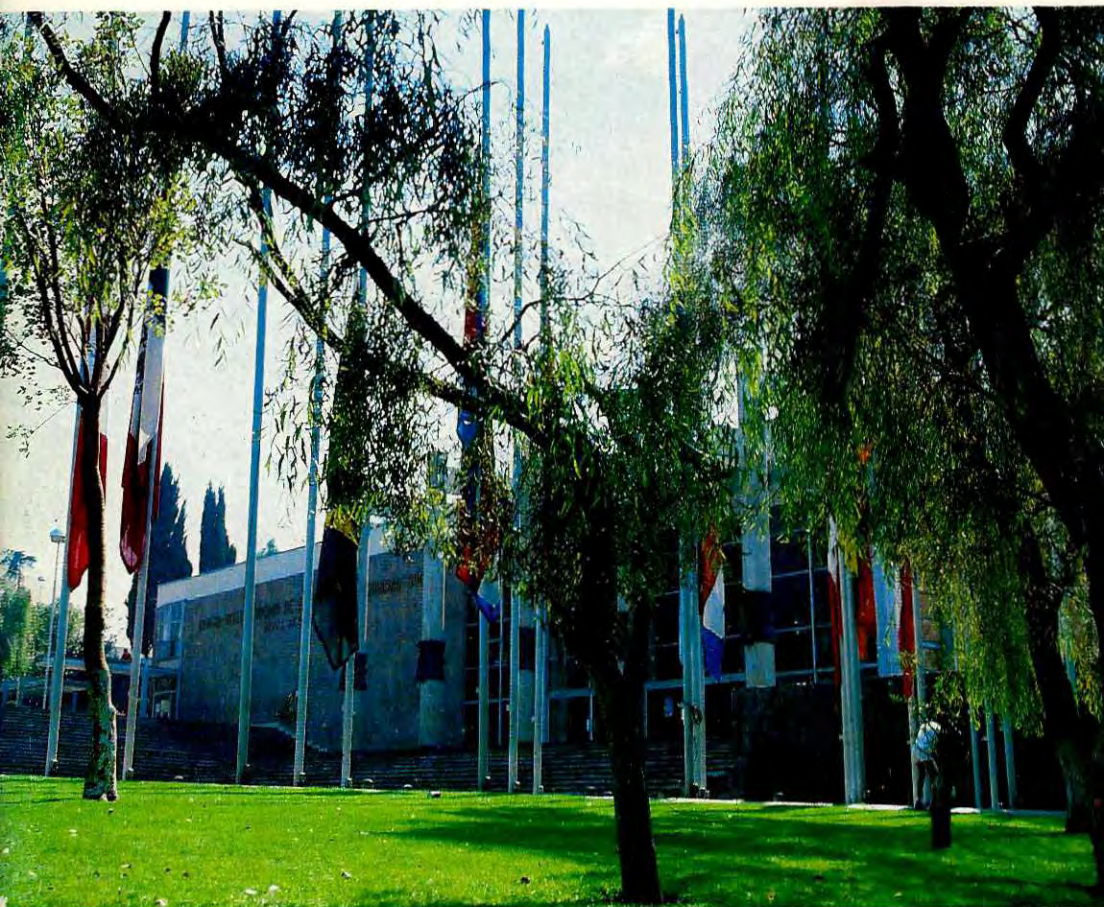


# INTER-AMERICAN SOCIAL SECURITY CONFERENCE



Background  
Objectives  
Structure  
Action Bodies

## **Conferencia Interamericana de Seguridad Social**



**Centro Interamericano de  
Estudios de Seguridad Social**

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# INTER-AMERICAN SOCIAL SECURITY CONFERENCE

Background  
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Action Bodies

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**INTER-AMERICAN SOCIAL SECURITY  
CONFERENCE**

The Inter-American Social Security Conference is a specialized international agency. It is permanent and its main objective is that of promoting social security in the American Continent, thrusting collaboration amongst the institutions and agencies that exist in the Americas.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Inter-American Social Security Conference was instituted in Santiago de Chile in 1942, as a result of the meeting held two years before in Lima, Peru, with the attendance of social security leaders in America on the occasion of the opening of the Worker's Hospital in Lima. With the support granted by the International Labor Office those leaders formed an International Committee of Initiatives in the Field of Social Security.

