



***1991-2003:  
SOCIAL NETWORK OF LATIN AMERICA AND  
THE CARIBBEAN***

***A Regional Experience of Cooperation to Overcome  
Poverty and Its Challenges for the New Millenium***





## PRESENTATION

This document has been drafted by the Presidency of the Social Network of Latin America and the Caribbean with the intention to offer a general panorama of the Network consolidation process. It shows the main constituent and formative features of the Network which have propped up its development as a mechanism for the horizontal cooperation in the matter of overcoming poverty. It contains the annual agreements; the operation norms; the structure; as well as the comments in relation to its results, challenges and perspectives. In the first part, it is made a brief description about the international context, the conditions of Latin America and the Caribbean and it makes reference to the social investment funds as an important part of the membership composition of the Network.

Farther than integrating an historical heap, its objective is to provide elements to allow how valuable and important is the horizontal cooperation among government institutions dedicated to promote social development and overcoming poverty, being allowed the identification of actions to strengthen and to make sustainable the Network for the new millenium.

As a regional mechanism, the Social Network has facilitated the dialogue, the interchange of experiences, new techniques and methodologies in the matter of social development and poverty. However, its consolidation like a space of horizontal cooperation, faces limitations derived from the nature of the work as of the voluntary resources of its members, as well as the lack of international financing.

It is worth to remember the way the Network has followed for the attainment of its objectives, in order to support the consolidation of the management for member institutions as well as its own activities.

At first, the members of the Network were around 13 institutions which national tasks were oriented to build the emergent basic social infrastructure in order to lessen the damage of the applied programs of economic adjustment in the eighties decade; basically, institutions were interested in interchanging experiences. Nevertheless, through time the member institutions have come from proposing temporary projects to be immersed in the national strategies to overcome poverty and in the perspective of establishing public policies in the long term.

Now, Network members have the need of technical cooperation in different ways to prop up their national projects, from taking advantage of the innovating aspects used in the region, using the wide range of communication and qualification that the new technologies and a globalized world offer.

A good stretch has been crossed; from the initial restlessness to create a network until the present necessity to consolidate an effective institutionalization which sustains regional cooperation for social development and overcoming poverty. Social Network is a proud organization of the independent management of its own members, it widely recognizes the efforts pawned by organisms of cooperation like the Organization of the American States (OAS), the Inter-American Bank for Development (IADB), the World Bank (BM) and the Economic Commission for Latin America (Cepal), such supports have allowed to extend its presence beyond the region, contributing for the creation of similar social networks (with which it maintains permanent relations) at East Europe and Central Asia (ECANET) Africa (ASIFNET), North Africa and the Middle East (MENANET).

In this sense, we can say that the Network has grown but its suit is still the same size, reason why it is necessary to properly dress it. Thus, it is urgent to review its present organizational structure and to ask if with it, the Network can give satisfactory answer to the cooperation necessities of its members.

The present situation is characterized by very intense dynamics of member institutions, which go from the extension of the agenda for social investment, the confrontation of continuing problems with economic, social and political nature, as well as to resist the negative effects of natural phenomena. In this context, now, more than ever, solidarity cooperation for development has a strategic value; nevertheless, Network has difficulties to suitably answer to some situations, since (it was mentioned before) the nature of the organization rests in the voluntary work, its members contribute, which is restricted because they overturn time and resources to their national programs.

The Network requires a permanent institutionalization which identifies and systematizes the demand of cooperation, which elaborates and manages projects for technical cooperation and that follows and maintains an updated agenda of activities. Also, it is required to insert the Network in regional forums of political reach, looking for the entailment of the technical cooperation with the political strategies grants a greater impact to policies of social development and overcome poverty. It all in the perspective to obtain the goals of the Millenium and to place Latin America and the Caribbean as a prosperous region and with indicators of sustainable social development.

BLANCA LILIA GARCIA LOPEZ  
President of the Cordinating Committee of the  
Social Network of Latin America and the Caribbean

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### INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

With the democratization processes and culminated the economic reforms of first generation, a considerable group of countries in Latin America and the Caribbean brought in important changes for their social policies during the Nineties. From the marginality where they were located during the last decade, they happen to play a new role in the public policies of the region governments. Thus, the Network affirms itself in the period of a greater dynamism in social investment and in which world-wide, regional and national debates on strategies to overcome poverty are numerous and intense.

Worry at international level is generated, it appeals, not only because of urgencies in the situation at Latin America and the Caribbean, but in other regions of the world such as Africa and Asia. As well as some developed countries with traditions of well-being states that cannot continue working as they used to. Let us remember, in this sense, that the System of United Nations summoned the World-wide Summit on Social Development (Copenhagen, Denmark, 1995). Then Government and Chiefs of State met for the first time to arrange commitments in favor of social development, meeting that marked a landmark in the subsequent forums and actions to overcome poverty.

Also, at the end of the XX century, several meetings took place for the evaluation of social commitments, like the Summit of Social Development in Geneva and the General Assembly of the United Nations where the Millenium Declaration was agreed in 2000.

Although the evolution of poverty shows noticeable differences among countries not only in its magnitude but in its dynamic, poverty and the inequality are subjects that hurt all societies in the world, that is why the subject has gained greater importance in the national development strategies. If we observed it worldwide, the last quarter of XX century was a stage of inequalities widening.

In the world, 1200 million people subsist with less of a dollar a day, amount that has stayed more or less constant between 1987 and 1998. Income distribution has been deteriorated in a group of countries that concentrate 57% of the world-wide population, whereas it has improved only for 16% of world population but no changes in the rest of it.

According to World Bank indicators of world-wide development 2000, in 1998 sixth of the worldwide population received almost 80% of the world-wide income (70 dollars a day by person average). At the same time, 57% of the world-wide population, received only 6% of the world-wide income (in average 2 dollars per day).

### **Objectives World Leaders fixed at Summit of Millenium:**

- **To half reduce the extreme poverty and hunger.**
- **To universally achieve elementary education and equality between sexes.**
- **To reduce mortality in children less than 5 years in two third parts, and maternal mortality in three fourth parts.**
- **To stop the propagation of the VIH/SIDA and malaria and To guarantee environment sustainability.**
- **To promote a world-wide association for development, with goals for attendance, commerce and debt alleviation.**

**“Progress in the attainment of objectives does not have a well defined sign. Some countries are well directed to some objectives, but it is probable that no objective from development of the Millenium can be reached just the same as the present rate of world-wide progress. It has many reasons, such as the insufficient and inefficient public cost, the inadequate load to debt, the not confident access to developed country markets and the decline in official attendance for development. PNUD**

Although a worldwide public opinion exists which privileges the debate and the reflection on the social question, looking for redefining social and programmatic policies, the eradication of poverty and to obtain less unequal societies constitutes essential challenges for the world to face. And they are an essential requirement for sustainable development. In spite of each country is responsible for its own development and for the eradication of its own poverty, it is undeniable that concrete measures are needed, which must be arranged and concrete to reach the objectives related to poverty, internationally agreed.

From the historical Summit of Copenhagen governments were committed, like ethical, social, political and economic imperative of the humanity, to reach the objective to eradicate poverty in the world by means of an energetic national action and international cooperation.

Poverty in Latin America affects more than 200 million people today, in such way, governments and societies have undertaken different actions to resist the disadvantage situation of almost half of the population. The importance of regional cooperation has been recognized in several regional forums.

To succeed with Goals of the Millenium related to half reduction, for year 2015, of the people whose income is less than 1 dollar per day, reveals an arduous challenge for the region and, given the last year tendencies, it is practically unattainable for an important group of countries. “To obtain this goal, it requires a growth of 2,7% annual in total product, that rises to 4,0% if the objective were to reduce in 50% poverty and not only indigence. Although these requirements do not seem to be far from the historical possibilities of growth in Latin America, the panorama becomes more complex in countries with high levels of poverty. There, growth rates to reduce indigence are around 5,7% and 7,0% reducing the poverty “(Cepal, November of 2002).

On the other hand, the Summit of Américas emphasizes that overcoming poverty is the greatest challenge our Hemisphere faces. And the growth of countries has not solved to the problems of inequity and social exclusion. For example, during the Third Summit celebrated in Québec, Canada, 20-22 of April of 2001, it was said: we wont

scrimp efforts to release our citizens of cruel conditions due to extreme poverty. We commit ourselves to make additional efforts to reach international objectives of development, specially the reduction in a 50% of the proportion of people who live in conditions of extreme poverty, for year 2015”.

The Social Network registers itself in the consensus of the region countries to overcome, specially underlined are the OAS pronouncements at General Assembly during the nineties, particularly OAS General Assembly in 1997 and the Inter-American Program to Overcome Poverty and Discrimination, they textually indicates: “the acquired experience in the region about design and execution of programs and projects to overcome poverty, emphasizes the importance that governments share and spread out their experiences and achievements, to face challenges for poverty and discrimination”. In addition, the Inter-American Program gives to the Conference of Social Network the roll of interlocutor of the Commission for Social Development of CIDI, related to the establishment of social development mechanisms.

### **A FAVORABLE SURROUNDING FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT Bases for Action and Objectives**

4. Social development is inseparable of cultural, ecological, economic, political and spiritual surroundings in which it takes place. It cannot be persecuted like an initiative for a specific area. Social development is clearly tied with the peace attainment, freedom, stability and security at national and international level. In order to promote social development it is precise to guide values, objectives and priorities towards the well-being of all people and fortification and promotion of the institutions and policies that follow that objective. Human dignity, all basic human rights and liberties, equality, fairness and social justice are fundamental values for all societies. Adhesion, promotion and protection of those values, among others, are the base of the legitimacy of all institutions and the exercise of authority and promote a surrounding in which human beings are the nucleus of the sustainable development and have right to enjoy a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature. Program of Action of the Worldwide Summit of Social Development, Copenhagen, Denmark, March of 1995, Chapter 1.

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The Network, as we said before, arises at the beginning of nineties decade, years that are recognized by deep movements of change and transformation in all areas such as economic, political, social, scientific, technological and cultural. Time that affirms a globalized world which offers great advantages for growth but, at the same time, it alerts on the risks of the common international phenomenon of the poverty.

Although the evolution of the poverty in countries at Latin America and the Caribbean show deep differences between one country and another, in its magnitude as in its dynamics, it is certain that poverty hurts the great majority. Nevertheless, it is possible to indicate that the region shows certain advances related to the constant effort to increase the social cost and to increase interest of governments to assign it in a more efficient form.

Special mention to indicate in all countries processes of democratic advance are being experienced, those that have lead to a new relationship between society and government in which the organized participation of society receives priority in decisions of the development. Agreement and social participation are, more and more, the condition to design and execute social programs. In a near report the Cepal has indicated:

“During 1990 decade, poverty as the indigence in Latin America were characterized by a generalized tendency of reduction, although initial impetus was gradually vanishing until revert itself , in some countries, at the end of period. The percentage of poor population considered for 1997 (43.5%) was almost 5 percentage points inferior to the one registered in 1990, to soon round up 3 tenth (43.8%) towards 1999.

Thus, it reveals, a clear reduction of poverty in the first seven years of the decade, followed by a relative stagnation of both in the next two years 1997-1999 (it see graph 1). Gotten achievements from the reduction of the relative incidence of poverty in the set of the decade were not translated in a similar variation in absolute terms, since the number of poor people increased near 11 million (7,6 million in the last biennium), getting to totalize little more than 211 million in 1999. The tendencies in the evolution of poverty by the end of nineties have stayed for 2000-2002, triennium that is characterized by the continued stagnation in overcoming poverty in the set of this region, although with variations of opposed sign in different countries. Following an inverse pattern to the one of the economic growth, poverty at regional level would have been reduced remarkably in 2000, to increase excessively in 2001 and 2002”.

The evolution of the Network occurs in a context with strong changes in Latin America and the Caribbean, in fact, in one decade three economic crises happen, the opening of markets and the globalization inaugurate new phenomena that affect the regional task. Eliminating poverty is reaffirmed as a strategic priority in all nations and the institutionalization for social development materializes new projects and forms of democratic relation between Government-society, citizen participation and organized social groups gain spaces without any precedent.

In such sense, today, there is a conviction that only through an altogether performance of societies and governments with the support of international cooperation, it will be possible to revert the increasing tendency of the poverty.



## 4

### SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUNDS: INSTITUTIONAL INNOVATIONS.

The Social Investment funds of Latin America and the Caribbean are members of the Social Network and represent an important part of their institutional composition.

With the objective to alleviate the social cost of the economic crisis and to face the impoverishment of population, during the implantation of the program of macroeconomic stabilization and adjustment, new strategies and institutions arise from the governments, the more emphasized are denominated Social Investment funds, emergency mechanisms that later would become permanent.

In 1986 it is created in Bolivia, the Social Fund of Emergency to mitigate the costs of the stabilization process in the middle eighties; some years later, similar institutional initiatives come up in several countries of the continent, such as the FOSIS (Chile, 1990), FIS (El Salvador, 1990), FAES (Haiti, 1990), FHIS (Honduras, 1990), FISE (Nicaragua, 1990), FONCODES (Peru, 1991) and FONAPAZ (Guatemala, 1991).

They have financed interventions of communities in small scale, that go from infrastructure and social services to qualification and development of micro enterprises. It is also possible to emphasize that Funds have leaded the reconstruction efforts after hurricanes destruction, or different natural phenomena like floods, earthquakes or droughts, and have supported decentralization strategies.

Although the construction and repair of schools and health facilities, as well as infrastructure creation for water supply constitutes most of the projects (80%), the Funds carry out other tasks, like: erosion control of earth, programs for vulnerable groups, qualification and micro credits. At the present time, the Funds are active institutions in more than 50 countries and are a very important part in the development agenda for World Bank; its total amount rises to 6 billion American dollars, three billion granted by the same World Bank and the rest contributed by other international organisms and governments.

#### **SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUNDS IN LATIN AMERICA: NINETY'S INSTITUTIONAL INNOVATIONS**

“We can stand out three enormous innovations in the operation of these funds: a new agent configuration of purchasing services in the name of communities, different from the Ministries (almost always a special person officially depending on the Presidency of the Republic and with higher wages than the public administration), the empowerment of communities in the expression of their necessities and the social control of works execution and the competitive and flexible hiring of nongovernmental agents with fixed budgets. These three innovations allowed to develop some elements of a new horizontal scheme of relations between the State, the suppliers and the users” (Report of Consultancy for the PNUD “Ideas for a strategy of work of the PNUD in social sectors, Juan Luis Londoño, Bogota, 2000)

This institutional innovation, soon showed its benefits and its model expanded towards other regions. The Network keeps relations with Funds of other regions and has had an outstanding participation in the two international conferences of Social Funds summoned by the World Bank (Washington, 1997 and 2000) and in three regional (the Armenian, 1998; Egypt, 1998; Zimbabwe, 1999).

200 delegates attended the first international conference, there the first ten years of operation were evaluated and mechanisms were discussed to make the integration of regional networks easier. Among the recommendations that were made it is important to outstand:

- To better integrate the Social Funds with the national economic policies
- To improve the creation of capacities
- To promote innovations in the public sector

(the first conferences acts are in the volume the Social Funds and To arrive at the poor, published by Anthony G. Bigio, published in 1998 by the World Bank. They can also be consulted in the electronic page of the Social Funds of World Bank).

The second international conference gathered 277 of 61 countries; with the reflection around operative questions as well as around the strategies to alleviate poverty. The debate centered, basically, in: stronger integration of the Funds with the national policies; to improve the attendance in the communities in order to have the capacity to administer the development by themselves; as well as to struggle for the recognition of the Funds roll. (The meeting memory is in the electronic page of the Social Funds of World Bank)

During regional meetings the collaboration of the Network is emphasized to impel the creation of similar networks of cooperation: ECANET (Integrates the Funds at East Europe and Central Asia); MENANET (gathers the Funds at North Africa and Middle East) and ASIFNET (Funds at Africa). The relation with Funds of those regions has remained constant, mainly with ECANET that in the Annual Conference of 1999 in Tlaxcala 20 representatives attended as observers from eight different countries; between 1999 and 2003, they have organized studying visits by different Funds of Latin America and the Caribbean.

## 5

### THE NETWORK CREATION.

Among factors that sustain the creation of the Social Network, the resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the Organization of the American States (OAS) in Santiago of Chile in 1991 is emphasized, during its XXI ordinary period sessions, with the purpose to intensify solidarity effort and cooperating action against critical poverty. In that context, as we have said before, the Mexican government and OAS General Secretary organize the first Workshop of Experiences Interchange about Overcoming Poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean, at Tlaxcala, Mexico, June of 1991.

Social Network has antecedents such as the agreements of three Seminary-Workshop made in Mexico, Chile and Costa Rica:

- 1) Tlaxcala, Mexico, June of 1991. With the attendance of 13 countries representatives, an agenda of technical horizontal cooperation was agreed, cradled in the market of proposals (tianguis), which was generated in the Workshop. Then, through an exchange of supplies and demands, the countries identified 70 subjects from which cooperative actions of training, consultant's office, experts and information exchange, visits, and execution of joint projects could be organized. It was also agreed, that the cooperation agenda must be made with technical and financial support from General Secretary of OAS, the IADB, and the Program of United Nations for Development ( PNUD).

First Network activities were carried out, through it's the Multinational Project of Social Development and Poverty, in OAS case, between 1991 and 1993, such as internships, training in service and information dissemination.

- 2) The Serena, Chile, October of 1992. The Second Seminary-Workshop took place, with representatives of 17 countries which identified 76 initiatives of supply and demand of different types of cooperation. The necessity of doing efforts in horizontal cooperation in an systematic and operative way, causing the obtaining of resources that allowed the institutions to have access to interchange actions. The Declaration of La Serena was approved. It indicates that, in spite of found difficulties for the materialization of horizontal cooperation, the agreement was ratified to make it perfect.

Like an answer for this restlessness, FOSIS from Chile, PRONASOL from Mexico and OAS General Secretary are in charge of preparing a project to create a Network for cooperation in the matter of social development and poverty.

Puntarenas, Costa Rica, October of 1993. With the attendance of delegates from 19 countries, the initiative expressed in Tlaxcala and La Serena, is formalized, in the sense to constitute a Network which associates the Social Investment funds and institution with similar rules with base in the project displayed by PRONASOL, FOSIS and OAS General Secretary. Thus, the Social Network creation is approved, like a mechanism to favor the horizontal cooperation for overcoming poverty.

# 6

## NETWORK STRUCTURE

Now a days, Social Network accounts with one basic structure of operation that consists of the Annual Conference, which is a superior decision instance, a Coordinating Committee integrated by six members institutions and a Technical Secretariat in charge of the OAS General Secretary. Is possible to emphasize that Network has adapted its structure to the necessities that have appeared, which explains the flexibility of this cooperation mechanism.

In the Annual Conference, as mentioned above, the Committee is chosen and necessary norms for its operation are adopted. Every year, the Coordinating Committee renews according to the current norms, whereas the Technical Secretariat is permanent (since 1996) and is bound to the Unit of Social Development and Education of OAS General Secretary.

### COORDINATING COMMITTEE: PARTICIPATION BY COUNTRIES AND PERIODS

#### AREA 1

El Salvador	1993-94				
Costa Rica	1993-94				
Nicaragua	1994-95	1999-00	2000-01		
Honduras	1995-96	1996-97			
México	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03		
Guatemala	1997-98	1998-99	2001-02	2002-03	

#### AREA 2

Trinidad y Tobago	1993-94	1994-95	1997-98	1998-99	
Guyana	1995-96				
Rep. Dominicana	1995-96	1996-97	2001-02	2002-03	
Jamaica	1996-97	1997-98	1999-00	2000-01	2002-03
St. Lucia	1998-99	1999-00			
Haití	2000-01	2001-02			

#### AREA 3

Chile	1993-94	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01
Uruguay	1993-94	1998-99	1999-00		
Ecuador	1994-95				
Bolivia	1994-95	2000-01	2001-02		
Colombia	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98		
Argentina	1995-96	1996-97	2001-02	2002-03	
Paraguay	2002-03				

#### Technical Secretariat.

The initial structure of the Network had a Technical Secretariat *Pro-Tempore* and a Coordinating Committee made up of 4 members with a President and a Vice-president. The Secretariat was under the responsibility of the institution which were host of the Annual Conference. Under this modality, the Secretariat was exerted by IMAS from Costa Rica (1993-1994) and FISE from Ecuador (1994-1995). Nevertheless, in the Third Annual Conference of Social Network in Panama (November of 1996) a permanent Technical Secretariat was created, accepting the Unit of Social Development and Education from OAS (UDSE/OAS) offering to exert this function.

Later on, the Fifth Annual Conference made in Jamaica, 1998, following a proposal of the UDSE/OAS, ratified the Technical Secretariat like the permanent instance of support for the Coordinating Committee work.

# 7

## MAIN AGREEMENTS

Although, Social Network is governed by the agreements of its Annual Conferences, three annual workshops defined its settlement. A brief reference of the main agreements is shown in the following paragraphs:

### **I Workshop of Experiences Interchange for overcoming Poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean 1991 Tlaxcala, Mexico.**

- It is recognized that the poverty is a critical challenge for the region.
- Horizontal cooperation is mentioned as an instrument to facilitate technical, international and financial cooperation to overcome poverty.
- The first efforts to coordinate horizontal cooperation are settled down and the support of international organisms is looked for.

Host Institution: National Program of Solidarity

Inauguration: Ernesto Zedillo, Secretary of Programming and Budget

### **II Workshop of Experiences Interchange for Overcoming Poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean 1992 La Serena, Chile.**

- It is recognized that there have been “partial experiences” with positive results when overcoming poverty.
- It is discussed on the incorporation of poor people through productive projects.
- A consensus is reached, to foment within countries: creation and strengthen of medium and micro companies, as well as the insertion of women and young people to the work market.
- It is discussed on the formalization of international cooperation and it is agreed to make a proposal on this subject.

Host Institution: Fund of Solidarity and Social Investment (FOSIS)


Inauguration: Sergio Molina, Minister of Planning.

### **III Workshop Experiences Interchange for Overcoming Poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean 1993 Puntarenas, Costa Rica**

- It is constituted the SOCIAL NETWORK as “one instance of the different social investment funds, institutions and mechanisms countries of Latin America and the Caribbean have created with the intention of overcoming poverty”.
- The structure, financing and work planning of SOCIAL NETWORK are defined.
- The work planning of SOCIAL NETWORK includes: specific qualification in services, specific consultant offices, social developing and poverty qualification and an information network organization.

