



**Asociación Latinoamericana de Seguridad e Higiene en el Trabajo  
(Latin American Association of Safety and Hygiene at Work)**

(<http://www.alaseht.com>)

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# 1 Summary

The Asociación Latinoamericana de Seguridad e Higiene en el Trabajo (Latin American Association of Safety and Health at Work) or ALASEHT, was founded on 25 November 1977. It is a non-profit association bringing together national organizations of safety and health experts from Latin America, including occupational hygienists, safety engineers, experts in occupational health, and experts in other OSH professions. The association aims to improve safety and health at work, prevention of accidents at work and in traffic, and protection of the environment through knowledge and information sharing.

The ALASEHT currently counts 14 member organizations, of which 12 from Latin America on the principle of a maximum of one member per country. Membership is divided into three categories; the *active* members from eight Latin American countries; four *correspondent* members and two *adherent* members based in Europe. The different categories have different rights and powers in ALASEHT decision-making.

All members can participate in the General Assembly which is the supreme decision-making body and primary means of coordination. It decides on strategic and principal issues such as amendments to the statutes and regulations, membership, strategy and programme, and financing and external and international relations.

Practical management and daily activities are entrusted to the president and its secretariat held on a rotating basis every other year. The president chairs the annual meetings and represents the association internationally while member organizations represent ALASEHT in their respective country. The president oversees activities of ALASEHT that are undertaken in a collaborative manner by the member organizations and experts. The ALASEHT has increasingly transformed its activities to e-networking.

Key activities of the network are:

- a) organizing the academic conference day held every two years, called Jornada Latinoamericana de Seguridad e Higiene en el Trabajo (JOLASEHT), and the Latin American Safety and Health Day;
- b) generating, exchanging, and disseminating OSH information, including guidelines for OSH and good OSH practices (ALASEHT Model);
- c) providing and developing training for OSH practitioners, and granting regional accreditation;
- d) serving government agencies, public-sector entities, enterprises, and communities with expert advice;
- e) collaborating nationally and internationally.

ALASEHT has a long history as a network, and many of its activities have made an impact on safety and health at work, not only in the member countries, but also in the region as a whole, and globally.

## 2 Introduction

The Asociación Latinoamericana de Seguridad e Higiene en el Trabajo (Latin American Association of Safety and Health at Work) or ALASEHT, is a non-profit association bringing together national organizations of safety and health experts from Latin America.

ALASEHT was founded on 25 November 1977 with the signing of the “Buenos Aires Acts” recognizing the association as a private, non-profit association for the exchange of knowledge and information between enterprises, organizations, and specialists in the Latin American region, with special participation of organizations from other countries and international organizations.

It was created on the occasion of the Third River Plate Congress for the Prevention of Professional Risks organized in Buenos Aires which is known to be the 1st Latin American conference on safety and hygiene at work. That conference was convened with contributions from the Instituto Argentino de Seguridad (IAS) and the Asociación Uruguaya de Seguridad (AUS). Its aim was to promote collaboration among Latin American OSH specialists. Participants mainly came from Argentina and Uruguay, and representatives from Chile, Brazil, Bolivia, and Ecuador also joined.

## 3 Formal status and constitution

The current ALASEHT statutes and general regulations were adopted in October 2007 in Santiago de Chile. The document titled “Estatuto y Reglamentos” are extensively developed and detailed. Together they define the association’s governance structure and modalities, its fundamental mission and objectives. The ALASEHT is not legally constituted in any given jurisdiction.

The initial founding documents of ALASEHT dating from 1977 were renewed in 1993 when the General Assembly approved the new statutes in Bogotá, Colombia. New general regulations were annexed to the renewed statutes in 2007 as some policies of the former “general regulations” were outdated.

The general regulations define and specify characteristics, functions and procedures that have been considered the most important for clarifying the operations of the association. Some are formal while others refer to procedures for the execution of specific projects or activities. Key elements of the statutes are further complemented by the general regulations.

## 4 Mission, policy and strategy

The ALASEHT mission statement translates from its original version in Spanish into the following:

- a) seek knowledge, exchange, and regular action facilitating the promotion and development of safety through the prevention of accident risks and in the areas of occupational safety and health, occupational health, and environmental preservation;
- b) maintain and improve the quality of life in Latin American countries; and
- c) improve productivity, competitiveness and sustainable development in Latin American countries.

The mission was first formulated in the “Buenos Aires Acts”, when the association was founded. The 1993 update of the Statute included topics that were not foreseen at the time of its foundation, thus reflecting the evolution of the scope of ALASEHT activities and objectives.

Twelve strategic objectives were set for guidance in 2007:

1. Promote the development of multinational initiatives for accident risk prevention in the member countries.
2. Promote technical cooperation programmes between members and specialized institutions in Latin American countries not represented in ALASEHT.
3. Cooperate with any initiatives on accident risk prevention, to apply scientific and technological knowledge for improvement of the standard of living in all Latin American countries.
4. Promote the sharing of experiences between specialized agencies and professionals, to seek solutions to problems in accident risk prevention, hygiene, and occupational health in Latin American countries.
5. Establish the exchange of knowledge on legal provisions and standards regarding accident prevention and occupational health.
6. Promote stipulation and modification of legislation and norms for prevention of occupational health hazards and accidents of any origin, as well as for environmental protection, by defining responsibilities and forms for making them effective.
7. Facilitate the training and education of specialized professionals needed in Latin American countries to promote accident prevention.
8. Promote technical studies and scientific research on OSH, and disseminate the results.
9. Encourage the production of specialized publications in the official languages of ALASEHT, allowing specialists to learn about up-to-date ideas and techniques on accident and risk prevention.
10. Promote the exchange of highly qualified professionals between different member countries, so that they will be able to provide technical assistance in any of them when required.
11. Disseminate the conclusions and recommendations of the assemblies, conferences, and other international events organized by ALASEHT with international organizations –WHO, ILO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and others– and governments, so that, to the extent possible, they will be taken into account in their respective legislation.
12. Promote the creation of non-profit entities –whether public, private, or mixed– specialized in accident risk prevention, in the Latin American countries where there are no institutions linked to ALASEHT.