At present the Conference is formed by social security institutions of 21 countries of the Americas.

The Conference also keeps cooperation and coordination relations with international agencies, as the International Labor Office (I.L.O), the Pan-American Health Organization (P.A.H.O.), the Organization of American States (O.A.S.), the International Social Security Association (I.S.S.A.), and the Social Security Institutions of the Caribbean, Central America and Panama Association (A.I.S.S.C.C.A.P.), amongst others.

## **OBJECTIVES**

Pursuant to Section II of its By-laws, the Conference's objectives are as follows:

- a. To strive and contribute to the development of social security in the countries of the Americas, cooperating with national administrations and institutions.
- b. To adopt resolutions and formulate recommendations in the field of social security, to promote their dissemination so these will be addressed in national plans and programs.
- c. To thrust cooperation and exchange of experiences amongst institutions and national social security administrations as well as with other international agencies.
- d. To encourage and orient social security's manpower training, as well as to provide facilities to do it systematically and permanently.

e To collect and disseminate breakthroughs in social security systems, at the national and international levels, in legislative areas and managerial and funding techniques and publish appropriate studies.

## STRUCTURE

As set forth under Section V, Article 8 of the By-laws, the Conference has the following action bodies:

- The General Assembly, which is the deliberating and resolutions body;
- The Permanent Inter-American Committee on Social Security (PIACSS), which is the managerial and executive body; and
- The General Secretariat of the Permanent Inter-American Committee on Social Security, which is the administrative body;
- The American Social Security Commissions (ASSC) and the Inter-American Center for Social Security Studies (IACSSS), which are the technical support bodies.

These are all governed by the Conference's By-laws and their own regulations.

## OBJECTIVES

Pursuant to section II of its By-laws, the Conference's objectives are as follows:

a. To give and contribute to the development of social security in the countries of the Americas, cooperating with national administrations and institutions.

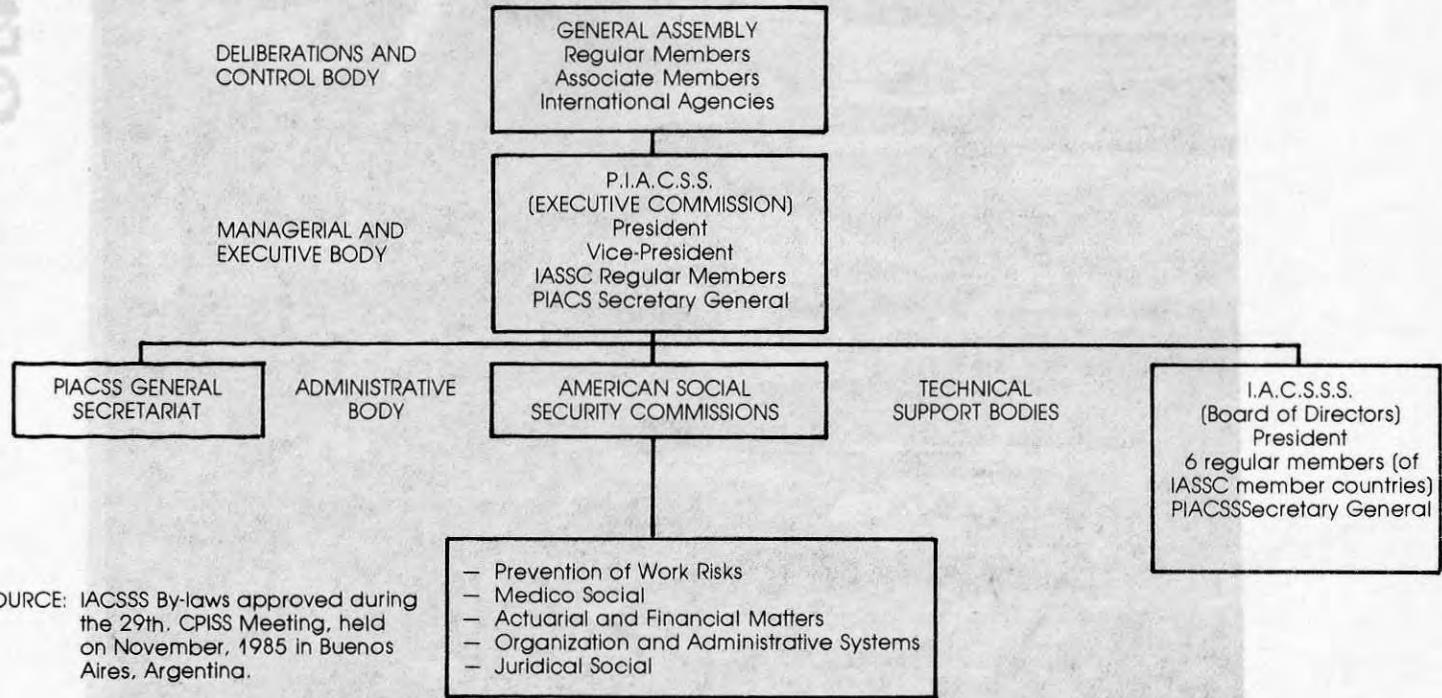
b. To adopt resolutions and formulate recommendations in the field of social security, to promote their dissemination so there will be progress in national plans and programs.

