

PETER S. CLEAVES
President
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Mr. Cleaves has been engaged in international banking, senior management, economic development, academia, and consulting for over thirty years in Latin America, the Middle East, Europe, and the United States. His specialties are strategic planning, institutional development, banking and finance, and nonprofit organizations. Fields include private equity, entrepreneurship, project management, public policy, and corporate social responsibility. He has held senior positions at First Chicago, the University of Texas, the Ford Foundation, Emirates Foundation, the AVINA Foundation, and DRG International, which advises businesses, multilateral organizations, government agencies, and universities on their Latin American and Middle East activities.

For eight years at First Chicago, Mr. Cleaves developed innovative credit products and investment relations for U.S. and Latin American corporations. He executed the largest swap of Bolivian debt and originated multi-million dollar deals with US media companies. He had Eastern US territorial responsibility for multi-year multi-million dollar credit facilities for newspaper, radio, TV, cable, and telephone companies some jointly with First Chicago Venture Capital.

As the first CEO of the Emirates Foundation, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, Mr. Cleaves supervised the planning process for grants and operating programs in youth development, knowledge creation, and arts and culture, with separate programs for volunteering and private sector employment. Under his leadership, the foundation had co-financing from over sixty Emirati companies. Over his tenure, the Emirates Foundation increased the number of grants from six to over six hundred, providing support for hundreds of Emirati men and women. It was awarded the status of “Foundation of the Year” by the World Congress of Muslim Philanthropists.

With the AVINA Foundation, Mr. Cleaves prepared the Latin America private equity plan for the AVINA’s Swiss billionaire benefactor. He formulated the foundation’s first strategic plan for promoting social entrepreneurship, sustainable development including environment, microfinance, civil society organizations, private sector development, corporate social responsibility, and formal and informal education. He secured collaboration from Brazilian, Chile, and Ecuadorian companies for over eighty nongovernmental organizations. He served as Executive Director, chaired AVINA’s Management Committee, and managed the Brazilian, Spanish and Portuguese operations. Earlier in his career, while supervising the Ford Foundation offices for Mexico, Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia and Central America, he led a professional staff assisting public policy, economic development and university training.

Mr. Cleaves headed the Institute of Latin American Studies at the University of Texas at Austin and served as Director of the Center for the Study of Western Hempheric Trade (a consortium joining the University of Texas and the Texas A&M systems). He assisted professors affiliated with the Trade Center to carry out marketing and country risk analysis for clients in the cement, banking, and oil and gas industries entering Latin America markets. His university degrees are from Dartmouth College (A.B.), Vanderbilt University (M.A.), and the University of California at Berkeley (Ph.D.). He has resided in ten countries, authored or co-authored five books, and conducts business in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese.