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**Conferencia Interamericana de Seguridad Social
Inter-American Conference on Social Security
Conferência Interamericana de Seguridade Social
29 September 2020**

English – Or. Spanish

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**Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Permanent Committee
of the Inter-American Conference on Social Security**

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MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL SECURITY, 2020

At 2:13 p.m. on September 29, 2020, with the purpose of holding the Extraordinary Meeting of the Permanent Committee of the Inter-American Conference on Social Security (CISS), the following members of the aforementioned body met virtually: Zoé Alejandro Robledo Aburto, General Director of the Mexican Institute of Social Security and Chairman of the CISS; José Bernardo Pineda Jurado, from the Guatemalan Social Security Institute and Deputy Chairman of the CISS for 2020; Manuel Di Benedictis, from the National Administration of Social Security of Argentina, on behalf of the Deputy Chairman of the CISS for 2021; Narlon Gutierrez Nogueira, from the Special Secretariat for Social Security and Labor of Brazil and Deputy Chairman of the CISS for 2022; Jorge Wated, from the Ecuadorian Institute of Social Security, and Representative of the Subregion I Andean; Vilma Morales Montalván, from the Honduran Institute of Social Security, and Representative of Subregion II Central America; Rogerio Nagamine Costanzi, on behalf of the Special Secretariat for Social Security and Labor of Brazil, and Representative of the Subregion III Southern Cone; Timothy Hodge, on behalf of the Social Security Board of Anguilla, and Representative of Subregion IV North America and the Anglo Caribbean, and Héctor Santana Suárez, from the Institute of Social Security and Services for State Workers, and Representative of Associate Members; as well as Leyla Acedo Ung, chief of staff of the General Secretariat of the CISS; Daisy Corrales Díaz, Director of the Inter-American Center for Social Security Studies (CIESS), and Eduard del Villar Liranzo, Comptroller of the Conference.

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Before starting the agenda items, Mr. Zoé Robledo Aburto thanked the Committee members for their participation, particularly given the urgency with which the session had been summoned.

Afterwards, the Chairman asked Leyla Acedo Ung, chief of Staff of the General Secretariat of the CISS and secretary of the Committee for this session, to carry out the verification of the quorum to formally start the meeting, in compliance with Article 16 of the Rules of the Permanent Committee. Consequently, the chief of staff indicated that there were nine members with the right to vote present, so there was a quorum to hold the meeting in accordance with articles 53 of the Statute of this Conference and 17 of the Rules of the Permanent Committee.

Once the quorum was confirmed, the Chairman read the agenda of the day, set as follows:

Agenda

1. Acknowledgment of the request for the absence of Dr. Gibrán Ramírez Reyes, Secretary-General of the Inter-American Conference on Social Security.
2. Proposal for the appointment of the Acting Secretary-General of the Inter-American Conference on Social Security.

Acknowledgement of the absence request of the Dr. Gibrán Ramírez Reyes, Secretary-General of the Inter-American Conference on Social Security

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The Chairman took the floor, reminding the Permanent Committee that in previous weeks the Secretary-General of the Conference sent communications to the Presidency of the CISS, in which he reported on the temporary absence from his official activities until October 8, due to various commitments of unavoidable fulfillment.

In that regard, the Chairman noted, the Committee should appoint an acting Secretary-General to hold that position during Gibrán Ramírez's absence period, adding that this was a matter of mere formality.

Mr. José Bernardo Pineda asked who, in the run-up to this absence, was standing in for the position of Secretary-General, to which the Chairman replied that there was no interim so the substitution would be designated during the session.

For his part, CISS comptroller Eduard del Villar indicated that Mr. Gibrán Ramírez had notified him of his unpaid leave, until October 8.

In the absence of further comments, the Chairman submitted to the Committee the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

Resolution No 1: The Permanent Committee, under the provisions of articles 16, subsection I) and 21, second paragraph of the Statute of the Conference, becomes aware of the request for the temporary absence of Dr. Gibrán Ramírez Reyes as Secretary-General of the Conference.