Host Institution: Mixed Institute of Social Help (IMAS)

Inauguration: Rafael Calderón Angel, President of Costa Rica



### **First Conference of Social Network of Latin America and the Caribbean 1994 Quito, Ecuador.**

- It is agreed to collaborate with social reform processes in member countries and to contribute with the definition of a social policy based on fairness, society participation and integral development.
- Governments are recommended to foment coherence between economic and social policies.
- It is pretended to include SOCIAL NETWORK points of view about national positions in the Social Summit of Denmark and the Summit of the Americas in Miami.

Host Institution: Social Investment Fund of Emergency (FISE)

Inauguration: Sixto Durán Ballen, President of Ecuador.




### **Second Conference of Social Network of Latin America and the Caribbean 1995 Santo Domingo, Republica Dominicana.**

- Poverty is defined like “threat to social peace and political stability” and as an obstacle to development.
- It is discussed on the necessity to work in a new approach of social policy which considers the integrity in the institutional design and that financing privileges to poorest.
- Productive employment creation is emphasized and the social participation as prominent in the policies for overcoming poverty.

Host Institution: PROCOMMUNITY

Inauguration: Joaquin Balaguer, President of Dominican Republic



### **Third Conference of Social Network of Latin America and the Caribbean 1996. Panama, Panama.**

- It is recognized that poverty continues increasing in absolute and relative terms. One of its main sources is the unfair access to opportunities and wrong social distribution of development.
- It is indicated that social policies have been subordinated to the economic ones in the region.
- Relating to strategies to overcome poverty, it is agreed to be centered in decentralization actions, in the sustainability concept for projects and the focalization.
- The INTER- SOCIAL NETWORK instrumentation via Internet is confirmed.

Host Institution: Social Investment Fund (FIS)

Inauguration: Ernesto Perez Balladares, President of Panama.

#### **Fourth Conference of Social Network of Latin America and the Caribbean 1997 Buenos Aires, Argentina.**

- Members are committed to participate in strengthening Social Network to obtain the objectives to overcome poverty in the region.
- To impel treatment of the following high-priority subjects: (a) organization and social participation with emphasis in planning local development; (b) productive generation of employment and projects; (c) attention to more vulnerable groups in each social context; (d) answer to disasters caused by nature phenomena; and, (e) fortification of local governments
- To promote a better integration, a clearer roll, and strategies to reduce poverty within national macroeconomics.
- To narrow cooperation bonds between Social NETWORK and other extra regional similar forums, especially with AFRICATIP.

Host Institution: Secretariat of Social Development

Inauguration: Eduardo Amadeo, Secretary of Social Development

#### **Fifth Conference of Social Network of Latin America and the Caribbean 1998 Kingston, Jamaica.**

- Overcoming Poverty and Social Participation
- To generate and to propose solutions to alleviate men, women, children, old, indigenous, handicap, and other vulnerable groups in poverty. Which are excluded from the satisfaction of basic necessities of subsistence in many regions of hemisphere.
- To fortify the Social Network forum by means of a suitable institutionalism in order to promote and to increase the initiatives of horizontal cooperation between member organizations and Social Network, in order to maximize the usage of human and economic resources in the effort to overcome poverty and inequity in the region.
- To improve the capacity of social investment funds to stimulate, value and optimize the benefits of citizen participation, as well as to renew confidence in this participation as an essential element of all plans and programs.
- To intensify the Social Network relationships with aims of other regions of the world, being fortified particularly those with institutions at Africa and Eastern Europe.

Host Institution: Social investment fund of Jamaica (FIS)

Inauguration: P. J. Patterson, Prime minister of Jamaica


**Sixth Conference of Social Network of Latin America and the Caribbean  
1999 Tlaxcala, Mexico.**

- One Decade of Overcoming Poverty, Advances and Perspective In front of the New Millennium  
These subjects stood out: Growth, Fairness and Overcoming Poverty, Evaluation and Impact of Social Funds, Social Funds and Decentralization.
- To ratify agreements adopted in the Declaration of Lima, which recommend the incorporation of an approach of sort in activities of the Funds, with particular reference to the situation of the rural woman.
- To confirm importance of funds for the application of social policy in the countries.
- To support and to deepen each country decentralization process, by means of strategies tending to consolidate new models of institutional management. It may lead the localities fortification and the search of a greater commitment for local collectivities in its own development.
- To promote the social fairness, taking care of the most vulnerable groups in a high-priority way, impelling political tending to eliminate the social exclusion.
- To impel the high-priority support on defining strategies which search that the most vulnerable sectors of population have income alternatives, by means of support and financing productive projects.
- To promote social capital fortification actively, by means of creating participation spaces and mechanisms, that leads to a real participation of communities in the decision-making.
- To ratify the necessity of monitoring and evaluation, as an active and permanent tool of generation and direction for Social Funds.
- To increase the work for strengthening the Network, increasing relationships among them, through Coordinating Committee and Technical Secretariat.
- To establish an annual contribution for each institution member.
- To exhort international and financing cooperation organisms to continue supporting the activities of the Network.

Host Institution: Ministry of Social Development (SEDESOL)

Inauguration: Mario Palm, Undersecretary of Social Development.





**Seventh Conference of Social Network of Latin America and the Caribbean  
2000 Managua, Nicaragua.**

**Positive and negative experiences of Decentralization in Latin America**

- Challenges and perspectives of social investment funds in national strategies against poverty were analyzed, especially for decentralization processes. The following are the main points in agreement:
- To impulse necessary integration of social policies to overcome poverty with those of macro and micro economic growth. Because they both are essential and complementarily to improve income and life quality in poor areas.
- To deepen decentralization processes in countries, by means of strategies tending to consolidate the communitarian social capital and for municipal governments potential.
- To make from monitoring and evaluation an active and permanent tool of management and direction of Social Funds.
- Overcoming poverty and inequity demand a set of dynamic, flexible and innovating policies and strategies to face changing reality of each country and, thus quickly respond to emergencies, which affect the most vulnerable.
- To facilitate integration between Latin America and the Caribbean and to jointly solve common challenges and problems.
- To fortify relations with similar networks and mechanisms operating around the world, authorizing the Coordinating Committee to continue with such managements.

Host Institution: Social investment fund of Emergency FISE

Inauguration: Navarrese Dr. Leopoldo, Vice-president of the Republic of Nicaragua

Closing: Dr German Arnoldo Lacayo, President of the Republic of Nicaragua

**Eighth Annual Conference of Social Network of Latin America and the Caribbean  
2001 Santo Domingo, Republica Dominicana.**

- Poverty in globalization days: tendencies and perspectives.
- The region continues suffering by unacceptable poverty levels and inequality, surely these will be affected by the terrorist attacks of September 11 and existing recession. The following are main agreements:
- To fortify social investment with different programs, to reduce poverty and to resist negative effects from worldwide economic crisis.
- To promote a greater regional integration between countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, in order to establish forms of shared cooperation that allow identifying and to take better advantage of challenges and opportunities that globalization offers.
- To contribute reducing poor population vulnerability before external events –natural disasters, economics upheavals, diseases, violence- which aggravate their poverty and its insecurity sensation.
- To follow the results of the seminary-workshops made by the Network this year, with the following subjects, empowerment of social groups in poverty, fairness and approach of sort, the active and innovating roll for women in integral and local development, and finally respect to human rights.

Host Institution: Fund of Promotion to the Communitarian Initiatives –PROCOMUNIDAD-

Inauguration: Rafael Hipólito Mejía Domínguez, President of the Republic

**Ninth Annual Conference Social Network of Latin America and the Caribbean  
2002 Asunción, Paraguay**

**Strategies to Overcome Poverty**

Latin America and the Caribbean are by a period that the ECLAC has described like ‘half lost decade’, it raises the imperative to make a revision of social policies of the Region. Within this context, Social Network has a significant roll, because it has demonstrated to be an effective mechanism for experiences transference in a scope of shared in common cooperation for social development. Between the agreement points they emphasize:

To take necessary measures to fortify the Social Network

To reiterate the members of the Network the importance of deciding voluntary contributions made in Tlaxcala, 1999.

To ask for the Unit of Social Development and Education of the OAS General Secretariat, in its quality of Technical Secretariat of the Network, transmits the Permanent Council of the Organization the interest of Social Network about collaborating in conformation of the Inter-American Commission of Social Development; to elaborate the criteria and conditions to lodge the Web site of Social Network; to manage cooperation projects that benefit the social network activities; to coordinate cooperation actions with other international organisms in order to make formative activities, such as the courses with the INDES of the I.A.D.B. and the ECLAC.



## INSTITUCIONALISM AND INTERNATIONAL ENTAILMENT.

During the Nineties, the Social Network advances in the process of institutional consolidation, acquiring identity, international recognition and resources to develop activities for technical horizontal cooperation.

Between 1994 and 1996 the Network is formally established and exchanges of information knowledge are deepened, membership grows and matures in its institutionalization. As of 1996, collaborations with OAS become serious when UDSE assumes the task of Technical Secretariat of the Network.

In addition, the I.A.D.B. and World Bank contributions regarding specific projects were settled. Diverse Consulting and training activities in charge of the ECLAC were also made.

It is noteworthy to mention the world-wide scope of Social Network of Latin America and the Caribbean, that have served not only as an organizational model, but their experiences have been considered in other regions of the world by institutions that have later created similar networks of cooperation.

In this sense, it is possible to mention that between 1997 and 1998 the networks of Social Investment Funds in Africa (ASIFNET), East Europe and Central Asia were created (ECANET) and the Middle East and North Africa (MENANET),

Initiatives which fundamentally arise from the First International Conference on Social Funds in 1997, organized by the World Bank, and where the experiences of the Social Network were analyzed.

In June of 2000, the Bank organizes the Second International Conference in which the Network hosts an outstanding attendance. The Latin American experience is reflected in the interest shown by other countries that have organized similar mechanisms: Armenia (1998), Egypt (1998) and Zimbabwe (1999). It is noteworthy to notice that FIS representatives of Albania, Armenia, Bulgaria, Egypt, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Georgia, Mali, Moldova, Palestine, Rumania, Tajikistan and Zimbabwe attended the Sixth Annual Conference of Social Network, made in Tlaxcala in 1999 as observers.

Although permanent contact with all organizations is maintained, there exists a constant relationship of information interchange with ECANET. In 1999, 2001 and 2002, study groups integrated by institutions of five more nations visited them to know the existing programs. The countries that have been visited are: Mexico, Bolivia, Honduras, Nicaragua, Peru and Chile.

Also, the Social Network has been present in the annual conferences of ECANET, in Moldova in 2001 and Georgia in 2002, where the President of the Coordinating Committee and other members of the Network were invited.

The institutional consolidation of the Network is also reflected in its systematic publications and the creation of a site on Internet; tools by which much of the work of the organization and its members spreads widely. Noteworthy, the Memos of Annual Conferences and the diverse seminars and workshops; The Village Bulletin in electronic format; Broadcast pamphlets; (Internship News) concerning the Internship Program, and two publications focused on the evolution of the Social Network.

# 9

## FINANCING

For financing its activities, Social Network has counted on external funds coming from intergovernmental organisms and with resources contributed by its own members. It corresponds to OAS more than 75% of such, followed by I.A.D.B. and World Bank. Resources have gone towards three specific areas: interchange of experiences, horizontal cooperation through internships, and incorporation of information and communication technologies.

In relation to the support OAS has granted, it is possible to distinguish two phases. The first stage occurs within the framework of strategic lines of Economic and Social Inter-American Council (CIES), whom gives place to the Pluri-national Projects (period 1991-1995), which are executed by the Economic Department and Social Subjects at OAS (DAES/OAS). A high-priority project of DAES during those years consisted of supporting the generation of an horizontal cooperation mechanism; to achieve this objective, DAES presented technical, financial and administrative attendance to the seminars and meetings that originated the Network, as well as to the first annual conferences, consultant offices, internships and publications made during the first Nineties.

The second phase began in 1996, when the Unit of Social Development and Education of OAS (UDSE/OAS) replaced DAES. Thus, OAS financial collaboration is framed within established modalities of technical cooperation in the Inter-American Council of Integral Development (CIDI) created in 1997. Done particularly in its Strategic Plan of Solidarity Cooperation 1997-2001.

In this stage the Secretariat of Social Development, in charge of the Presidency of the Network Coordinating Committee, elaborated and managed a Multinational Project in Support to the Network cooperation activities, for its later presentation by Mexico government before CIDI. This project was approved for 998-2002, with 2000 as an exception. Contributed resources were used to accomplish seminary-workshops, internships, annual conferences, and meetings for the Coordinating Committee and publications.

The Network has looked for, at any moment, to fulfill one of its central objectives: to facilitate experiences interchange to overcome poverty. For that reason, in 1993 the Network made a project to ask for technical cooperation to international organisms. Among many organisms, the I.A.D.B., which had to be reviewed several times, to adapt it to the Network's nature, as an organization without legal personality, and cooperator availability. In 1997 it display a new project to I.A.D.B. to make a permanent and systematic program of internships, whose objective was to allow Funds civil employees to carry out visits in-situ to successful programs in other countries. This initiative was finally approved in June of 1998, named as Program of Support to Social Network Institutions. Then, the Bank granted a technical regional cooperation to accomplish 100 internships in a period of four years. The UDSE/OAS was given the organism function executor.

### World Bank Supports

By initiative of the Secretariat of Social Development of Argentina, it was proposed to the World Bank to support the project of information technology and communication incorporation, in order to create a website for Social Network in the Internet. On purpose of equipping horizontal cooperation with greater efficiency, faster response times and the possibility of a permanent virtual contact among Funds. Thus, Participant Fund of Social Investment (FOPAR) executed the project, named Social Internetwork, like a donation of the World Bank.

Project funds were useful for hiring a website administrator, who was in charge of its design, feedback and maintenance; hiring a server; and three workshops: establishment of parameters at Web site (Honduras, 1997); Project Trainers Formation (Mexico, 1998); and evaluation and crossing the website administration from FOPAR to another member of Network (Argentina, 1999) (FOPAR, 2000).

### **Contributions of Network Members**

Although, it is true that Network has counted with resources provided by international organisms, it is important to emphasize the contributions done by its own members, contributions that are difficult to quantify, since the accomplishment of all activities requires of complementary resources. For example, when a seminary is made, the host country assumes several expenses such as infrastructure usage, organization of extracurricular activities, and allocation of supporting human resources, impression and distribution of materials, local transportation, and others.

Considering the necessity of those expenses, during the IV Annual Conference made in Tlaxcala, Mexico, in 1999, Network members decided a voluntary annual contribution minimum 5,000 dollars, beginning at 2000 year. But the project presented before the CIDI was no approved yet (during 2000, as already said), no resource was received from FEMCIDI/OAS Fund.

It is possible to indicate that the annual quota is registered in a special account of Social Network in the General Secretariat of OAS. The Technical Secretary in agreement with Presidency and Coordinating Committee of the Network indications administers it.

**Seminary-Workshops.** Network has been particularly active for accomplishing workshops. In the first three workshops – among 1991 and 1993- development problems of Latin America were discussed, poverty determinants, programs to overcome poverty, and the roll to be fulfilled by Social Investment Funds. These reflections allowed generating a shared perception of these problems among institutions of the Network. Later on, workshops have been specialized and have analyzed different thematic; in this sense it is possible to mention, among others:

- Financing programs for overcoming poverty
- Sustainability of projects for social investment
- Monitoring and evaluation the programs results
- Social investment programs contributions to social policy.
- Social Participation and Control.
- Decentralization and municipal strengthen to overcome poverty
- Decentralization and programs to overcome poverty
- Employment and income generation for local levels.
- Increasing roll of women.

Workshops have identified specific problems related to programs operation, participation of civil society, as well as member's necessities of qualification. In addition, its format has allowed the interaction with professionals and specialists, with external scopes, particularly from not-governmental and academic areas. Seminary-Workshops have offered a participation space for technical personnel, making easier the interchange and analysis of methodological aspects.

### Courses

In the processes of interesting subject identification for horizontal cooperation, members have suggested some topics that, by their specialization, are not treated under traditional formats of seminary-workshop or internship. It is the case, for example, of monitoring and evaluation projects techniques, asked by most of the Funds, whose nature requires a systematic boarding, which consists of theoretical exhibitions with bibliographical support and practicing laboratories and concepts discussions.

In order to satisfy this necessity, the Network asked the ECLAC that has wide experience in this matter, through its Social Development Division. In 2000, it accepted to distribute it through a course about Formulation, Monitoring and Evaluation Social Programs and Projects. It was repeated in 2001. Approximately 50 technicians of 13 Funds received training in courses of the ECLAC. The content contemplated the analysis of the life projects cycle; evaluation kinds, indicators, supposed and logical matrix for formulating projects; different sorts of scope and limitations of cost analysis; matrix of costs analysis; monitoring and the evaluation ex-post.

Under laboratory format, it is analyzed the practical application of an evaluation system and monitoring in a social institution of Latin America.

### **Market or Tianguis.**

It is possible to mention a scheme that has been positive, initially applied in the Seminary of Tlaxcala in 1991. It bases on interchanges in a denominated space “tianguis” (market in the pre-Hispanic Mexican cultural tradition) where each member provides experiences and information on its programs. The attendants circulate around tables, thus demands and supplies are settled. Interaction makes easy the negotiation and bilateral agreement of technical cooperation.

### **Internships.**

From the beginnings of the Network, internships were constituted in one of the used modalities of horizontal cooperation. The necessity to know “the territory” of the most successful programs and to learn directly from their operators was expressed from the first meetings. Additionally, the fact that many innovating practices of members have not been systematized nor part of formal courses of social policies and programs, that is why the visits in situ have become the only alternative to know and to learn from other experiences.

Internships consists of a programmed stay of a civil employee of an institution member in another one, by a short period of time, in order to learn certain specific abilities, to obtain data, as well as to know an individual process.

The Network adopts internships modality in order to personnel from a member institution may know the activities of others and extract information, lessons and recommendations to improve the performance of their programs. First internships were made in 1992 and they were based on the results of the tianguis exercise. Later on, in 1998, the Intra-Regional Program of Internships was formalized. It was financed by I.A.D.B. and executed by the Unit of Social Development and Education of O.A.S. (in its quality of Technical Secretary of the Social Network).

We emphasized that until August 30, 2002 a total of 76 internships were done.

- The main thematic internships have boarded turns around:
- Social policies development, execution and evaluation.
- Communitarian Participation and Social Control.
- Programs directed to vulnerable groups.
- Programs of employment and income generation
- Participation and interaction among member countries of Social Network:

Although, in general terms, it is difficult to maintain updated the information of the supplies and demands framework, due to members time response so slow, it is possible to say that those with an office or a civil employee in charge of external relations have demonstrated to be quicker in this matter.

Also, “separation” among members of Hispanic speech from those of English speech, where practically do not register jointly internships, is not a problem to future interchange programs will have to consider to save the obstacles due to languages.

**InterNetwork Social Project.**

Conceived like an instrument to support Social Network objectives from the instrumentation of a website, it is provided with a virtual library, a database with information about member institutions, a News bulletin online, and an electronic mail destined to ensure communications between members of the Network.

The project has looked for fortifying horizontal cooperation in the following ways:

Cataloguing in a systematic form the key information of institutions, which is contained in different types of institutional documents; reducing costs of communication and information exchange; offering the opportunity to deepen the cooperation through a permanent interchange, and extending the number of active participants in the horizontal cooperation activities. (FOPAR, 2000: 16).

This project was approved and financed by the World Bank, was executed by the FOPAR of Argentina between 1996 and 1999. During that period the Website was designed and started up [www.redsocial.org](http://www.redsocial.org) and three workshops were made to enable members in its usage and maintenance.

At the end of the project, the website administration was under the responsibility of FOSIS of Chile. Nevertheless, once concluded the financial support, the Social Network Website has faced several difficulties.



# 11

## STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES.

Strengths. The experiences of Social Network allow affirming it is a mechanism that fulfills two basic aspects of cooperation for overcoming poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean:

- Like a discussion forum for social policies, basically problems emerging while their implementation and execution.
- Like a tool to spread out innovating practices and experiences. It would be an essential material for activities of formation and qualification in social management.

The Social Network has taken to a regional plane the innovating work of its member institutions, contributing to generate a demonstration with respect to its profits, such as: actions promotion of public interest, from the citizens participation; contribution to the reform process at the traditional ministries; decentralization, and joint of diverse sectors (governmental, nongovernmental and private) in the execution of the programs. Among profits of the Network, it is possible to emphasize the following ones:

- Circulation and interchange of methodologies, projects results and social management between directors and technical-professional personnel.
- To create a forum of regional discussion that may examine experiences of overcoming poverty programs, especially through workshops and seminars.
- Generation of a qualification model based on internships, which has allowed in-situ interaction between civil employees and technicians from different countries of the region, facilitating transference of innovating experiences, not yet systematized nor incorporated in the conventional programs of formation.
- Formation of a community of professionals who work in social programs for the lightening of poverty, coming from countries with different development level and important social and cultural differences.
- To display the relevancy and utility of an international organization such as OAS, in order to promote and support regional forums. Otherwise could not operate by the lack of institutional resources.
- To identify and diagnose members necessities of qualification and professional education.

### **Weaknesses.**

As far as the weaknesses, it is possible to emphasize the following ones:

- Sometimes, summons has been complex, because all governments do not have an institution responsible for social policy and overcoming poverty; due to diverse government instances share the tasks to overcome poverty.
- In some cases, commitment with the Network has derived in more personal relations than institutional.
- Lack of broadcasting characteristics and activities of the Network, among its members and towards national governments.
- The internal organization of the Network (voluntary work and informal mechanism) limits the resources management and experiences systematization.

- The absence of evaluation mechanisms has prevented the settlement the application degree of knowledge acquired by means of horizontal cooperation, as well as the identification of the best practices.
- Difficulties to maintain cooperating impulse have been detected, once concluded the meeting where the crossing of the supply and the demand becomes. The experience says that many of the initiatives do not take shape due to the lack of financing and pursuit instruments to facilitate operative and administrative aspects, necessary to make real the proposals of horizontal cooperation.
- Some factors have been modified, it has introduced not only greater complexity to management, but it has created new challenges for institutional survival; such as: diversification of resources; adoption of self financing measures; different loads from responsibility between members, some of which must assume the condition of projects executors (largely, the Network works with voluntary work); increase of the Presidency tasks that has assumed functions which were made by the Technical Secretary before; lack of a public image, specially through an own Website; elaboration of norms and procedures to regulate the Network operation.
- High rotation of principals at member institutions, since they are political offices of trust, which sometimes, makes difficult the staying of a collective cohesion based on shared historical memory.