ALASEHT has drawn up detailed guidelines for strategic planning, covering all the relevant aspects of the strategy. As the presidency, headquarters and secretariat rotate every two years, these guidelines played an important role in standardizing organizational processes as a means to ensure continuity in the implementation of the strategic plan. The strategy is discussed, approved, and its implementation is followed-up by the General Assembly.

## 5 Structure, governance and coordination

### 5.1 Structure, headquarters, official languages, logo

In principle, the president and members are supported by the secretariat and the office, together defined as headquarters. The headquarters are moved every two years on a rotating basis, corresponding to the location of the active member holding the presidency.

The official languages of ALASEHT are Spanish and Portuguese.

The ALASEHT logo is a green cross, evoking safety and risk prevention, framed within a square with a series of green horizontal stripes outlining Latin America in white.



### 5.2 Governance

The governance of ALASEHT is hierarchical and based on two governing bodies: the General Assembly and the presidency.

#### 5.2.1 General Assembly

The General Assembly is the main decision-making body. It is constituted by representatives of all categories of members. The General Assembly is convened annually. The presidents or delegates of member organizations usually attend. GA meetings are presided over by whoever exercises the ALASEHT presidency. GA meetings may also be convened extraordinarily when requested by at least half plus one active members.

Traditionally, General Assembly meetings are convened in-person every other year when coinciding with the JOLASEHT. However, it is foreseen that, in justified circumstances, the presidency may call an ordinary or extraordinary General Assembly not-in-person, in which case all members must participate by expressing their opinions, formulating proposals, discussing, and taking decisions via electronic means. Nonetheless the presidency always tries to convene in-person meetings for all assemblies to

the extent possible, taking into consideration practical aspects, availability of participants and on-going interactions among the different member organizations.

### *Functions of the General Assembly*

Article V of the ALASEHT statutes specifies ten functions of the General Assembly. These functions must be interpreted as a general framework guiding the day-to-day operations of the association. Their unofficial transcript below with accompanying notes provide an overview of their practical significance.

- a) *Authorize the entry of new members to the association, in accordance with the provisions of the statutes*

This is one of the central points of every General Assembly meeting. A follow-up of the submissions for entry is done by verifying that the requirements are fulfilled. Also, the degree of participation and fulfilment of the member entities for each category is checked against the rights and obligations detailed in the statutes.

It is also customary at this point in the agenda to review the work of the presidency and of the members regarding identifying and inviting associations from countries not yet represented in ALASEHT. This is how eight additional organizations have joined the four founding members.

- b) *Modify the statutes and adopt the regulations that are deemed necessary for the fulfilment of ALASEHT's objectives and administration of the association*

This function is carefully developed, seeking to preserve the philosophy and operational framework of the association in order to ensure its stability. The latest revision proposed by Consejo Nacional de Seguridad de Chile (CNS) with suggestions from other members was approved in 2007.

- c) *Determine the plan of action of ALASEHT for the biennium, including monitoring progress and evaluation of specific programs*

ALASEHT has an established work plan that is reviewed annually during the General Assembly. This work plan mainly consists of approved projects that are implemented by all members. They report on the work accomplished by their organization during the year and decisions are made about the relevance and the continuation of each programme or activity.

In 2009 the General Assembly would have considered a document proposed by one of its member organization, the Consejo Colombiano de Seguridad, to use as a framework for strategic planning. It is believed that updating that document would provide strategic guidance for the association and a good basis for strengthening ALASEHT.

- d) *Study, approve, reject, or modify presentations, plans, and programmes proposed by members*

This is a key item on the agenda of every meeting of the GA. In practice, a proposal to include a new topic or project into the work plan is presented by a member on the basis of identified needs or good practices for risk management in its home country. The proposal is first submitted to the presidency for discussion at the General Assembly. The relevance, needs and potential benefits of introducing the new idea are debated among members. Typically, the members that first proposed an initiative take leadership for its implementation.

In principle, upon approval by the GA, all members are required to promote the new initiative and work towards its achievement in their country. The president monitors the implementation process in between annual meetings where members are asked to report on progress. In practice, it is understood that not all implementation processes are monitored and the impact of efforts remain undocumented.

*e) Set the amount and the form of payment of contributions from partners*

ALASEHT does not have fixed contributions to support any programme or activity. Therefore, there is no established modality for payment (annual fees or charges). In some cases, the project manager establishes the cost for an activity, and the amount is collected during the General Assembly. For example, the plaques awarded with the "ALASEHT distinction" are usually designed and provided by CNS Chile, and each year the cost is shared between members. Traditionally, the costs of a project are assumed by the entity that proposes it, or by the entity that agrees to participate in it. As there are no fixed membership fees, there is no need for subsidies aiming at supporting member associations in countries subject to a particular economic situation.

*f) Evaluate the plans and programmes under development, and degree of compliance with decisions of the General Assembly.*

ALASEHT does not have a formal control mechanism in place for programmes under development nor undertake their formal evaluation. Instead, each member reports on milestones achieved and provides information explaining the results during the General Assembly where discussions are held on the continuity of a project, and decide whether it should be turned into a regular (permanent) activity, or be considered completed. In the latter case, it is also decided what to do with the materials.

*g) Study and approve the programme and plan presented by the organizer of JOLASEHT to be held the following year.*

JOLASEHT is a regional conference on occupational health and safety organized on a biennial basis by an ALASEHT member organization under the oversight of the General Assembly (see section on activities). This is a key function carried out during the annual meeting of the GA held the year in between each JOLASEHT event (also called mid-term GA). The members discuss technical content, methodology, and other organizational aspects, and authorize the organizer of the event to move forward with the plan.

*h) Review the application and operation of the ALASEHT administrative filing.*

The president presents the report on the management of the previous year to the General Assembly, including the financial aspects and the coverage of costs.

*i) Determine the awarding of distinctions.*

This is a recurrent function. Each member organization nominates its candidates for distinctions for the decision by the General Assembly. In practice, determining the awarding really is a formality as applications submitted by members for their country are, by tradition, always respected and endorsed by others. Distinctions are awarded at the opening ceremony of the JOLASEHT.

