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Conferencia Interamericana de Seguridad Social
Inter-American Conference on Social Security

6 November 2015

English – Original in Spanish

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Minutes of the IV Extraordinary General Assembly

São Paulo, Brazil

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Minutes of the IV Inter-American Conference on Social Security (CISS) General Extraordinary Assembly held 6 November 2015 in the city of São Paulo, Brazil.

In the city of São Paulo, Brazil, at 4:00 PM on 6 November 2015, on the premises of the **Hotel Panamby Sao Paulo Convention Center**, the following individuals met in order to hold the Ordinary Meeting of the Permanent Commission of the Inter-American Conference on Social Security (CISS): Dr. José Antonio González Anaya, President; Mr. Reginald Thomas, Vicepresident for 2014; Mr. Benedito Adalberto Brunca, Vicepresident for 2016; Mr. Christian Cruz Rodríguez, Representative of the Andean Subregion I; Mr. Federico Borrayo Pérez, Representative of the Central American Subregion II; Dr. Benigno López as Representative of the Southern Cone Subregion III; Ms. Janice Jean-Jacques Thomas, Representative of the English-speaking Caribbean Subregion IV; Ms. Bárbara Mercedes López Casanova, Representative of Mexico and the Spanish-speaking Caribbean Subregion V; Dr. Néstor Ricardo Rodríguez Ardila as Representative of Associate Members; Jorge Isaac DøAngelo of the Asociación Mutual de los Agentes de los Organismos para la Tercera Edad (on behalf of Asociación Nacional de Seguro Social de Argentina [see *Appendix I*]); Edwin Marcelino Jacobs of Arubaø Sociale Verzekeringbank; Williamae McKay of the National Insurance Board de Bahamas; Benedito Adalberto Brunca of Brazilø Ministry of Labor and Social Well-Being; Nancy Milroy-Swainson of Employment and Social Development Canada; Julia Urquieta Olivares of Chileø Ministerio del Trabajo y Previsión Social; José Luis Loria Chaves and Jaime Barrantes Espinoza of Costa Ricaø Caja Costarricense del Seguro Social; Víctor Julio Valverde Moya of Costa Ricaø Junta de Pensiones y Jubilaciones del Magisterio Nacional; Gilberth Díaz Vázquez of Sindicato de Trabajadoras y Trabajadores de la Educación Costarricense; Janice Jean-Jacques Thomas of Dominica Social Security; Ricardo Cea Rouanet of Instituto Salvadoreño de Seguridad Social; Jose Luis Valladares Guifarro Instituto de Previsión Social del Profesional del Derecho de Honduras; Héctor Navarro Vargas of Mexicoø Instituto de Seguridad y Servicios Sociales de los Trabajadores al Servicio del Estado (ISSSTE); Rubén Darío López of Caja de Seguro Social de Panamá; Benigno López Benitez of Paraguayø Instituto de Previsión Social;

Francisco Aristy de Castro of the Dominican Republic's Superintendencia de Salud y Riesgos Laborales; Gustavo Weare of Uruguay's Caja de Jubilaciones y Pensiones Bancarias; Richarde Graham of the US Social Security Administration; Mr. Nicolás Starck Aguilera, Comptroller; Mr. Leonel Flores Sosa, Director of the CIESS and Mr. Juan Lozano Tovar, Secretary General of the CISS.

Having the floor, CISS Secretary General Juan Lozano, serving as Technical Secretary of the Assembly, welcomed those in attendance and stated that the session would be brief, whereas it was an Extraordinary General Assembly convened for the sole purpose of the single item on the agenda.

He then stated that the President had requested two announcements be made at the beginning of the work session. The first indicated that all present possessed a green book which constituted the first in a series of publications which would be delivered to the membership, adding that publication did not constitute a monthly, quarterly or biannual publication, per se. Instead, it will be published on an as-needed basis as more articles were selected and prepared for publication.

