

**DECLARATION ON THE OCCASION OF THE 80<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE ON  
SOCIAL SECURITY**

**DECLARATION No. 115**

**ON UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO EXERCISING THE FULL  
RIGHT TO SOCIAL SECURITY (RENEWAL OF THE  
COMMITMENT)**

**August, 2023**

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER AMERICAN CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL SECURITY, ON THE MEETING HELD ON \_\_\_\_\_, HEREBY ADOPTS THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:

The representatives of the institutions who are part of CISS (Inter American Conference on Social Security) gathered in Mexico City through September 05-09, 2022, for its XXX Ordinary General Assembly as part of the celebration of the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this international organization. During said meeting, a decision was made to subject the Draft Declaration for a consultation process.

Hence, members submitted their opinions and comments by means of their sub regional coordination areas and resulted in several adaptations to integrate the ideas and perspectives of all participating institutions.

### **Preamble**

We acknowledge the countries, institutions and founders of this organization as the entities who promoted an open and dynamic forum of equality among the members of this Conference to work in favor of American Social Security. Through its Declarations, technical bodies, publications, and the training that the Inter-American Center for Social Security Studies has provided to all its members since 1963, CISS has become a watershed in the extension of social security in our continent.

We recall that the First Declaration of CISS, approved in 1942 during the General Assembly held in Santiago, Republic of Chile, has paved the way of social security by means of the four axes that were proposed on that day: Social and Economic Security; Social Security, a Continental Program, and a Global Aspiration. All of which have aided the countries of the Americas to shape the nature of their corresponding social security policies in the spirit of service through their institutions.

In compliance with said mandates, CISS and its members have *constantly* worked to strengthen social security systems. However, we think that there are still great challenges for the countries of the Americas and, therefore, we reiterate the importance of promoting cooperation and exchanging experiences among social security institutions, as well as formulating declarations and recommendations on these topics; strengthening *technical and managerial institutional capabilities* by means of professional training and research *so as to consolidate social security in the Americas*.

In addition to the goals that created CISS, these challenges are also part of the goal to reduce the pressure on our social security systems caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, which became the greatest challenge registered in the history of the Conference.

Considering the above, and with the willingness to renovate and improve relationships among our nations, CISS institutions hereby issue the following resolution:

#### RESOLUTION NUMBER 115

**Whereas:**

1. Social security is a right recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; the *American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man*; the International American Bill of Social Guarantees; and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
2. Even with the great advances made in the region, the universal guarantee of the human right to social security continues to be a pending objective in the Americas;
3. The Conference and social security institutions should promote integrated societies, free from violence and discrimination and based on gender equality and equity. They must also design mechanisms to guarantee environments free of violence and discrimination inside and outside the workplace;
4. The social, demographic and economic structures of our nations, with their corresponding social risks, have evolved ever since the social security systems were first created and designed. The diversity and heterogeneity of new family structures require a continuous adaptation process in social security systems that can aid in visualizing and fully exercising the right to social security;
5. The right to social security includes the right to social insurance without being its only instrument, since there are also programs financed by general taxes, which can be either focalized or universal, or the schemes based on pension systems that are directly linked to formal employment or individual savings, among others, both of which are practical and useful;
6. There are population groups who are more exposed to some types of social risks because they are in situations that increase their vulnerability and, therefore, including them in social security systems must be a priority, and
7. The culture of social security is a central pillar for the integral development of societies. Education and training in social security promotes building a fairer, healthier and more inclusive society; guarantees the integrity and dignity of all persons; benefits entrepreneurship; stimulates a sense of collective wellbeing and creates a robust social fabric with adequate conditions for inclusion and prosperity.

In accordance with the aforementioned considerations, we hereby declare that:

- I. The universalization of Social Security guarantees that all persons can fully exercise their inherent human rights and, therefore:**
  - a) We must continue to promote social security systems based on the American Social Security Principles<sup>1</sup> that protect all persons in the societies of all countries in our continent, under the principles of solidarity, sufficiency, subsidiarity, resilience and transparency, all of which should be both viable and sustainable over time;
  - b) Expanding the coverage of social security systems must include all populations and all forms of work, paid or unpaid, throughout the life cycle;
  - c) The adequacy of the benefits granted by social security must be achieved through the coordination of different strategies and instruments, in addition to social security, and including those related to savings and cash transfer policies;
  - d) The legal frameworks of institutions who provide social security in each country must offer administrative processes that ensure equality and inclusion for all persons, considering the diversity and heterogeneity of new family structures and regardless of whether or not they have access to the benefits of social security by means of mechanisms financed through wage-based contributions or programs financed through general taxes, and
  - e) Specifically in terms of health, a prevention-oriented care system must be both implemented and strengthened along with comprehensive patient management to guarantee an adequate quality of life. Furthermore, primary care must also be strengthened and promoted as an element of health management and financial sufficiency to support comprehensive care for all populations.

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<sup>1</sup> Inter American Conference on Social Security (1960). Declaration on the American Social Security Principles, "Declaration of Mexico". Mexico.

**II. Inter-American Cooperation must be reoriented to safeguard the right to Social Security:**

- a) Promoting international cooperation, exchanging experiences and regional support are effective ways to overcome the challenges faced by the social security systems of each country, based on our shared interests and expectations, fully respecting our regional differences.
- b) The fragmentation of social security systems must be addressed to materialize rights within and between countries by means of cooperation mechanisms that envision interoperability, simplify regulations and formalities, encourage the using new technologies and contribute to achieve a safe, orderly and regular migration.
- c) Social security institutions must persevere in their efforts to improve with the support of technological innovations and applying them in an effective and efficient manner in all their processes to strengthen cooperation, expanded coverage, and quality, the continuity of their services, transparency and access to information.
- d) CISS must continue to be a key organization that promotes cooperation and benefits from experience so as to strengthen the capabilities of its member institutions.

**III. CISS institutions must be at the forefront of the new challenges of Social Security:**

- a) We must promote acknowledging care work as a human right and include it as a social security benefit. Therefore, we encourage establishing and consolidating integral care systems throughout the life cycle. The latter implies providing care work by means of public services and valuing and including persons who are engaged in this line of paid or unpaid work in social security systems.
- b) We must promote public policies for a comprehensive risk management that allows preventing, mitigating and contributing to the financial and social recovery of all persons when faced with dangerous phenomena such as the COVID-19 pandemic or other social and environmental risks.
- c) All institutions working for the benefit of social security must promote an optimal practice of actuarial operations by means of academic education, training and certification for all human resources who work in this field, so as to provide a scientific basis for the financial viability and sustainability of social security systems.

- d) Promoting the culture of social security in our continent is imperative for people to become aware of their value as contributors to social security systems and acknowledge the importance of the impact of benefits for the wellbeing of society. We must promote pension education activities for the general population, especially among children and young people, to create an early awareness about the importance of social security and achieve a sense of appreciation that can endure throughout the life cycle. All of these actions must be implemented considering the cultural relevance for each country.

We therefore **recommend:**

Establishing and ensuring the continuity of all strategies aimed at guaranteeing access to social security considering the matters established in this Declaration and addressing strengthening social security by means of adopting these postulates to execute Institutional Strategic Plans at short-, medium- and long-term.

We must center the development of social security on improving the quality of life of people in their corresponding contexts and sub regions. The strategies to achieve this must address the root causes exposed herein and, therefore, we commit ourselves to strive for the transformation of a social security in which all persons are included.