

## **ACAPULCO DECLARATION RESOLUTION NUMBER 113**

The 16th General Assembly of the Inter-American Conference on Social Security, commemorating its Fiftieth Anniversary, meeting in the city of Acapulco from 19 to 21 November, 1992,

Reaffirming the commitment adopted in the Declaration of Santiago de Chile that gave origin to the Conference, in which it is proclaimed that each "country must create, maintain and increase the intellectual, moral and physical value of its active generations, prepare the way for future generations and sustain the generations eliminated from productive life. This is the sense of a social security conceived as an authentic and rational economy of human values "(1942).

Considering that the concerted action between social security organisations to support their development has enable them, in five decades, to guide the implementation, strengthening and development of their institutions, as well as to face the threats of their backwardness, contributing to its doctrine and implementation with the objective of making it the axis of social development policies and as an inalienable human right.

Recognising the validity of the basic principles of social security enshrined in its declarations, resolutions and recommendations, whose implementation claims for new commitments and efforts by the institutions of the countries of the continent.

DECLARES that:

First.- The principles of social security that provide it with a solid and unmistakable dimension as an instrument that supports social policy and conceives the protection of the population in the solidarity, universality, fairness and subsidiarity of the modern State, helping to achieve the ends of welfare and social integration.

Second.- Social protection, far from being diminished, must be increased with a view to fulfil its original objectives and mitigate those negative effects resulting from economic reconversion, especially to the most vulnerable groups of society, particularly women, disabled people, indigenous and tribal peoples and middle-income population that have suffered the greatest impact; as well as the importance of current social security programmes as a base and starting point for the establishment of safety nets that offer an answer to these groups.

Third.- Programmes aimed at providing health care to the inhabitants of a country and providing them with economic benefits to cover their basic needs constitute priority elements for development and, in consequence, must be part of any structural change

policy, not only in the transitional stage, but in future stages where the sustained growth of the economies is achieved.

Fourth.- The responsibility of the States in structuring social security programmes is essential, regardless of the policies and strategies chosen by each country, which will depend on their economic, demographic, political and social characteristics.

Fifth.- Since social security is an instrument at the service of social justice, its purposes, principles, organisation, and accomplishments must be widely disseminated so the American peoples develop a solid awareness of what it represents for their progress, security, and well-being.

Sixth.- With such a view, it is necessary to increase in education programmes at all levels the teaching of what social security is, does and means, as a determining factor in the comprehensive development of the American nations; all social sectors and especially social security institutions must participate co-responsibly in the conduction of these efforts.

Seventh.- Social security must have feasible financial and actuarial systems in the short, medium and long term, harmonized with the macroeconomic programmes of each country and whose resources must be primarily directed on achieving their social objectives, which will favour the compliance with development priorities.

Eighth.- Social security must develop mechanisms to expand its coverage both in the formal and in the non-structured sectors of the economy, mechanisms which must be designed based on the real needs of the groups to cover and whose priorities must be determined with their participation and be consistent with social assistance and solidarity programmes.

Ninth.- It maintains that for social security it is an imperative to achieve modern, efficient and transparent administration systems that convert into better benefits for the covered population and promote the trust of society, adding the efforts and wills of the public, private and social sectors.

Tenth.- It endorses that any reform, reorganisation and harmonization of social security with the economic development model that each country adopts, must be based on the consolidation of social security institutions and the management, supervision and control mechanisms that help to permanently increase their levels of efficiency and effectiveness for the benefit of the population.

By signing this Declaration, the social security institutions of the Americas are aware of the beginning of a new chapter, which will strengthen the links of solidarity between the countries of the Americas, in order to achieve the ideal of social security we all aspire to.

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