

Original: Spanish

## **INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL SECURITY**

### **Cancun Declaration: 75th Anniversary**

#### **Strengthening Social Security and Protection as an inclusive mechanism to address the challenges of the fourth industrial revolution.**

We, the institutions that comprise the Inter-American Conference on Social Security (CISS) came together in Cancún, Quintana Roo, Mexico, on April 19 and 20, 2018 to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of the agency, to strengthen our permanent cooperation ties, and to reaffirm our commitment to the ideals of Social Security and Protection in the Americas.

*We reassert the fact that Social Security and Protection have played a critical role in the development of our countries by providing protection for income and health to millions of people, thus meeting imperative needs of society.*

*We state that, in addressing the new challenges and opportunities for Social Security and Protection — the demographic changes, the epidemiological transition, occupational risks, automation, and the changing nature of employment, among others — the members of the CISS wish to reaffirm our commitment to strengthening Social Security and Protection, and the Conference itself, as a privileged space for dialogue, collaboration, and collective action.*

*We confirm that this commitment is derived from the enduring values that have inspired Social Security and Protection in the region, based on the purpose of achieving a better quality of life and greater progress of science and technology.*

*We are committed to bringing a renewed dynamism to our participation in the CISS to strengthen its most important functions: promoting and disseminating the principles set out in this Declaration and the implementation of the best practices; promoting cooperation among its members, and creating the knowledge and the tools required to improve Social Security and Protection.*

*We are also convinced that we will build the future of CISS based on the values, principles, experience, best practices, and lessons learned — all concepts that have been developed over its long history and tradition — to continue significantly strengthening the well-being of people, societies, and their contribution to their communities in the coming decades.*

### **A history of hemispheric cooperation:**

1. The Inter-American Conference on Social Security has had a remarkable performance in the construction and development of Social Security and Protection in the Americas thanks to the contributions of the countries and institutions in the Continent, which, driven by the solidarity ties established to address the major problems facing our society, have provided a more humane and integrating meaning to the concept of Social Security.
2. For the first time, in 1943, the CISS established goal of making Social Security and Health universal rights, which was adopted five years later in Article 22 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
3. Among other important contributions throughout the history of the Conference, in 1951 it resolved "To call upon the United Nations to include the urgent need for an international declaration of the rights of the elderly in the Economic and Social Council Agenda," setting a precedent for the current International Convention on the Rights of Older Persons.
4. Notably, among its most consequential actions is the creation, in 1963, of the Inter-American Center for Social Security Studies (CIESS), which has become a key instrument to carry through cooperation initiatives among member countries and institutions, and which has undertaken significant activities over the course of its history for the training of professionally qualified personnel on the various areas of Social Security all over the Americas through educational programs for continuous and relevant training.
5. Furthermore, in pursuance of the "Declaration of Santo Domingo" adopted in the 20th General Assembly in 2004, the CISS has persistently worked in promoting cooperation among its members to achieve the "objective of universal coverage through the gradual inclusion of not yet covered population groups."
6. Also, the CISS has supported and promoted social protection for migrant workers in pursuance of the principle of equality of treatment for national and foreign workers, and of the 2008 Declaration of Santiago de Chile, signed in the context of the Inter-regional Joint Meeting "Social Security without Borders," which was carried out jointly with the International Social Security Association (ISSA) and the Ibero-American Social Security Organization (OISS).

Considering its development and contributions throughout this 75 years of existence, and bearing in mind the major challenges that will be faced by Social Security and Protection in the coming decades, we, the members of the Inter-American Conference on Social Security,

**Declare that:**

Social Security and Protection are driven by principles that constitute the cornerstone for the formulation and implementation of its social policies to ensure the well-being of society.

Social Security is a human right that every member of society should be able to access and a *sine qua non* for the achievement of social cohesion and justice. It is also a powerful tool to reduce poverty, channeling major investments into social and human development.

We endorse the principles that guide Social Security and enable, with a shared responsibility approach, the adaptation of its policies to address the current challenges.

- The principle of **Solidarity** as an expression of mutual support, relying on the existing capacities to address needs and achieve common goals and interests.
- The principle of **Universality**, which reflects the aspiration towards ensuring that all people are covered with effective access to all nations in the continent.
- The principle of **Participation**, promoting the idea that all members of society should become involved in the definition, strengthening and management of Social Security and Protection.
- The principle of **Equality of Treatment**, establishing that those who are integrated into the system will be treated on equal terms against any contingency.
- The principle of **Comprehensiveness**, aiming to address the whole range of identified social needs with protection initiatives.
- We also recognize the need to promote a **Joint** Responsibility Approach as a mechanism to ensure progress and adaptation in the fulfilment of the principles of any Social Security and Protection system, calling for the participation of everyone — government, institutions, employers, workers and beneficiaries — and the awareness that every right entails the fulfilment of obligations for its full realization.

Reaffirming our commitment to building a vision of the future to adopt Social Security and Protection as an instrument to ensure people's well-being, especially that of the most vulnerable. We agree that the Conference will undertake efforts aimed at implementing an **Action Plan** comprising the following objectives:

1. Develop a **2030 Action Program** including the necessary actions for its implementation, defining the challenges we are currently facing and the actions to address them, and establishing the objectives and goals based on the scenarios, trends and needs that Social Security and Protection will have to face in the coming years.
2. Define **measurement and monitoring mechanisms** with strategic, focused and operating objectives so that they are presented and approved in the next Assembly.
3. Promote spaces for discussion through **Forums and high-level Dialogues to** foster and strengthen technical-political dialogue among CISS members and with global players through the organization of forums on priority issues for the formulation of new Social Security policies.
4. Assess the model of the CISS in **terms of Capacity Building** to be able to address the emerging critical challenges, aiming to adapt its proposals to the most pressing needs of the membership and propose new initiatives, strategies and best practices to facilitate the shift towards the Social Security and Protection required in the 21st century.
5. Develop a proposal to strengthen **Hemispheric Cooperation** through the creation of Regional Offices of the CISS.

Finally, we encourage the realization of coordinated and inclusive actions to develop a platform with an Integrated Information System under a common conceptual framework on Social Security and Protection, with data, documents and technical evaluations from institutions and countries to improve decision-making, facilitate public policy design, contribute to the implementation of new programs, report on progress and developments, and provide useful and relevant elements for institutions and agencies to be able to address the challenges of Social Security and Protection.

Thus, the Inter-American Conference on Social Security commits to ensuring that, based on our principles and on the fulfilment of the objectives established, any future actions will effectively respond to the challenges and the legitimate demands of our population.