He stated that at this time these are the papers which have been published and that others were on deck and ready to be published. Forty such studies have been submitted to the CISS and comprised a body of work which was extremely well executed on a variety of topics within the field of social security. Though all constituted a significant contribution, the editorial review board was seeking out those which focused on the issue of preemptive economics, in line with the current agenda at the conference. The first edition comprises the initial publication in an entire series which would be available to the membership in a printed format as well as an online edition on the conference Web portal.

Secondly, the Permanent Committee session involved a review of progress made on the headquarters renovation project. Our headquarters site in Mexico City is well known to some of those present here today. Many have visited the site in years past and others

fairly recently. Still others have visited during the last 2 to 3 years, during which time the site has undergone a major renovation project which we have outlined in great detail before the Permanent Committee today. President Gonzalez has requested that the video which illustrates the evolution of the aforementioned renovation be shown here today, whereas words alone fall short of what has been achieved. He wished to begin the Extraordinary Assembly with a screening of the video.

[Screening of headquarters-site renovation video.]

Secretary Lozano thanks all in attendance and yielded the floor to the president who formally initiated the session.

President Gonzalez thanked all in attendance and, having the floor, stated that everyone who had not yet seen the progress made thus far on the headquarters site renovation should definitely take the opportunity to see for themselves what has been achieved. He stated that it was truly amazing and definitely merited seeing in person.

1. Quorum verification

Having the floor, President Gonzalez formally welcome all in attendance to the **IV Inter-American Conference on Social Security Extraordinary General Assembly**. He thanked the host country Brazil and its Ministry of Labor and Social Well-Being for facilitating the sessions in São Paulo.

In order to formally initiate the session, In order to formally initiate the meeting, the President of the Extraordinary General Assembly requested that Juan Lozano, CISS Secretary General and Technical Secretary of the session, verify the quorum necessary for the meeting (CISS/AGE/A/1/2015).

Secretary Lozano responded that, in accordance with Article 32° and Article 40° of the General Assembly Regulations, it was requested that the General Assembly allow in absentia voting to occur.

President Gonzalez thanked Secretary Lozano and requested that the General Assembly allow in absentia voting to occur.

The request was approved unanimously through a vote.

Having the floor, Secretary Lozano stated: President Gonzalez, in accordance with the list of attendees which I have in my power and as per the correspondence (CISS/AGE/A/1.1/2015) prepared in accordance with Title XV, Article 55° of the Conference Bylaws, as well as Article 22° and Title VIII, Article 32° of the General Assembly Regulations, a quorum does in fact exist.

Having the floor, President Gonzalez proceeded to read the Order of the Day included in the Call to Meet emitted 21 September 2015, requesting those present approve same:

1. Quorum verification
2. CISS Bylaws and Regulations reform
3. Date and venue of the next Ordinary General Assembly

President Gonzalez asked whether anyone wish to comment on the Order of the Day.

Receiving no comments, he put forth the following resolution to the assembly:

Resolution No. 1 The IV Inter-American Conference on Social Security Extraordinary General Assembly hereby approves the Order of the Day.

President Gonzalez then yielded the floor to Secretary Lozano in order that he might present the CISS Bylaws and Regulations reform draft.

2. CISS Bylaws and Regulations reform

Having the floor, Secretary Lozano stated: President Gonzalez, members of the Permanent Committee, esteemed members of the Commissions (CASS), Subregions and all others in attendance here today, thank you for attending this session of the General Assembly.

I wish to state that, in accordance with the mandate of the General Assembly held in El Salvador in 2013, nearly 2 years ago, we have fully reviewed the legal framework of our conference. This process was ratified and reviewed during the Permanent Committee session held a year ago in Baltimore. At said session, it was decided to establish a Review Commission charged with analyzing the draft reforms put forth by the General Secretariat as well as the CIESS executive leadership. As a result, the General Secretariat and CIESS executive leadership initiated a process of dialogue and reform drafting which comprised several months in concluded in a draft which received unanimous support. As a result, the draft is neither a General Secretariat nor CIESS document; rather, it is a jointly prepared, jointly drafted document which was then presented to our Review Commission.

