

Declaration of the American social security principles.

"MEXICO DECLARATION".

The 6th Meeting of the Inter-American Conference on Social Security:

Recognises that since the constitution of the Conference, in Santiago de Chile in 1942, the development of social security in the Americas has made important progress that enables, with greater experiences, the definition of the principles that unite the action of those governments and institutions that are part of it, therefore:

A).- Considers that despite the strengthening of social security in the Americas, there are still difficult and persistent problems that hinder the struggle to overcome poverty, unhealthiness, disease, homelessness, ignorance, job instability, insufficiency of job opportunities, the unfair distribution of national income, the deficiencies of economic development and inequalities in the relationship of international exchange.

B).- Believes that the increasing efforts, gradually more and more positive, to strengthen economic development, raise living standards, expand and improve educational systems, guarantee the rights of workers, raise the purchasing power of their wages, the amount of their perceptions, the convenient use of natural resources, the increasing industrialization, increased production and productivity, the comprehensive measures applied to solve the extreme limitations of rural life, the internal and external markets expansion and the strengthening of democratic institutions enable us to state that the time has come to promote, more actively, general social security systems that ensure an ever-increasing well-being for the benefit of the American peoples.

C).- Renews its determination to contribute, to the extent of its possibilities, to achieving the purposes that, fundamentally, have been manifested in the principles approved in the several meetings of the International Labour Organization, stated in the Charter of the United Nations, the Charter of the World Health Organization, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Regional Conferences of American States members to the International Labour Organization, the Charter of the Organization of American States, the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, the Inter-American Charter of Social Guarantees, in those of the

International Social Security Association and in those of this Conference itself, in order for them to inspire the noble task of American social security.

D).- Reiterates that the decision of the American peoples is to achieve a dignified, free, sovereign life, created and strengthened by the value of their own efforts, in each man, in each people and in each nation, united to the power of solidarity that must be translated into a broader cooperation, to transform the current necessities into new yields of individual and collective well-being.

E).- Recognises that the work of each man must be guaranteed so that the legitimate product of his efforts is a factor of harmony and social peace within social justice, that ensures the American peoples an increasingly effective, more real and more operative, enjoyment of the material, moral and cultural assets that civilisation has created for its benefit.

F).- Eagerly considers that the subhuman circumstances of existence must be overcome in the most peremptory period; that prosperity must be shared; that situations of privilege must give way to a growing generalization of an authentic enjoyment of freedoms and rights and full compliance with individual and collective duties and obligations, so American peoples as a whole provide an example of what can be done when the conviction that poverty, wherever it exists, is a danger to the freedom of all men exists.

G).- Encourages new and firm ambitions to ensure that social security has more powerful means to expand its action and protection systems and to achieve access to a satisfactory level of existence for a greater sectors of the American population, in cities and rural areas, before the risks of unemployment, disease, disability, old age and death.

H).- Does not dismiss the economic difficulties and technical problems that arise in social security systems to increase and expand their benefits, and to protect more people, but acknowledges that the goal that inspires its work is to bring closer the date in which comprehensive security can be offered, for a total enjoyment of the American peoples and, to that struggle, it pledges to dedicate its most generous and effective efforts.

I).- Expects that it will be increasingly feasible, to the extent that the circumstances of each nation and each people allow, to expand the protection included in the traditional framework of classical insurance, in order to make social benefits more

important for the sake of children, youth, women and men, that increase the results of a more effective preparation, a more consistent capacity, a more useful work in the individual, family and collective sense, in order to prevent the risks before they take place, for the strengthening of the general conditions and the means to fight happily for life.

J).- Reiterates that democratic institutions constitute the most faithful expression of the character of the American peoples. The struggle they have had for their independence and for their freedom has strengthened them. They represent the true collective needs and, respecting the dignity of each person, strive regularly to solve them. To the old expression of political democracy other realities that constitute the term have been added: economic democracy, cultural democracy and democracy in the enjoyment of social security.

K).- Notes that peoples, nations and governments continue to endeavour to attain the principles of social justice and in order to achieve this, all efforts that tend to abolish, among other causes of insecurity, the state of fear before a new conflagration, under the essential assumption that the paths to peace will be clearer to the extent that peaceful resolution of conflicts is affirmed, and the ways of international cooperation are widened, respecting the law, sovereignty and independence of peoples must be encouraged.

By virtue of these consideration, the Conference

DECLARES:

That in accordance with the sphere of action of governments, the powers granted to them by their political constitutions and the competence of the institutions, social security entails:

- 1.- Guarantee that each human being will have sufficient means to satisfy his needs at a level appropriate to his dignity.
- 2.- Enable the enjoyment of the material, moral, cultural and social assets that civilisation has created for the benefit of man.

- 3.- Establish the necessary conditions so that each person and each people can live without fear, threats and mistrusts.
- 4.- Teach that nothing is achieved without one's own efforts and that the lack of compliance with the duties and obligations that justify the enjoyment of guarantees and rights is antisocial.
- 5.- Allow each man to perfect his own capacity, the performance of his efforts, the usefulness of his tasks, to obtain a healthy well-being for the benefit of his family, his community and his nation.
- 6.- Strengthen the real exercise of freedoms, through a systematic combat against poverty, ignorance, unhealthiness, necessity, abandonment and helplessness.
- 7.- Provide facilities for the vast majority to enjoy a healthy diet, decent housing, and their own clothing.
- 8.- Create the essential conditions to promote solidarity between men and between peoples in order to make it the most effective instrument of social security.
- 9.- Remark that prosperity must be indivisible and commonly shared as the single means to invigorate political democracy, economic democracy, and the enjoyment of social security.
- 10.- Contribute so that the distribution of national income is increasingly fair, according to the capacity of people, their individual and social responsibility and their contribution to collective well-being and so that its redistribution is conducted inspired by general satisfaction.
- 11.- Promote the constant increase in the living standards of the population, the consolidation of the economic, social and cultural wealth of each people.
- 12.- Guarantee each person the opportunity of a place in the field of production, with adequate remuneration for his individual and family requirements.
- 13.- Sponsor and promote the knowledge and enjoyment of cultural values and healthy recreation.

14.- Constitute an effective protection against risks, preventing as much as possible and fight with the best resources against disease, disability, unemployment and underemployment; protect motherhood, family status, the course of old age and the needs created by death.

15.- Initiate, develop and expand family and social benefits in favour of individual, family and community.

16.- Encourage the awareness of cooperation, mutual aid, and solidarity for the tasks that the development of communities and peoples demands, and accentuate the action to transform rural life, make the work of the rural worker better remunerated; assist him in the contingencies of his work, in his illnesses and the risks of underemployment, unemployment, old age and death.

17.- Consequently, to the extent that political, economic and legal circumstances allow, expand the scope of action of social insurance towards a comprehensive conception of general security, encouraging new welfare factors that may be feasible to conduct, in an environment of social peace that allows constant progress towards the strengthening of social justice, ultimate destination of this Declaration.

Mexico City , 27 September, 1960.

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