c. To foster cooperation and exchange of experience amongst institutions and national social-security administrators as well as with other international agencies.

d. To encourage and assist social security's manpower training as well as to provide facilities for its systematic and permanent

# INTER-AMERICAN SOCIAL SECURITY CONFERENCE

## Organizational Chart



SOURCE: IACSSS By-laws approved during the 29th. CPISS Meeting, held on November, 1985 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.





# GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly is the deliberating and resolutions body of the Inter-American Social Security Conference. It is made up of:

- Regular and associate member institutions;
- Permanent Committee's General Secretariat;
- The Inter-American Center for Social Security Studies' Director's Office;
- The American Social Security Commissions' Boards of Directors; and
- International agencies representatives.

The first General Assembly was held in Santiago de Chile from 10 to 16 September, 1942. Ever since, 13 Assemblies have been held in various countries of the Americas every three years at the invitation of one of its regular members.

The General Assembly is a debate and analysis forum for those topics that are of the interest of social security in the Continent.

Amongst its most important functions we should mention: the adoption of resolutions, statements and the formulation of recommendations regarding social security issues in the Americas, as well as to recommend reciprocal cooperation measures amongst its members and other international agencies interested in this field, in order to promote the thrust and development of social security in the countries of the Americas.



**PERMANENT INTER-AMERICAN  
COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SECURITY**

The Permanent Inter-American Committee on Social Security is the managerial and executive body of the Conference. It is made up by its regular members, i.e., the institutions accredited by each country of the Americas as the representatives of national social security institutions and by the General Secretariat as the managerial body.

In accordance with Articles 17 and 18 of the Inter-American Social Security Conference, the Committee will hold a regular meeting at least once a year in any country of the Americas.

Regular members of the Inter-American Social Security Conference and the Permanent Inter-American Committee on Social Security's General Secretariat shall be summoned to this meeting. Also associate members can be invited; the representatives of international agencies, the Board of Directors and the Director of the Inter-American Center for Social Security Studies, as well as the Chairmen of the American Social Security Commissions.

The functions of the Permanent Inter-American Committee on Social Security are, inter alia: to enforce the General Assemblies decisions, maintain the Conference's relations with its members and international agencies, as well as to summon meetings of the General Assembly, those of the Committee and American Social Security Commissions, setting the dates, venues and corresponding topics.

It is also the attribute of the Permanent Inter-American Committee on Social Security to appoint, amongst its members, the Executive Commission made up by one Chairman, one Vice-Chairman and four regular members in a way that will ascertain regional representation. The members of this Commission will be in office for a three-year period and may be re-elected.

The attributes of the Executive Commission are to assume the responsibilities of the Permanent Committee during the periods between meetings.



The Permanent Inter-American Committee on Social Security's General Secretariat is the administrative body of the Inter-American Social Security Conference. The Secretariat's headquarters are located in Mexico City.

It is made up of the Secretary General's Office, the General Coordination, the International Affairs Division, the Technical Advisory Services Division and the Administrative Unit.

The Secretary General is appointed by the Permanent Inter-American Committee on Social Security, at the proposal of the Chairman, for a three-year period and may be re-elected.

His functions are of administrative nature and amongst them we may mention the following:

- To take the necessary steps to enforce the General Assembly's resolutions and agreements of the Permanent Inter-American Committee on Social Security and its Executive Commission;
- To maintain relations between the Permanent Inter-American Committee on Social Security and institutions and international agencies;
- To coordinate relations between the Inter-American Center for Social Security Studies and the American Social Security Commissions;
- To organize events summoned by the Permanent Inter-American Committee on Social Security as assemblies, congresses, meetings, etc; and
- To publish periodic communications of the Permanent Committee and of the American Social Security Commissions, as well as the studies requested by the General Assembly and the Committee.

## **ACTION PROGRAM**

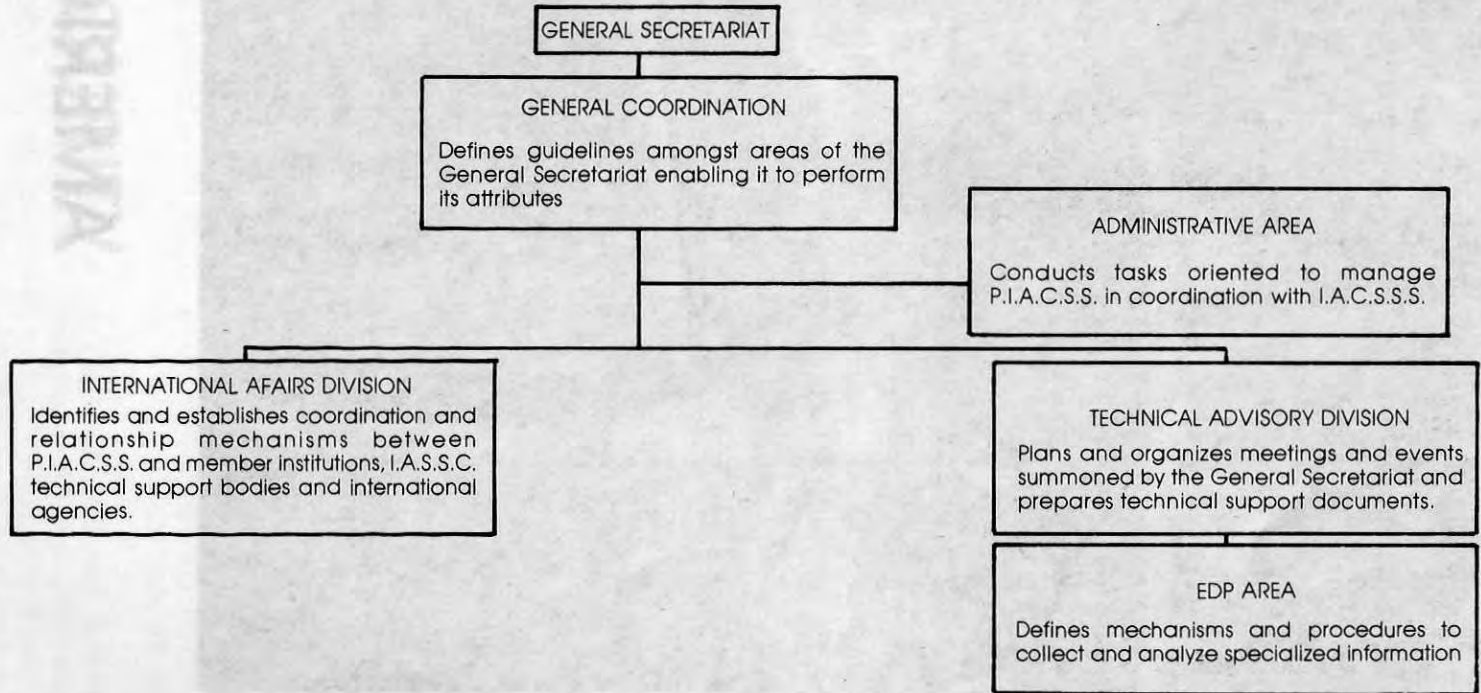
The Permanent Inter-American Committee on Social Security's General Secretariat's action program envisages a host of activities to meet the Conference's goals. Amongst them are:

1. The organization of regular and special meetings and events, summoned by the Inter-American Social Security Conference, to fulfill resolutions passed.
2. The Conference's Scope Expansion Program, whose purpose is the incorporation of social security institutions of countries in the American Region that do not participate in the Inter-American Social Security Conference.
3. Coordination and Cooperation with International Agencies Program, whose purpose is to encourage technical and EDP exchanges with other international agencies that undertake similar activities.
4. The Social Security Information System of the American Integration Program (SSISA) has the goal of establishing a data bank that will hold the social security universe's data of the Continent and provide computerized support for whatever specific end that may arise.
- 5.—The Dissemination Program, with the purpose of achieving greater dissemination of the Conference's objectives and strengthen the cooperation and exchange of experiences amongst institutions, through up-dated social security information. This is accomplished through "The Social Security Journal" and many technical documents as well as consultation references.

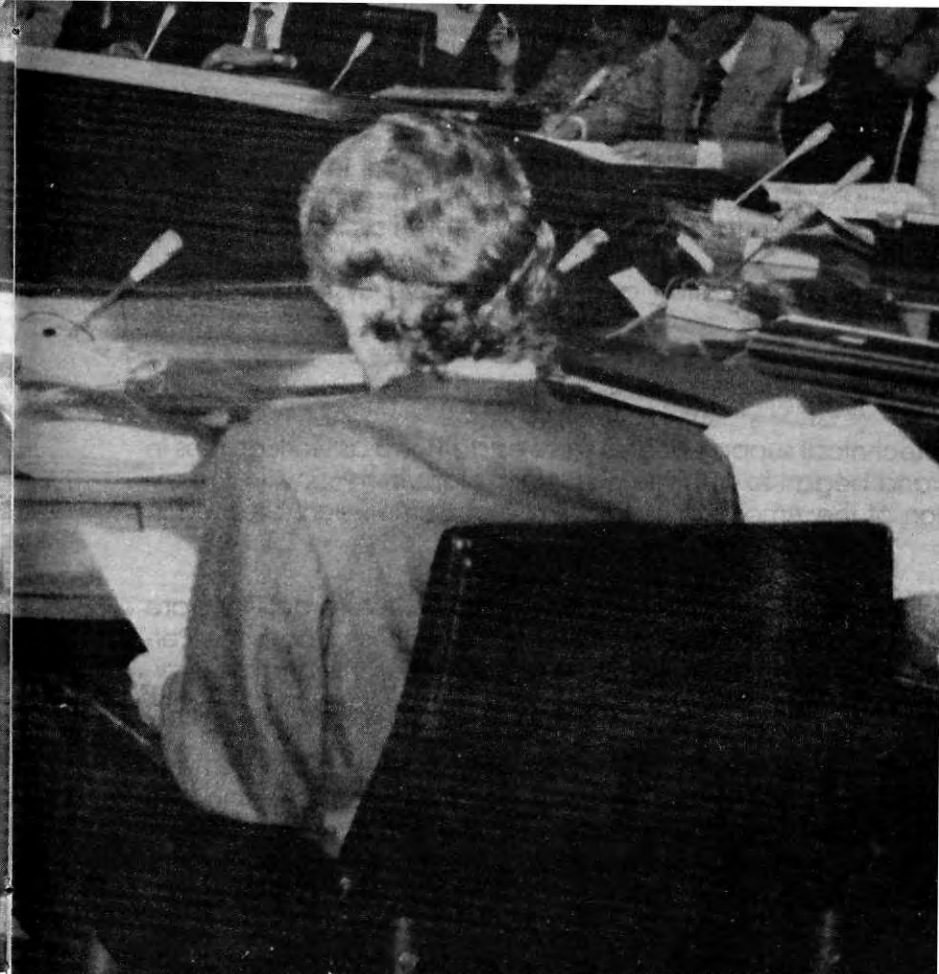
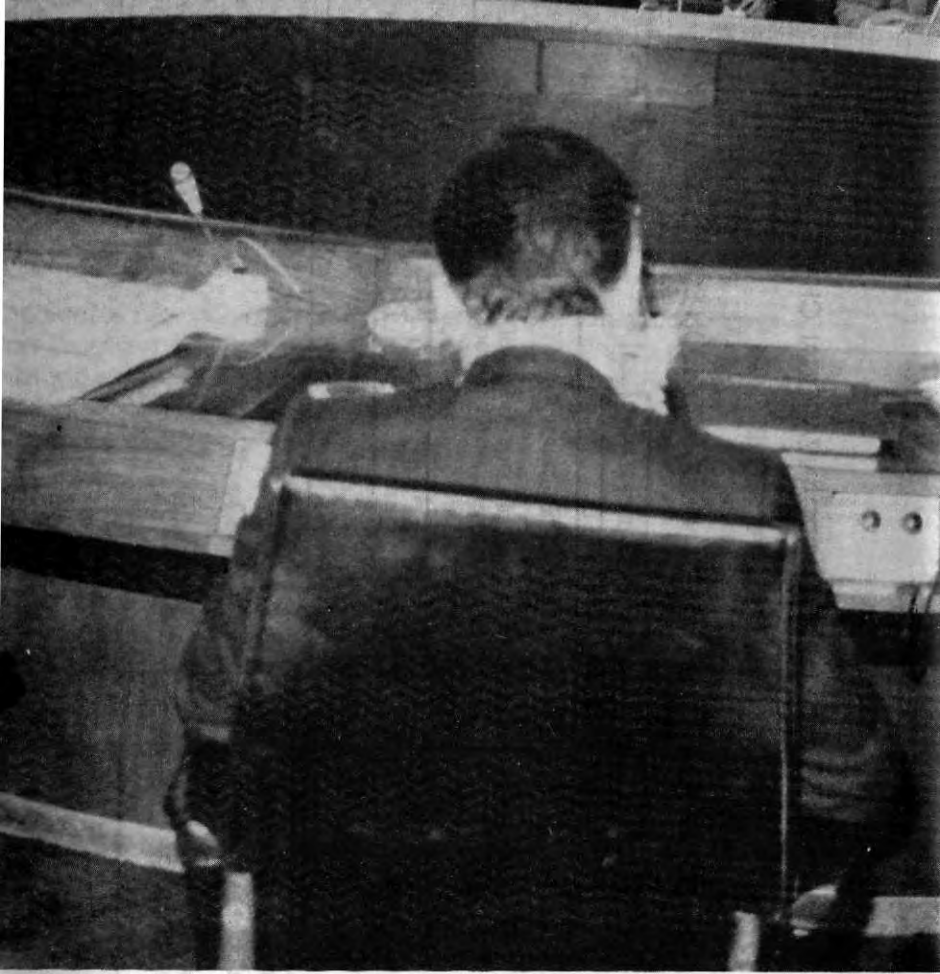
FUNCTIONAL ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PERMANENT INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SECURITY







# AMERICAN SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSIONS

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The American Social Security Commissions are the Conference's technical support bodies and their tasks are:

- to conduct studies and research in the field of social security;
- to promote technical meetings; and
- to cooperate with the Inter-American Center for Social Security Studies.

At present, the American Social Security Commissions listed below are in operation:

- American Prevention of Work Risks Commission.
- American Medico Social Commission.
- American Actuarial and Financial Matters Commission.
- American Organization and Administrative Systems Commission.
- American Juridical Social Commission.