# 12

## RENOVATING THE WORK MODEL

A group of suggestions appear from member reflections on learned lessons, oriented to optimize and to give greater impact to horizontal cooperation modalities, renewing the working model from strengthening three scopes: management and entailment, information and communication, and qualification of human resources.

In the matter of management and entailment it is important to remember:

- Creation of sub-regional groups. Although these are already contemplated in the operative structure, they have not worked regularly, so to obtain a greater joint of relatively homogenous sub-groups for tasks adoption, would allow better coordination of activities and tasks. They also could be revitalizing agents, particularly relating to the consolidation of sub-regional cooperation projects inside the Network (Andean, Caribbean, South and Central America). Its fortification would identify common projects more accurately and would encourage a more active participation.

Integration of horizontal cooperation strategies (fundamentally technical) with political strategies oriented to equip the Network with channels and spaces to participate or to influence in regional debates of social and economic development. To achieve the previous subject it would be great to impel the following actions:

- To establish links with other forums. By means of the existing relation with the OAS the nexus with the Inter-American Commission of Social Development and with diverse ministerial forums, such as those of Education and Work, could be narrowed. It, as well, would facilitate the access to preparatory process of Presidential Summits. Although the Network has maintained good work relations with OAS, I.A.D.B. and World Bank, these bonds must stay and be fortified. It would have to extend its contacts with other cooperation organisms, like those of the European Community and agencies of international cooperation.
- To strengthen links with similar networks in other regions of the world. Until now, Network has advanced in this matter and its experiences have served as stimulation for other groupings conformation. Nevertheless, in a second phase the Network could impel cooperation agreements, by means of which the members offered specific consultant offices and services to the networks of Africa (ASIFNET), East Europe and Central Asia (ECANET) and Middle East and North Africa (MENANET).
- To consolidate the special fund, operating since 2000, conformed with the contributions of member institutions, since this is the most appropriate route towards the self-financing of its activities, it would grant greater autonomy and negotiating power to it, and would stimulate the contributors to participate more actively.

About exchange models of information it is convenient to develop Internet potential to ensure communications between the members, under the following aspects:

- To incorporate new technologies for information exchanging, such as teleconferences, CDROM and on line conferences. Many formative and management activities could become by these routes, which would generate considerable savings.

In relation to formation strategies:

- To equip with greater methodological severity activities contents, with the support of institutions specialized in investigation and qualification, such as ECLAC, I.A.D.B., World Bank, universities.
- To incorporate evaluation instruments for training activities. Internships and workshops have demonstrated to be appropriate mechanisms for transferring knowledge and abilities. In this sense, to measure the application of knowledge acquired in the job and its impact for long and mid term management for member institutions, must be a high-priority task.
- To consider the incorporation of organizations from civil society and other governmental sectors to enrich the process of transferring methods.
- To evaluate and show results of successful interventions.

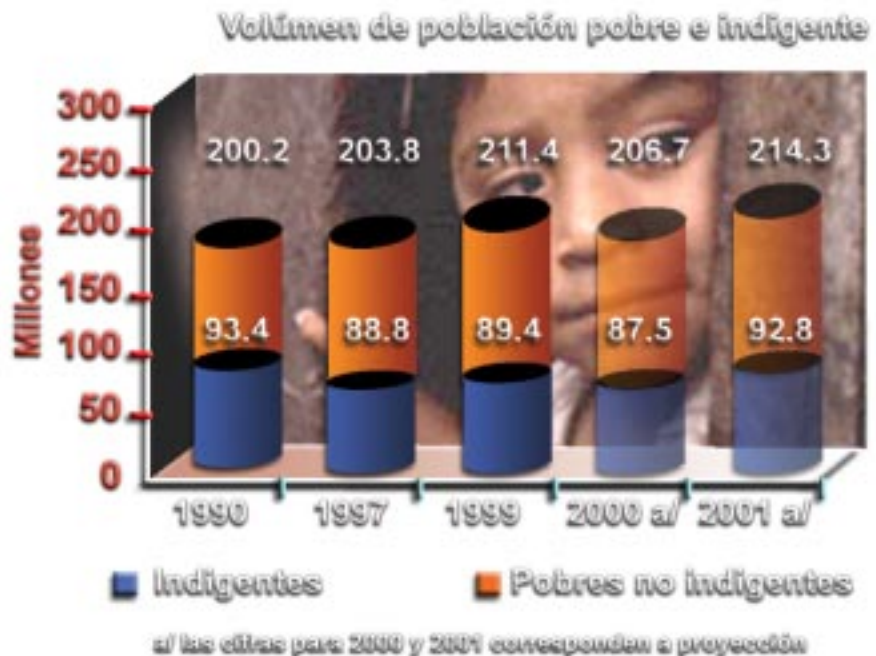
# 13

## SEEING TOWARDS FUTURE.

The beginning of the new century and millennium has come along negative results in several countries, which are living economic political and social difficulties. It necessarily affects the programs to overcome poverty. Although, overcoming poverty continues being a priority in development programs of all governments in the region and the concerted efforts that have been done, again we faced voices saying the ninety is a “lost Decade” in relation to overcome poverty, saying it is a lost task. However, it is necessary to know very clearly that the intention to overcome poverty and to advance towards greater fairness are, by nature, central challenges of any society. And that a mistaken, narrows or myopic understanding of the problem can derive in political formulas of authoritarian sort, placing in serious risk the young democracy which several countries live now.

In 1997, in Latin America concluded a cycle of growth that allowed several countries to obtain important advances in lightening poverty. Important point in this process was the Asian crisis, with which a lustrum of smaller economic dynamism began, unemployment, stagnation, and in many cases, elevation of the poverty indices increased.

Between 1997 and 2001 improvements in population life standards in Latin America did not take place and the number of poor people in the region increased more than 10 million. Poverty is a condition in which 220 million people in the region live, and that unequally affects countries.



Upon these conditions, it is worth to value the Social Network efforts, though counting with few resources it has pawned its better efforts to achieve its tasks. Its cooperation activities continue highly being appreciated; reason that explains why internships, qualification and encounter are demanded for analysis and interchange of experiences would be permanent tasks. The Network is, certainly, a mechanism that has matured as a regional instance of cooperation; nevertheless, it is time to reframe its organization and institutionalism to continue offering quick and suitable answers to the present member necessities.

In this sense, it is necessary that the Network counts on a permanent responsible organization, with a defined physical office, that elaborates and manages the projects with international cooperators; that executes and pursues the activities to be done, the internal organization, as well as internal and external communication and diffusion.

Until now, the Network has rested in the voluntary work of its members which is clearly inoperative not only due to the necessities change, but the present conditions in the region diverts members time and dedication to their national tasks. For example, in the last two years, coordinating committee has not totally evolved in assigned tasks, because constant substitutions of people due to government changes have been registered. Thus Presidency of Coordinating Committee must execute the Working Plan with the OAS support as the Technical Secretariat, FOSIS of Chile (either like member of the Committee, or like administrator of the web page or like supporting courses and internships), and two more institutions.

The previous paragraph does not suppose that the other members do not participate, is enough to say that the attendance to encounter and seminars is very high (around 75% of the members), they contribute with their payments of annual quotas (money or species), and they support seminars and internships. But it is noticed the increasing necessity of horizontal cooperation which cannot be covered by members since these cannot commit voluntary job in the Network due to the strong acquired labor loads in the scope of their public responsibilities at their respective countries. In addition, they do not count, in most of the cases, with administrative units specialized in international cooperation.

It is necessary to articulate forums of political debate with solidary technical cooperation, as well as to involve diverse governmental authorities, which are responsible for social development and overcoming poverty. The increasing necessity of technical cooperation in matter of social development and overcoming poverty, as we say, is not properly cared due to the great existing efforts dispersion (sprouting new strategies, multiplicity of institutions, and proliferation of forums and encounters on social development). In this sense, the experience of the Network (as a cooperation mechanism and example of independent management) can support wider processes of hemisphere cooperation in order to prosecute efforts.

Poverty is a complex phenomenon that requires to be boarded from an integral perspective to avoid reducing people to economic figures. Certainly, it is absolutely necessary to increase national production but most important is to translate economic growth into human development.

It does not exceed to insist in searching for development alternatives, the thought of the Indian economist Amartya Sen –Nobel Prize of Economics 1998- has been of great importance, since he developed scientific analysis of development and poverty with an optics, which broke up the instrumentalist thought tradition to give a sense of social and human values. He points that, in a context to generate development opportunities, in an atmosphere of freedom of options of human beings, poverty is not lack of income nor the simple measurement of basic indicators of consumption, but that poverty is a diminishing of total development of cultural, ethical, social and political values. He outlines, for the first time in modern era, the necessity of ethics for economy.

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### **Structure of the Network: Evolution of Coordinating Committee and Technical Secretariat.**

The initial structure of the Network had a Technical Secretariat Pro-Tempore and a Coordinating Committee of 4 members with a President and Vice-president. The Ministry was responsibility of the institution, which was host of the Annual Conference, under this modality the Secretary, was exerted by the IMAS from Costa Rica (1993-1994) and FISE from Ecuador (1994-1995). In the III Annual Conference of Social Network in Panama (November, 1996) it was agreed to create a permanent Technical Secretary and the offering of the Unit of Social Development and Education of OEA was accepted (UDSE/OEA) to exert this function, such designation has stayed effective up to date.

Subsequently, the V Annual Conference made in 1998 in Jamaica defined, following a proposal of UDSE/OEA, to the Technical Secretary like the permanent instance of support to Coordinating Committee job.

At the moment, Social Network accounts with one basic operation structure that consists of the Annual Conference a superior decision instance of the Network, a Coordinating Committee integrated by six of its institution members and a Technical Secretariat in charge of the General Secretariat of the O.A.S. Despite the Network throughout his ten years of existence has adapted his structure to arising necessities, it also will explain the flexibility this cooperation mechanism must have had to stay throughout more than ten years. The following is a reference about the structure and the composition of Committee that will allow noticing the institutional participation of its members.

It makes reference to each Annual Conference, since it is there where the Committee chooses itself and necessary norms for its operation are adopted. The Coordinating Committee renews every year, according to the effective norms, whereas the Technical Secretariat is permanent from 1996, under the Unit of Social Development and education of the General Secretariat of the O.A.S., it then explains the reference only to the composition of OAS Coordinating Committee.



## I Coordinating Committee. 1993-1994.

The attendants of the III the Seminary of Experiences Interchange celebrated at Puntarenas, Costa Rica from the 15 to 19 of November 1993, they decided the birth Social Network with a structure that contemplated an Annual Conference as the Maximum authority, a Coordinating Committee made up of four institutions from participating countries, responding to a criterion of geographic representation, which will work in the period between one and another Conference to fulfill the plan of annual work.

- Patricio Fernandez, Fund of Solidarity and Social Investment, FOSIS, Chile
- Alfredo Toledo, Social Investment Fund of Emergency, Uruguay
- Hebert Blandón, Social Investment Fund from El Salvador
- Louis Bryan, Social Ministry of Subjects for Consumer and Services, Trinidad y Tobago

The structure included a Pro-Tempore Secretariat, whose responsibility that first fell at the Fund or Institution that had been headquarters of Conference, under the direction of Coordination Committee to whom it serves as a Technical and Administrative Secretariat. Accordingly, the first ProTempore Secretariat corresponded to Mixed Institute of Social Help (IMAS) from Costa Rica.

Also, the attendants decided that the Program for Overcoming Poverty of Mexico would be integrated to the Coordinating Committee in quality of permanent adviser.

## II Coordinating Committee. 1994-1995.

Each Conference has made decisions that determines the execution of work plans, thus the following year during the First Annual Conference made in Quito Ecuador from the 26 to 28 of October 1994, it was modified the composition of the Coordinating Committee discarding the permanent adviser personality of Mexico, approved a year before. It was also decided that the Technical Secretariat became to occupy the Presidency of the Committee. The declaration of Quito agreed:

- a) Coordinating Committee is the executor of the policies and decisions of SOCIAL NETWORK and it is compound by four member institutions chosen by the conference. They are responding to a criterion of geographic representation and are chosen by a year period. The election takes place with one vote per country, independently of the number of institutions, which are members of SOCIAL NETWORK. The Coordinating Committee will choose among its members a president.
- b) The Secretariat constitutes an organism of pursuit and execution projects and activities approved for one-year period and support the Coordinating Committee work. This responsibility falls in the institution member that Coordinating Committee presides over during a similar period of time. The Conference will annually choose the headquarters for the following meeting, whose responsible institution, will exert the presidency of that conference.

The Coordinating Committee was integrated by:

- Santiago Bustamante, Social Investment Fund of Emergency (FISE) Ecuador
- Social Investment Fund, (FIS) Bolivia
- Carlos Noguera Shepherd, Social Investment Fund of Emergency (FISE) Nicaragua
- Louis Bryan, Ministry of Social Development, Trinidad y Tobago

The Network Presidency and the Technical Secretariat were, during this period, under the responsibility of FISE from Ecuador.

### III Coordinating Committee of Social Network, for 1995- 1996.

The Annual Conference, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic from 13 to 15 of November 1995 agrees to increase the number of members of Coordinating Committee from 4 to 6, observing a geographic representation of two members by area, in the same way, it is increased the effect operation period that members must fulfill from one to two years, renewing the Coordinating Committee in halves every year to allow the continuity of the work. In order to allow the adoption of the new composition, by that occasion, three members were chosen only by one year and three more by two years. They designated a President and a Vice-president.

Three geographic areas were defined: 1) Mexico and Central America, 2) the Caribbean and 3) South America.

Area 1: Manuel Zelaya, FHIS of Honduras, (two years) Vice-president  
Blanca Lilia García, SEDESOL, Mexico, (one year)

Area 2: Minú Torres, Pro-community, Dominican Republic, (two years)  
Harry Narine Nawt, SIMAP, Guyana, (one year)

Area 3: Eduardo Diaz, Network of Social Solidarity, Colombia (two years) President  
Leonardo Di Pietro, Secretariat of Social Development Argentina, (one year)

The Conference asked the General Secretariat of O.A.S. to cover the functions as Technical Secretariat of the Network through 1995-1996, and entrusted Coordinating Committee the presentation of a proposal to adopt the definitive institutionalism of Social Network preventing any decision that will be taken the following year Conference.

### IV. - Coordinating Committee. 1996-97.

During the Annual Conference, of Panama, from 31 of October to 1 of November 1996, a Coordinating Committee was integrated, according to dispositions emitted during the previous Conference, reason why only three positions were chosen, one by each geographic area.

Area 1 (Mexico and Central America): Manuel Zelaya, FHIS of Honduras (until 1997). Vice-president  
Blanca Lilia García, Secretariat of Social Development (SEDESOL) of Mexico (until 1998)

Area 2 (The Caribbean): Scarlett Gillings, Social Investment Fund, Jamaica (until 1998)  
Emma Tavares, Pro-community of the Dominican Republic (until 1997);

Area 3 (South America) Eduardo Diaz, Network of Social Solidarity of Colombia (until 1997) President  
Leonardo Di Pietro, Secretariat of Social Development of Argentina (until 1998)

The Conference decides to create a Permanent Technical Secretariat to support the activities of the Conference and its organisms, to process cooperation demands among Network members, to follow documents and records of fulfilled activities and spreads them out, to collaborate in activities coordination and to handle Social Network resources in order to support programmed activities. It also decides, with base on OAS showed disposition, to entrust the function of Technical Secretariat to the General Secretariat of O.A.S., through his Unit of Social Development and Education.

### V Coordinating Committee. 1997-1998.

The Fourth Annual Conference made in Buenos Aires, Argentina, days 6 and 7 of November 1997 chose the following Committee:

#### Area 1: (Mexico and Central America)

Blanca Lilia García, Secretariat of Social Development, Mexico (until 1998) President

Enrique Godoy, National Fund for Peace (FONAPAZ), Guatemala (until 1999)

#### Area 2: (The Caribbean)

Scarlette Gillings, Social Investment Fund of Jamaica (until 1998)

Shastri Alí, Ministry of Social Development, Trinidad y Tobago (up to 1999)

#### Area 3: (South America)

Leonardo Di Pietro, Secretariat of Social Development, Argentina (until 1998) Vice-president

Ricardo Halabí, Fund of Solidarity and Social Investment (FOSIS) Chile (up to 1999)

### VI Coordinating Committee. 1998-1999.

The Fifth Annual Conference made in Kingston, Jamaica 5 and 6 of November 1998 chose the integration of the following Committee:

#### Area 1 Mexico and Central America

Blanca Lilia García López SEDESOL, Mexico (until the 2000) President

Enrique Godoy, FONAPAZ, Guatemala (until 1999)

#### Area 2 The Caribbean

Jennifer Sampson, Ministry of Social Development, Trinidad y Tobago (until 1999)

Curtis Mc Greer, Poverty Reduction Fund, St. Lucia (until the 2000)

#### Area 3 South America

Ricardo Halabí, FOSIS, Chile, (until 1999) Vice-president

Guillermo Perez Puig, PRONAPPA, Uruguay (until the 2000)

### VII. - Coordinating Committee. 1999-2000.

The Sixth Conference made in Tlaxcala, Mexico from 8 to 10 of November 1999 decided the following Committee

#### Area 1: Mexico and Central America

Blanca Lilia García López, SEDESOL, Mexico (until the 2000) President

Carlos Noguera Pastor, FISE, Nicaragua (until the 2001)

#### Area 2 The Caribbean

Curtis Greer, Poverty Reduction Fund, St. Lucia (until the 2000)

Scarlette Gillings, Social Investment Fund, Jamaica (until the 2001)

#### Area 3 South America

Ricardo Halabi, FOSIS, Chile (until 2001) Vice-president

Guillermo Perez, PRONAPA, Uruguay (until the 2000)

## **VIII Coordinating Committee. 2000-2001.**

The Seventh Annual Conference celebrated in Nicaragua, Managua from 8 to 10 of November 2000 chose the following Coordinating Committee:

### **Area 1 Mexico and Central America**

Blanca Lilia García López, SEDESOL, Mexico (until 2002) President

Carlos Noguera Pastor, FISE, Nicaragua (until 2001)

### **Area 2 The Caribbean**

Scarlette Gillings, Social Investment Fund, Jamaica (until 2001)

Monique Pierre Antoine, FAES Haiti (until 2002)

### **Area 3 South America**

Mario Ossandón, Fund of Solidarity and Social Investment (FOSIS), Chile, Vice-president (until 2001)

Johnny Ferrel, Social Investment Fund, Bolivia, (until 2002)

## **IX Coordinating Committee. 2001-2002.**

The following Committee pronounced the Eighth Conference conducted in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic from 24 to 26 of October 2001:

### **Area 1: Mexico and Central America**

Blanca Lilia García López, SEDESOL, Mexico (until 2002) President

Haroldo Quej, FONAPAZ, Guatemala (until 2003)

### **Area 2: The Caribbean**

Peggy Cabral de Peña Gómez, PROCOMMUNITY, Dominican Rep. (until 2003)

Harry Adam, FAES, Haiti (until 2002)

### **Area 3: South America**

Pablo Ormachea, Productive and Social National Fund of Bolivia (until 2002)

Abruceze, Participant Fund, Secretariat of Social Development, Argentina (until 2003)

## **X Coordinating Committee 2002-2003.**

The Ninth Annual Conference of Network was made in Asunción, Paraguay from 4 to 6 of December 2002 chose the integration of the following Committee:

### **Area 1: Mexico and Central America**

Mario Montenegro, FONAPAZ, Guatemala (until 2003)

Blanca Lilia García López, SEDESOL, México (until 2004)

### **Area 2: The Caribbean**

Peggy Cabral de Peña Gómez, PROCOMMUNITY, Dominican Rep. (until 2003)

Scarlette Gillings, Social Investment Fund, Jamaica (until 2004)

### **Area 3: South America**

FOPAR, Secretariat of Social Development, Argentina (until 2003)

Aurelio Yellow Varela, Secretariat of Social Development, Paraguay (until 2004)

**WORKSHOP OF INTERCHANGING EXPERIENCES FOR OVERCOMING POVERTY IN LATIN AMERICA  
AND THE CARIBBEAN  
Tlaxcala, Mexico, 1991.  
TLAXCALA CONCENSUS ABOUT HORIZONTAL COOPERATION TO OVERCOME POVERTY.**

Representatives of Organisms and National Programs attendant the workshop of Experience Interchange on Overcoming Poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean made from 19 to 21 of June 1991 in Tlaxcala, Mexico, under the auspices of the National Program of Solidarity of Mexico and the Organization of American States.

Recognizes that:

Poverty constitutes one of the critical challenges the region faces in the Nineties and that its alarming and persistent dimensions demand to commit the greatest efforts for development to their solution;

Considering:

The content of deliberations conducted in the plenary sessions, the worktables and the negotiation sessions to establish experiences interchange and necessities of consultant offices;

And remembering that:

1. To Overcome Poverty is an ethical and politician imperative of governments of the region, being the national efforts decisive and strategic elements to face it.
2. Overcoming Poverty is a fundamental responsibility of the State, the government and the civil society as a whole. Here, the roll modern state must play stands out to cause citizen participation in the definition and instrumentation of actions to overcome poverty.
3. The experiences interchange among countries of the region has demonstrated that it is a proper route to contribute increasing solidarity between towns and to establish relation bonds directed to achievement broadcasting reached when overcoming poverty, of the experienced problems and its alternatives of solution.
4. One of the identified mechanisms to serve these intentions is Horizontal Cooperation, which is facilitated with organisms participation

With base in it, agreement is:

- I. To establish a Horizontal Technical Cooperation agenda, based on the commitments reached in the workshop and in those, which are defined in the future.
- II. To ask for the support of the Secretary General of O.A.S., within the framework of the commitment of Santiago of Chile of June of 1991. Establishing a Horizontal Cooperation project to face critic poverty, with the purpose of facilitating the agenda development and constructing its mechanism of pursuit.
- III. To ask Inter-American Development Bank its participation in financing this project.
- IV. To invite the Program of United Nations for Development and other Organisms of Technical and Financial Cooperation to be integrated to this initiative.
- V. To welcome the proposal of Venezuela delegation to celebrate in Caracas, in 1992, the II Workshop of experiences interchange on Overcoming Poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean.

They also decide:

To thank Mexican People and Government as well as workshop organizers, by attention and cordiality service during the accomplishment of this event.

Special mention deserves the extraordinary hospitality and generosity of Lic. Beatriz Paredes Rangel, Constitutional Governor of the Tlaxcala State.

## SECOND WORKSHOP OF INTERCHANGING EXPERIENCES FOR OVERCOMING POVERTY IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN.

La Serena, 1992.

### DECLARATION OF LA SERENA

The representatives of Organisms and National Programs assistants in the “Second Workshop of Interchanging Experiences for Overcoming Poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean” made between days 19 and 23 of October 1992, in La Serena city, Chile, under the auspices of the Fund of Solidarity and Social Investment of Chile (FOSIS) and the Organization of American States (OAS).

Recognizing that:

Overcoming Poverty constitutes the greatest political, economic and social challenge for countries of the region during the present decade, and this challenge demands to identify and to spread out experiences and reached achievements between countries;

And considering:

1. That, in spite of the efforts, poverty situation the region is still critical;
2. That, despite previous paragraph, there are some partial experiences showing positive results in several countries of the region; particularly, those that promote the incorporation of the poor to economic and productive activities;
3. That from the work tables and experiences interchange between different member countries integrating La Serena workshop, conclusions have been obtained that will precise the way to follow in strategies of overcoming poverty, defining excellent subjects like: necessity of policies and programs destined to promote the creation or strengthen of medium, small and micro companies - including independent worker-like employment generating sources; The priority to the young people and women to allow its incorporation to markets of work, also preferential attention to farmers and indigenous;
4. That the Experiences Interchange and Horizontal Cooperation are of great value to obtain advances in each one of the countries and the region as a whole;

5. That the consensus reached in “Prime Workshop Experiences Interchange on Overcoming Poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean”, made in Tlaxcala, Mexico, establishes an agenda of Horizontal Technical Cooperation and the configuration of a mechanism of pursuit of commitments then assumed;
6. That in spite of the difficulties for Horizontal Cooperation Materialization during the first operation year of the consensus of Tlaxcala, all representatives gathered in La Serena have ratified the decision to perfect this Horizontal Cooperation;

They decide:

1. To ratify decided matters in the Consensus of Tlaxcala about the decisive importance of Horizontal Cooperation between countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, in order to share experiences to fortify the respective programs and national efforts of overcoming poverty;
2. It reiterates the importance of having an agenda of Horizontal Cooperation in the matter of Overcoming Poverty, based on the commitments reached in Tlaxcala and enriched by new commitments established La Serena;
3. It indicates the necessity to count with agile mechanisms of implementation to allow giving Horizontal Cooperation flexibility and opportunity characteristics needed to satisfy countries requirements;

4. To ask for General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (O.A.S.) that, with the participation of Programs of Overcoming Poverty in Mexico and Chile, prepares a project in order to create a special fund Horizontal Cooperation in the matter of Social Development and Poverty. It would be directed to give fulfillment and pursuit to tasks and workings decided and asked by countries, relating to Horizontal Cooperation. The fixed project will be put under consideration of assisting Organisms;
5. This bottom will be financed with contributions of diverse financing sources, like the Inter-American Development Bank (I.A.D.B.) and other multilateral agencies, as well as, with contributions from Countries and Private Organisms interested in providing the tasks of Horizontal Cooperation to Overcome Poverty. Such Fund would be administered by O.A.S. and would count on a committee of supervision and pursuit, formed by three countries of the region and OAS representatives and diverse financing sources to contribute to its foundation;
6. To ask for General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OEA) and Inter-American Development Bank (I.A.D.B.) to implement necessary measures to count on preparatory attendance for the organization Project of the already approved Special Fund;
7. Participant Organisms are required to settle down a periodic mechanism of information pursuit and evaluation of commitments for Horizontal Cooperation between Programs of Overcoming Poverty, with Organization of American States (OEA), in its administrator personality for the Special Fund;
8. To exhort the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (O.A.S.), to continue supporting organisms responsible for Programs to Overcome Poverty in the matter of qualification through regional courses, sub-regional seminaries and workshops, and to inform in the Third Seminary Workshop of Experiences Interchange, to be celebrated in 1993;
9. To assign the O.A.S. the mission to transmit these agreements to all Latin America and the Caribbean.

They also decide:

To affably take special note of gentile offer from Brazil and Costa Rica to make, in 1993, the Third Seminary Workshop of Experiences Interchange of Overcoming Poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean.

To require these countries to officially confirm their postulation before O.A.S. in order to make necessary consultations to reach, before 31 December of the present year, the resolution about the headquarters Third Workshop;

Thankfulness:

To thank People and Government of Chile, as well as the Organizers of this Second Workshop, particularly FOSIS, for cordiality and attention received along the event;

To thank Organization of American States (O.A.S.) the granted support to the accomplishment of this encounter;

In Mr. Intendent from Coquimbo region, Don Renan Fuentealba, and the gentlemen mayors of La Serena and Coquimbo for kind hospitality they welcomed participants;

To the Gentleman Minister of Planning and Cooperation of Chile, Don Sergio Molina, by its presence and support during all accomplishment of the event;

And very specially, to the Gentleman President of the Republic of Chile, Don Patricio Aylwin Azocar, that has honored with his presence the closing of this encounter, heightening therefore, the importance of efforts to find better and more effective ways for overcoming poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean.

La Serena, Chile 23 October 1992.



### THIRD SEMINARY-WORKSHOP OF INTERCHANGING EXPERIENCES FOR OVERCOMING POVERTY IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN.

Puntarenas, Costa Rica. 1993.

#### PUNTARENAS AGREEMENT.

The representatives of Funds, Organisms and National Programs assistants in the "Third Workshop of Experiences Interchange on Overcoming Poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean", made from 15 to 19 of November 1992, in Puntarenas, Costa Rica under the auspices of the Mixed Institute of Social Help (IMAS) of Costa Rica and the Organization of American States (OAS).

Recognizing:

That final goal of processes for economic growth undertaken by countries of the region must be total access to social welfare and democratic participation of men and women

Considering:

1. That Overcoming Poverty constitutes a high priority goal for Governments of the region and Multilateral Organisms;
2. That important efforts in exchanging experiences through Horizontal Cooperation mechanisms have been accumulated, achieving a high level of advantage for available resources;
3. That, nevertheless, limitations persist in the matter of financing, improvement of human resources and necessities of institutional development of Funds and Organisms to overcome Poverty,
4. That through Certificate of the Organization of American States (O.A.S.) reformation and the presidents pronouncement in the latest Latin American Summit, has obtained a decisive endorsement to efforts of countries to overcome Critical Poverty and to the initiative expressed in Tlaxcala (Mexico) and La Serena (Chile), in the sense to constitute a Network to gather Social Investment Funds and Institution with similar principles;
5. The elaboration of REDSOCIAL project for Horizontal Cooperation in matter of Overcoming Poverty, in agreement with the recommendation formulated along the Second Workshop at La Serena (Chile) to PRONASOL (Mexico), FOSIS (Chile) and to OAS General Secretariat.

They decide:

1. To ratify agreements contented in documents known as the Consensus of Tlaxcala 1991 and the Declaration of La Serena 1992;
2. To constitute and To equip SOCIAL NETWORK as a instance from the different social investment funds and institutions and mechanisms created by Latin America and the Caribbean with the intention to Overcome Poverty;
3. To promote mechanisms to favor Horizontal Cooperation between Funds and Institutions constituting the SOCIAL NETWORK;
4. To approve the structure of SOCIAL NETWORK according to this agreement attachment, and the mechanisms of financing for its initial operation;
5. To approve the work plan of SOCIAL NETWORK, basically includes: A) services qualification through its different modalities, B) specific consultant offices, C) qualification in matter of Social Development and Poverty, D) equipment of an alert network and broadcasting;
6. To settle down a solidary commitment with the activities in the field of Overcoming Poverty required by people and Democratic Government of Haiti;
7. To support the presentation made by Argentina delegation of an Inter-American Program of Social Development and Overcoming Poverty (PIDESSP) and to recommend its approval by Organization of the American States (O.A.S.);

8. To ask the Organization of American States (O.A.S.) continuing supporting as it has been doing its efforts in matter of Horizontal Cooperation and to urge other multilateral organizations doing their own welfare;

They also decide:

1. To accept the Social Investment Fund of Emergency (FISE) of Ecuador offering, so that the First Conference of the SOCIAL NETWORK in October of 1994 will be done there and to ask for official confirmation before the Organization of American States (O.A.S.);

They are thankful:

1. To People and Government of Costa Rica, specially, the Mixed Institute of Social Help authorities (IMAS) for the cordiality and attention received during the accomplishment of the event;

2. Very specially, to Mr. President of Costa Rica, Don Rafael Calderón Angel Fournier, who honored the event with his presence in the opening, heightening therefore the importance of efforts to find out better and more effective ways for Overcoming of Poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean;
3. To Organization of American States (O.A.S.) by granted continuous support for the accomplishment of these events;
4. To the Inter-American Development Bank (I.A.D.B.) by its presence and interest in SOCIAL NETWORK;
5. To Puntarenas Authorities by their constant demonstrations and kindly attention during the accomplishment of the III Seminary Workshop of Puntarenas.

Puntarenas, Costa Rica, 19 of November of 1993.

## ATTACHMENT

### Social Network Structure.

The Social Network is a Project from all different Investment Funds and other Institutions and mechanisms created by countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to overcome poverty. The Network intends to make contributions in this effort, taking advantage of experiences from different countries, in a solidarity frame, employing Horizontal Cooperation.

These Institutions and Organisms wish to count on a mechanism to identify, spread out and coordinate the activities of exchanging experiences in matter of Overcoming Poverty. Giving special priority to countries of smaller relative development, so their necessities can be procured by qualification or internships under their different modalities, consultant offices, training and information exchange.

To achieve these proposals an organic structure has been proposed, must be simple, economic and agile and is considers as the following way:

1. The Main instance of Social Network is an Annual Conference of social Investment Funds and Institutions directed to Overcome Poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean.

These instances intend the analysis of advances achieved in the region in matter of Overcoming Poverty, to allow information knowledge and exchange of results and new available mechanisms, among other subjects.

It will also analyze, define priorities and approve the central contents of a work plan for its future activities, considering available necessities and resources. In this instance, annual contribution commitments will be known that International Partners and other Institutions and Organisms, can do to support its annual plan.

Finally, it will indicate the most advisable strategies to obtain external and national resources as bilateral or as multilateral

sources. This instance will also help to link Social Network with beneficiaries, NGO and organisms and International Agencies to Overcome Poverty.

The following instance is constituted by a Coordinating Committee made up of four institutions of participant countries, chosen in the Annual Conference responding to a criterion of geographic representation and that will work in the period between one conference and another At Puntarenas, Costa Rica, the following institutions were chosen to constitute the Coordinating Committee:

The FOSIS from Chile,  
The FISE from Uruguay,  
The FIS from El Salvador  
Ministry of Consumer Subjects and Social Services of Trinidad y Tobago.

This Committee must respond to the ideas of coordination and the pursuit of Social Network activities and its surroundings. It must respond to "steering committee", whose mission is to orient and to supervise social Network activities. Thus it must meet at least twice by year. It will elaborate a detailed Work Plan and make periodic following pursuit of Plan advances and the promotion and link activities of Social Network.

As a consequence, it will be able to make necessary adjustments to reach the Plan goals.

Based on experience the Coordinating Committee will make proposal of organization, budget and work methods for the Annual Conference consideration. To accomplish its activities the Coordinating Committee will be assisted by the Secretariat Pro Tempore, which it deals with the following point.

The structure includes a Pro-Tempore secretariat, responsibility taken by the Fund or Institution formerly being headquarters the Conference, under the direction of the Coordination Committee for which it is Technical and Administrative Secretariat.

Host Fund contributes the personnel and basic logistic infrastructure of this Pro-Tempore Secretariat or organism headquarters of the last Conference.

According to the previous paragraph, the first ProTempore Secretariat corresponds to the Mixed Institute of Social Help (IMAS) of Costa Rica.

This secretariat is the Execution Organism of Execution of projects and activities approved by Conference for one-year period. To provide periodical information to the Network corresponds to it, as well as resources administration that Social Network handles and must report this to the superior instances. It will also ensure the completion of cooperation activities.

This secretariat, as being rotating, will have to maintain one narrow relation with the institution responsible for the following Conference.

The ProTempore Secretariat will be able to require, when considering necessary, support from institutions with greater experience in Horizontal Cooperation of International Organisms.

### **Proposal**

Appendix to Puntarenas' agreement.  
Funds of social emergency investment from Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Annual Conference at Puntarenas, Costa Rica, within the framework that "Red Social" has constituted, to collaborate with overcoming poverty in the region.

They have taken following agreements that will guide driving Executive Committee and Pro-Tempore Secretariat for the period that will conclude with the annual conference corresponding to 1994.

### **FIRST:**

To order the Coordinating Committee of Social Network to impel horizontal cooperation among Network members;

- a) Especially through Internships, Consultant offices, and Qualification Ac-

tions between Members, lead to develop Funds capacities, their personnel, and related Institutions and Social Organizations who carry out projects and programs supported by these institutions.

- b) To collaborate with bilateral initiatives of Cooperation between the Network Members, in order to make its accomplishment easy and to spread out these initiatives among the rest.

### **SECOND:**

To fulfill the previous point, the Coordinating Committee is authorized to make managements for different Cooperation Institutions, to get resources based on the development of indicated activities and, particularly:

- a) In order to represent the Network before Inter-American Development Bank (I.A.D.B.) negotiations, in order to get the Bank collaboration for the consolidation and development of Social Network. It is authorized, particularly, so it can accept modifications required by the Bank, within the SOCIAL NETWORK framework approved by member institutions.

To manage in name of the network, and to delegate its total or partial accomplishment at PRO-Tempore Secretariat, in order to obtain resources to Horizontal Cooperation activities from different financing sources, with no limitations, within the spirit of SOCIAL NETWORK,

### **THIRD:**

It is agreed to apply the following, as controller criteria to allocate resources gotten by the Network to initiatives support in Horizontal Cooperation of its members:

- a) To prioritize those initiatives and necessities of countries with smaller relative development.
- b) To guide resources to:
  - i. Internships
  - ii. Consultant offices
  - iii. Qualification
- c) To be counterpart of co-financing for Cooperation activities, reason why Network members will have to contrib-

ute at least with one cost of these activities (travel allowance/Passages).

- d) Resources will not be destined to pay fees or remunerations, so they will have to be covered by member institutions in financing agreements and contracts.
- e) Only exception is those cases where collaborating sources for financing Network activities decide it. It is established

**QUARTER:**

To encourage Network members to manage getting Horizontal Cooperation from their own countries, as far as possible. These resources would be able to come from proper Regional or International Organisms, or to add to the budget whereupon annually Funds counts on to develop its normal activities.

**FIRST ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF SOCIAL NETWORK OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN  
QUITO, ECUADOR 1994.  
Agreement of Quito.**

The Representatives of the Social Investment Funds, other Institutions and Mechanisms of Overcoming Poverty of Latin America and the Caribbean, participants in the "First Conference of SOCIAL NETWORK", made from 26 to 28 of October 1994, in Quito, Ecuador, organized by Social Investment Fund of Emergency (FISE) of Ecuador and the Organization of American States (O.A.S.), under the auspices of the Program of United Nations for Development (the PNUD)

Considering:

1. That social development and overcoming poverty have been placed as priority in national policies and in international debate due to alarming indices of poverty worldwide.
2. That integral and equitable development respecting ethnic and cultural diversity from all communities of the Region must reach an integral development.
3. That SOCIAL NETWORK of Latin America and the Caribbean members are conducting important strategies to reduce the high indices of poverty, which oppress to the Region.
4. To stimulate our each nation governments to recommend the international and multilateral organisms of technical and financial cooperation a gradual review of their policies, in order to constantly respond to current socio-economic realities in each country.
5. To reiterate the support offered by SOCIAL NETWORK to Haiti Government to cooperate with its efforts in resettling democracy and its development process.

They decide:

1. To collaborate in social reform processes in each country and to contribute to a social policy definition based on the fairness, society participation and integral development, with emphasis in rationalizing social investment and the increase of efficiency levels, in order to optimize investment in areas of critical poverty.
2. To recommend governments to foment coherence between economic and social policies, in order to get to an concentrated governmental action scheme, to involve civil society in the identification, definition, execution and social evaluation of programs and projects.
3. To commit ourselves to combine efforts for supporting the most vulnerable population sectors, so their incorporation opportunities to the productive processes and to development benefits may increase.

They also decide:

6. To approve the Work Plan of Network 1994 - 1995, attached to present agreement.
7. To approve the structural modification of SOCIAL NETWORK in order to make agile its operation, in the following form:
  - a) The Annual Conference, which constitutes the superior instance of the Network;
  - b) The Coordinating Committee that is the executor organ of policies and decisions of SOCIAL NETWORK and is conformed by four member institutions chosen by the conference, responding to a criterion of geographic representation, is chosen by one-year period.The election takes place by means of one vote per country, independently of the number of member institutions of SOCIAL NETWORK. The Coordinating Committee will choose a president its members.

c) The Secretariat, constitutes an organism of pursuit and execution of the projects and activities approved for one year, and supports the works of the Coordinating Committee.

This responsibility falls into the member institution presiding by the Coordinating Committee lasting a similar period of time.

The conference will annually choose headquarters for the following meeting, whose responsible institution, will exert presidency at that conference.

8. To recommend members of SOCIAL NETWORK to promote before their governments the inclusion of the Network points of view in the national positions on social development and poverty, before social summit of Denmark and to the Americas summit in Miami, in this sense, it is recommended to the Network Coordinating Committee to elaborate a document, whose profile was defined by this conference and now attached to the present agreement. This document will also be useful to present the position of SOCIAL NETWORK before other national and international Forums and instances.
9. To instruct the Coordinating Committee to make necessary managements before the Organization of American States, the Inter-American Development Bank (I.A.D.B.) and other International Organisms, which are able to collaborate for the SOCIAL NETWORK, strengthen.
10. To entrust Coordinating Committee to do necessary managements so SOCIAL NETWORK may attend the Summit of Social Development in Denmark.
11. To accept the Secretariat of Social Development from Argentina offering for the elaboration and financing of a semester Network publication, for 1995. In the same way, to accept the offer of Network of Social Solidarity from Colombia for the elaboration and financing of a semester publication on the Network for 1996.

12. To thank the offerings of horizontal cooperation presented by different delegations from member institutions to be included in the Work Program 1994 - 1995.
13. To accept the offering of Fund of Promotion of Communitarian Initiatives from Dominican Republic (PROCOMMUNITY), so that the Second Conference of SOCIAL NETWORK in November of 1995 will be done there and to require it to officially confirms it.

To be thankful:

1. To People and Government of Ecuador, specially to Social Investment Funds (FISE) authorities by welcome organization, coordination, cordiality and attention received along the accomplishment of the event.
2. Very specially, to Mr. President of the Republic of Ecuador. Sixto Durán Ballen, who honored with his presence this opening encounter, heightening, therefore, the importance of efforts to find better and more effective ways for overcoming poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean.
3. Similarly, to the General Secretary of the Organization of American States (O.A.S.), Dr Cesar Gaviria, by its participation in the inaugural session of this Conference and by its valuable contributions for Social Network projection.
4. To the Organization of American States (O.A.S.) by its granted and continuous support for the accomplishment of these encounters
5. To the President and members of the ending Coordinating Committee, by significant and effective work developed during its management.
6. To Secretariat of Social Development of Argentina, to the Fund of Social Emergency of Panama and to the Social Investment Fund of Emergency of Uruguay, for offering themselves to be the next host for Conference of SOCIAL NETWORK.
7. To the Program of the United Nations for Development (the PNUD) by its presence in this event and interest in the SOCIAL NETWORK.

Quito, Ecuador, 28 of October of 1994.

**SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF SOCIAL NETWORK OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN.**  
**Santo Domingo, Republica Dominicana, 1995.**  
**DECLARATION OF SANTO DOMINGO.**

The representatives of social investment funds, other institutions and mechanisms to overcome poverty of Latin America and the Caribbean, participants of the "Second Conference of Social Network, made from 13 to 15 of November 1995, in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, organized by the Fund of Promotion to the Communitarian Initiatives, PROCOMMUNITY, and the Organization of American States (O.A.S.).

Considering:

1. That as expressed by Dr Patricio Aylwin in this Conference, "poverty constitutes an obstacle to development, due to multitudes of poor people, when lacking consumption power, do not generate necessary demand of goods to stimulate production, because the lack of labor qualification of most of poor people, locates in very low levels its work productivity
2. On the other hand, poverty levels become a threat to social peace and political stability.
3. That as expressed by ECLAC, I.A.D.B. and PNUD report, presented to Summit of Copenhagen "democratic consolidation in Latin America and the Caribbean, reason of legitimate satisfaction, has in risk of being threatened if constitutional governments chosen by people do not demonstrate to be able to indeed improve the condition of their poor people's life.
4. That as Mr. General Secretary of Organization of American States expressed in his message to this Conference "such as the Network, the Social Funds and Institutions and mechanisms responsible for politics and social development programs and overcoming poverty, counts on an instrument with ample perspectives, which allows them to systematically take advantage of the lessons from fulfilled and in execution experiences. Representing a pattern of action with reference for all hemisphere enormous generated possibilities, from the coordination of efforts and of mutual confidence.
5. Such as this message emphasized "it is necessary to work on the design and production of a new social policy scope, in which integrity must be present for institutional design of the reforms in plural sectors. Financing to privilege access to the poorest sectors, as well as the incentives associated with effectiveness and quality of services to reach must needed people.
6. That as Dr Enrique Iglesias, President of Inter-American Development Bank stands out, institutions for overcoming poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean face great challenges, framed by characteristics and conditions, such as the necessity to solve this problem in situations of economic stability and growth, with emphasis in productive employment generation, to strengthen human resource opportunities, which are objective of the social action "
7. That as Dr Iglesias 'people participation along all social projects phases, from its selection to its implementation phase is important to help the actions sustainability. That is why integration of activities of institutions to overcome poverty with local administration of Central Governments, as well as the participation of organized civil society, is an urgent necessity.

They decide:

1. To insist governments to continue with jointly efforts of social and economic policies, in order to increase covering and effectiveness of projects and programs to overcome poverty. Placing special emphasis in strengthening productive processes and work qualification.
2. To privilege all those actions and strategies to help strengthening of participative democracy,



- as a way to cause consolidation of social peace and political stability in the region countries.
3. To ratify currency, belonging and validity of horizontal cooperation mechanisms and solidary experiences interchange, which inspire Social Network of Latin America and the Caribbean action.
  4. To commit its determined support to work program elaborated in this conference, as well as its active participation in the process of improvement of the structure and functions of Social Network.

