and therefore, a journal that could be a required reading for all of us would allow to know what is going on in the different countries in the field of social security.

That, in like manner, he was requesting to the Secretary General and the CIESS Director to prepare an outline, to be circulated during the month of January, of what would be the proposal for the journal and its format, so that the members of the Executive Commission may express their comments or contributions and, based on it, be able to have something concrete for October of the coming year.

He also expressed that it would be strengthened the work program with CARICOM in a more detailed manner.

That he stressed what was mentioned by the Secretary General with respect to exercise the budget with great transparency, and have lots of clarity in the use of the resources, its destiny, its origin, who is paying, who is not, and that this also should be known by the CISS Constitution Revising Commission, in order to know after how long can be made the des-incorporation in case that some member had not fulfilled the payment of its fees.

That also would be analyzed new modalities to integrate the national committees or sub-committees that may allow a regional de-concentration of the CISS work, in order to foster a flourishing of more initiatives with a regional character, and that there were initiatives for CARICOM and the South Cone.

That the strengthening of the research program was one of the most important actions for the coming year, being very relevant the reactivation of the CIESS Research Department, as well as the creation of the Coordination of Publications of the Secretariat General; and with that spirit of cooperation among the CISS bodies, it would be achieved the fulfillment of many goals such as the renewal of the publications, the creation of the prize in Social Security, and of the databank, and he stressed that there is an important work agenda for the year 2002.

In like manner, he expressed his congratulations and thanks to the Secretary General and the CIESS Director for the great job that is being done in the CISS, and also mentioned that in that date was ending a triennium, three years of Mexico's CISS Presidency, and that he simply wanted to make a recognition to all the presents for the support they have always granted to Mexico, that it was an honor for the Mexican Institute of Social Security to have the CISS Presidency, as well as a privilege to be able to have in Mexico its facilities at the disposal of all the member institutions.

Immediately after, mister Vinicius Carvalho requested the floor to say that he took the opportunity to propose that the CISS Presidency may continue at Mexico's charge, since it was legitimate to recognize that sixty per cent of the CISS budget was contributed by the Mexican Institute of Social Security, and therefore he would convey this suggestion to the General Assembly so that, in particular, doctor Santiago Levy may remain as CISS President for the coming triennium.

Afterwards, doctor Orlando Peñate Rivero expressed that as Cuba's representative, he fully coincided with what was expressed by mister Vinicius Carvalho, and therefore he would also propose before the General Assembly the ratification of the current authorities, since Mexico's acting has been traditionally fundamental for the development of the works of the Inter-American Conference, stressing that doctor Santiago Levy and doctor Jorge Melendez have kept the balance of the concept of an international agency that represents a multiplicity of countries with diverse social security models, that always find in the Conference, and basically due to the Mexican direction, a space for discussion and debate for the progress of social security.

On the other hand, he emphasized that the member countries were deeply interested in also acknowledging the work done by doctor Luis Jose Martinez in leading the CIESS, because during his three year work he has reached significant advances since has allowed and extended the field of participation of the institutions, and therefore exists a general consensus for him to be ratified as CIESS Director.

Doctor Teresita Aguilar Mirambell requested the floor to say that the *Junta de Pensiones y Jubilaciones del Magisterio Nacional*, of Costa Rica, agreed on the re-election of doctor Levy and doctor Luis Jose Martinez, and of course, of the Secretary General, and therefore she coincided with the proposal so that the current authorities continue in their positions.

Once ended the previous interventions, doctor Santiago Levy expressed his gratefulness for the trust vote granted to them, and he reiterated his personal and institutional commitment on behalf of the Mexican Institute of Social Security, of holding the CISS Presidency with the broad view of keeping the Conference as the most important social security organization in the Americas, and predicting better years than the previous ones already had.

Finally, he commented that in compliance with Article 22, paragraph d) of the Bylaws of the Inter-American Conference of Social Security, he submitted to the consideration of that CISS body the candidacy of doctor Jorge Melendez Barron to the position as CISS Secretary General for the triennium 2002-2004. The entire Executive Commission approved the candidacy proposed, to be presented before the XIX CISS General Assembly.

As there were no further matters, the entire Executive Commission of the CPISS requested to be laid down in the present minutes that it was approved the Report of the Secretary General of the Inter-American Conference of Social Security, ratifying the approval of all the proposals included in it, because they agreed on its contents.

As a result of this, and once read the present minutes, it is approved in its terms for all its members, and doctor Jorge Melendez Barron is authorized, with the character that he holds and that is made formal in this act, for him to turn to the notary public of his choice to carry out the procedures of its registration, concluding the meeting at nine hours with twenty minutes of the day of its date, authorizing it for its signing doctor Jorge Melendez Barron, in his character as Secretary General of the Inter-American Conference of Social Security. -----

DR. JORGE MELENDEZ BARRON
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE INTER-AMERICAN
CONFERENCE OF SOCIAL SECURITY