*j) Designate commissions to undertake specific tasks assigned by the General Assembly.*

These commissions have been designated on a few occasions, for example in 2007 with members from Mexico, Colombia, Chile, and Spain to bolster international relations and in 2009 to establish contact with the ILO with the participation of Chile and Colombia. Likewise, in 2009 a commission involving members from Argentina and Chile was designated to initiate the development of an ALASEHT curriculum.

### *Convocation and quorum*

The invitation to the General Assembly, complete with agenda and background information on subject matters to be discussed, must be sent by the president to all members at least 60 days before the date set for the meeting. Some restrictions apply for General Assembly e-meetings. For instance the acceptance of new members, withdrawal of membership, and changes to statutes and regulations can only be decided during in-person meetings.

The quorum for decisions in a General Assembly is half plus one (simple majority) of the active members. In practice most members attend GA meetings regularly.

Decisions are made on a consensual basis as a matter of principle, and the president is expected to facilitate consensus building throughout the decision-making process. However, if this is not achieved, an absolute simple majority of members present in the meeting is required for decision. Decisions on certain matters – such as changes to statutes – are governed by specific rules defined in Chapter 2 of the statutes.

### *5.2.2 ALASEHT presidency*

The president of ALASEHT is the Head of the member organization that has organized the biennial Latin American OSH Conference (JOLASEHT), which is a core ALASEHT activity and a most prominent OSH event in the region. In principle he or she leads the association for two years, until the presidency is passed to the active member that will have organized the following JOLASEHT.

The presidency is handed over at the beginning of the General Assembly which must be held on the day preceding the official opening of the JOLASEHT. Thus, the presidency was handed over in June 2017 from the Instituto Argentino de Seguridad (IAS) to the Consejo Colombiano de Seguridad (CCS) in Bogotá.

### *Duties of the president*

The president represents ALASEHT and is responsible for official relations with international organizations, authorities and industrial actors, in accordance with the association's objectives listed in the statutes.

The president is expected to carry out the following duties routinely, and report to the General Assembly by providing details:

- Chair the General Assembly and take responsibility for the implementation of its decisions.
- Communicate relevant information about agreements, decisions and calendar of activities adopted by the General Assembly to the governments of Latin American countries that do not count an ALASEHT member organization.

- Inform relevant international organizations as well as private and non-profit organizations pursuing similar objectives to those of ALASEHT about agreements, decisions and calendar of activities, including the dissemination of the conclusions and recommendations from JOLASEHT.

The president is in charge of managing the association and verifying that the plans, programs and activities agreed upon by the General Assembly are carried out in a timely and adequate manner. In order to do this, the president must maintain permanent communication with all the members. In order to carry out his or her functions, the president may designate a secretariat, with the personnel it deems appropriate. The case being, the secretariat is usually financed with resources per applicable internal regulations, such as the resources from the JOLASEHT and other initiatives implemented during the tenure.

## 6 Membership

Three categories of members currently compose ALASEHT: active, correspondent and adherent members. A fourth category, observers, is currently not in use as no member organization qualifies.

The principle of *one member per country* was agreed upon from the foundation of ALASEHT. It was a choice made to prevent conflicts within the association between different organizations of a same country. In particular, disputes over the representation of the country in the General Assembly, the organization and leadership of the JOLASEHT and representation functions at the national level could have become bones of contention. This principle has been challenged sometimes, but the decision has always been to maintain the membership system as it is.

Active members are national non-profit entities, whose basic objective is the prevention of risks, representing each of the Latin American countries. In order to be admitted as an active member, the entity must send a written request to the president, accompanied by a certified copy of its legal status and by-laws. All active members have the right to speak and vote in the assemblies.

All active and correspondent member organizations are non-profit organizations of public interest, bringing together professionals from different disciplines who work in the field of prevention of occupational and environmental risks, and are willing to share their experience and knowledge within the association. Adherent members are primarily partner organizations.

### 6.1 Active members

All active members assume a joint commitment to meet the general and operational objectives and statutory provisions. In addition, when appropriate, they hold the presidency and provide resources to fulfil the functions and objectives established for the position.

Current active members by alphabetical order of country name (details in the Annex):

- Instituto Argentino de Seguridad (IAS), Argentina.
- Asociación Brasileira para la Prevención de Accidentes (ABPA), Brazil.
- Consejo Colombiano de Seguridad (CCS), Colombia.
- Consejo Nacional de Seguridad de Chile (CNS), Chile.
- Sociedad Ecuatoriana de Seguridad, Salud Ocupacional y Gestión Ambiental (SESO), Ecuador.

- Asociación Interdisciplinaria de Salud Ocupacional e Higiene de México (AISOHMEX), México.
- Consejo de Salud, Seguridad Y Medio Ambiente de Panamá (COSSMAP), Panamá.
- Sociedad de Ingenieros y Técnicos de Seguridad, Higiene y Ambiente de Venezuela (SOITSHA), Venezuela.

## 6.2 Correspondent members

The correspondent category was established to encourage the creation of institutions similar to the already constituted active members. Correspondent members are non-profit national entities dealing with specific subjects in risk prevention or occupational health from Latin American countries that are not recognized as active members. They may be private, public, or mixed public-private entities. They apply to join ALASEHT in a different category from the active members. They may, and should, participate in all the activities defined in the statutes and general regulations. They do not hold the right to vote but have the right to speak in assemblies. It is possible for correspondent members to become active members provided they meet the requirements for membership in that specific category.

Current correspondent members by alphabetical order of country name:

- Asociación de Ingenieros en Seguridad Laboral e Higiene Ambiental (AISLHA), Costa Rica.
- Asociación de Profesionales de Higiene y Seguridad de Paraguay (APHSP), Paraguay.
- Asociación Peruana de Prevencionistas de Riesgos (APDR), Perú.
- Centro de Estudios de Seguridad (CSE), Uruguay.

## 6.3 Adherent members

Adherent members are non-profit entities that are not based in the Latin American region, but which share the same objectives as ALASEHT. To join the association under this category, an entity must make a similar request as that required from active members, and also commit to meet the general and operational objectives. Adherent members may, and should, participate in all the activities stipulated in the statutes and general regulations. They have the right to speak but do not hold the right to vote in the General Assembly meetings.