They also decide:

5. To commit to promote before their governments, the national inclusion of Social Network points of view, in policies and strategies adopted in 1996 which was declared "International Year for Poverty Eradication" at Summit of Social Development of Denmark.
6. To ask General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (O.A.S.) to continue giving its support and consultations to organs and activities of Social Network.
7. To exhort Inter-American Development Bank (I.A.D.B.) to solve Social Network request of granting a technical cooperation to allow a total achievement on its experiences interchange and mutual consultation activities.
8. To ask for other organizations financing and cooperation support, of which members of the Network are contributors, in order to extend and fortify Social Network action.
9. To express its satisfaction for adopted measures by this II Conference, to strengthen Social Network structure and functions, according this declaration terms in attachment number 1.
10. To approve Network work plan for 1995- 1996, contained in attachment number 2 in this present agreement.
11. To conform Coordinating Committee of Social Network, for period 1995 - 1996, with six members from three geographic areas:  
Area 1:

FHIS of Honduras, (two years)

SEDESOL, Mexico, (a year)

Area 2:

Pro-community, Dominican Republic, (two years)

SIMAP, Guyana, (a year)

Area 3:

Network of Social Solidarity, Colombia, (two years)

Secretariat of Social Development, Argentina, (a year)

12. To accept the Fund of Social Emergency of Panama offering, to be host of the "Third Conference of Social Network", to take place in 1996 and to solicit them to officially ratifies the Committee. To take note of alternative offering to also be host by the Secretariat of Social Development of Argentina.

To be thankful:

1. To the People and Government of Dominican Republic, very specially to Pro-community authorities, by the excellent coordination of this event and by all received attentions along the accomplishment of this event;
2. Very specially, to Mr. President of Republica Dominicana, Dr Joaquin Balaguer, who honored with his presence the inauguration of this II Conference, endorsing the effort our countries make to overcome poverty which distresses us in the thresholds of a new century.
3. To high authorities of national and international organisms with their participation and valuable contributions, enriched the activities of the II Conference of Social Network.
4. To Organization of the American States (O.A.S.), by its permanent support granted for celebration of these events;
5. To the President and members of the ending Coordinating Committee, by the essential and effective work developed during its management.

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, November 15 of 1995.

**THIRD ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF SOCIAL NETWORK OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN.**  
**Panama City, Republic of Panama, 1996.**  
**DECLARATION OF PANAMA.**

The representatives of Social Investment Funds, other institutions and mechanisms to overcome poverty of Latin America and the Caribbean, participants of the III Conference of Social Network of Latin America and the Caribbean, organized by the Fund of Social Emergency of Panama (FAITHS) and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (O.A.S.),

Considering:

1. It has been stated that, despite of the efforts made by countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, to overcome poverty which distresses to near half of the population, it continues to grow in absolute and relative terms in almost all countries, due to objective conditions in which worldwide and regional economy develops have not allowed to reach awaited results yet.
2. That poverty is not a new reality in the region, that constitutes a massive phenomenon and tends to reproduce itself due to structural factors, as the unequal access to opportunities and socially different distribution of the development fruit, among others. Latin America and the Caribbean have the sad privilege of being one of the world areas with the worst income distribution.
3. That negative effects of the adjustment injure this situation processes, the natural disasters, as well as the violence and the drug trafficking, all those have caused devastating effects on growth and social peace.
4. That at governmental level, there is consensus in recognizing that poverty obstructs countries development.
5. It is recognized that neither economic growth nor democracy will be able to be consolidated, while a high percentage of Latin American and Caribbean families does not have total access to productive activities, to social welfare and to taking decisions mechanisms with citizen participation. In this sense, like indicated by Governments and Chief of State, at different summits in which social development has recently been boarded, unemployment and poverty the main challenge of pending social agenda, without any doubt.
6. That challenge is to cause that market operation does not affect social policy, in such a way to cause an interruption of democratization processes, economic growth and social development.
7. That it is necessary to search for a sustainable human development based on people's dignity and impelled by a commitment of social solidarity.
8. That economic and social policies have not been applied with a global and integrating approach, thus last ones have been seen subordinated to first ones.
9. That all previous matter implies the necessity of development and strengthen Social Network of Latin America and the Caribbean itself, in such a way to continue making effective contributions to overcome poverty and discrimination.

Social Network, was born as a voluntary and solidary construction of programs to overcome poverty, conscious of the urgency and importance of those challenges,

They decide:

1. To fortify its institutional structure to facilitate different forms of possible cooperation between the integrating institutions. In this sense, it is ratified that Annual Conference is the superior organ of decision and direction of its activities; that Coordinating Committee is the executor organ of policies, decisions and activities approved by the Conference and to support its operation it will be able to conform

Sub-committees and Work groups on specific subjects to be developed. Finally, about its institutional strengthening, the Conference decides to create a permanent Technical Secretariat to support the Conference and its organs activities. That process the cooperation demands among members of the Network. That certificates and records the fulfilled activities and spreads them out, that collaborates in the activities coordination and handles the resources on disposition of Social Network to support programmed activities.

It also decides, based on the disposition presented by O.A.S., to entrust the Technical Secretariat function to the General Secretariat of O.A.S., through its Unit of Social Development and Education.

2. To approve the work plan for 1997 and in this sense the III Conference indicated a series of directions to take into action:
  - To worry about decentralization processes that governments are emphasizing in countries development, which imply the participation of different actors such as ministries, different levels from government, civil society, the Funds and overcoming poverty programs.
  - To include as an important variable in all its projects and activities the subject of the sustainability.
  - To give special attention to focusing subjects to accurately reach the poorest, and integration of the most vulnerable groups with emphasis in woman, old, children, handicap, and indigenous communities situation, so problems identification and solution of poor people proves its effective participation.
  - To emphasize horizontal cooperation as an effective model for knowledge and experiences interchange from Funds and overcoming poverty programs.

On these bases and conforming the work plan, the following activities were agreed:

a) Seminars- Workshops

Monitoring social programs and projects, Argentina, from 17 to 19 of March 1997.  
Social evaluation impact of programs and

projects, Costa Rica, date to be determined.  
Decentralization and social development, México, date to be determined.  
Coordinating Committee was entrusted to explore the possibility of a fourth workshop on the subject of Social Exclusion, to be made in an English spoken country from the Caribbean.  
To explore the possibility of organizing a workshop to analyze experiences of credit administration and technical attendance for micro and small enterprises.

b) Actions of horizontal cooperation among member institutions about high-priority established topics and other subjects Funds can identify along 1997.

c) Formation of three Subcommittees to support the Network Coordinating Committee of the Network in the subjects of:

**SOCIAL INTERNETWORK**

Pursuit and evaluation

Cooperation between funds and programs

3. To decidedly support the instrumentation of electronic interconnection system, among Network institutions, via Internet, project denominated as SOCIAL INTERNETWORK, thus, they are committed to facilitate necessary information, to assist to programmed workshops as part of its design, installation and operation and to finally collaborate in its development.
4. To reiterate Social Network importance when participating and following activities and forums, which take place so its thought and action have greater presence in Latin America, the Caribbean. It would also have presence in other regions of the world where problems to overcome poverty and discrimination are boarded.
5. To continue the effort to gather new resources for future Social Network activities.
6. To accept the Secretariat of Social Development of the Presidency of Argentina offering, to be host of the IV Conference of Social Network to take place in 1997 and to solicit it to officially ratify the Coordinating Committee.
7. To take note from offerings done by Social Investment Fund of Jamaica, to celebrate in this country the V Annual Conference (1998), and of FONAPAZ of Guatemala for the VI

Annual Conference in 1999.

To be thankful:

1. To the People and Government of Panama, particularly to the Fund of Social Emergency (FAITHS) by the excellent organization and accomplishment of this event and by all attentions received during this event.
2. Very specially, to Mr. President of the Republic of Panama, Dr Ernesto Perez Balladares, who honored with his presence and participation the inaugural ceremony of this III Conference, recognition that becomes extensive to his distinguished wife Lic. Dora Boyd de

Perez Balladares, by her important contribution to the reflections of the Conference and its profits.

3. In the same way, to the national institutions and international organisms, especially to O.A.S., I.A.D.B. and World Bank, with their participation and valuable contributions enriched the activities of III the Conference.
4. To the President and members of the Coordinating Committee by the essential and significant work developed during its management in 1996.

City of Panama, Panama, 1 November 1996.

FOURTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF SOCIAL NETWORK OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN.  
Buenos Aires, Argentina, 1997.  
DECLARATION OF BUENOS AIRES.

The representatives of Social Investment Funds, other Institutions and Mechanisms of Overcoming Poverty of Latin America and the Caribbean, participants of the "IV Annual Conference of SOCIAL NETWORK, made on 6 and 7 of November, 1997, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, organized by the Secretariat of Social Development of the Presidency of Argentina, under the auspices of the Organization of American States (O.A.S.) as Technical Secretariat,

Considering:

1. That social investment funds ratify and declare that eradication of poverty is an ethical, social, political and economic imperative of Humanity to make sure people living in poverty have access to productive resources, including credit, land, education, qualification, technology, information and public services. Social Summit of Denmark also outlines that the only form to obtain referred objectives is through integrating economic policy and social policies in national plans. "Disguising\wrapping the eradication of poverty, employment creation, social integration, environmental preservation, peace and security, democratic government, and respect pluralism and human rights".
2. That new paradigms of development in Latin America and the Caribbean, include globalization, State modernization, democratic aspiration, environmental protection, and to keep our cultural identities urgently require high-priority attention to overcoming poverty, thus, it is necessary a mobilization in public, productive and social sectors of the region.
3. That this IV Conference agrees with Latin American Summit of Presidents and Chiefs of State objectives, which is taking place at Island Margarita, Venezuela, about 'Ethics and Democracy' and also of the II Summit of Americas, which will take place in Santiago de Chile in April of 1998. There one of high-priority subjects is to overcome poverty.
4. That regional experiences of overcoming poverty made during the last made 10 years by the Governments indicate that social investment funds have constituted an endorsement for social fairness concession. It allows that base organizations participate in designing and executing their projects. Similarly, they have managed to build innovating associations between public and private sector and slowly, incorporating local governments.
5. That Social Network of Latin America and the Caribbean has obtained its objectives and goals in an important form, from its beginnings till now, such as incorporating new members, expanding its horizontal cooperation activities and reaching an international recognition.
6. That O.A.S. support has been important along Social Network formation and evolution; and, that I.A.D.B. and World Bank support social investment funds in our countries. It is necessary to complement such efforts, based on its flexibility policy, to deepen this cooperation in order to strengthen the Network.

They decide:

To commit itself to participate in Social Network strengthening to obtain objectives of overcoming poverty in the region. In such sense, they will try the endorsement from its governments for Social Network, and will consolidate the Annual Conference forum and its other instances in order to intensify dialogue, to interchange experiences and other cooperation mechanisms.

To promote that social investment funds and other mechanisms for overcoming poverty try one better integration and a clearer roll within national macro-economic policies and poverty reduction strategies. To impel the treatment of the following high-priority subjects of the Social Network: (a) organization and social participation with emphasis in planning local

development; (b) employment and productive projects generation; (c) attention to more vulnerable groups in each social context; (d) answer to disasters caused by nature phenomena; and, (e) strengthening of local governments.

To narrow cooperation bonds between SOCIAL NETWORK and other extra-regional similar forums, particularly with AFRICATIP.

To carry out corresponding managements before its respective governments so they support the resources request for projects presented by before diverse bilateral and multilateral instances, such as O.A.S. and I.A.D.B.

To approve the Work Plan of Social Network for 1998.

To be thankful:

To People and Government of Argentine Republic, particularly the Secretariat of Social Development, for organizing and coordinating present Conference and

by the attentions received along the accomplishment of this event.

To Organization of American States (O.A.S.), through its Unit of Social Development and Education, by its permanently support and its function of Technical Secretariat of Social Network.

To members of the leaving Coordinating Committee: Eduardo Diaz Uribe of Colombia (President), Manuel Zelaya of Honduras, (Vice-president) and Emma Travares of the Dominican Republic, by the excellent work developed along its management.

To national institutions and international organisms assistant, especially to I.A.D.B. and World Bank by its valuable participation and contributions, which enriched the present Conference.

To President of AFRICATIP, Lic. Lamine Ben Barka, by his participation in this event organized by SOCIAL NETWORK.

Buenos Aires, Argentina to 7 of November of 1997.

**FIFTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF SOCIAL NETWORK.  
Kingston, Jamaica, 5 and 6 November 1998.  
KINGSTON DECLARATION.**

Representatives of Social Network of Latin America and the Caribbean, the social investment funds and other institution and governmental mechanisms for social development and overcoming poverty of Latin America and the Caribbean, participants of the “V Conference of Social Network” made on 5 and 6 of November 1998, in Kingston, Jamaica. Organized by Social Investment Fund of Jamaica, Ministry of Work, Social Security and Sports of Jamaica, Coordinating Committee of Social Network and the Secretariat of Social Development of Mexico, under the auspices of Inter-American Council of Social Development (CIDI) and the support of General Secretariat of the Organization of American States,

Considering:

1. That Summit of Presidents and Chiefs of State of Americas, made in April of 1998 in Santiago of Chile, ratified that overcoming poverty constitutes the central worry of governments, particularly for Latin America and the Caribbean countries.
2. That overcoming poverty and inequity demand a set of policies and dynamic, flexible and innovating strategies, to face a changing socioeconomic reality and to quickly respond before unexpected emergency situations that generally aggravate life conditions of the more vulnerable and isolated poor sectors of population. Since it has been manifested in several countries of region, recently affected by devastating natural disasters.
3. That instrumentation of social policies through these mechanisms demands the institutions in charge to execute such policies incorporate criteria, interest and priorities of the community to develop a new citizenship obtaining fairness and social peace. It is necessary to strengthen our participative democracies. And the wide participation of all actors involved in social management, demands to imagine participating methods among governmental, private and civil society sectors.
4. That Social Network of Latin America and the Caribbean constitutes one of the most meaningful scopes of horizontal cooperation between social investment funds and institutions and mechanisms in the matter to overcome poverty and inequity. And that institutional development gotten after five years of existence, will allow to mainly deepening the transference of diverse tech-

nologies through education and formation programs for human resources.

They decide:

1. To express their deeper feeling of solidarity to people from Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, as well as to Haiti, St. Kitts and Nevis and Dominican Republic, and particularly to their countries Social Network member institutions.
2. To renew our creative capacity to generate and to propose solutions for alleviating poverty of men, women, children, old, indigenous, handicap and other vulnerable groups who are excluded from satisfaction of their minimum necessities of subsistence, in many regions of world.
3. To reiterate the necessity of strengthening the forum of Social Network, through a suitable institutionalism, in order to promote and to increase initiatives of horizontal cooperation among organizations of Social Network, in order to maximize the usage of human and economic resources in the effort to overcome poverty and inequity along the region.
4. To intensify instances of interchange, to make more dynamic the cooperation initiatives, using the seminary-workshops, internships, direct consultants, electronic data system, among other media, as well as broadcasting of successful experiences at each organization through documents drafted by organizations members of Social Network.
5. To reiterate the necessity of incorporating social investment funds with mechanisms to allow to offer fast answers before natural

disasters, through institutional, municipal and communal strengthening by means of qualification, appropriate resources providing and environmental designs.

6. To improve social investment funds capacity to stimulate, value and optimize benefits for citizen participation and to renew confidence in participating actions as an essential element in all plans and programs.
7. To intensify relations of Social Network with social investment funds of other regions around the world. Particularly, strengthening those initiatives with institutions of Africa and Eastern Europe.
8. To approve the Work Plan of Social Network for 1999.

To be thankful:

1. To People and Government of Jamaica, particularly to Social Investment Fund of Jamaica and to Ministry of Work, Social Security and Sports by the organization and coordination of the present Conference and by the attentions given during the accomplishment of this event.
2. To all Social Network member institutions, which along 1998 have collaborated, contributed and facilitated taking cooperation steps,

particularly to Secretariat of Social Development of Argentina, Secretariat of Solidarity Community of Brazil, and Secretariat of Social Development of Mexico and to Social Investment Fund of Venezuela.

3. To members of the leaving Coordinating Committee: Blanca Lilia García of Mexico (President), Ana Etchegaray of Argentina (Vice-president) and Scarlett Gillings of Jamaica, by its successful work carried out during 1998; and to congratulate the recently elect members: Blanca Lilia García from Mexico, Guillermo Perez from Uruguay and Curtis Greer from Santa Lucia.
  4. To the Organization of American States (O.A.S.) through its Unit of Social Development and Education gives permanent support to the activities of social investment funds, and specially to evolve like Technical Secretariat of Social Network.
  5. To national institutions and international organisms participants, specially to Inter-American Development Bank (I.A.D.B.), World Bank (BM) and Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) by their recognized technical contributions which enriched the Conference.
- Kingston, Jamaica, 6 of November of 1998



**SIXTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF SOCIAL NETWORK OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN.  
Tlaxcala, Mexico, from 8 to 10 of November 1999.  
TLAXCALA DECLARATION.**

The representatives of Social Investment funds and other institution and governmental mechanism of social development and overcoming poverty of Latin America and the Caribbean, participants of the 'VI Annual Conference of Social Network,' carried out on 8, 9 and 10 of November of 1999 in Tlaxcala, Mexico, organized by Secretariat of Social Development (SEDESOL) of Mexico, the Coordinating Committee of Social Network, under the auspices of Inter-American Council of integral Development (CIDI) and the support of General Secretariat of the Organization of American States.

Considering:

1. That Latin America and the Caribbean region have continued undergoing the negative effects of economic crisis that still hits severely their people, particularly, more vulnerable sectors with less income.
2. That region has come suffering the impacts of several natural disasters, which have deepened the vulnerably conditions of their inhabitants, destroying their basic social capital, deteriorating salubrity conditions and debilitating social structure.
3. That Social Investment funds and institutions dedicated to social development and overcoming poverty have continued in their efforts, conscious of their responsibility to efficiently and effectively acting, without weakness, searching for creative and appropriate solutions to that specific aim.
4. That at the beginning of the new millennium, members of Social Network of Latin America and the Caribbean have adopted agreements and concrete measures for institutional and financial strengthening of the Network, so they can fulfill their objectives and goals in better ways, based on cooperation, principles of solidarity, interchange of experiences and mutual support,

They decide:

1. With base in the Inter-American overcoming Poverty and Discrimination program, approved by Inter-American Council for Integral

Development of the Organization of American States, on 18 of April of 1997, the Coordinating Committee caring of agreements adopted by the Annual Conference, proposes to Social Network members, the specific areas of cooperation they will develop on 2000. And to analyze possibilities of supporting the meetings of Inter-American Commission of Social Development of O.A.S.

2. This Conference adopts the intention, established in Letter of Santiago, to promote a development vision able to respond to social, cultural, natural, global, and local phenomena complexity.

It also considers the urgent necessity to incorporate environmental variables in projects directed to the poorest, though they are the most vulnerable to these factors.

The Conference subscribes the agreements of the Letter of Santiago and recommends to jointly working with Environmental Funds at regional and local level.

3. The agreements adopted in the Declaration of Lima are ratified. They recommend the incorporation of approach of sort in the Funds activities, with particular reference to the situation of rural woman.
4. To confirm the Funds importance in the application of social policy of countries in the region and to recommend:
  - 4.1 To support and to deepen decentralization processes of each

country, through strategies tending to the consolidation of new models of institutional management that leads strengthen of localities and to search for a greater commitment of local collectivities for their own development.

4.2 To promote social fairness, taking care, on a high-priority way, the most vulnerable groups, thus, impelling political tending to the social exclusion elimination.

4.3 To impel the high-priority support for strategies definition that look for the most vulnerable sectors of population have income alternatives, through support and financing of projects with productive character.

4.4 To actively promote the strengthening of social capital, by means of creating spaces and mechanisms of participation, to leads towards a real participation of the communities in the decision taking.

5. Relating to monitoring and evaluation, it ratifies the convenience and necessity to make of monitoring and evaluation, an active and permanent tool of management and direction of Social Funds.
6. To recommend to member institutions increasing the work for strengthening the Network, by increasing the relationship among them, with the Coordinating Committee and the Technical Secretariat, to empower and maximize its action.
7. To emphasize advances obtained by the Network in its relations with other similar networks and mechanisms which operate in other regions of the world, in order to make easier, for the Coordinating Committee, to continue with its managements.
8. To approve the Annual Operative Plan of Social Network for 2000, emphasizing the agreements on:

8.1 The headquarters of the "VII Annual Conference" in Dominican Republic

8.2 To empower the Coordinating Committee to define the Seminary-Workshop to be celebrated based on its thematic relevance, the host offerings, and available financing.

9. To establish an annual minimum contribution of five thousand American dollars (US\$ 5.000,00) per each member institution. In this sense, to authorize the Coordinating Committee to define procedures to allow orchestrating this agreement.
10. To exhort international cooperation and financing organisms to continue supporting the activities of the Network.
11. To ask Technical Secretariat of the Network to require to pertinent OAS authorities, the possibility of carrying out a presentation about the VI Annual Conference, emphasizing the Network indeed reached achievements.

They are thankful:

1. To People and Government of Mexico, particularly to Secretariat of Social Development and Secretariat of External Relations, as well as to the State of Tlaxcala authorities, by the excellent organization and coordination of the VI Conference and by the fine attentions given during the event.
2. To the institutions of Social Network, which contributed to the execution of the Work Plan of 1999, in special to the Investment Fund of Argentina (FOPAR), Chile (FOSIS) and Peru (FONCODES).
3. Gratefulness and/or welcome to the New Coordinating Committee.
4. To the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) by approving the Multilateral Project "Strengthen of Social

- Network Activities” for 1999; to the Inter-American Development Bank (I.A.D.B.) by its contributions to the Intra-regional Program of Internships of Social Network; and to World Bank by its contribution for the INTERNETWORK settlement.
5. To Technical Secretariat of Social Network which occupies the Unit of Social Development and Education of the General Secretariat of O.A.S.
  6. To the networks representatives from other regions of the world: Network of East Europe and Central Asia (ECANET); Network of the Middle East and North Africa (MENANET); and Network of Africa (ASIFNET) by its participation in the VI Conference.
  7. To the national institutions and international organisms participants, specially to the World Bank; Economic commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); German bank for the Reconstruction (KfW) by its valuable contributions to enrich the debates.
  8. To be thankful to Roxana Viquez, Patricio Fernandez, Leonor de Barreto and Patricio Chellew, representatives of the Network founding group, by its valuable and disinterested contribution to the works of this Conference.

**SEVENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF SOCIAL NETWORK OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN.**  
**Managua, Nicaragua, from 8 to 10 of November 2000.**  
**DECLARATION OF MANAGUA.**

The representatives of Social Investment funds and another institution and governmental mechanisms of social development and overcoming poverty of Latin America and the Caribbean, participants of the "VII Annual Conference of Social Network", carried out on 8, 9 and 10 of November of 2000 in Managua, Nicaragua, organized by Social Investment fund of Emergency (FISE) of Nicaragua, with the support of the Coordinating Committee of Social Network and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States.

Considering:

1. That people and governments of Latin America and the Caribbean have a reiterated determination to confront overcoming of poverty which still prevail in the Region, as it was expressed in the last Meeting for Pursuit of the Summit of Social Development, Copenhagen + Five.
2. That overcoming poverty and inequity demands a group of policies and dynamic, flexible and innovating strategies, to face a particular socioeconomic reality in each country and to quickly respond before unexpected emergency situations that generally aggravate life conditions of the most vulnerable and isolated population sectors.
3. That the implementation of social policies through these mechanisms demands that institutions in charge to execute such policies incorporate the criteria, interest and priorities of community to develop a new citizenship, obtaining fairness and social peace, necessary for the strengthening our democracies. And that wide participation of all involved actors in social management demands to imagine a participation method among the governmental (particularly for local and municipal governments) private and civil society sectors.
4. That Social Investment funds and institutions dedicated to social development and overcoming poverty have continued in their efforts overcome it, conscious of the responsibility to efficiently and effectively act, without weakness, searching for creative and appropriate solutions for that aim.
5. That members of Social Network of Latin America and the Caribbean have adopted agreements and concrete measures for institutional and financial strengthening of the Network, based on solidarity, cooperation, interchange of experiences and mutual support principles, can fulfill their objectives and goals in a better way, as the creation of Voluntary Special Fund proves it, to assure Network activities sustainability.

They decide:

1. To promote necessary integration of social policies to overcome poverty with those of macro and micro economic growth. It is because they both are complementary and indispensable to improve income and life quality in impoverished sectors.
2. To deepen decentralization processes of each country by means of tending strategies to consolidate communitarian social capital and to add it to the potential within municipal governments.
3. To ratify the convenience and necessity to make of monitoring and evaluation, an active and permanent instrument of management and direction at Social Funds.
4. To commit themselves to a greater participation in the activities of Social Network, to assume specific responsibilities to fortify cooperation among member countries, to facilitate integration between Latin America and the Caribbean, and to jointly solve common challenges and problems.

5. To recognize, pursuit, and fortify the advances obtained by the Network in its relations with networks and similar mechanisms operating in other regions of the world, the Coordinating Committee is authorized to continue with these managements.
6. To approve the Annual Operative Plan of Social Network for 2001, emphasizing the agreements on:
  - 6.1 The Host of the "VIII Annual Conference in Santo Domingo, Republica Dominicana and Paraguay like alternating headquarter.
  - 6.2 To authorize the Coordinating Committee to define Seminary-Workshop to be celebrated based on relevant thematic, headquarters offerings and available financing.
  - 6.3 To entrust Coordinating Committee to carry out necessary managements to fulfill the Work Plan in coordination with Technical Secretariat.
7. To fulfill the annual minimum contribution of five thousand American dollars (US\$ 5.000,00) per member institution and to instruct Coordinating Committee to define necessary procedures of financial administration and to consult them with members.
8. To exhort international cooperation and financing organisms to continue supporting the activities of the Network.
9. To promote and ensure communications between the members through the electronic system. Besides, to encourage the identification and development of interesting subjects for investigation to strengthen social projects.
10. To reiterate the will to collaborate with Inter-American Commission of Social Development of the CIDI of the O.A.S.

They are thankful:

1. Very specially, to Social Investment fund of Emergency (FISE), by the excellent organization and coordination of the VII Conference, the generous disposition to assume its sponsorship responsibilities, and for sharing its particular experiences, which give new direction in overcoming poverty.
2. To institutions of Social Network that contribute to the execution of the Work Plan 2000, specially, to the Secretariat of Social Development (SEDESOL) Mexico by its work and contributions at the Presidency of the Coordinating Committee and the Fund of Solidarity and Social Investment of Chile (FOSIS), by the general administration of the electronic page. As well as the member institutions, which contributed with their annual quota and those that participated in internships program.
3. To the Coordinating Committee of Social Network 1999- 2000 by its valuable and disinterested effort in favor of the organization and because they welcome the new elected Coordinating Committee for period 2001-2002, wishing the best.
4. To Inter-American Development Bank (I.A.D.B.) by its contributions to Intra-regional Program of Internships of Social Network and to the Institute of World Bank. 5.
5. To Technical Secretariat of Social Network which occupies the Unit of Social Development and Education of the General Secretariat of O.A.S..
6. To national institutions and international organisms participating, specially to the World Bank; Economic commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (Cepal); German bank for Reconstruction (KfW) by its valuable contributions that enriched details.
7. Specially, the hospitality and generosity of People and Government of Nicaragua. As well as, a distinction from the highest authorities of Nicaragua to honor the "VII the Conference" with their presence in the inauguration Dr. Navarrese Leopoldo Vice- President and for the closing speech Mr. President Dr German Arnaldo Lacayo of Nicaragua.

**EIGHTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF SOCIAL NETWORK OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN.**  
**Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic from 24 to 26 of October 2001**  
**DECLARATION OF SANTO DOMINGO**

The members of Social Network of Latin America and the Caribbean, integrated by representatives of Social Investment Funds and governmental organisms and institutions, whose objective is to contribute to social development and overcoming poverty, met on 24, 25 and 26 of October, 2001, in Santo Domingo de Guzmán, Dominican Republic to celebrate the “VIII Annual Conference of Social Network of Latin America and the Caribbean”. Its main subject “poverty in Globalization Times”.

This Conference was organized by the Host Institution, Fund of Promotion for Communitarian Initiatives (PROCOMMUNITY), in coordination with the Coordinating Committee of Social Network, under the auspices of Inter-American Council of Integral Development (CIDI), of the Organization of American States (O.A.S.), through Multilateral Project administered by Secretariat of Social Development (SEDESOL) of Mexico. Likewise, diverse institutions of Dominican Republic government and the General Secretariat of O.A.S. collaborated.

**CONSIDERING:**

First: That information contributed by Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Cepal, indicates that the Region continues characterizing by unacceptable levels of poverty and inequality, which surely will be aggravated by present recession and lamentable terrorist events happened in the United States of North America last September.

Second: That in Declaration of the Millenium of United Nations, as well as the Third Summit of the Americas, celebrated in Quebec in April of the present year, the Government, Presidents, and Chiefs of State of the region committed “to make additional efforts to reach international objectives of development, specially to reduce in a 50%, after 2015, the proportion of the people who live in conditions of extreme poverty.

Third: That for countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, to respond to the challenge of overcoming poverty considering the effects of globalization, specially, financial and markets instability which establish new challenges for the development agenda, in the sense of forces of worldwide integration and technological advance can be placed and must be placed for the service of poorest.

Quarter: That Social Investment Funds have evolved and, without giving up the infrastructure support, they impel actions to generate social capital and

communitarian capacity with purpose of promoting local development. In this way, they have become permanent institutions to centrally comprise governmental national strategies to alleviate poverty in the long term.

Social Investment Funds and organs and institutions of government dedicated to social development and overcoming poverty, have been consolidated in the execution of policies and participative, responsible, efficient and sustainable social programs.

Fifth: That when initiating a new millenium members of Social Network of Latin America and the Caribbean have decided to update their methods of organization and to reinforce their member participation, in order to totally fulfill their objectives of cooperation, interchange of experiences and mutual support in benefit of the regional efforts to overcome poverty, based on brotherhood, solidarity and respect principles.

They decide:

1. To strengthen social investment in different programs to reduce poverty and to resist the negative effects of worldwide economic crisis.
2. To promote a greater regional integration among countries of Latin America and the ones of the Caribbean, in order to establish forms of solidarity cooperation that allow to identify and to take advantage of better challenges and opportunities offered by globalization.

3. To contribute to reduce vulnerability of poor population before external events –natural disasters, upheavals of economies, diseases, violence- which aggravate their material poverty and their sensation of insecurity.
  4. To pursuit the results of the seminary-workshop made by the Network, this year subjects were empowerment of social groups in conditions of poverty, the fairness and approach of sort, the active and innovating roll of the woman in the integral and local development, the respect to the human rights.
  5. To encourage cooperation methods, thus, to celebrate a Conference of Reflection of Social Network in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, by January 2002, in order to analyze present challenges of regional cooperation and to take agreements to assure a long term sustainability of the Network, to deepen mechanisms of solidarity cooperation and mutual support. To construct commitments to revitalize and to fortify the Network like instrument of actions coordination in the American hemisphere.
6. They will continue making efforts to exhort international cooperation and financing organisms to maintain the support to the activities of Social Network, as well as to explore new sources of international cooperation.
  7. According to the regulation, it partially renewed half of the Coordinating Committee of the Network having incorporated three new members, regional representatives of the Caribbean, Central and South America.
    - a) Fund of Promotion for Communitarian Initiatives PROCOMMUNITY of Dominican Republic.
    - b) National Fund for Peace of Guatemala (FONAPAZ).
    - c) National Participating Fund of Argentina, (FOPAR).

In order to achieve this purpose, following actions will be made:

- a) To ask members of Network precise information of diagnosis to elaborate a continental panorama on the advances and challenges of social policy in the hemisphere.
- b) To identify “Consolidated Programs” at national level, that may be supplied as horizontal cooperation to other countries.
- c) To authorize Coordinating Committee for the definition of the Annual Operative Plan of Social Network for 2002, emphasizing the agreements on:
  - The Host of the IX Annual Conference in Paraguay
  - To define the seminary-workshop and other cooperation activities based on the thematic relevance, the Host offerings and the available

## GRATEFULNESS

The Delegates who participated in this VIII Annual Conference of Social Network, express their gratefulness:

1. - To the Government of the Dominican Republic, particularly Fund of Promotion for Communitarian Initiatives (Procommunity) host institution, by the excellent organization and coordination of this VIII Conference of Network and by the fine attentions given along the event.
2. To the leaving members of the Coordinating Committee, Scarlett Gillings of Social Investment fund of Jamaica; Carlos Noguera of Social Investment fund of Emergency FISE of Nicaragua and Mario Ossandón of Fund of Solidarity and Social Investment of Chile, FOSIS.
3. To the institutions of Social Network that contributed to the execution of the Work Plan

for 2001, in special, Secretariat of Social Development of Mexico by the management as President of the Coordinating Committee in administration of the Multilateral Project and coordination of the Special Fund with which 80% of the activities of the Annual Plan of Work finance, as well as to the Mixed Institute of Social Aid of Costa Rica (IMAS) by its active participation and the extraordinary contribution of 60 thousand dollars for Special Fund of Network to support to the International Seminary on Woman and to finance other activities of horizontal technical cooperation; to the Fund of Solidarity and Social Investment, of Chile (FOSIS) by administrating the electronic Page and its support to the advanced training courses in coordination with Cepal; to Fund for Reduction of Poverty of Santa Lucia for successfully fulfillment of Seminary in the Caribbean about Social

Investment Funds, Youth and Woman.

4. To Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) to have approved Multilateral Project 2001 to strengthen Social Network activities presented by Secretariat of Social Development of Mexico, to Inter-American Development Bank (I.A.D.B.) by its contributions to the Intra-regional Program of Internship of Social Network and to Institute of World Bank and the Cepal by their technical collaboration offered in the activities of the Network.
5. To Technical Secretariat of Social Network that carries out the Unit of Social Development and Education of the General Secretariat of O.A.S., and to the national institutions and other international organisms by its valuable contributions.

Santo Domingo, 26 of October of 2001.



**Social network of Latin America and the Caribbean.  
IX Annual Conference.  
Asuncion, Paraguay.  
4, 5 and 6 of December, 2002.**

**Declaration of Asunción.**

The representatives of Social Investment funds and other institution and governmental mechanisms of social development and overcoming poverty of Latin America and the Caribbean, participants of the “IX the Annual Conference of the Social Network”, carried out on 4, 5 and 6 of December 2002 Asuncion, Paraguay, organized by the Secretariat of Social Action and Direction of Beneficence and Social Aid of Paraguay, with the support of the Coordinating Committee of Social Network, and General Secretariat of the Organization of American States.

Considering:

1. That before the establishment of which Latin America and the Caribbean are going through a period the Cepal has described like “half lost decade”, that increasing poverty, unemployment, sub-employment and real diminish income of the poorest sectors, it is considered the categorical imperative to review social policies of the Region;
2. That waited effects from the opening of the markets have not necessarily solved the problems of wealth distribution, which reaffirms the necessity to implement policies to allow to incorporate the poorest sectors to economic and social development of our countries. Such policies must be based on a real interlocution among the authorities to lead economic and social scopes;
3. That to overcome poverty requires a strong political will, important reforms of economic and social sectors, participation of all national actors and support of agencies and organisms of international cooperation, thus, to fulfill commitments that governments have acquired through Goals of the Millenium to diminish to half the population in extreme poverty. This outlines challenge to achieve social policies to be increasingly re-distributing. That programs and projects to materialize them substantially increase their impact in the followed goals and the efficiency in usage of assigned resources;

4. That Social Network has a significant roll, due to its history that has allowed it to combine a conceptual and methodological reflection and that has provided tools to face each country specificities for programs and projects directed to overcome poverty. In this sense, the Network has demonstrated to be an effective mechanism for experiences transferring and learned lessons in a scope of solidarity cooperation for social development.

They decide:

1. To take measures necessary to strengthen Social Network, considering member proposals in diverse forums, emphasizing the reflection results of Cartagena de Indias, made on 29 and 30 of January and on 1 February 2002. it began a process of analysis on the evolution of the Network, after 10 years of existence. In such context, Presidency and Technical Secretariat of the Network elaborated a reconstruction proposal that contains the following elements.
2. To foment a greater participation in Social Network activities, thus, members of the coordinating committee will assume specific responsibilities to strengthen cooperation among member countries, to facilitate institutions integration and to jointly solve common challenges and problems.
3. To reiterate members of the Network the importance of making their specific contributions, which they decided to be voluntary, at

Tlaxcala, 1999. To also require members that when giving species contributions, they indicate its characteristics and considered value.

4. To require the Unit of Social Development and Education of the General Secretariat of O.A.S., in its quality of Technical Secretariat of Social Network, to conduct the following actions and to report them in the next Coordinating Committee meeting.
  5. 4.1 To transmit to the Permanent Council of the Organization the interest of the Social Network in collaborating in the quick conformation of the Inter-American Commission of Social Development.
  6. 4.2 To elaborate the criteria and conditions to lodge the Web site of the Social Network, for its presentation in the next meeting of the Coordinating Committee. The previous thing, in virtue that IX the Annual Conference welcomes the offer of the Unit of Social Development and Education to collaborate in the administration of the site of the Network.
  7. 4.3 To manage before the Inter-American Agency of Cooperation for the Development cooperation projects that benefit the activities from the Social Network, such as the program of pasantías of the consolidated programs of the institutions members of the Network.
  8. 4.4 To coordinate actions of cooperation with other international organisms for the taking of steps of formation, such as the courses with the INDES of the I.A.D.B. and the Cepal. Also, to inform into other excellent activities for the Network that the international organisms make.
5. To entrust the Coordinating Committee so that in coordination with the Technical Secretariat they carry out the necessary managements for the elaboration of the plan of work 2003, including management of resources for the activities, as well as tasks of execution and pursuit.

6. To accept and to thank for the offer of the Bottom of Solidarity and Inversio'n Social (FOSIS) of Chile to be the seat of the X Annual Conference.

Thankfulness:

1. To the Secretariat of Social Action and the Direction of Beneficence and Social Aid of the Government of Paraguay, by the excellent organization and coordination of the IX Conference, their generous disposition to assume the responsibilities of its sponsorship, and to have shared its particular experiences that plot new courses in the overcoming of poverty.
2. To the institutions of Social Network that contribute to the execution of the Work Plan 2002, in special one to the Secretariat of Social Development (SEDESOL) of Mexico by their work and contributions in the exercise of the Presidency of the Coordinating Committee and to the Fund of Solidarity and Social Investment of Chile (FOSIS), by the general administration of the electronic page, as well as to the member institutions which contributed with their annual quota and those that participated in Internships program.
3. To the Inter-American Development Bank (I.A.D.B.) by its contributions to the Intra-regional Program of Internships of the Social Network and to the INDES by the Seminary of social management made in August of 2002.
4. To the Technical Secretariat of the Social Network in charge of the Unit of Social Development and Education of the OAS General Assembly.
5. To the national institutions and international organisms that have contributed to the activities of the Plan of Work 2002 of the Social Network, specially to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) by their permanent support through their Division of Social Development.
6. Very specially, for the hospitality and generosity of the Paraguayan government and people. As well as the warm refuge of the authorities and personnel of the Secretariat of Social Action and the Direction of Beneficence and Social Aid headed by Minister Dr. Aurelio Yellow Varela and the Dr Federico Gómez Baez, respectively.

\* During 2002 the following institutions contributed to the voluntary Fund of the Network, in the following dates: FAES, Haiti (January 4); IMAS, Costa Rica (April 9); SAS, Paraguay (April 30); DIBEN, Paraguay (May 5); FONCODES, Peru (May 9); FONVIS, Venezuela (May 13); FIS, Panama (May 25); MSCD, Trinidad and Tobago (August 15), FOSIS, Chile (December 11).

**SOCIAL NETWORK OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN:  
EXTERNAL CONTRIBUTIONS.**

**External Financial Sources for Technical Cooperation Activities 1991- 2002.**

<b>Organization of American States, OAS</b>	<b>2, 035.900</b>
CIES/DAES contribution 1991-1996	850.000
Funds from FEMCIDI (Social Network Project)	
1997	252.000
1998	210.000
1999	255.900
2000	000.000
2001	150.000
2002	118,000
Technical Secretary, 1997-2001	200.000
Administrative and human resources contribution Unit of Social Development and Education	
<b>Inter- American Development Bank IDB</b>	<b>270.000</b>
Inter- Regional Program of Internships 1998 – 2001	270.000
<b>World Bank</b>	<b>311.000</b>
Social InterNetwork Project Website 1997 –2000	311.000

Source: Technical Secretary UDSE/OAS.

## SOCIAL NETWORK OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: SPECIAL FUND

### ANNUAL MEMBERS' QUOTA.

#### YEAR 2000

Argentina / Fondo Participativo de Inversión Social, FOPAR	5,000
Belize / Social Investment Fund	4,980
Chile / Fondo de Solidaridad e Inversión Social, FOSIS	4,982
Colombia / Red de Solidaridad Social	5,000
Costa Rica / Instituto Mixto de Ayuda Social, IMAS	5,000
Nicaragua / Fondo de Inversión Social de Emergencia	5,000
Panamá / Fondo de Inversión Social	5,000
Paraguay / Dirección de Beneficencia y Ayuda Social, DIBEN	5,000
República Dominicana / Pro-Comunidad	5,000
Uruguay / Pronappa	5,000
Venezuela / Fondo de Inversión Social, FONVIS	5,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>54,962</b>

#### YEAR 2001

Belize / Social Investment Fund	4,980
Belize / Ministry of Human Development, Women and Civil Society	5,000
Chile / Fondo de Solidaridad e Inversión Social, FOSIS	4,990
Colombia / Red de Solidaridad Social	5,000
Costa Rica / Instituto Mixto de Ayuda Social, IMAS	5,000
Más aportación extraordinaria	60,000
Panamá / Fondo de Inversión Social	5,000
Paraguay / Dirección de Beneficencia y Ayuda Social, DIBEN	5,000
República Dominicana / Pro-Comunidad	5,000
Trinidad & Tobago / Ministry of Social and Community Development	5,000
Venezuela / Fondo de Inversión Social, FONVIS	4,998
<b>Total</b>	<b>49,968</b>

**YEAR 2002**

Haití/ Fonds d'Assistance Economique et Sociale	5,000
Costa Rica/ Instituto Mixto de Ayuda Social	5,000
Chile / Fondo de Solidaridad e Inversión Social, FOSIS	4,990
Paraguay/ Dirección de Beneficencia y Ayuda Social	4,980
Paraguay/Secretaría de Desarrollo Social	4,980
Perú/ Fondo Nacional de Compensación y Desarrollo Social	4,953
Panamá/ Fondo de Inversión Social	5,000
Venezuela/ Fondo de Inversión Social	5,000
Trinidad & Tobago/ Ministry of Social and Community Development	5,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>44, 903</b>

Source: Technical Secretary of Social Network UDSE / OAS



## **SOCIAL NETWORK OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN WORKSHOPS**

### **BACKGROUND FOR THE SOCIAL NETWORK CREATION.**

Workshop Of Interchange Experiences About Overcoming Poverty In Latin America And The Caribbean.  
La Trinidad, Tlaxcala, México, 19 –21 June 1991

Second Workshop Of Interchange Experiences About Overcoming Poverty In Latin America And The Caribbean.  
La Serena, Chile, 19 –23 October 1992

Third Seminary - Workshop Of Interchange Experiences About Overcoming Poverty In Latin America And The Caribbean.  
Puntarenas, Costa Rica, November 1993.

### **THEMATIC WORKSHOPS**

#### **1994**

Seminary-Workshop About Financing Alternatives For Programs To Overcome Poverty.  
Santiago de Chile 20 – 22 June 1994

#### **1995**

Seminary-Workshop About Sustainability Of Social Development Projects  
Santa Cruz, Bolivia, 12 –14 October 1995

Seminary- Workshop About Evaluation And Pursuit Of Results From Social Funds And Programs Of Latin America And The Caribbean.  
Paipa, Colombia 24- 27 October 1995.

#### **1996**

Seminary- Workshop. About Contribution Of The Funs Of Social, Politic, Investment Of The States.  
Santiago, Chile, 23-25 April 1996.

Seminary Workshop On Credit Negotiation Between Social Investment Funs And The International Banks  
Washington, D. C. U.S.A 27-28 June 1996

Seminary Workshop Of Citizen Participation And Social Control For Overcoming Poverty  
Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, 16-18 October 1996.

#### **1997**

First Workshop Of Internetwork Social Project Of Institutional Strengthening Of Members Of The Social Network Of Latin America And The Caribbean.  
Roatan Honduras, 24-26 February 1997.

Seminary Workshop On Programs Monitoring And Social Projects: Strategic Instruments For Social Policy  
Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17-19 March 1997.