Said draft was then delivered to all of you present here today in the days leading up to this General Extraordinary Assembly. It was then presented for review by the Review Commission comprised of our conference vice presidents and members of the Permanent Committee. The Review Commission met two days ago here in São Paulo, Brazil and approved the jointly-drafted reform submitted to it by the CIESS executive leadership and the General Secretariat.

At the behest of the Andean Subregion representative, the Review Commission proceeded to modify the text which had been submitted. This allowed us to further strengthen measures within said document regarding transparency and control of administrative processes at the CIESS as well as the general secretariat. This revised

draft was then accepted and approved by the Review Commission by unanimous vote. In consequence, the two articles comprising the final document were modified and comprise the reform put before you today for your consideration.

How might we characterize the reform proposal? It seeks to expressly delineate the basis on which our Inter-American Center for Social Security Studies acts autonomously in terms of its academic and administrative management systems. The primary principle involved here involves the fact that, in order for academia to realize its fullest potential, it requires an extremely high degree of autonomy in the classroom. This, in turn, translates into freedom of expression and guarantees that individuals speak with absolute clarity and freedom from institutional critiques. Additionally, the reform proposal includes a measure to update the administrative framework in terms of the General Secretariat and CIESS administrative procedures and organizational chart in order to ensure that the regulatory framework more accurately reflects the reality on the ground.

In summary, the reform package addresses to aspects. First, a measure to clearly delineate the autonomy which the CIESS possesses. And secondly, update our administrative processes and procedures with an eye to increasing the transparency with which our institution and finances are managed. As a result, President González, these are in the interests of time the proposals which comprise the reform package placed before the members of the General Assembly here today.

Having the floor, President Gonzalez inquired as to whether anyone wish to comment and, receiving no comments, put forth the following resolution to the assembly:

Resolution No. 2 The General Assembly, in accordance with Item j), Article 12° and Article 57° of the Bylaws, as well as Article 39° and Article 40° of the General Assembly Regulations, hereby receives the opinion submitted by the CISS Bylaws and Regulations Review Commission (CISS/AGE/A/2/2015). The General Assembly hereby approves the Bylaws and Regulations reform presented and takes into account the reforms included in said opinion regarding Item j),

Article 12° and Item j), Article 16° of the Bylaws, as well as Title X of Article 38° of the General Assembly Regulations.

The resolution passed unanimously.

Having the floor, President Gonzalez then requested that Secretary Lozano address the issue of the date and venue of the next General Assembly.

Secretary Lozano stated the following: President Gonzalez, at the beginning of the strategy session which we held yesterday, thanks to the generosity of the government of Brazil, you stated that Mexico City would be an excellent site for our next General Assembly, an issue which we just addressed during the Permanent Committee session but a few moments ago.

The Permanent Committee approved the suggestion that we put before the Extraordinary General Assembly the fact that we wish to host the next Ordinary Assembly in Mexico. Although we did not set a specific date for saying, the Permanent Committee did resolve that said session would be held in the second half of 2016; which is to say, during that time period comprising the end of August and most probably be for October, on a date which best suits our agenda and the ability of our membership to travel. As a result, we submit to your consideration these two aspects: the first is that the event be held in Mexico in order to provide an opportunity to the membership to see for themselves the progress made on the headquarters site renovation project; and secondly, that said General Assembly be held during the second half of 2016.

President Gonzalez then inquired as to whether anyone wished to comment on the issue.

Statement by Rubén Darío López of Panama's *Caja de Seguro Social*:

Good afternoon, everyone. President Gonzalez, Secretary Lozano, members on the dais. I had wished to share a suggestion from the General Directorate of the Panamanian Social

Security Fund (*Caja de Seguro Social*). Whereas we were under the impression that the proposal of the venue was to be made in the General Assembly, and in light of the fact that next year, Panama will celebrate the fact that every nation within the Americas has had a social security entity for 75 years, and as we were unaware that the venue was approved in the Permanent Committee session, we were planning to put forth a proposal. Whereas Panama does not have a seat on the Permanent Committee, we were unaware of a site having been chosen. We clearly support Mexico as has been chosen as the next site during the Permanent Committee, but we suggest that future the decision be made in the General Assembly in order that everyone might participate in the process. I will advise the director of our institution of the situation and we back the measure passed in the Permanent Committee session, but I wish to clarify that obviously the Director General had instructed me to make it known that Panama wish to offer itself as a host site for the next General Assembly.