At present, two organizations based in Europe have joined ALASEHT as adherent members, recognizing its scope and influence in the Latin American context and beyond.

## 6.4 Rights of members

All member organizations have the right to:

- a) take part in General Assembly meetings according to the regulations established for each category (in particular, the right to vote or to speak, or both);
- b) propose the development of activities and the adoption of resolutions aiming to fulfil the association's operational objectives;
- c) receive from ALASEHT all the information that members deem useful for the achievement of their objectives; and

- d) participate in the JOLASEHT and present reports on their activities.

In addition, active and correspondent members hold the right to represent ALASEHT in their respective country.

## 6.5 Members' general responsibilities

All ALASEHT members – within the framework of its missions, functions, and objectives – must actively participate in the development of actions that seek to spread technical information, proposals on legislation and regulations, research information, survey results, and training developments, among institutions, organizations, companies, and sectors interested in accident prevention in their home countries, and which ALASEHT decides to communicate or study.

They also have to inform the government authorities, at the appropriate level, about the conclusions and recommendations from the JOLASEHT, as well as about decisions of the ALASEHT governing bodies that are considered relevant to contribute to the development of safety and health at work.

They are also required to:

- a) respect the ALASEHT statutes, its general regulations, and the resolutions, agreements, and conclusions legitimately adopted by its bodies;
- b) commit their efforts to achieving the objectives of ALASEHT, by developing the means of actions required; and
- c) provide information requested by ALASEHT.

## 6.6 Duties of active members

In addition to the general responsibilities, the active members also have the following specific duties:

- a) represent ALASEHT in their home country;
- b) organize, in their home country, the JOLASEHT as determined by decision of the General Assembly; and
- c) contribute to the association's expenditures according to the conditions determined by the General Assembly, as previously mentioned.

In particular circumstances, the president has the right to grant exemption from duties for up to one year, to a member who, for specific and justified reasons, cannot guarantee to meet the duties of an active member.

## 6.7 Withdrawal or loss of membership

This decision can only be taken by the General Assembly for one of the following reasons:

- a) voluntary resignation;

- b) failure to comply with the statutory provisions;
- c) failure to provide financial contribution as required by the General Assembly; or
- d) any other situation that seriously violates the principles, policies, or objectives of ALASEHT.

## 7 Programmes and activities

Several projects and activities have been developed as part of ALASEHT members' efforts to achieve the operational objectives of the association throughout its 41 years of existence. Internal rules were adopted in 1993 and in 2007 in order to facilitate the orderly and homogenous conduct of major and recurrent activities of the association.

Some activities are organized on a regular basis such as the regional OSH conference, the awarding of honorary distinctions and the annual commemoration of the Latin American day for accident risk prevention, while others aim at delivering a singular specific output (e.g. study, guidelines) within a given timeframe.

### 7.1 Jornadas Latinoamericanas de Seguridad e Higiene en el Trabajo (JOLASEHT)

The JOLASEHT was established as a founding activity of ALASEHT in order to facilitate the sharing of experience between specialized organizations and professionals; and stimulate the development of actions for the effective prevention of work-related risks, the promotion of occupational health and the preservation of the environment in Latin American countries. It has become a major biennial Latin American conference on safety and health at work. The event aims at sharing technical knowledge through the dissemination of results from studies and scientific research in relation to the prevention of occupational safety and hygiene at work, occupational health, the protection of the environment and the promotion of work-life quality.

It also offers a unique opportunity to discuss relevant issues and problems that are specific to Latin America, and to formulate recommendations to address them. The conclusions and recommendations of JOLASEHT support advocacy efforts undertaken by the ALASEHT presidency and members at the governmental, business and workplace levels across the region for improving national OSH legislation and developing specific intervention programmes.

The JOLASEHT is organized on a rotating basis by an ALASEHT active member and is governed by Chapter IV of the association's general regulation. The regulation specifies key principles, formalities and responsibilities of the organizer at the various stages that comprise the planning, programming, promotion, and registration of participants. It also foresees the organization of complementary activities, development of recommendations, adoption of conclusions and follow-up. While the regulation sets the thematic areas, some flexibility is allowed to adjust the programme and format according to the practices and topics of priority interest of the organizing country. The organizer assumes all related administrative tasks. The details of the organization (venue, programme, other) are submitted to the General Assembly for approval at least a year before the event.

As a result of its formal organization process, there has been twenty-one regular editions of JOLASEHT since its inception in 1977, the latest was held in June 2017 in Bogotá Colombia. Table A below presents the list of organizing members for each edition and year.

**Table A : List of JOLASEHT editions**

<b>Edition</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Organizing Member</b>
I	1977	Instituto Argentino de Seguridad
II	1979	Consejo Nacional de Seguridad de Chile
III	1981	Asociación Brasileira para la Prevención de Accidentes
IV	1983	Consejo Colombiano de Seguridad
V	1985	Asociación Uruguaya de Seguridad para la Prevención de Accidentes
VI	1987	Consejo Nacional de Seguridad de Chile
VII	1989	Instituto Argentino de Seguridad
VIII	1991	Asociación Brasileira para la Prevención de Accidentes
IX	1993	Consejo Colombiano de Seguridad
X	1995	Asociación Uruguaya de Seguridad para la Prevención de Accidentes
XI	1997	Consejo Nacional de Seguridad de Chile
XII	1999	Instituto Argentino de Seguridad
XIII	2001	Asociación Brasileira para la Prevención de Accidentes
XIV	2003	Consejo Colombiano de Seguridad
XV	2005	Instituto Argentino de Seguridad
XVI	2007	Consejo Nacional de Seguridad de Chile
XVII	2009	Consejo Colombiano de Seguridad
XVIII	2011	Asociación Brasileira para la Prevención de Accidentes
XIX	2013	Consejo Nacional de Seguridad de Chile
XX	2015	Instituto Argentino de Seguridad
XXI	2017	Consejo Colombiano de Seguridad

## 7.2 Exchange of specialists in accident risks prevention

This activity was initiated in 1979 and remains to this day. It aims to promote and facilitate the exchange of highly qualified professionals from member countries, so that they can provide technical assistance in any of them when required.