Seminary Workshop On The Impact Evaluation Of The Social Programs And Projects Of Latin America And The Caribbean  
San José, Costa Rica, 8- 10 July 1997

Seminary Workshop On Social Participation And Municipal Strengthen To Overcome Poverty  
México D.F., México, 10 – 12 September 1997

#### **1998**

Employment And Income Generation For Local Integrating Development.  
Rio De Janeiro, Brasil, 12 - 14 August 1998

Social Investment Funds, Decentralization And Articulation Of An Organization Of State And Civil Society.  
Caracas, Venezuela 8 – 9 October 1998

#### **1999**

Workshop To Define The Future Of The Social Network Webpage.  
Buenos Aires, Argentina 27 – 28 May 1999

Seminary Workshop On Productive Projects And Woman  
Lima Perú June 1999

International Seminary Of Sponsoring And Overcoming Poverty And Sustainable Development  
Santiago, Chile October 1999

#### **2000**

First Course Of Elaboration And Evaluation Of Social Projects Impact For The Social Network Members  
ECLAC, Santiago De Chile, 11 – 15 September 2000

**2001**

Seminary Workshop On Social Investment Funds And Social Assistant Programs For Women And Youth.  
St. Lucia, West Indies, 22 – 24 June 2001

Course Of Elaboration And Evaluation Of Social Projects Impact For The Social Network Members  
ECLAC, Santiago De Chile, July 2001

Seminary Workshop Women Poverty And Human Rights: With Own Voice  
San José, Costa Rica, 22 – 24 August 2001

**2002**

Seminary Of Refletion For The Institutional Strengthen Of The Social Network  
Cartagena, Colombia, 30 – 31 January And 1 February 2002

International Forum “Institutionalization Processes And Modernization Of Social Investment Funds Which Are Social Network Members  
La Paz, Bolivia, 22 – 23 April 2002

Seminary Of Social Management For Principal Of Social Investments Funds Memebers Of The Social Network.  
Washington D.C, USA, 19 – 23 August 2002

Seminary Social Policy Today. New Perspectives From Latin America And The Caribbean  
Ixtapa Xihuatanejo, Mexico, 16 – 18 October 2002

**2003**

Overcoming Poverty: The Answer To Basic Necessities And To The Communitarian Development  
Ocho Rios, Jamaica, 26 – 28 February 2003



**SOCIAL NETWORK OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN  
INTRA- REGIONAL PROGRAM OF INTERNSHIPS DIB/OAS  
INTERNSHIPS LIST  
(March 1999 – August 2002)**

<b>AÑO 1999</b>				
<b>PAIS DE INSTITUCIÓN BENEFICIARIA</b>	<b>PAIS DE INSTITUCIÓN OTORGANTE</b>	<b>PARTICIPANTE</b>	<b>FECHA</b>	<b>AREA TEMÁTICA</b>
1 El Salvador	México	Zamuel Mendoza	March 8-12, 1999	Desarrollo, ejecución y evaluación de políticas sociales
2 Rep. Dominicana	Colombia	Rafael Felix	Abril 12-16, 1999	Participación, determinación comunitaria y control social
3 Panamá	México	Iliam Tello	Mayo17-21,1999	Programas para mujeres jefas de hogar y madres jóvenes
4 Trin. & Tobago	Chile	Antonia Poppell	Mayo 24-28, 1999	Programas para la tercera edad
5 Paraguay	Chile	Bianca Dominguez	Mayo 24-28, 1999	Programas de empleo y generación de ingresos para población carenciada
6 México	Perú	Rosalba Sierra	Junio 14-18, 1999	Fortalecimiento de participación comunitaria
7 Suriname	Jamaica	Iris Sandel	Julio 5-9, 1999	Organización y gestión de programas sociales a través de sistemas de información.
8 Belice	Jamaica	Evan Dakers	Julio 5-9, 1999	Organización y gestión de programas sociales a través de sistemas de información
9 Argentina	Perú	María del Carmen Ramos	Julio12-16, 1999	Fortalecimiento de participación comunitaria
10 Perú	México	Jorge González	Julio 26-30,1999	Proyectos de desarrollo productivo
11 St. Lucia	Trin. & Tobago	Leslie Charles	Agosto 16-20, 1999	Programas para la población en condiciones de pobreza extrema
12 Colombia	Uruguay	John Medina	Sept 6-10, 1999	Gestión organizacional de instituciones sociales.
13 Venezuela	Colombia	Ana Castillo	Sept20-24, 1999	Participación, determinación comunitaria y control social
14 Brasil	México	Adelmir Gallardo	Sept27-Oct 1, 1999	Poblaciones vulnerables en áreas rurales
<b>AÑO 2000</b>				
15 Chile	México	Cristian Bohard	Marzo 6 - 10, 2000	Microcrédito para poblaciones rurales
16 Costa Rica	Chile	Elsa Grant	Abril 24-28, 2000	Programas dirigidos a jóvenes
17 Panamá	Chile	Anabel Avila	Abril 24-28, 2000	Programas dirigidos a jóvenes
18 Argentina	Colombia	Cora Bertachini	Mayo 2-8, 2000	Participación comunitaria - observatorios sociales.
19 Costa Rica	Colombia	Roxana Murillo	Mayo 2-8, 2000	Participación comunitaria - observatorios sociales.
20 México	Colombia	César Piña	Mayo 2-8, 2000	Participación comunitaria - observatorios sociales.
21 Chile	Honduras	Berta Zúñiga	Mayo 8-12, 2000	Programas dirigidos a mujeres
22 Perú	Honduras	Antonieta Gutiérrez	Mayo 8-12, 2000	Programas dirigidos a mujeres
23 Chile	Guatemala	Ricardo Lizana	Mayo 22-26, 2000	Procesos de rediseño y reingeniería
24 Argentina	Guatemala	Guillermo Panzone	Mayo 22-26, 2000	Procesos de rediseño y reingeniería
25 Trin. & Tobago	Jamaica	Winston Ross	Mayo 22-26, 2000	Fortalecimiento institucional y desarrollo comunitario
26 Rep. Dominicana	Argentina	Rafael Marte	Junio 26-30, 2000	Infraestructura, técnicas de evaluación y medición de impacto.
27 Honduras	Argentina	Ricardo Robleda	Junio 26-30, 2000	Infraestructura, técnicas de evaluación y medición de impacto.
28 Chile	México	Francisco Jara	Junio 26-30, 2000	Programas dirigidos a comunidades indígenas
29 Colombia	México	Teresa Suárez	Junio 26-30, 2000	Programas dirigidos a comunidades indígenas
30 Argentina	Costa Rica	Miriam Rangone	Julio 10-14, 2000	Desarrollo y fortalecimiento comunitario - Triangulo de Solidaridad
31 El Salvador	Chile	Diego Salcedo	Agosto 21-25, 2000	Proyectos productivos con énfasis en microcréditos.
32 Perú	Chile	Manuel Nolazco	Agosto 21-25, 2000	Proyectos productivos con énfasis en microcréditos.
33 México	Chile	Alberto Walker	Agosto 21-25, 2000	Proyectos productivos con énfasis en microcréditos.
34 México	Chile	Alicia Vázquez	Agosto 21-25, 2000	Proyectos productivos con énfasis en microcréditos.
35 Guatemala	Chile	Vilma Lorena Ríos	Agosto 21-25, 2000	Proyectos productivos con énfasis en microcréditos.
36 Bolivia	CEPAL	Fredy Cadima	Sept. 11-15, 2000	Formulación, monitoreo y evaluación de programas y proyectos sociales.
37 Ecuador	CEPAL	Oscar Armijos	Sept. 11-15, 2000	Formulación, monitoreo y evaluación de programas y proyectos sociales.
38 Guatemala	CEPAL	Giovanni Dubón	Sept. 11-15, 2000	Formulación, monitoreo y evaluación de programas y proyectos sociales.
39 México	CEPAL	José Vergara	Sept. 11-15, 2000	Formulación, monitoreo y evaluación de programas y proyectos sociales.
40 Perú	CEPAL	Marcela Mur	Sept. 11-15, 2000	Formulación, monitoreo y evaluación de programas y proyectos sociales.
41 Jamaica	Belize	Rhian Holder	Oct. 23-27, 2000	Iniciativas para fomentar la participación comunitaria
42 Jamaica	Trin. & Tobago	Milton Harper	Nov. 13-17, 2000	Adopt a community project
<b>AÑO 2001</b>				
43 Chile	México	Juana Huenúfl	Mar. 19-23, 2001	Programas de apoyo y comercialización a producción Artesanal Indígena
44 Chile	México	Margarita Huencho	Mar. 19-23, 2001	Programas de apoyo y comercialización a producción Artesanal Indígena
45 Chile	México	Flavia Torrealba	Mar. 19-23, 2001	Programas de apoyo y comercialización a producción Artesanal Indígena
46 Chile	México	Lautaro Videla	Mar. 19-23, 2001	Programas de apoyo y comercialización a producción Artesanal Indígena
47 Peru	Chile	Leoncio Rodríguez	Mar. 19-23, 2001	Estructura organizacional, orientación estratégica y portafolio de programas
48 Peru	Chile	Luis Alberio Mas	Mar. 19-23, 2001	Estructura organizacional, orientación estratégica y portafolio de programas
49 Paraguay	Chile	Julio Cesar Acosta	Mar. 19-23, 2001	Estructura organizacional, orientación estratégica y portafolio de programas
50 Chile	Venezuela	Lautaro Videla	Mar. 26-30, 2001	Estructura organizacional, orientación estratégica y portafolio de programas
51 Rep.Dom.	Costa Rica	Filfo Tejada	Mayo 21-25, 2001	Desarrollo y fortalecimiento comunitario - Triangulo de Solidaridad
52 Ecuador	Costa Rica	Luis Ernesto Ramón	Mayo 21-25, 2001	Desarrollo y fortalecimiento comunitario - Triangulo de Solidaridad
53 Guatemala	Perú	Antonio Rodriguez	Mayo 21-25, 2001	Capacitación comunitaria para la sostenibilidad de proyectos
54 Guatemala	Perú	Orlando Obando	Mayo 21-25, 2001	Capacitación comunitaria para la sostenibilidad de proyectos
55 El Salvador	Perú	Jose Bellegarrigue	Mayo 21-25, 2001	Capacitación comunitaria para la sostenibilidad de proyectos
56 El Salvador	Perú	Lisbeth Argueta	Mayo 21-25, 2001	Capacitación comunitaria para la sostenibilidad de proyectos
57 Costa Rica	Perú	Rodrigo Amador	Mayo 21-25, 2001	Capacitación comunitaria para la sostenibilidad de proyectos
58 Panamá	Perú	Anabel Avila	Mayo 21-25, 2001	Capacitación comunitaria para la sostenibilidad de proyectos
59 Costa Rica	México	Roxana Viquez	Mayo 28-Jun.1,2001	Programas desarrollados por Promesa e intercambio sobre herramientas de focalización
60 Costa Rica	México	Noemí Araya	Mayo 28-Jun.1,2001	Programas desarrollados por Promesa e intercambio sobre herramienta de focalización
61 St. Lucia	Jamaica	James Perineau	Noviembre 5-9, 2001	Participación comunitaria en el ciclo de proyectos
62 Haití	Jamaica	Bertrand Roy	Noviembre 5-9, 2001	Participación comunitaria en el ciclo de proyectos
63 Colombia	Guatemala	Patricia Luna	Nov. 19-23, 2001	Políticas y proyectos de atención a población desplazada por la violencia
64 Colombia	Guatemala	Mario Monsalve	Nov. 19-23, 2001	Políticas y proyectos de atención a población desplazada por la violencia
<b>AÑO 2002</b>				
65 Argentina	INDES-BID/OEA	Raúl Dalmazo	Agosto 19-23, 2002	Seminario de Gerencia Social para miembros de la Red social
66 Chile	INDES-BID/OEA	Mario Ossandón	Agosto 19-23, 2002	Seminario de Gerencia Social para miembros de la Red social
67 Costa Rica	INDES-BID/OEA	Silvia Lara	Agosto 19-23, 2002	Seminario de Gerencia Social para miembros de la Red social
68 Ecuador	INDES-BID/OEA	Patricio Prado	Agosto 19-23, 2002	Seminario de Gerencia Social para miembros de la Red social
69 El Salvador	INDES-BID/OEA	Miguel Ángel Simán	Agosto 19-23, 2002	Seminario de Gerencia Social para miembros de la Red social
70 Guatemala	INDES-BID/OEA	Mario Montenegro	Agosto 19-23, 2002	Seminario de Gerencia Social para miembros de la Red social
71 Honduras	INDES-BID/OEA	Leoncio Yu Way	Agosto 19-23, 2002	Seminario de Gerencia Social para miembros de la Red social
72 México	INDES-BID/OEA	Bianca Lilia García	Agosto 19-23, 2002	Seminario de Gerencia Social para miembros de la Red social
73 Nicaragua	INDES-BID/OEA	Azucena Castillo	Agosto 19-23, 2002	Seminario de Gerencia Social para miembros de la Red social
74 Paraguay	INDES-BID/OEA	Anibal Pangrazio	Agosto 19-23, 2002	Seminario de Gerencia Social para miembros de la Red social
75 Perú	INDES-BID/OEA	Alejandro Narvaéz	Agosto 19-23, 2002	Seminario de Gerencia Social para miembros de la Red social
76 Venezuela	INDES-BID/OEA	Henry Rivas	Agosto 19-23, 2002	Seminario de Gerencia Social para miembros de la Red social



# **SOCIAL NETWORK OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

## **STRUCTURE AND STANDARDS OF FUNCTIONING**

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## SOCIAL NETWORK OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

# STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONING STANDARDS

### I NATURE

- I.1 The Social Network of Latin America and the Caribbean has a foundation in the proposal of national governments at the several regional and international forums of cooperation for development. Its strategy is to contribute to the common goal of social welfare and overcoming poverty with respect and solidarity.
- I.2 In its policy's formulation for cooperation the Social Network recognizes the structural transformations in national realities of the region and worldwide, starting from them, from which priorities are defined, strategies are drafted and action lines are guided.
- I.3 It is a space of regional cooperation, open to social investment funds participation, institutions and mechanisms which have been created by governments of Latin America and the Caribbean to overcome poverty. It promotes the linkage among its members to profit by experiences and technology transference.
- I.4 The Social Network is a mechanism for technical horizontal cooperation. which promotes, multiplies, strengthens and quickens interchanges to find practical and actual solutions to forward social development and overcoming poverty.
- I.5 Its members decide its behavior and activities through the formality of its structure and operation standards. Its operation is self managed and its character is juridical.
- I.6 Every year a Work Schedule is planned, for its execution, a Coordinator Committee is elected periodically, which is backed up for a permanent Technical Secretary.

- I.7 The Social Network is a regional instance for technical horizontal cooperation, which is complementary to the one national governments have. In support to the financing and technical support of its activities, it has cooperating organisms and agencies of international cooperation, such as the Organization of American States (OAS), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the World Bank (WB), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Inter-American Institute for Agriculture ( IICA ) and the German Bank for Reconstruction ( KFW ).
- I.8 It promotes and foments relations with funds of social investment, institutions and mechanisms for overcoming poverty assembled in regional similar networks, such as: the Association of African Agencies for Public Works and Projects (AFRICATIP), with the Middle East and North of Africa (MENANet), East Europe and Central Asia (ECANet) and with the African Social Investment Funds Network (ASIFNet).
- I.9 Social and poverty phenomena diversity of nature, guide to settle links with networks of Latin America and the Caribbean about transversal and complementary themes, just as it does with the Environmental Funds Network, Government Agencies Network or Woman's National Mechanisms.
- I.10 To reinforce analysis and qualification it promotes relations with search, educational and qualification institutions. Likewise, it counts on an advisory group, integrated by experts linked to the development of Social Network.
- I.11 Through its electronic page, the Social Network develops its information and communication system.

## II OBJECTIVES

### GENERAL OBJECTIVE

- II.1 To forward and maintain paces of reflection, mutual knowledge, solidary cooperation, interchange of experiences and qualification, among Network member institutions and toward other regions in order to contribute to the strengthening of strategies for overcoming poverty and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

### II.2 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- II.2.1 To promote activities of technical horizontal cooperation, expert advice and qualification.
- II.2.2 To strengthen and promote the information and electronic system of communication INTERNETWORK among members and users like a diffusion media for knowledge and experiences, developed in relevant themes for its members, as well as requests and offers for horizontal cooperation.
- II.2.3 To contribute to recognize mechanisms and strategic actions for overcoming poverty.
- II.2.4 To promote cooperation links with other regional mechanisms of similar nature.
- II.2.5 To empower the usage of know-how and financial resources of members, as well as the ones belonging to organisms and international agencies for development, in order to best achieve its objectives.
- II.2.6 To integrate national experiences for overcoming poverty in order to identify common challenges to be useful for the elaboration of a conceptual frame of social policy and overcoming poverty, as well as the strategic lines of solidary cooperation for the specific development of the Social Network.
- I.2.7 The Social Network activities will favor officials, technicians and to all social actors postulated for the member institutions.

### III MEMBERSHIP

#### III.1 PRINCIPAL MEMBERS

Within this category, social investment funds and the public national institutions of governmental nature which are responsible of software and projects operation for social development and overcoming poverty, are considered. In order to accede to principal member's category, the institutions must be abreast of the fulfillment of their commitments of cooperation and payment of their yearly quota, with the following responsibilities:

These members have voice and vote in the lecture, and priority in the financing of their participation in activities of the Social Network.

The members take part in the decisions with a vow per country, which is exerted by the focal point decided by each country. And they have free access to all services offered by the Network through its electronic page.

Each principal member will designate an official to act as a reference point and link for every subject of the Social Network. This will be formally informed to the Coordinator Committee.

#### III.2 ADHERENT MEMBERS

In this category, public entities of regional or local environment, as well as universities, nongovernmental organizations linked to the principal members of the Social Network, are considered. They will be able to participate with their own financing.

The adherent members will have voice; their participation will be coordinated with the principal member from their country, through it will exert its vow.

For entities' entrance who wish to become adherent members of the Network, a formal presentation and an accreditation request will be necessary. It will be presented before the Coordinator Committee, from the principal member of the corresponding country.

### IV MEMBERS' COMMITMENTS

#### IV.1 PRINCIPAL MEMBERS

IV.1.1 To contribute with a yearly minimal quota of US\$ 5.000 (five thousand American dollars). Those institutions that for particular circumstances may not complete the quota of yearly membership, will have to written manifest it. They will identify alternative forms of contribution for the work of the Network, comparable in value to the quota. They will also have to explain whereon their specific contribution will consist. The coordinating Committee will have faculties to approve or to sanction their contribution.

IV.1.2 To offer technical horizontal cooperation, through interchange information on programs and projects which are susceptible to incorporate in the scheme of offers and requests of internships and expert advices.

IV.1.3 To make technical and financial contributions according to their possibilities, in order to contribute the programmed activities of the Network.

IV.1.4 To take part in the organized activities, sharing, in an attitude of solidarity, experiences and knowledge with the rest of the members.

IV.1.5 To share information on their institution periodically, relevant projects and activities of technical cooperation for their publication in the Social Network electronic page.

IV.1.6 To take part in top-level executive committee of the Annual Conference of the Network.

IV.1.7 To elect and accept to be elected in the different operating instances of the Network.

IV.1.8 To contribute to the solid linkage of the Social Network with the instances of their government for social development and overcoming poverty, including to the chancellery or responsible institution of international cooperation. In such sense, to assume functions of National Focal Point for the coordination and internal diffusion of relevant contributions achieved in the space of the Network.

IV.1.9 To be willing to accomplish the administrative necessary management in support to the projects of international cooperation which the Coordinator Committee leads for the fulfillment of Work Schedules.

IV.1.10 The members that fulfill with their obligations will have access to the available Social Network financing to participate in seminars, technical assistance and internships.

IV.1.11 The attendants in each Annual Conference will have to present a Plan of Work that they commit themselves to do in one-year period to concretize the exercise of duty previously mentioned.

#### IV.2 ADHERENT MEMBERS

IV.2.1 To participate in the activities organized by Social Network, previous communication to the principal member from their country and approval of the Coordinator Committee. To contribute with the recuperation quota, estimated by the Network with the purpose of backing up the financing of cooperation activities, such as courses, seminars, internships, etc.

IV.2.2 To participate and interchange relevant information about programs and projects of social investment and overcoming poverty, as well as activities of regional or international cooperation.

IV.2.3 To support the regional and international broadcast of the Social Network activities.

## V. ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE FOR THE DECISION MAKING

### V.1 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

It is the maximum decision organ. It is integrated for the top-level institutional executive members. The host is decided during the Conference based on to the offerings and considering the alternation for geographic area and the rotation of countries. In no case, any country will be able to repeat like headquarters after the time limit of five years.

#### V.1.1 MAIN OBJECTIVES

- a) To analyze strategic themes for social development and overcoming poverty, that have greater incidence on the institutional duty during the year.
- b) To update the normative frame and to sanction members' entrance.
- c) To approve the chores of the Coordinator Committee of the Technical Secretariat and Subcommittees.
- d) To propose the Annual Plan of Work and emit the directrix of cooperation policy in the Declaration's frame.
- e) To elect the Coordinator Committee and the headquarters of following Conference.

#### V.1.2 CONCERNS AND ATTRIBUTIONS

- a) To offer a dialogue opportunity among its members and examine the advances achieved in the region, to overcome poverty, as well as innovative experiences development.
- b) To evaluate the report presented by the Coordinator Committee, about the execution of the annual Plan of Work of the Social Network.
- c) To approve the Annual Plan of Work, its activities, resources and themes to be discussed.
- d) To define the more convenient actions on the subject of assets brought in from Network members and the reception of resources of national, bilateral or multilateral sources, for the good fulfillment of activities entrusted in the Annual Plan of Work.
- e) To elect the Coordinator Committee's members as well as headquarters of following Conference, whose host institution will exert the Conference Presidency.

- f) To Link the Social Network, with beneficiaries, NGOs and international organisms or agencies, related to programs to overcome poverty.

## V.2 COORDINATOR COMMITTEE

It is the responsible organ to accomplish decisions, strategies of technical cooperation and the Plan of Work approved by the Annual Conference.

### V. 2. 1 CONFORMATION

It is constituted for six ( 6 ) member institutions elected by the Conference, with representation criteria, two (2) by geographic region.

Area 1: Meso-America (Mexico and Central America);  
 Area 2: The Caribbean, Dominican Republic and Guyana;  
 Area 3: South America.

### V.2.2 PERIOD

- A) Committee's performance will be for two-year periods. The members renewal will be done for halves, each year three members will be renew, one for each geographic area.
- B) Members of the Coordinator Committee may be reelected, in case of the Annual Conference considers convenient and approves it.