Proposal for the appointment of the Acting Secretary-General of the Inter-American Conference on Social Security.

Regarding this item on the agenda, the Chairman indicated that, in exercise of the provisions of article 21 of the Conference Statute, he proposed that Mr. Álvaro Velarca Hernández occupy the General Secretariat during the temporary absence of Mr. Ramirez.

Mr. Velarca, the Chairman said, had worked in different areas of the federal government both in Mexico and abroad. In the international arena, he was general director of the Colombian Branch of the Fondo de Cultura Económica, director of Acquisitions and Services Abroad of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and head of department of the Undersecretariat of International Trade Negotiations of the Ministry of Economy. Also, in the field of Security and Social Protection, he served as coordinator of Inter-institutional and International Monitoring and head of the Planning and Budget Division at the Mexican Institute of Social Security, as well as director of Operational Coordination of Public Insurance, among others. He was a consultant for international agencies such as the Inter-American Development Bank and the United Nations Development Programme.

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Mr. Velarca, the Chairman indicated, had worked in different areas of the federal government both in Mexico and abroad. In the international arena, he was general director of the Colombian Branch of the Fondo de Cultura Económica, director of Acquisitions and Services Abroad of the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs and head of department of the Undersecretariat of International Trade Negotiations of the Secretariat of Economy. In the field of Security and Social Protection, he served as Coordinator of Inter-institutional and International Monitoring and Head of the Planning and Budget Division at the Mexican Institute of Social Security, as well as Director of Operational Coordination of *Seguro Popular*, among others. He was a consultant on financial planning and budgeting issues for international organizations, such as the Inter-American Development Bank and the United Nations Development Program, as well as for the secretariats of Finance and Public Credit, Public Education, Agrarian, Territorial and Urban Development, Government, Environment, and CONEVAL, among others.

Mr. Velarca had a background and knowledge of both the CISS and the social security situation in our region, hence the Presidency considered that his appointment would allow to maintain fluidity in the work during the absence of Mr. Ramirez.

José Bernardo Pineda indicated that it was necessary to specify that the interim would be until October the 8th and asked if in case Mr. Ramírez required a new period, this process would be carried out again, to which the Chairman replied that we would be correcting the absence until it ceased to occur and indicated that, in the event of any modification, it would also be made known to the Committee.

Roxana Medina, from the Honduran Institute of Social Security, pointed out that understanding that the license was framed in the statute, in Article 21, second paragraph, there would be no objection to the interim proposal, understanding that the absence ended on October the 8th.

The Chairman also indicated that there had been two communications in which the original term had to be extended, so, by principle of order and even out of respect for the Committee, it should be considered that the internship would cover until the absence ended, whatever date it was, that is, leave the absence until it stopped occurring.

José Bernardo Pineda noted that he did not agree, and that the license should specify the date of October the 8th, indicating that, if something else would later be needed, it would simply be changed, without any need to leave the duration of the absence open.

In order to dispel doubts, the Chairman read out the draft resolution, as follows: "The Permanent Committee, in accordance with articles 16(l) and 21 of the Statute of the Conference appoints Mr. Alvaro Velarca Hernández as Acting Secretary-General of the Inter-American Conference on Social Security, in accordance with Resolution No. 11 adopted unanimously by the XXIX Ordinary General Assembly of September 20".

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The Chairman indicated that the project did not refer to the license, the license was considered known with the date indicated above.

Roxana Medina, supported the position of establishing the maximum date of October 8th as requested by Mr. Ramirez.

At the request of the Chairman, the Secretary prepared to take the vote on the resolution, although she indicated that the resolution should be read again to add what was requested by the Guatemalan and Honduran institutions. The Chairman pointed out that the foregoing was not necessary since the duration of the absence was not being voted on and, the Chairman added, the Committee had already been made aware of the termination date of the leave, while the second resolution was directed to account for the appointment of Mr. Alvaro.