Having the floor, Secretary Lozano thanked the representative from Panama and stated that the first thing an individual should do upon receiving an invitation was to think the other party for the invitation. He then explained that the reason such affairs were resolved in the Permanent Committee session was, firstly, due to the fact that the legal framework of the conference dictated that the issue be resolved in said manner. He stated that a final decision was not necessarily made within the Permanent Committee and that the issue was being tabled in the General Assembly. In order to address same, Secretary Lozano proposed that the motion from the gentleman from Panama be considered and received with gratitude. He then reminded the assembly that Panama had served as the host site but two assemblies prior to the assembly currently being held. He added that, given the normal planning sequencing, Panama might be up for another opportunity to host an event before such time as all other nations had had an opportunity to host an assembly. This would allow all of the member states to have an opportunity to participate in the decision-making process, and not solely Mexico.

Secretary Lozano then stated: President Gonzalez, with your permission and that of the members in this General Assembly, I wish to propose to this assembly that it hold the

first assembly following 2016 as an extraordinary assembly, and that if there is a need or it is ordinarily required at a later date and that if Panama is considered a candidate for such an event and doubtless it is something which will be attractive for two reasons, because it is always encouraging to have proactive members, as was the case with Brazil, who has opened their nation and hearts. It is also very encouraging to consider hosting the site in Panama because it is an amazing nation and I know everyone here would love to visit it. Therefore, I suggest, President Gonzalez, that we submit to the consideration of the assembly that as we consider the venue for the 2016 event in Mexico and beyond, that we take into account Panama and that said strategy should in no way exclude the possibility of another member putting forth another option which could be discussed here and possibly voted on in the Permanent Committee as well as the assembly.

President Gonzalez stated that he was in full agreement with Secretary Lozano on this point.

Statement by Leonel Flores, CIESS Director:

President Gonzalez, Secretary Lozano, Inter-American Conference on Social Security, I wish to make it known that I offer my support to Panama in their effort to celebrate the 75th anniversary of social security and that our entity can arrange the organization of an event which they might host, in order that the opportunity to host a social security event in Panama might not be lost. The CIESS, President Anaya and Secretary Lozano, is willing to collaborate on an event in Panama.

President Gonzalez stated the following: I think that what we were lacking here was someone to fall on their sword. It seems that we have several individuals ready to volunteer, so we are all set. I wish to thank the Social Security Fund of Panama for its kind offer which we will take under consideration. We can also follow up on Secretary Lozano's suggestion and consider an event following the General Assembly to be held in 2016, for example an extraordinary assembly or the like, in Panama in order to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Social Security Fund of Panama.

I don't know whether anyone else has something to add here, but in order to comply with our procedure, if no one has further comments, I hereby put forth to the members of the General Assembly, the following resolution:

Resolution No. 3 The members of the General Assembly hereby resolved that the next ordinary session of the General Assembly shall be held in Mexico at the headquarters site of this Conference during the second half of 2016 in accordance with Article 5 of the General Assembly Regulations and that the offer by Panama denoted in the minutes and that it be taken into account for consideration as a host site for an upcoming assembly or a possible Extraordinary Assembly within the framework of its anniversary or another CISS event aimed at celebrating the 75th anniversary of the *Caja de Seguridad Social de Panamá*.

The resolution was passed unanimously by the members of the General Assembly.