## 7.3 Accreditation of specialists in safety and hygiene at work in Latin America

The accreditation of OSH professionals was instituted in 2013 by ALASEHT at the initiative of the Instituto Argentino de Seguridad (IAS) leading this activity. The purpose is to certify, at the regional level, the qualifications of OSH practitioners who graduate from educational programmes delivered by universities or tertiary entities. This accreditation seeks to verify that the practitioners' educational and training background meets the requirements detailed in the ALASEHT qualification profile in terms of hours of study, years of experience and the relevance of the contents of both formal and non-formal training in relation to occupational health and safety.

Applicants for accreditation submit their request free-of-charge to the national member organization for accreditation by ALASEHT. As a minimum, they must either have completed an occupational safety and health academic programme at the undergraduate level; hold a professional or technological degree of other related disciplines; or have successfully completed postgraduate specialization courses in occupational safety and health of not less than 400 hours of duration.

## 7.4 MAPFRE-ALASEHT Scholarships

The Fundación MAPFRE (Spain) and ALASEHT collaborated until 2013 to provide scholarships to OSH practitioners from Latin America wishing to pursue their professional development towards specialization. The scholarship also aimed at deepening the study and investigation of related matters

of interest for the development of prevention. It contributed to support exchange of experiences in accident risk prevention, occupational health and environmental preservation.

## 7.5 Awarding of the ALASEHT Distinction

The ALASEHT has instituted a regional honorific awarding ceremony to acknowledge outstanding efforts by enterprises and individuals (different categories) for their sustained engagement, collaboration, action and overall contribution to the prevention of accident risks, occupational health and preservation of the environment. This ALASEHT distinction is awarded every other year during the opening ceremony of the regional OSH conference JOLASEHT. It aims to motivate, stimulate and recognize contributions to the advancement of prevention in Latin America. Each ALASEHT member organization is responsible for identifying and recommending, to the General Assembly of ALASEHT their national nominees in each category with the necessary background information.

## 7.6 Latin American day of accident prevention – 7 November

In 1998 the General Assembly of ALASEHT agreed to establish November 7 as the Latin American day of accident risks prevention with a first edition held in 1999. This event was instituted to raise awareness of public authorities, the private sector and the community at large about the importance of addressing the risks of accidents in all areas of life (work, transportation, home, others). All ALASEHT member organizations are expected to mobilize the concerned institutions and organizations from the civil society and carry out promotional activities in their respective country on 7 November. Member organizations report back to the General Assembly on actions undertaken.



## 7.7 Other activities

In general terms, the president is responsible for identifying possible activities and new project ideas from members for inclusion in the agenda of the next General Assembly. Discussions cover the relevance, resource needs and leadership arrangements as well as steps for its effective implementation. The General Assembly later follows up on on-going and planned project assignments in coordination with the concerned member organization or individuals.

The ALASEHT is currently focused on preparing new guides and publications as “ALASEHT models”, including:

- a) motivation of youth in accident prevention programmes;
- b) a road safety education guide;

- c) a model national policy for the prevention of accidents, occupational health, and environmental preservation;
- d) a project on legal standards for the protection of the elderly at work in Latin America;
- e) a project on the design of private and public open spaces in cities, with the aim of reducing the risk of accidents among the elderly;
- f) an educational project on restoring and respecting the values of civic education on the basis of prevention; and
- g) a proposal to prevent fire hazards in discotheques and centres with large influxes of people.

## 8 Development cooperation projects

In 2017 the ILO and ALASEHT engaged collaboration for the development of a regional technical cooperation project that would provide direct assistance to enhance the capacity of OSH practitioners and their associations in Latin America by strengthening the role of ALASEHT and its member organizations. The intended project strategy entails organizational development, knowledge and information management, institutional partnership and advocacy. The project is being designed according to the initial needs expressed in the region to establish ALASEHT as a key regional partner and centre of excellence for advancing the prevention of work-related accidents and diseases.

In its current draft version, the project would consolidate the structure and support the functioning of the association for the effective development of health and safety at work across Latin America. It would also enhance the association's capacity to respond to the development needs of its member organizations, notably through the adoption of a strategic and results-based management approach to programming and budgeting. The project would also establish responsive knowledge management capacity of ALASEHT, including the development of an adequate information and communication strategy, plan and infrastructure. In addition, the project would support the extension of institutional partnerships with leading OSH agencies, institutions and organizations, as well as with similar professional associations in other parts of the world.

## 9 Financing and resources

The ALASEHT does not have a permanent secretariat nor fixed headquarters, and does not require its members to provide a yearly financial contribution to sustain it. It is believed that the rotating system allows every member, at some point, to cover the role, and therefore the costs associated with it, allowing a balance in sharing the responsibility. Thus, operations are funded by the following sources:

- a) 10 per cent of the registration fees for the JOLASEHT (organized and administered by the active partner that assumes the presidency);
- b) Direct costs incurred by the active member assuming the presidency; and
- c) other resources that may be determined by the ALASEHT General Assembly.

In addition, following a General Assembly decision, each member assumes the costs of implementing a project or activity in its home country. Alternatively the costs for some projects are assumed on a

voluntary basis. For example, the IAS scholarships, the MAPFRE-ALASEHT grants, and the cost for maintaining the CCS-Colombia website all received contributions from most of the partners. Only in special cases are fees requested to cover the cost of a project. It is intended that the managers of the projects be effective in providing the necessary contributions.

## 10 Outputs

### 10.1 Key outputs

- 21 JOLASEHT conferences.
- Latin American Day of Occupational Safety Health and Hygiene.
- “ALASEHT models” with a “Modelos ALASEHT” of Latin American scope, including:
  - a) Methodology of operational procedure for the organization, and administration of security in the company (1995).
  - b) Methodology for investigating accidents and work incidents (1999).
  - c) Analysis of costs and losses of accidents at work, and occupational diseases (2007).
  - d) Inductive and motivational training programmes for safe behaviour (2007).

