



## **New ISS Statutes adopted: a new way forward**

“ISS members succeeded in enabling the organisation to enter a new era of consolidation and renewal while respecting the wish of our founding fathers to preserve the status of ISS as a non-governmental organisation” stated Mr. Jean Ayoub, the ISS Secretary General at the end of the first day of the extraordinary International Council meeting held in Geneva on May 6 and 7, 2010.

The International Council is the General Assembly of the organisation and meets every three years. It is composed of some 80 members of the International Social Service international network. Following the last meeting held in Cape Town between 26 and 29 May 2009, the delegates had agreed to meet in Geneva after a one year consultation process on the proposed revision of the Statutes with all the network members.

Indeed, the new ISS Statutes were approved without any votes against. Following this decision on the first day, two elections took place. The first created a new Governing Board, giving ISS governance a true global coverage with representatives from Africa, Asia, North America and Europe. The second saw Mrs. Julie G. Rosicky, Director of ISS USA, elected as the new chair for the Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) or Representative of member organisations’ Directors. Mrs. Julie Rosicky said she was pleased and honored to be able to serve ISS by contributing to the governance as a Governing Board representative and pushing forward the ISS expertise through the PAC (see under ISS Governance).

The second day of the meeting was highlighted by presentations of the General Secretariat’s Casework Division and International Reference Center for children deprived of families, which updated the delegates on the activities carried out by these Divisions. These interventions drew attention to the secretariat’s work related to planning and coordinating the ISS network.

In his conclusion, Mr. Rolf Widmer, ISS International Vice-President, Chair of the meeting and Director for ISS Switzerland, declared “we had a very successful statutory meeting”. The participants coming from 18 countries expressed their satisfaction in contributing to this International Council meeting, as they felt confident that ISS network will go stronger and stronger with these new Statutes.