Lastly, and having address the last item on the agenda, I wish to make known to all of you in the General Assembly some news which may be somewhat bittersweet. The Technical Council of the IMSS, which is a tripartite body, composed of employers, workers and government officials, appointed Secretary Lozano to lead the IMSS *Dirección de Prestaciones Económicas y Sociales* (Directorate of Economic and Social Benefits). It is a very crucial position in Mexico which involves administering the payment of every pension in Mexico, be they old age or disability. You will also be in charge of the social benefits provided by the IMSS, which are many fold. Possibly the most important service provided is the childcare branch, but we are also responsible for vacation centers, sports facilities, theaters and other such assets which provide services to over 60,000,000 stakeholders in Mexico.

I feel the loss as much as any other member of the CISS, but Secretary Lozano will continue to have extremely close ties with the Conference. The IMSS is happy to ensure that this productive dynamic continues. Secretary Lozano accepted the appointment by

the Technical Council, which will take effect 16 November 2015. During the Permanent Committee session, it was announced that Juan Lozano would be stepping down as Secretary General as of said date. Secretary Lozano was thanked for his service and Víctor González Córdova, our Coordinator for Financial and Administrative Affairs, was appointed to announce a candidate which would be put forth to the Permanent Committee as acting secretary general for the period comprising the remainder of Secretary Lozano's administration which ends in 2016.

I wish to congratulate Secretary Lozano and thank him for all of his work on behalf of the conference. Should those in attendance wish to applaud his efforts, please do so now. The video which we just watched is proof positive of what he has achieved here at the Inter-American Conference on Social Security and is an excellent example of the entire spectrum of endeavors which we have accomplished under his leadership. In the Ordinary Assembly he will be presenting a report, which although I am unaware if it is included in your folders, demonstrates all that has been achieved during his administration. We have formalized collaboration agreements with very important entities throughout the world which have served to strengthen the CISS footprint in the world. His work has gone beyond the simple signing of agreements. The work which has been done with entities such as the IDB, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and an entire series of entities with which the Conference has strengthened ties has served to make our organization more up to date, stronger and more relevant than ever in the field of social security.

The innovation we have achieved thanks to his time at the helm and I don't wish to involve myself in any overkill here, because that is not why we are here today in this Assembly or speak for themselves. At the assembly we have witnessed a series of panels on the issue of preemptive economics which has truly served to push our agenda further and a great deal of innovative thinking and strategies has been the result. I truly hope that these will be employed during his time as Director of Economic Benefits at the IMSS. Ensuring that the principles of Preemptive Economics are instilled into the IMSS is critical. As we say, jokingly, it is better to PREVENIMSS than deal with diabetIMSS.

As a result, I feel that this appointment is of no small import and I wish to thank Secretary Lozano for all of his efforts on behalf of our organization. I also wish to ensure that we will be putting forth a candidate who will have to fill some very large shoes in order to ensure we maintain the inertia begun in Secretary Lozano's administration continues throughout the entire period remaining for our future secretary general and CIESS Director Flores. We will be looking for a candidate who can help us do a better job in terms of providing better healthcare and better pensions; although better pensions will suffice for now. I wish to thank you all for attending today and if there is no further comment, we can consider that all the items on the agenda of the General Assembly have been addressed and that, it being 4:50 PM on 6 November 2015, I hereby conclude the IV Extraordinary General Assembly of the Inter-American Conference on Social Security.

I wish to mention that the concomitant minutes will be delivered to the membership for their review. I truly hope that your trip here has been time well spent. Given the fact that we had a fairly small number of items on the agenda at this particular General Assembly we have attempted to provide entire series of activities which I believe have been relevant to our mission in which will provide a great deal of food for thought in the days ahead as we lay out our new trajectory.

Thank you very much and good evening, please enjoy Brazil. Thank you very much to our host nation.

Secretary Lozano stated that he wished to deliver an important message in closing: we wish to provide everyone here today with a lithograph of the mural entitled *Transformación*. They are signed by the author and it is a piece of art of which we are extremely proud. It is very beautiful and whereas each of you travels all the way to Brazil, we wish to present you with a lithograph. Thank you and we appreciate your having attended.