### 10.2 Publications

Over the years, ALASEHT has developed contributions such as bibliographies and guides, including:

- Latin American glossary of terms of frequent use in accident prevention and risk prevention.
- Practical guide to prevent the consumption of alcohol and illicit drugs in companies.
- Methodology of operational procedures for organizations and the management of safety in companies.
- Analysis of costs and losses caused by occupational accidents and diseases.
- Inductive and motivational training programme for safe behaviour.
- Safe traffic guide.
- Safety total: The four modalities of safety for the prevention of occupational risks and hazards.
- Education and training of the child in risk prevention and accident prevention.
- Safety and self-care fundamentals at school.
- Systematic education.

- Brochures on safety.

## 11 Collaborative partners

ALASEHT collaborates with the Spanish MAPFRE foundation, an insurance-based foundation promoting social well-being and safety.

(<https://www.mapfre.com/corporate/about-mapfre/fundacion-mapfre/>)

ALASEHT has permanent collaboration with the International Social Security Association (ISSA) Section for Electricity, hosted by the BG Fine Mechanics and Electrotechnique, Cologne, Germany, which works internationally for the promotion of safety in this sector, providing, among other things, guidelines and standards for safety. The section encourages the international exchange of information and sharing of experience among experts, through symposia, workshops, international working groups, and training on safety and health, with regard to crucial issues of occupational safety and health protection in this sector.

ALASEHT also aims to disseminate information and materials from international organizations like the ILO, WHO, and the UN, to the network member organizations and countries more largely. In addition, ALASEHT and ILO are collaborating on the formulation of a development cooperation project aiming at enhancing the capacity of the association and its member organizations to acquire and use OSH knowledge and information for advancing prevention in Latin America.

Taking into account the ALASEHT mission and objectives, and their interest in contributing to sharing experience and knowledge, entities and professionals in other countries may be invited by ALASEHT, or make a request themselves to participate as observers.

## 12 Follow-up and evaluation

Throughout its 41 years, ALASEHT has successfully developed and implemented activities and projects in accordance with its strategic and operational objectives, but no systematic evaluation of their impact has been undertaken.

Since 1977 to the present, a total of 21 JOLASEHT events have been realized every other year without disruption, with a growing participation and greater regional notoriety.

Communications and monitoring of strategy and programme implementation, including project activities, are directly supervised by the president in duty in coordination with the leaders of member organizations. Proper coordination is achieved through well-established dialogue between members at annual meetings during which they report on activities and achievements, discuss adjustments to initial plans that are deemed necessary, and decide whether to pursue or not activities and projects.

ALASEHT members contemplate the possibility to constitute a repository of communications, technical material developed and archives of projects and activities as part of a larger knowledge management strategy with a view to protect this information and make it more readily accessible.

## 13 Future challenges

The strengths of ALASEHT as a network are its continuity from the foundation, operations through the system of assemblies and rotating presidencies, and the organization of the biennial JOLASEHT, which in 2017 celebrated its 21st anniversary. The sharing of common goals and operational objectives among members, and the existence of a series of agreements and projects, are key factors of stability for ALASEHT.

However, the context in which ALASEHT and its member organizations operate is changing rapidly in terms of regulation, knowledge development and governance of OSH, notably. These challenges are impacting its ability to represent OSH practitioners effectively both in Latin America and globally in a context of changes to national systems for occupational health and safety calling for more inclusive governance, sustainable financing through injury insurance programmes, greater integration of technical interventions of the concerned institutions, organizations and experts from the relevant disciplines.

A key challenge for the future of ALASEHT is to respond to the needs of its member organizations, and by extension and through them, respond to the needs of OSH practitioners across Latin America. These needs have to be carefully understood and responded to by their representative organizations in order to ensure their practical relevancy in the future. The following paragraphs present some opportunities for ALASEHT to engage into by making productive use of its capacity, notoriety and collective will to bring about tangible improvements in OSH in Latin America.

### 13.1 Participation of practitioners in the governance of OSH

The ILO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean is engaged with its member States for the development and implementation of Decent Work Country Programmes (DWCP) in which strengthening national capacities in the area of occupational health and safety is given priority importance. Currently, over 20 DCWP are implemented in Latin America and the Caribbean for which expertise is needed. These activities will continue for a few years, most of them beyond 2020.

ALASEHT member organizations can play an important role working with national competent authorities and the social partners within the framework of national OSH systems for the implementation of these programmes. The ALASEHT could potentially contribute to the coordination of their efforts by further developing productive working relations with the ILO at the regional and global level, and supporting efforts of their member organizations aiming at participating in the national governance of OSH in their respective countries.

### 13.2 Creating a generation of safe and healthy workers

The ILO and its Latin American and Caribbean offices have published documents on the future of work in the region, covering a survey of young people at work, and the future of vocational training (OIT, 2017 a, b, c; ILO, 2017a). The perspectives presented in the reports are highly relevant to ALASEHT future strategies. Some ALASEHT members already offer comprehensive educational and training programmes in OSH, some of which could be adapted specifically to meet the need of technical and vocational education and training institutions and programmes in Latin America. ALASEHT could collaborate with the ILO CINTENFOR in Uruguay to position its member organizations in both an

advisory and support roles to mainstream OSH into TVET, an area for which the ILO responsible Branch for OSH has engaged decisively in the recent years.<sup>1</sup>

### 13.3 Fostering global working relations

In other regions of the world, research reports on the burden caused by occupational accidents and diseases and the economic impact of OSH hazard, has brought much attention and action (ILO 2017 b, 2014, Hämmäläinen et al., 2017). Though the global estimates also cover Latin America and its countries, more specific country and regional analyses may be warranted. ALASEHT and its member organizations could contribute to ongoing global work of this nature, and join the worldwide dialogue on advancing prevention both in the formal and informal economy. Some of the topical challenges for ALASEHT were discussed in the ALASEHT Regional Session in the World Safety Conference, WSH 2017 in September in Singapore (ILO, 2017a).

Now that the ALASEHT as a regional association counts member organizations in most countries in Latin America, the association would most likely gain visibility, support and resources by establishing a permanent liaison and working relation with the ILO and other organizations active internationally. As the governance of OSH is increasingly becoming global, the voice of Latin America needs to be taken into consideration in shaping renewed global policies, programmes and action plans.