These technical support bodies were established as work groups in 1958 and began to operate as Commissions in 1960, with the exception of the American Juridical Social Commission, created in 1968.

During the Commissions' regulatory meetings, future activities are planned and recommendations for the activities of both the Permanent Inter-American Committee on Social Security and the Inter-American Center for Social Security Studies are issued.

The Commissions' Boards of Directors are composed by one President, the number of Vice-Presidents deemed necessary and one Technical Secretary. These officials are elected every three years amongst the experts within this field. A regional representation is ensured in all cases.

In case a member of the Board is absent or resigns, he will be replaced by a representative appointed by the social security institution he belongs to.

At the invitation extended by one of the Conference's regular members, the Permanent Inter-American Committee on Social Security summons the American Social Security Commissions to hold sessions in any country of the Americas.

The Secretary General of the Permanent Inter-American Committee on Social Security is responsible for conducting, coordinating and supervising the American Social Security Commissions' activities.

To date, the American Commissions have held a total of 61 Regulatory Meetings and have convened 18 Congresses, 10 Panels, 6 International Seminars and one IMSS-CAMS Cost/Benefit Workshop, from which a number of conclusions, recommendations and resolutions have emerged, orienting the path of social security in the Americas.

These events are attended, *inter alia*, by the member institutions of the Inter-American Social Security Conference; Ministries of Health, Social Security and Labor; international agencies such as the International Labor Office, the Pan-American Health Organization, the Organization of American States, the Social Security Institutions of the Caribbean, Central America and Panama Association, the International Social Security Association; research centers, Universities, study groups and trade unions.

Throughout their performance, the Commissions have promoted and fostered the exchange of experiences amongst social security institutions and international agencies. Likewise, they have encouraged manpower training in social security spheres.

This host of actions have contributed to the development of social security in the American nations.



# INTER-AMERICAN CENTER FOR SOCIAL SECURITY STUDIES

The Inter-American Center for Social Security studies is another technical support body of the Inter-American Social Security Conference. It was founded pursuant to Resolution 58 of the Conference and backed-up by the Mexican Social Insurance Institute in order to train professionals and technicians in all the branches of social security; undertake research in this field; and foster communications and the exchange of ideas and knowledge.

The Inter-American Center for Social Security Studies' headquarters are located in Mexico City, where it conducts its major activities; however, it can project its operations to other countries at the request of any member of the Conference.

The Inter-American Center for Social Security Studies has the following bodies:

### **Management:**

- Board of Directors
- Chairman
- Director's Office.

### **Education, Research and Technical Assistance:**

- Academic Council
- Operational Divisions
- Research and Technical Assistance Area.

### **Support:**

- Administration
- Communications and Information Area.

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Board of Directors is composed by one Chairman, six members elected by the Permanent Inter-American Committee on Social Security, ensuring a proper regional representation and the Secretary General of the Permanent Inter-American Committee on Social Security. They remain in office for a three-year term and, as is the case of the American Social Security Commissions, in the absence or resignation of any of the members, the deputy official shall be appointed by the social security institution of the country he represents.

The Board of Directors plans the Center's activities based on the recommendations of the Permanent Inter-American Committee on Social Security and the American Social Security Commissions.

### **DIRECTOR'S OFFICE**

The Permanent Inter-American Committee on Social Security's Director's Office is in charge of implementing, enforcing and fulfilling the regulations regarding education and training set forward by the Permanent Inter-American Committee on Social Security's Board of Directors and the Center's Chairman.

Hence, it is responsible for the institution's academic, technical and administrative coordination and management.

### **OPERATIONAL DIVISIONS**

The Inter-American Center for Social Security Studies' operational divisions are composed by a faculty supported by advisors and consultants with broad experience and recognized technical abilities coming from social security institutions, international agencies, research centers, universities and professional associations. Therefore, it provides top level education recognized by the international academic community.