### V.2.3 ORGANITATION

- a) The Coordinator Committee will elect among its members a president and a vice-president and will report to the Conference.
- b) Each member of the Coordinator Committee, according to its representativeness, will assume a promoter and coordinator role of cooperation in its geographic area. It may be supported by creating workgroups divided in themes of common concern for members of every sub-region. To achieve this, they will identify sources for financing the inherent expenses to exert this operation.
- c) Every three months, there will be meetings for Coordinator Committee with 4 members minimal quorum. At least, along the year there will be three meetings considering one when concluding the Annual Conference to organize the Plan of Work, one for the annual report every six months and other one previous to the Annual Report.

- d) The institution that assumes the Presidency will defray expenses, which correspond to the administration and coordination for projects and activities development of the Plan of Work; As well as the different media for members of the Network.
- e) It will have to give a detailed report to the Annual Conference about the accomplished activities and a balance of income and expenditures of the Social Network.

### V.2. 4. COORDINATING COMMITTEE COMPETENCY

#### V.2.4.1 ORGANIZATIONAL LEGISLATION

- a) To receive information, documentation, balances, recommendations and adnexa to bear its ancestors performance.
- b) To safeguard the fulfillment of basic standards for the organization and the functioning of the Social Network.
- c) To maintain updated the Members Directory, thus Coordinator Committee, in his previous meeting, will annually review and update the members directory and will rule new members requests of entrance "ad referendum" of the Annual Conference.

#### V.2.4.2 PLAN OF WORK

- a) To coordinate and support the execution of the Annual Plan of Work approved by the Conference.
- b) To nominate the Subcommittees and working parties on determined themes and specific subjects.
- c) To get settings for the execution of the Plan of Work, when necessary.
- d) To approve the annual budget of income and expenditures, which will be elaborated by the Presidency of the Committee, as a basement to agreed activities on the Annual Plan of Work.
- e) To canalize and approve the management of all accomplished resources, projects and activities, in order to support the objectives of the Social Network.
- f) To determine the administrative mechanisms for the execution of the Plan of Work, considering the possibilities their member institutions offer.
- g) To commission the Committee's Presidency, the execution of the approved budget, in order to support the Annual Plan of Work.



- h) To authorize the Presidency and the Technical Secretariat to develop strategies and actions for transferring resources, to the responsible institutions of Annual Plan of Work.
- i) To settle methodologies (to systematize experiences, offer and demand of expert advices, technical assistance, internships, qualification and divulgation); The selection criteria of consultancy and to define mechanisms of monitoring, tracking and control of execution for Plan of Work.
- j) To do a periodic tracking of Annual Plan of Work fulfillment and the budget execution, as well as the responsibilities assigned to subcommittees.

#### V.2.4.3 CONFERENCES AND SEMINARY-WORKSHOPS

- a) To organize technique and logistical budget for Annual Conference, in coordination to the host country.
- b) To propose the contents of the Seminary- workshops and to coordinate with the host institution the organization.
- c) To elaborate a yearly document to gather the themes viewed on the seminary- workshops and internships, with the purpose of integrating the bidding and common ground of the institutions and to contribute to strengthen of a regional vision of development and social and overcoming perspectives of poverty.

#### V.2.4.4 BROADCASTING

- a) To elaborate, every two months, one activity reports to be spread out through the Bulletin Webpage.
- b) All communications to the members, as well as the Social Network publications will have to be done in Spanish and English, at least.

### V. 3 SUBCOMMITTEES

V.3.1 To support the Coordinator Committee's functioning, subcommittees and working parties may be conformed, on themes and specific subjects that concern the Network.

V.3.2 Each subcommittee will be coordinated by an institution of a member country, in concordance with the fortresses and possibilities of the countries. The subcommittees will be able to redefine themselves periodically according to the themes and specific interests.

### V.4 PRESIDENCY OF COORDINATING COMMITTEE

#### V.4.1 COMPETENCY

- a) To represent the Social Network of Latin America and the Caribbean.
- b) To execute resources and activities of cooperation agreements approved in favor to the Social Network, from international organisms and agencies, in compliance with the Coordinator Committee and with the support of the Technical Secretariat.
- c) To present technical substantival reports and the administrative financial reports that correspond to Coordinator Committee and a report every six months to all members of the Network.
- d) To administrate resources coming from different sources of financing, that have been allotted to the Network, in order to fulfill approved activities in the Annual Plan of Work, according to the Coordinator Committee and with the support of the Technical Secretariat.
- e) To require the Technical Secretariat its support to manage resources of international cooperation.
- f) To coordinate the execution of entrusted activities in the Annual Plan of Work and to execute all those others activities that they require for the good functioning of the Social Network and its organs.
- g) To request technical and administrative support from the Technical Secretariat.
- h) To call for the Coordinator Committee meetings and for the Annual Conference.
- i) To assemble and invite to the Seminars- workshops, internships, consultancies and other activities of Social Network.

## V.5 TECHNICAL SECRETARY

### V.5.1 COMPETENCY

- a) It is the permanent supportive instance to the work of the Coordinator Committee in the execution of the Plan of Work, prosecution and evaluation of activities, and the management of opportunities of international cooperation.
- b) According to a collaboration agreement among the General Secretary of Organization of American States (OAS) and the Social Network, since 1996, the function of Technical Secretary is exerted by Unit of Social Development and Education (UDSE) of the OAS. According to the resources availability, the UDSE, in his quality of Technical Secretary, will comply with the following functions:
- c) To collaborate with the Coordinator Committee in the identification of opportunities of cooperation with OAS, specially with the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development, as well as the linkage of the Network with the politic instances of Organization, particularly the Inter-American Council for the Integral Development (CIDI).
- d) To support the Coordinator Committee in the execution of principal activities of the Annual Plan of Work, such as seminars- workshops and the Annual Conference.
- e) To help the Coordinator Committee in the identification and management of the international cooperation resources.
- f) To participate in the Coordinator Committee meetings and to elaborate correspondent minutes.
- g) To execute specific projects, according to guidelines of the Annual Conference and the Coordinator Committee, particularly those guided to strengthen the horizontal cooperation among the member institutions of the Social Network.
- h) To collaborate with the Coordinator Committee and the Presidency in the preservation of documents and relevant registers for the historic memory of the Social Network.

## V. 6 CRITERIA FOR THE SOCIAL NETWORK ACTIVITIES.

### V.6.1 COORDINATING COMMITTEE'S MEETINGS

- a) The interpretation and translation will be provided by the host institution, otherwise members of the committee and the secretariat will collaborate with in their possibilities. In virtue that the Committee is bilingual and may be able to speak four languages, the Coordinator Committee and the Technical Secretary will promote the management for these specific resources.
- b) With resources of projects (when regulation permits it) they will cover up the expenses of international transportation and traveling expenses of a representative of the Technical Secretary. Only in case of the Coordinator Committee approves it, two will be able to be the representatives.

### V.6.2 SEMINARIES – WORKSHOPS

- a) The Coordinator Committee will emit the summoning and invitation to all member institutions of the Network. With resources from Projects of the Social Network, a bursary will be granted according to the financial availability to member countries. In case of existing more than one member institution, subject will be settled out by the national institutions and will have to confirm the national focal point.
- b) The bursary will consist in a round ticket of international transportation and a help for meals and hotel. The attendants at the seminars will have to cover a recuperation quota to complement organization expenses.
- c) The seminars - workshop will have a duration of 3 to 5 days. It will be privilege the interchange of experiences and it will be combined with activities of technical and empiricist qualification. Expert and regionally recognized people will be invited from international organisms members of the Social Network.
- d) To select the grant holders the Presidency according to the criteria will make it following: he/she must be a technician or an official of middle level, he/she must have professional experience in the theme, and specially, that his/her job functions are narrowly related with the themes of the workshop.

- e) The participating grant holders will have to contribute with a document synthesis of experience of his/her country in the theme of the workshop, which will be distributed by the grant holder and it will be useful for the Annual Network's document.
- f) The participating grant holders will have to cover up 80 % of the assistance and filling a form to obtain the note that will be granted by the host institution and the rest of the organizers.
- g) The Coordinator Committee will promote that the institutions propose, in addition to the grant holders, other attendants with covered expenses.
- h) The host institution commits to give all logistics support for the good fulfillment of activities, simultaneous interpretation, translation of documents of the workshop, stationary, as well as the note of participation. It will look for the elaboration and correspondent memory's publication to the extent of his possibilities.
- i) When it has to do with Seminars –workshops of national programs, organized by members of the Network, sharing information, and extending an invitation to the Coordinator Committee.

### V.6.3 INTERNSHIPS AND CONSULTANCIES

- a) To make easy the transference and the interchange of experiences, actions of horizontal and intra-regional cooperation will take place through internships and consultancies.
- b) Within the Plan of Work, the Network members will do the requirements of internships and consultancies, proposing the themes, criteria of execution and possibilities of financing.
- c) Internships and consultancies will possible take place through the criteria of horizontal cooperation. It means that the institution that sends pays the international transportation and the institution that welcomes covers up accommodation expenses and local transportation.
- d) In any case, the interns will have to elaborate a resulting report that will be sent to the Presidency in order to spread it out and to integrate it in the evaluation of the Plan of Work.
- e) When it has to do with internships with projects financing of Social Network, the Coordinator Committee does the summoning and the selection according to the criteria established with the cooper-

ating members and counting on the help of the Technique Secretary.

- f) In the utilization of projects resources of the Social Network, the needs of the countries which properly respond to the requirements of eligibility, the impact of the programs and institutional projects, observing a regional equitable proportionality.
- g) It will be fomented for direct consultancies, the identification from institutional members of the Network, that they offer short-lived consultancies (of five to ten working days). And the available financing of the Network would be used for transportation and stance expenses, while the institution where the adviser works would maintain his/her normal salary in the period.
- h) Same as in the Internships, the advisers will do a resulting report and evaluation that they will send to the Coordinator Committee.

### V.6.4 COMMUNICATION AND BROADCASTING

- a) To keep informed all members about Network activities, the Coordinator Committee will send the aftermath of their activities and the ones that are programmed to the Web Bulletin.
- b) The Coordinator Committee will provide a yearly publication on the Social Network in order to spread out the inside, but most of all, as way to strengthen the regional and national presence of the Social Network.
- c) The activities of communication and interchange of information through the web page have priority.
- d) The Coordinator Committee members, supported by the Technical Secretary and, if needed, the correspondent subcommittee, will have to pay attention to the realization of regional and national forums of social development and overcoming poverty with the purpose of promoting the presence of the Social Network.

### V.6.5 ANNUAL CONFERENCES

- a) Annual Conferences will last maximum three days.
- b) The members of the Social Network will present an informing note on the more relevant aspects during the year about their strategies and projects to overcome poverty in order to distribute it among the assistants and to interchange points of view.

- c) One part of the Conference will be dedicated to the presentation of aspects of social development and overcoming poverty of the host government.
- d) The members of the Net must carry a cooperation offering proposal, indicating themes and availabilities of resources.
- e) A priority main issue will be examined, for which regional specialists from international institutions will be invited.
- f) The Conference financing will be reached with resources of international cooperation projects and with resources of the Social Network members.
- g) The Network will utilize available resources to cover international round tickets, in order to promote that assistants cover up the expenses of lodging and feeding. With exception of the ones that cannot do it, observing the standard of the Seminars –workshops expenses of one person per member will be covered up.
- h) The host country assumes the expenses of translation and interpretation, logistics, stationery and national broadcasting of the Conference.

## VI FINANCING CRITERIA

### VI.1 PRINCIPAL SOURCES

For its activities realization, the Social Network perceives financial resources from three different types:

- a) Yearly quota from its members.
- b) Organisms and agencies of regional and national cooperation, such as CIDI/OAS; IDB and World Bank.
- c) Extraordinary contributions of its members and cooperating associates.

### VI. 2 ANNUAL QUOTA

#### VI.2.1 SOCIAL NETWORK FUND

- a) With the yearly quota (US \$5,000 dollars, minimum account per member) the Social Network forms a Fund named Social Network, according to the VI Annual Conference, done in November 1999, it placed in General Secretary of the Organization of American States (OAS) in a special account that is administered by the Unit of Social Development

and Education of the OAS in its quality of Technical Secretary in coordination with the Presidency of the Coordinator Committee of the Social Network.

- b) Resources will be used to defray the activities expenses of the Annual Plans of Work which don't count on specific financing or complementing the ones that require it.
- c) The Fund's resources are administrated by the Technical Secretary together with the Coordinator Committee Presidency. They will yield their report in front of the Annual Conference.
- d) The Fund of the Social Network is useful for executing the activities of the Plan of Work and eventually for the Coordinator Committee. The Coordinator Committee and the Technical Secretary will do the programming and annual budget, which will be submitted to the members of the Coordinator Committee's approval.
- e) The members contributions will have to deposit in the correspondent bank account during the first trimester of every year. Each member institution, when accomplish its contributions will have to notify to the Presidency of the Coordinator Committee of the Social Network as well as to the Technical Secretary.

#### VI.2.2 MEMBER WITH FULL RIGHTS

The members that accomplish with their yearly quota contribution, will be the direct beneficiaries of the available financing from the Social Network activities. The contributions in kind and cooperation commitments approved by the Annual Conference.

#### VI.2.3 MEMBERS WITH LIMITED RIGHTS

Members with limited rights are consider among the following: social investment funds, institutions or mechanisms of national scope, of governmental nature and responsible for the operation of programs and projects for social development and overcoming poverty, which are not in order on their yearly contributions and quota. These members have voice in the Conference, but do not have the right of financing by means of the Social Network's Fund.

### VI.3 Cooperation Organisms and Agencies Contributions

- a) The financial contributions accomplished by organisms or agencies of regional and national cooperation, will be deposited into specific bank accounts according to the purpose of contribution.
- b) The resources will not be able to blend with the Social Network Fund and its administration and its handling will correspond to the Presidency of the Social Network and to The Technical Secretary, as the institution in charge of the Social Network Fund, with the approval and supervision of the Coordinator Committee.

### VI.4 Extraordinary Contributions from Members and Cooperating Associates.

The extraordinary contributions accomplished by member institutions of the Network or by cooperating associates, will not be able to be deposited in the Social Network Fund, and they will have to be administrated in a parallel form. These contributions will only be into the Network account if they are quota to cover activities contemplated for the Plan of Work and for programmed and budgeting activities



## DIRECTORY OF MEMBER INSTITUTIONS OF THE SOCIAL NETWORK OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

December 2002

### MESOAMERICA

#### **COSTA RICA**

**Instituto Mixto de Ayuda Social (IMAS)**

Web page: [www.imas.go.cr](http://www.imas.go.cr)

#### **EL SALVADOR**

**Fondo de Inversión Social para el Desarrollo Local (FISDL)**

Web Page: [www.fisdl.gob.sv](http://www.fisdl.gob.sv)

#### **GUATEMALA**

**Fondo Nacional para la Paz (FONAPAZ)**

Web Page: [www.fonapaz.gob.gt](http://www.fonapaz.gob.gt)

**Fondo de Inversión Social (FIS)**

#### **HONDURAS**

**Fondo Hondureño de Inversión Social (FHIS)**

Web Page: [www.fhis.hn](http://www.fhis.hn)

#### **MEXICO**

**Secretaría de Desarrollo Social (SEDESOL)**

Web Page: [www.sedesol.gob.mx](http://www.sedesol.gob.mx)

#### **NICARAGUA**

**Fondo de Inversión Social de Emergencia (FISE)**

Web Page: [www.fise.gob.ni](http://www.fise.gob.ni)

### CARIBE

#### **ANTIGUA & BARBUDA**

**Ministry of Health and Social Improvement**

Phone: (1268) 462-1600

Phone: (1268) 462 5522

Fax: (1268) 462- 5003

#### **BAHAMAS**

**Ministry of Social Development**

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Fax: (1242) 323-8672

#### **BARBADOS**

**Ministry of Social Transformation**

Phone: (1246) 431-0623

Fax: (1246) 228-5979

#### **BELICE**

**Ministry of Human Development, Women and Children and Civil Society**

[www.belize.gov.bz](http://www.belize.gov.bz)

**Belize Social Investment Fund**

e-mail: [sifbze@btl.net](mailto:sifbze@btl.net)

#### **DOMINICA**

**Ministry of Community Development & Gender Affairs**

e-mail: [mincommunity@cwdom.dm](mailto:mincommunity@cwdom.dm)

#### **GRENADA**

**Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Development**

e-mail: [yscm@caribsurf.com](mailto:yscm@caribsurf.com)

## GUYANA

**Social Impact Amelioration Programme (SIMAP)**

[simap@guyana.net.gy](mailto:simap@guyana.net.gy) **HAITI**

**Fondo de Asistencia Económica y Social (FAES)**

Phone:(509) 246 8530/246 8531/2465797

Fax: (509) 2578628 e-mail:

[haadam@msn.com](mailto:haadam@msn.com)

## JAMAICA

**Jamaica Social Investment Fund**

Web Page: [www.jsif.org](http://www.jsif.org)

## REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA

**Fondo de Promoción a las Iniciativas Comunitarias (PROCOMUNIDAD)**

Página Web: [www.procomunidad.org.do](http://www.procomunidad.org.do)

## ST. KITTS AND NEVIS

**Ministry of Social Development, Community and Gender Affairs**

Phone:(1869) 465-2521 ext. 1086, 1277, 1276

Fax: (1869) 466-8244

e-mail: [mwaskn@caribsurf.com](mailto:mwaskn@caribsurf.com)

## ST. LUCIA

**Poverty Reduction Fund**

Phone. (1758) 452 6699/452 2181

Fax. (1758) 453 6056

e mail: [donwillia@hotmail.com](mailto:donwillia@hotmail.com)

## ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

**Ministry of Social Development, Co-operatives, Gender Family Ecclesiastical Affairs**

Phone. (1784) 45 71401

Fax: (1784) 4 57 24 76

e-mail: [housingsvg@vincysurf.com](mailto:housingsvg@vincysurf.com)

## SURINAME

**Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing**

Phone:(597) 472 340/42 1085/410-730

Fax: (597) 470516

## TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

**Ministry of Social and Community Development**

Phone:(1868) 623-2873

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## SUDAMERICA

## ARGENTINA

**Secretaría de Desarrollo Social**

Página Web: [www.desarrollosocial.gov.ar](http://www.desarrollosocial.gov.ar)

**Fondo Participativo de Inversión Social (FOPAR)**

Web Page: [www.prodeso.org.ar](http://www.prodeso.org.ar)

## BOLIVIA

**Fondo de Inversión Productiva y Social (FPS)**

Web page: [www.fps.gov.bo](http://www.fps.gov.bo)

## BRASIL

**Programa de Comunidad Solidaria**

Web Page: [www.planalto.gov.br](http://www.planalto.gov.br)

## CHILE

**Fondo de Solidaridad e Inversión Social (FOSIS)**

Web Page: [www.fosis.cl](http://www.fosis.cl)

## COLOMBIA

**Red de Solidaridad Social**

Web Page: [www.red.gov.co](http://www.red.gov.co)



**ECUADOR****Fondo de Inversión Social de Emergencia (FISE)**

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mail: [fise@uio.satnet.net](mailto:fise@uio.satnet.net)**PANAMÁ****Fondo de Inversión Social (FIS)**Web Page: [www.fis.gob.pa](http://www.fis.gob.pa)**PARAGUAY****Dirección de Beneficiencia y Ayuda Social (DIBEN)**

Tel:(595-21) 225-801/804, 440-834

Fax: (595-21) 212-100

e-mail: [diben@infonet.com.py](mailto:diben@infonet.com.py)**Secretaría de Acción Social**

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E-mail: [gperezpiug@hotmail.com](mailto:gperezpiug@hotmail.com) &[fgagpp@mvtma.gub.uy](mailto:fgagpp@mvtma.gub.uy)**VENEZUELA****Fondo de Inversión Social de Venezuela (FONVIS)**Página Web: [www.fonvis.gov.ve](http://www.fonvis.gov.ve)

**America**, I do not invoke your name in vain.  
When I fasten to my heart the sword,  
when I hold in the soul the leak,  
when through the windows  
a new day of yours penetrates to me,  
I am and I am in the light that it produces me,  
I live in the shade that he determines me,  
I sleep and I wake up in your essential dawn:  
Sweet as the grapes, and terrible,  
conductive of the sugar and the punishment,  
soaked up in your sort's sperm,  
suckled in blood of your inheritance.

*Paul Neruda, General Song*

**FANTASTIC AMERICA** was raising up before  
the westerns tired of injustices of Europe,  
oppressed by extreme poverty, like the continent of hope.  
In America, all utopias will have to be placed.

*Germán Arciniegas, Magazine of Occident, 1972.*

**I WISH TO** more than any other  
to see America as  
the biggest nation of the world,  
less by its extension and riches  
than by its freedom and glory

*Simón Bolívar*

**American Towns,**  
If we never forget that we are brothers.

*Andrés Bello.*

**THE CARIBBEAN** is a distinct world,  
whose first work of magical literature is the diary of Christopher Columbus,  
book which talks of fabulous plants and of mythological worlds.

Definitely the Caribbean history is full of magic,  
a magic brought by the black slaves from Africa,  
but also by the Swedish pirates, Dutch and English,  
able to show an operatic theatre in New Orleans  
and filling women's dentures with diamonds.

The human synthesis and the contrasts of the Caribbean  
are not seen anywhere else around the world.

I know all its islands:

Mulatto women honey coloured, with green eyes and golden shawls on their head;  
Chinese crossed with Indian that wash cloths and commerce amulets;  
Green Hindus that go out of their ivory stores to defecate in the middle of the street;  
Dusty and ardent towns, whose houses are destroy by cyclones,  
and on the other hand, solar glass' skyscraper land a seven-colours sea.

***Gabriel García Márquez, The Smell of the Guava, 1982.***

This document was elaborated by Blanca Lilia García López, as a certainty of the work accomplished in the Presidency of the Coordinator Committee of the Social Network of Latin America and the Caribbean along the past five years.

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### **X Coordinator Committee 2002-2003**

The Ninth Annual Conference of the Network took place in Asunción, Paraguay, from 4 to 6 of December 2002. There, the following Coordinator Committee was elected:

#### **Area 1: Mexico and Central America**

Mario Montenegro, FONAPAZ, Guatemala  
Blanca Lilia García López, SEDESOL, Mexico

#### **Area 2: The Caribbean**

Peggy Cabral de Peña Gómez, COMMUNITY, Dominican Republic  
Scarlette Gillings, Social Investment Fund, Jamaica

#### **Area 3: South America**

Raúl Dalmazo, FOPAR, Ministry of Social Development, Argentine  
Jorge Méndez, Ministry of Social Development, Paraguay