### 13.4 Regulating the OSH profession

International organizations and independent experts are observing a professionalization movement of the role of OSH practitioners. This movement appears both necessary for improving and guaranteeing the quality of practice, and for protecting the value of the profession and the employability of the professional themselves. Not surprisingly they have been organizing into associations at country and regional levels to promote and protect their role in most regions of the world but only devote marginal efforts at influencing the adoption of appropriate regulation governing their profession.

In fact, the strategic position and role of professional associations at the national and regional levels such as ALASEHT remain unexploited for most as their attention continue to focus on technical matters. Other regional organizations of OSH practitioners have engaged policy and regulatory development work towards internationally agreed upon definitions, requirements, guidelines and model legislation for regulating the roles, functions and activities of work-related safety and health professionals. ALASEHT and its member organizations could join the movement.

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<sup>1</sup> See the ILO Cinterfor report titled: *The future of vocational training in Latin America and the Caribbean: overview and strengthening guidelines* ([www.oitcinterfor.org/en/publications/future\\_vt](http://www.oitcinterfor.org/en/publications/future_vt)).

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## Annex ALASEHT member organizations

ALASEHT is currently composed of: eight active members (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela); four corresponding members (Costa Rica, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay); and two adherent members.

### Active members (by alphabetical order of country name)

#### ARGENTINA – Instituto Argentino de Seguridad

The Instituto Argentino de Seguridad (IAS) is a non-profit civil and cultural association founded in April 1940. Its first president was Dr Gotardo Pedemonte. It was the first institution of its kind in Argentina, and one of the first at the international level, specifically dedicated to the prevention of accidents and occupational diseases. Its objectives include promoting, organizing, and providing technical and educational services on safety, hygiene, occupational medicine, environmental protection, and the prevention of accidents in industry, at home, in traffic, and in sport. The IAS is a founding and active member of ALASEHT. Its current president is Mr Jorge Alfredo Cutuli.

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#### BRAZIL – Associação Brasileira para Prevenção de Acidentes

Founded in May 1941, the Associação Brasileira para Prevenção de Acidentes (ABPA) is a civil, non-governmental, non-profit entity. In 1962, it was declared an organization of public interest by Decree No. 1328, and received recognition as an entity of philanthropic purposes by the National Conselho de Serviço Social in August 1974. Its mission is to promote OSH education and information, and encourage people and enterprises to adopt social responsibility through training and qualification courses, congresses, seminars, statistical studies, environmental surveys, legislation, and labour standards. ABPA, which has its own headquarters and is owned by its members - individuals and legal entities - has served nearly two million workers and 4,500 companies throughout the country and is proud to be internationally recognized for the quality and seriousness with which it carries out its mission. The ABPA has offices in Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, and Minas Gerais State. It ABPA publishes its SOS magazine, and has the motto "Prevent – To Reduce Human and Financial Loss". The ABPA is an active member of ALASEHT.

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## CHILE – Consejo Nacional de Seguridad de Chile

The Consejo Nacional de Seguridad de Chile (CNS) is a private, non-profit organization, created in May 1953 by governmental decree with the objective of promoting risk prevention and raising awareness of the need to prevent accidents and occupational diseases. Its members are representatives of ministries, institutions, the armed forces, universities, public- and private-sector companies, and qualified natural persons. Any organization can apply for membership of the CNS. Its objective is to promote and develop the prevention of accident and occupational disease risks, especially in the workplace. The CNS studies and applies principles and techniques related to safety, health, and well-being of individuals and families; and the protection and conservation of the environment. The CNS is a founding and active member of ALASEHT. The current chair is Ing. Guillermo Gacitúa Sepúlveda.

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## COLOMBIA – Consejo Colombiano de Seguridad

### COLOMBIA – Consejo Colombiano de Seguridad

The Consejo Colombiano de Seguridad (CCS) is the technical association of entrepreneurs and professionals, specialized in the prevention of occupational risks. Since 1954, it has contributed to the sustainability of Colombian companies as an advisory and consultative body in support of the National Government, the business sector and security professionals.

Its permanent activity of risk prevention promotion is strengthened through its participation in the spaces for discussion and in the coordination of positions regarding draft regulations on safety, health at work and the environment; in the transfer of successful practices and lessons learned as a point of reference in the processes of continuous improvement; in business representation in governmental technical spaces; in the development of projects in response to the needs raised by the industrial sectors; in the application of technical knowledge for business strengthening and in the adoption of international best practices.

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## ECUADOR – Sociedad Ecuatoriana de Seguridad, Salud Ocupacional y Gestión Ambiental

The Sociedad Ecuatoriana de Seguridad, Salud Ocupacional y Gestión Ambiental (S.E.S.O.) is a non-profit scientific establishment, founded on 1st May 1988. It is specialized in the following technical areas: Occupational medicine; industrial psychology; safety and industrial hygiene; risk and insurance management; occupational health; ergonomics; quality management (ISO 9000 Standards); environmental management (ISO 14000) and health and safety management (OSHAS 18000). Its legal status was granted by agreement of the Ministry of Public Health of Ecuador No. 1269 of February 16, 1989, Official Gazette No. 180 of Friday, April 28, 1989. The S.E.S.O., was established as a response to the requirements and needs in the field of work safety raised by the public and private enterprises to protect their assets and resources within a comprehensive security concept that seeks to reduce and manage risks. The S.E.S.O. organizes courses, seminars, conferences, colloquiums, round tables, masters and diploma, the latter with the endorsement of Ecuadorian and foreign universities. It provides technical assistance, training and information material to enterprises with the aim of

preventing occupational hazards. S.E.S.O. is an active member of the ALASEHT and its current president is Dr. Moisés Castro Carrasco.

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MEXICO – Asociación Interdisciplinaria de Salud Ocupacional e Higiene de México, A.C.

The Asociación Interdisciplinaria de Salud Ocupacional e Higiene de México, A.C. (AISOHMEX) was constituted in June 2005. Its mission is to provide specialist services to contribute to the improvement of working conditions and welfare in industries and service companies through the provision of alternative solutions. It aims to influence the behavior of the various actors related to health, to create habits and safety awareness, to modify behavioral patterns that currently generate accidents, property damage and occupational diseases that decrease the quality of life of the workers and the population in general. It provides advisory services to industries and businesses in the area of industrial health and safety, covering the priority branches of organizations. The AISOHMEX is an active member of the ALASEHT and the current chair is: Ing. Victoriano Angüis Terrazas.