In response, Roxana Medina requested the reading of the resolution once again, to which the Chairman agreed, giving the corresponding reading. The secretary indicated that if the proposed text were maintained it was possible to find an inconsistency in the wording, as it would imply that Mr. Alvaro Velarca was appointed by the Assembly Resolution, which was not correct.

In response, the Chairman requested the reading of Resolution 11 of the Assembly, the secretary of the Committee read it.

The Chairman indicated that said resolution established a mandate, whilst the Statute established exceptions to that mandate, such as a temporary absence. Expressing that this is the only reason why Resolution 11 was invoked, and pointing out that, if there was a problem with that part of the resolution, it could be omitted.

José Bernardo Pineda indicated that he would support Mr. Velarca's appointment, but requested that it be established that it was to the date that Mr. Gibrán Ramírez had indicated.

In response to this request, the Chairman proposed the following text for the respective resolution: "Mr. Álvaro Velarca Hernández is appointed as Acting Secretary-General of the Inter-American Conference on Social Security, for the term of Mr. Gibrán Ramírez's license." Also adding what is related to Resolution 11 of the General Assembly.

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Manuel di Benedictis indicated that this was a technical issue so it was not necessary to make clarification regarding the term of the license. The secretary indicated that she had a drafting proposal, it is as follows: "The Permanent Committee, in accordance with the provisions of Articles 16 subsection I) and 21 second paragraph of the Statute of the Conference, appoints Mr. Álvaro Velarca Hernández as Acting Secretary-General of the Inter-American Conference on Social Security, for the period of absence of Dr. Gibrán Ramírez Reyes, in accordance with the provisions of Resolution Number 11 adopted unanimously by the XXIX Ordinary General Assembly held on September 20, 2019 in Mexico City."

The Chairman agreed with the proposal and requested it to be submitted to vote; José Bernardo Pineda insisted, then, that the date should be included, since otherwise he would be obliged to vote against the resolution, highlighting this point later.

The resolution was put to a vote, being approved, as suggested by the secretary. However, given the diversity of opinions, it was suggested that the vote be carried out again nominally.

After a series of technical problems, it was decided that each member would vote expressly, using their voice, to which Roxana Medina requested that the draft resolution be read again, suggesting that it should be emphasized that it was a temporary absence. The Chairman thanked the observation and asked that it be included in the text of the resolution, requesting that it be read again:

Resolution No 2: The Permanent Committee, in accordance with the provisions of articles 16, paragraph I) and 21, second paragraph of the Statute of the Conference, appoints Mr. Alvaro Velarca Hernández as Acting Secretary-General of the Inter-American Conference on Social Security for the period of the temporary absence of Dr. Gibrán Ramírez Reyes, in accordance with the provisions of Resolution No. 11 unanimously adopted by the XXIX Ordinary General Assembly, held on September 20, 2019 in Mexico City.

Having requested an express roll call vote, the intention of the votes was as follows:

1. Chairman Zoé Robledo Aburto: In favor
2. José Bernardo Pineda: Against, since the decision does not mention the specific date requested by Mr. Gibrán Ramirez.
3. Manuel di Benedictis: In favor
4. Roxana Medina, on behalf of Vilma Morales: In favor
5. Timothy Hodge: In favor
6. Arturo Ríos, on behalf of Héctor Santana: In favor
7. Patricio Way, on behalf of Jorge Wated: In favor
8. Rogerio Nagamine Costanzi: In favor
9. Narlon Gutierre Nogueira: In favor

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The secretary then indicated that the resolution was adopted by 8 votes in favor and 1 against. The Chairman thanked the participation of the members of the Committee and welcomed Mr. Velarca as Acting Secretary-General of the Conference.

Once the entire agenda had been addressed, and since there was no other matter to be discussed, at 2:47 p.m. on September 29, 2020, the Chairman closed the Extraordinary Meeting of the Permanent Committee of the Inter-American Conference on Social Security, in accordance with article 17 of the Statute of the Conference .-----