### **THE HEADQUARTERS**

In 1952, the Inter-American Social Security Conference's General Assembly passed a resolution indicating that the Permanent Inter-American Committee on Social Security's headquarters should be located in Mexico City.

In 1960, i.e., eight years later, the Assembly agreed to establish an Inter-American Center for Social Security Studies in Mexico.

A magnificent architectural complex, surrounded by large and beautiful gardens located in one of Mexico City's prettiest areas started to operate on 19 March, 1983. Since then, this complex houses the Permanent Inter-American Committee on Social Security and the Inter-American Center for Social Security Studies.



The Permanent Inter-American Committee on Social Security's facilities are quite broad. The General Secretariat's offices are located in this building. There is a Sessions Room accommodating 130 people and two Commissions Rooms for 60 people each, providing simultaneous interpretation services in any language, in addition to recording and projections services. The American Social Security Commissions Room is also located in this part of the Complex. Pursuant to the agreement reached by the 28th. Meeting of Permanent Inter-American Committee on Social Security, in 1985, the Inter-American Center for Social Security Studies facilities will bear the name of Jesus Reyes Heróles, a renowned Mexican professor, historian, researcher, and ideologist who promoted social security at the national and international levels.

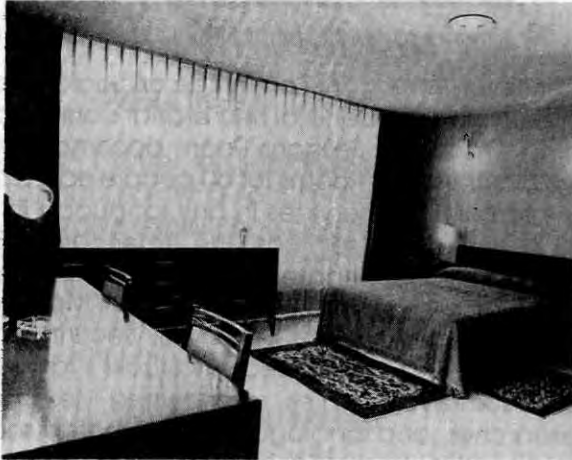
The Inter-American Center for Social Security Studies facilities enable it to fully meet the objectives for which it was created.

It has a 230 persons capacity auditorium with simultaneous interpretation, movies, and projections services; classrooms, rooms for lectures and seminars.



The Center also has a library specialized in social security and similar topics, with more than 23,000 classified and catalogued titles, as well as information and document distribution offices.

It also has a residence that can simultaneously lodge 112 students, providing all ancillary services such as dining room, medical care and sports facilities including a gym, swimming pool, volleyball and basketball courts. All this is surrounded by gardens that supply a proper environment for study and thought.



Since the Center began to operate 23 years ago, 7095 students have been trained in social security subjects, through 268 courses on specific subject-matters, 30 seminars, 2 workshops and 6 Masters' courses in EDP, actuarial and statistics fields. These training courses are offered to all Governments, social security institutions and administrations in the Americas.



Research and publications on social security are also undertaken at the Center.

At present, an average of 24 courses a year are taught, with the participation of about 700 students. Likewise, 80 training, educational and dissemination events are held as an average.



The Boards of Directors of the "Jesus Reyes Heróles" Inter-American Center for Social Security Studies and the Permanent Inter-American Committee on Social Security deem it advisable to offer the Conference's member institutions that have fully paid their dues, the possibility of obtaining 100 percent fellowships in the scheduled events. Those with outstanding debts must pay 50 percent of the events' total cost and this amount shall be credited to the payment of their dues. Thanks to the sponsorship of international agencies there is also a fellowship system permitting the attendance of member institutions' staffs to courses and seminars as well as of foreign consultants and professors who cannot attend in view of financial difficulties.

The Inter-American Center for Social Security Studies' facilities are made available to universities, study and research centers, and public and private institutions to hold various types of academic events. In this case, a request must be made in advance so as not to interfere with the Center's activities.

For further information relative to the Inter-American Social Security Conference, the Permanent Inter-American Committee on Social Security and the Inter-American Center for Social Security Studies, please contact:

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