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## PANAMA – Consejo de Seguridad, Salud y Medio Ambiente de Panamá

El Consejo de Seguridad, Salud y Medio Ambiente de Panamá (COSSMAP) was created in 1995 and registered as a foundation in 1997 in the Republic of Panama by a group of professionals devoted to improving safety and health in the country. COSSMAP was the first non-governmental non-profit association (NGO) of technical and scientific nature that brought together professionals in the fields of health, safety and environment in Panama. Today, COSSMAP brings together professionals from the private and public sectors that are engaged as an organized group in promoting their profession and exercising a positive influence on Panamanian society. It seeks to develop a culture of prevention, to promote health and environmental protection as societal values at work and in life in general. COSSMAP is an independent organization without any connection to any government or corporate entity and is independently funded by its membership.

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## VENEZUELA – Sociedad de Ingenieros y Técnicos de Seguridad, Higiene y Ambiente de Venezuela

The Sociedad de Ingenieros y Técnicos de Seguridad, Higiene y Ambiente de Venezuela (SOITSHA) is an independent professional organization dedicated to advising, training and certifying people and companies in the area of safety, hygiene and environment. The SOITSHA was founded in May 2000 and initiated its activities in the Center of Engineers of the Zulia State. SOITSHA is an active members of the Latin American Association for Safety and Hygiene at Work (ALASEHT), with which its activities are recognized throughout the Latin American region.

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## Corresponding members (by alphabetical order of country name)

### COSTA RICA – Asociación Costarricense de Ingeniería en Seguridad Laboral e Higiene Ambiental

The Asociación Costarricense de Ingeniería en Seguridad Laboral e Higiene Ambiental (ACISLHA) was created on August 5, 1998, with the name of Association of Professionals in Safety and Environmental Hygiene (APROSLHA). From 2006 it was renamed into the Asociación de Ingenieros en Seguridad Laboral e Higiene Ambiental (AISLHA), and a year later the name further evolved into ACISLHA in reference to Costa Rica. It is an association attached to the College of Engineers Technologists (CITEC) of the Federated College of Engineers and Architects of Costa Rica (CFIA). Among its objectives are the professional, academic, cultural, social and associative development of the members, as well as the development and application of technological research related to engineering in OSH. Its mission is to guarantee to workers, organizations, and society the best professional practice in OSH engineering, and to intervene in preventative actions according to current regulations. The ACISLHA aspires to become the leading association in the field of safety and environmental hygiene through the regulation and certification of its professional members; participating in the interdisciplinary work of engineering, occupational safety, environment, and health; and committing itself to the provision of technical criteria to provide a quality service for the national community. It is currently chaired by Ing. Mainor Edo. Rojas Hidalgo.

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### PARAGUAY – Asociación de Profesionales de Higiene y Seguridad de Paraguay

The Asociación de Profesionales de Higiene y Seguridad de Paraguay (APHSP) was founded in April 1997. Its objectives are to: stimulate social ties between the members, foster and maintain the spirit of solidarity and cooperation, and share experiences and ideas among OSH professionals. Its mission is to collaborate with public authorities in research projects on laws, decrees, regulations, and ordinances related to OSH, as well as to reconcile, manage, or intervene in OSH sanctions – to protect the interests of professionals; exercise the collective representation of members; resolve the problems of interested parties; sponsor and support (technically, economically, and administratively) the study and scientific research of subjects in the different OSH specialities; encourage the exchange of technical information; and organize and participate in congresses, scientific meetings, seminars, and refresher courses. The current president is Ms Stela González Becker.

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## PERU – Asociación Peruana de Prevencionistas de Riesgos

The Asociación Peruana de Prevencionistas de Riesgos (APDR) is a private, civil, non-profit association. The APDR's mission is to optimize the competitive capacity of enterprises subject to national OSH regulations and the effects of globalization. The APDR brings together competent professionals in the OSH field, including: technicians in OSH prevention; engineers in branches related to hygiene, safety, and health at work; physicians specialized in occupational health, ergonomics, or occupational medicine; firefighters; and technicians and professionals working in occupational risk prevention. The APDR's objectives are to: unify the criteria for industrial safety, hygiene, ergonomics, and occupational health; share news, knowledge, contacts, and experiences; disseminate good practices in health and safety at work; promote scientific research associated with risk management; and advise companies to improve their safety culture. The APDR is the only Peruvian organization associated with ALASEHT (as a correspondent member).

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Web site: <http://www.apdr.org.pe>

## URUGUAY – Centro de Estudios de Seguridad

The Centro de Estudios de Seguridad (CES) was founded in Montevideo, Uruguay in October 2007 as a non-profit working group focusing on research, analysis, and the application of preventative technology in the various areas of life, e.g. work, traffic, education, community, among others. Its fundamental objective is the promotion of a preventative culture, through specialized advice and the development of technical-scientific and environmental training, and preventative actions. The CES considers itself a broad and independent expert group providing support to all public or private organizations, and aims to establish and maintain good relationships with all involved actors, at the national, regional, and international levels. The CES is currently chaired by Professor Vicente Catarozzi.

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## Adherent Members

### Fundación MAPFRE, de España

MAPFRE is a foundation of the Spanish insurance group MAPFRE. It was founded in 1975 as a private cultural foundation. It notably develops activities in Spain and Latin America.

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### International Section of the ISSA for Electricity, Gas and Water

The International Section of the International Social Security Association (ISSA) for Electricity, Gas and Water promotes the protection of workers against electrical accidents and occupational diseases due to electricity and ionizing radiation. The ISSA is based in Switzerland and the secretariat of the section is based in Germany.

Contact information:

Director Técnico del Comité de Electricidad: Dr. JENS JÜHLING – Präventionsmanager

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web site: [www.issa.int/en/web/prevention-electricity/about](http://www.issa.int/en/web/prevention-electricity/about)

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