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Third Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing
in Latin America and the Caribbean

San José, 8-11 May 2011

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA



UNITED NATIONS



A. ORGANIZATION OF THE THIRD REGIONAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE ON AGEING IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

In its resolution 590(XXIX) of 2002, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) endorsed the mandate of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, paragraph 128 of which states that the United Nations regional commissions have responsibility for translating the provisions of that instrument into their regional plans of action, and requested the secretariat to organize a regional intergovernmental conference on ageing for the purpose of formulating a regional strategy for the implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.

Pursuant to that agreement, ECLAC and the Government of Chile organized the first Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing, which took place in Santiago from 19 to 21 November 2003. At that Conference, the member States of ECLAC adopted the Regional Strategy for the Implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (LC/G.2318/E), which was ratified by ECLAC in resolution 604(XXX) of 2004.¹

Subsequently, on the fifth anniversary of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, the ECLAC member States, gathered at the thirty-first session of the Commission in 2006, adopted resolution 616(XXXI) instructing the secretariat to organize a second regional intergovernmental conference to review and appraise the advances made by the countries of the region in applying the Regional Strategy for the Implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing. Accordingly, the second Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing in Latin America and the Caribbean: towards a society for all ages and rights-based social protection was organized jointly by ECLAC and the Government of Brazil and held in Brasilia from 4 to 6 December 2007.

The outcome of that Conference was the Brasilia Declaration (LC/G.2359), which was endorsed in June 2008 in Santo Domingo under resolution 644(XXXII), entitled Population and development: priority activities for the period 2008-2010, adopted at the thirty-second session of the Commission.² The results of the study carried out in fulfilment of that mandate were submitted at the 2010 meeting of the ECLAC Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development.

The ECLAC Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development is the intergovernmental body responsible for follow-up to the Regional Strategy for the Implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the Brasilia Declaration. At its most recent meeting, held from 12 to 14 May 2010, the Committee adopted agreements on priority population and development issues for 2010-2012 and these were endorsed at the thirty-third session of the Commission under resolution 657 (XXXIII). Paragraph 21 of the agreements requests the secretariat to organize an open-ended meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Ad Hoc Committee in 2012 in the framework of the second review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing. Following that decision, the Government of Costa Rica generously offered to host the third Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing in Latin America and the Caribbean.

¹ See Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Report of the Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing: Towards a Regional Strategy for the Implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (LC/L.2079), Santiago, Chile, 2004.

² See Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Report of the thirty-second session (LC/G.2395), Santiago, Chile, September 2008.

The Conference will seek to monitor fulfilment of the agreements adopted by ECLAC member countries in the Brasilia Declaration. It will also identify the key actions for implementation of the Declaration in the coming five years, specifically those aimed at strengthening national capacities for addressing the main challenges and emerging issues relating to older persons. Furthermore, the Conference will be an opportunity for members to agree on the regional contribution to be presented at the fifty-first session of the United Nations Commission for Social Development, scheduled for February 2013. On this occasion, the issue selected in consultation with the host country is: Ageing, solidarity and social protection: time for progress towards equality”.

The third Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing in Latin America and the Caribbean will take place from 8 to 11 May 2012. The opening session will be held in the afternoon of 8 May. It will be attended by dignitaries from the host country and by representatives of ECLAC and other international organizations. On 9 May, following the meeting of the heads of delegation, the Conference will resume with the adoption of the agenda and the presentation of the secretariat’s report. The rest of the day will be devoted to the delivery by country representatives of their status reports on implementation of the Brasilia Declaration. The thematic meetings will begin on 10 May and conclude the following day. On 11 May there will also be a high-level symposium, following which the meeting will conclude with the adoption of the agreements. In addition, two open-ended meetings organized by the host country will be held during the Conference.

B. DOCUMENTATION

To facilitate proceedings, the secretariat will prepare substantive documentation for the Conference. The main document will contain a succinct analysis of the main trends in population ageing and information on the status of older persons. It will also include a review of the most significant advances made by the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in implementing the Brasilia Declaration, with special emphasis on issues relating to human rights; institutions and social services. In addition, it will identify a series of key actions for furthering implementation of the Brasilia Declaration over the next five years.

Working document:

- Ageing, solidarity and social protection: time for progress towards equality (LC/L.3451(CRE.3/3))

Reference documents:

- Report on application of the Brasilia Declaration and the Regional strategy for implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (DDR/1)
- Report of the Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing: towards a regional strategy for the implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (DDR/2)
- Report of the Second Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing in Latin America and the Caribbean: towards a society for all ages and rights-based social protection (DDR/3)
- Brasilia Declaration (LC/G.2359)

All documents will be available at the Conference website: <http://www.cepal.org/celade/costarica2012>.

C. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Report by the secretariat on the application of the Brasilia Declaration and the Regional strategy for the implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.
4. Statements by the countries.
5. Thematic sessions on trends and emerging issues with regard to ageing and social protection.
6. High-level symposium on key actions for the implementation and follow-up of the Brasilia Declaration.
7. Review and adoption of the agreements of the Conference.
8. Other matters.

D. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers

At the first plenary session of the Conference, officers will be selected to preside over the proceedings. In accordance with established practice, the role of Chair falls to the Head of the host country's delegation.

It is proposed that the choice of Presiding Officers be considered at the meeting of heads of delegation on 9 May 2012.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The delegates will have before them the provisional agenda of the Conference (LC/L.3449(CRE.3/1)) for their consideration and adoption, along with any changes they may consider necessary, subject to existing regulations.

3. Report by the secretariat on the application of the Brasilia Declaration and the Regional strategy for the implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing

The secretariat will present at the plenary meeting a regional report on the main issues on the ageing agenda over the past five years, as well as on other emerging issues. The data will be drawn from information compiled during the previous period by the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) - Population Division of ECLAC, as well as from reports that member States of the

Commission have presented at technical follow-up meetings on the Brasilia Declaration. The document places particular emphasis on recommendations for action.

4. Statements by the countries

Representatives of member States will be invited to report on the most important activities undertaken in this field; the progress achieved in adopting policies for older persons within the framework of the application of the Brasilia Declaration; and the outcome of any reviews or appraisals conducted in their countries. The discussion on this subject will provide an opportunity to share experiences, especially with regard to problems and solutions.

In an effort to support States in examining and evaluating the implementation of the Brasilia Declaration, the Secretariat has written the following document, entitled “From commitment to action. Guide to the review and evaluation of the Brasilia Declaration in Latin America and the Caribbean”.³ This document was made available to Governments in November 2011.

5. Thematic sessions on trends and emerging issues with regard to ageing and social protection

In order to analyse certain priority topics on the regional agenda in depth, five plenary sessions will be held. Renowned experts will participate in each session, bringing with them key elements to evaluate in each case the current needs and future challenges. Following each expert’s presentation, the delegates will be invited to make comments and ask questions regarding the matter at hand. The topics to be addressed at the thematic sessions are as follows:

- *Protecting the rights of older persons at the national, regional and global levels:* Since the Brasilia Declaration, the rights of older persons have gained ground in the international arena, thanks largely to the efforts of countries in the region. This panel will discuss the efforts being made by the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing of the United Nations and the Working Group on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons of the Organization of American States (OAS). Participants will report on efforts to strengthen and modernize national legislations in order to better resolve current challenges to protecting human rights in the context of ageing populations.
- *Building public institutions for the current sociodemographic environment:* Good institutions are vital for addressing public policy issues relating to older persons. However, this imperative is often overlooked in public policies geared towards this demographic group, and efforts must be intensified. The panel will provide insight into the topic, encourage the exchange of good practices between countries in the region, and identify the immediate challenges to be faced in this regard.
- *Inclusion and strengthening of social services as part of the agenda on ageing:* Care for ageing populations is an emerging issue for welfare policies, both those geared to older persons and those dealing with the need to reconcile productive and reproductive work. Despite its crucial importance, however, this issue is not always evident in the design and implementation of social protection systems. The panel will analyse the effects of changing demographics on care within the context of key issues such as solidarity, equality and universality. There will also be

³ See the document [online] at <http://www.cepal.org/celade/noticias/paginas/4/44984/GuiaMetodologicaEsp.pdf>.

an opportunity to share examples of national efforts and strategies that seek to recognize care as a public policy and social protection issue in its own right.

- *Health care, sustainability and human rights:* Health systems have been slow to adapt to shifts in demand driven by demographic, epidemiological and technological changes. This has led to a rise in health costs and expenditures and hindered access to timely and good-quality health services for the population as a whole. The panel will look at the challenges of ensuring health system sustainability in the context of ageing and at national strategies for guaranteeing the rights of older persons receiving residential care and for meeting new health-care needs arising from the rise in life expectancy and health-related dependency.
- *National machineries for implementing the Brasilia Declaration:* Responsibility for ensuring the conditions and concrete measures for safeguarding the rights of older persons rests with the executive branch and its competent bodies. As the main vehicle through which these rights are upheld, the executive branch, acting in accordance with established administrative procedures, provides funding, monitors the work of the accountable agencies and is answerable to the general public. The panel will examine the challenges faced in setting up the national machineries for the implementation of the Brasilia Declaration in terms of information, financing and medium- and long-term planning.

6. High-level symposium on key actions for the implementation and follow-up of the Brasilia Declaration

In order to carefully analyse future challenges to implementing the Brasilia Declaration and monitoring progress in that regard, the secretariat and the host country are organizing a high-level symposium, in which ministers, diplomats and heads of international organizations will participate. They will discuss the assessment and recommendations emanating from the Conference. When appropriate, they will also announce the contribution that will be made to further implementation of the Brasilia Declaration commitments.

7. Review and adoption of the agreements of the Conference

The proposals submitted for consideration at the Conference will be designed to accelerate progress in the implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the Brasilia Declaration. The agreements will be announced during the meeting of the ECLAC Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development, and will serve as a basis for the region's contribution to activities for the completion of the second review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action, for presentation in February 2013 at the fifty-first session of the Commission for Social Development.

8. Other matters

Under this item, delegations may raise any other matters they deem relevant.