

**Second session of the
Regional Conference on
Population and Development in
Latin America and the Caribbean**

FOR PARTICIPANTS ONLY

REFERENCE DOCUMENT
DDR/5

29 September 2015

ENGLISH

ORIGINAL: SPANISH

Second session of the Regional Conference on Population
and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

Population dynamics as an axis of sustainable development:
the Montevideo Consensus as a tool for reducing inequality
in the framework of human rights

Mexico City, 6-9 October 2015

**CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY ECLAC ON AGEING, SOCIAL PROTECTION
AND SOCIOECONOMIC CHALLENGES, 2013-2015**

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I. INTRODUCTION

In 2015, more than 70 million persons are aged 60 years and over in Latin America and the Caribbean, representing 11.2% of the region's population. In another 15 years, this segment of the population will number over 119 million, and will represent 16.7% of the total. The last 50 years have seen notable gains in life expectancy. Never in human history have people lived as long as they do today.

This reality poses some profound questions about the needs and interests of a population segment that is growing steadily and swiftly. A longer life brings with it opportunities for people in good health, but the regional reality shows that the understanding of morbidity is still limited in the region and while people are living longer they do not always enjoy a high quality of life. As a result, health costs per capita for the over-65 age group are three to five times higher than for young people. Ageing also affects pensions and retirement allowances, as the numbers of beneficiaries increase and benefits are paid over a much longer time.¹ Similarly, as the population ages an ever greater proportion of persons can expect to reach an age —75 years or more— in which they are at greater risk of becoming frail and of developing multi-morbidity conditions that require continuous care.²

The region's social protection systems, with notable exceptions, are lagging far behind with regard to these challenges. Access to timely, good-quality health care is limited and does not always take the needs of older persons into consideration. Social security does not cover the whole retirement-age population and over a third of over-65s do not receive any retirement or pension benefits.³ Since care is not considered a social risk factor, social protection systems do not offer the benefits, services and provisions that individuals need; care continues to be seen as an issue for families and women, rather than the State.

At the same time, there is strong demand for ensuring greater protection of the human rights of older persons. One achievement in this area was the recent adoption of the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons. Latin American and African countries are pushing for a similar instrument to be adopted in the United Nations context, through the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing.

The programme of work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) spans both areas: reform to social protection systems and public policy to meet the challenges of ageing and the protection of the rights of older persons. The Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC has prepared this report summarizing its most important activities on the issue of ageing, social protection and socioeconomic challenges between July 2013 and July 2015, which will be presented at the second session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in October 2015.

¹ See International Labour Organization (ILO), *World Social Protection Report 2014/15. Building economic recovery, inclusive development and social justice*, Geneva, 2014.

² See [online] http://ec.europa.eu/health/ageing/docs/ev_20140618_co04_en.pdf.

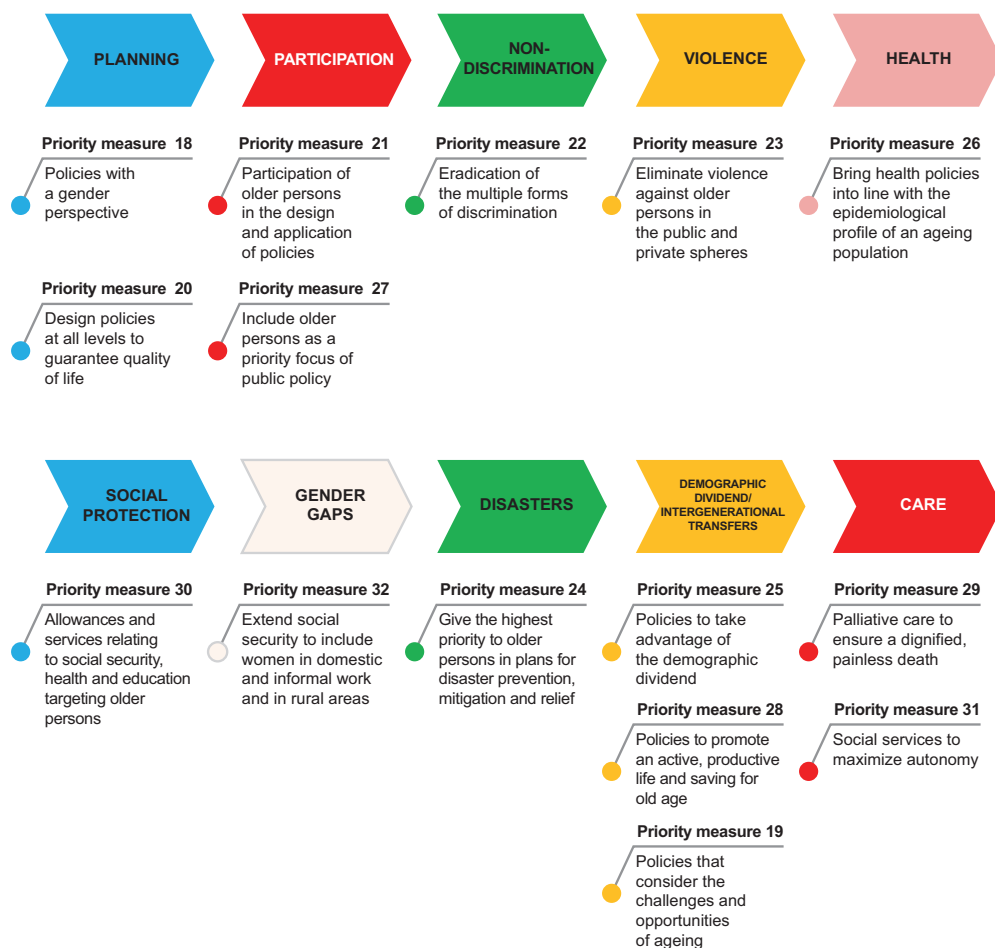
³ See [online] http://www.ilo.org/americas/oficina-regional/direcci%C3%B3n-regional/WCMS_343190/lang--es/index.htm.

II. MANDATE

The Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development was adopted in 2013 at the first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, which was organized by ECLAC and the Government of Uruguay.⁴

Chapter C on ageing, social protection and socioeconomic challenges includes 15 priority measures that are related, although not exclusively, to the following topics: planning (priority measures 18 and 20); participation (priority measures 21 and 27); non-discrimination (priority measure 22); violence (priority measure 23); health (priority measure 26); social protection (priority measure 30); gender gaps (priority measure 32); disasters (priority measure 24); demographic dividends (priority measures 19, 25 and 28) and care (priority measures 29 and 31) (see diagram 1).

Diagram 1
Priority measures on ageing, social protection and socioeconomic challenges in the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development



Source: Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC.

⁴ See [online] http://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/21860/S20131039_en.pdf?sequence=4.

Paragraph 115 of the Montevideo Consensus requests the secretariat and the United Nations Population Fund to continue generating information and knowledge and to provide technical assistance to the countries for following up on the implementation of the San José Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as other activities aimed at protecting the human rights of older persons within the purview of the United Nations.

III. AREAS OF WORK AND ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED

Since the first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development, ECLAC has focused mainly on supporting the implementation of the San José Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean. In that connection, CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC has carried out activities in the following areas of work:

- Building consensus for expanding the protection of the human rights of older persons
- Raising awareness on the rights and dignity of older persons
- Demographic change and challenges for development
- Applied research on ageing, social protection and socioeconomic challenges

ECLAC has also continued to provide technical assistance to governments in the region, academic institutions and civil society organizations as part of the regular programme of work of ECLAC.

A. BUILDING CONSENSUS FOR EXPANDING THE PROTECTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS

During the period under review, a milestone was achieved with respect to the human rights of older persons. On 15 June 2015, the Americas became the first region in the world to adopt a legally binding instrument on the promotion and protection of the human rights and freedoms of older persons: the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons.

In its preamble, the Convention recalls, among other instruments, the Regional Strategy for the Implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (2003), the Brasilia Declaration (2007) and the San José Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean (2012). These three public policy instruments—adopted within ECLAC as part of the regional review and evaluation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing—helped instigate a change of perspective on issues relating to older persons and the importance of protecting their human rights.

The purpose of the Convention is to promote, protect and ensure the recognition and the full enjoyment and exercise, on an equal basis, of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of older persons, in order to contribute to their full inclusion, integration, and participation in society.

With the adoption of the Inter-American Convention, for the first time in the history of human rights, an intergovernmental body is decisively defining the rights and freedoms of older persons, which will facilitate the standardization of laws, policies and practices in the countries of the region and thus help to close the gaps between countries in the protection and enforcement of this group's human rights.

The instrument provides common definitions with a view to conceptualizing and enforcing internationally recognized human rights in the context of an ageing population.

During the period under review, three key activities in this area of work were conducted:

- (i) Organization of the second International Forum on the Rights of Older Persons
- (ii) Technical support for the Working Group on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons of the Organization of American States (OAS)
- (iii) Participation in the United Nations Open-ended Working Group on Ageing

These three activities are interrelated as the second International Forum on the Human Rights of Older Persons provided valuable conceptual input on some relevant topics, including autonomy and the legal capacity of older persons, care and free and informed consent. This input has been used in information and teaching materials, but above all has firmly instilled a perspective focused on the autonomy of older persons rather than their vulnerability in regional and international debates.

1. Second International Forum on the Human Rights of Older Persons (Mexico City, 3-6 June 2014)

In June 2014, the Social Development Secretariat of the Mexico City government, together with ECLAC, convened the second International Forum on the Human Rights of Older Persons, as part of the implementation and follow-up process of the San José Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean.

This Forum was part of a joint effort to bring international knowledge and debate on the topic to the countries in the region and all interested stakeholders.

The breadth of participation achieved was unprecedented in the region, from international experts who gave their points of view and reflections to the members of the public who shared and gave feedback on the debate inside and outside the conference room, thanks to new information and communications technologies.

Representatives from the following countries participated in the Forum: Argentina, Aruba, Austria, Bangladesh, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Greece, Guatemala, Italy, Mauritius, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Spain, United States and Uruguay. Representatives of the following organizations were also present: United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Ibero-American Social Security Organization (OISS), OAS, the European Council and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR).

The second International Forum defined a number of essential components for encouraging a paradigm shift with regard to the way in which issues relating to older persons are understood, considering a human rights focus to be the most appropriate approach to the transformation that society has to undertake.

The Forum's findings were published in the book *Autonomía y dignidad en la vejez: teoría y práctica en políticas de derechos de las personas mayores*.

2. Technical support for the Working Group on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons of OAS

ECLAC continued to provide technical support to the Working Group on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons of OAS during the negotiations of the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons.

In December 2013, ECLAC participated in the meeting of experts of the Working Group and provided technical support to the chair and government representatives in order to clarify doubts and provide background information on the articles of the draft convention when it was still under negotiation. This activity led to progress on defining the instrument's general principles and the rights to care, health and social security, among others.

Following that meeting, ECLAC continued to work with the secretariat of the Working Group, responding to queries about the drafting of the convention's articles, scope and protection requirements, and sharing comparative experiences.

At the same time, ECLAC participated in national activities relating to the rights of older persons, at which it reported on the progress of the negotiations on the draft convention and encouraged technical experts, academics and representatives of civil society to become actively involved in the ongoing discussions.

After the adoption of the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the General Secretariat of OAS and ECLAC agreed to carry out joint activities to promote its ratification and implementation.

3. Participation in the United Nations Open-ended Working Group on Ageing

ECLAC has continued to participate in the meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing. In 2015, in response to an invitation, ECLAC gave a presentation entitled "Older women, age and gender discrimination" in the panel on "Recent legislative and legal developments and challenges in the human rights of older persons".

During the period under review, ECLAC reported to governments on discussions of the Working Group with a view to promoting greater awareness of its work at the national and regional levels and a better understanding of the scope of its mandate.

B. RAISING AWARENESS ON THE RIGHTS AND DIGNITY OF OLDER PERSONS

Awareness-raising is a key element in enforcing the human rights of older persons. The aim is to go beyond merely eliciting an emotional response and to generate a level of awareness such that people recognize their responsibilities in respect of those rights.

Education is critical to raising awareness, as respect for human rights grows with awareness of human rights and that awareness is the product of education. It is even more valuable to teach people about their own rights, giving them the option to speak up for themselves.

At ECLAC, training is an integral component of the technical cooperation provided to member countries. It is usually aimed at technical personnel and decision makers from public administrations, but sometimes includes academic experts and opinion formers from civil society.⁵

Training is a permanent avenue for collaboration with countries, whether through on-site courses or material produced by CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC. One of the most used documents during the biennium was *Materiales avanzados de estudio y aprendizaje: Los derechos de las personas mayores*,⁶ the first version of which was prepared within the framework of component 3 “Social protection strategies for an ageing population” of the cooperation programme between ECLAC and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), 2010-2011, entitled “Social protection and inclusion in Latin America and the Caribbean”.

Over the biennium, the materials referred to in the above paragraph were used as a basis for training 13,306 people in Argentina, Costa Rica and Mexico.

1. Courses and workshops co-organized by ECLAC

(a) National Institute of Social Services for Retirees and Pensioners (INSSJP)-PAMI of Argentina

During the reporting period, the Training Programme on the Rights of Older Persons was carried out under the agreement signed with the National Institute of Social Services for Retirees and Pensioners (INSSJP)-PAMI of Argentina.

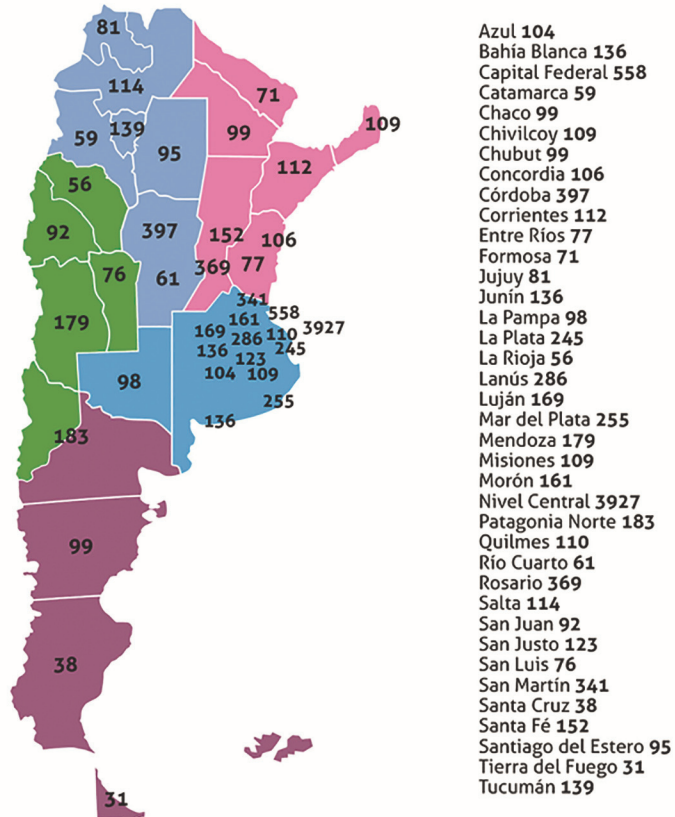
This programme’s training activities were designed jointly by the two institutions. Two levels were created, with the second level going into greater depth on more complex elements of the topic.

- Level 1 comprised an e-learning introductory course seeking to raise awareness of the need for a paradigm shift in respect of ageing and old age. The content of the course was based on the ECLAC publication *Materiales avanzados de estudio y aprendizaje: los derechos de las personas mayores*. The Strategic Development and Management Unit for Quality of INSSJP-PAMI released the e-learning format. Since 2013, 9,717 workers from the Institute, out of a total of 15,000, have completed this first level of training (see map 1).
- Level 2 (train the trainers) consisted of a course taught by ECLAC on the rights of older persons, with a focus on tools for raising awareness and collaborative learning to promote the humanization of care and practice. This 140-hour course sought to improve the knowledge and capacities of INSSJP-PAMI personnel with respect to the rights of older persons, with the aim of creating a multiplier effect on this issue and providing the tools needed to identify and assess situations in which rights are infringed at the local and regional levels, promoting a space for reflection and exchange on the prevailing understanding of ageing and the older population.

⁵ See “About Training” [online] <http://www.cepal.org/en/about-training>.

⁶ See [online] http://www.cepal.org/cgi-bin/getProd.asp?xml=/celade/noticias/documentosdetrabajo/5/51615/P51615.xml&xsl=/celade/tpl/p38f.xsl&base=/celade/tpl/top-bottom_env.xslt

Map 1
Argentina: number of participants in the e-learning course on the need for a paradigm shift with respect to ageing and old age

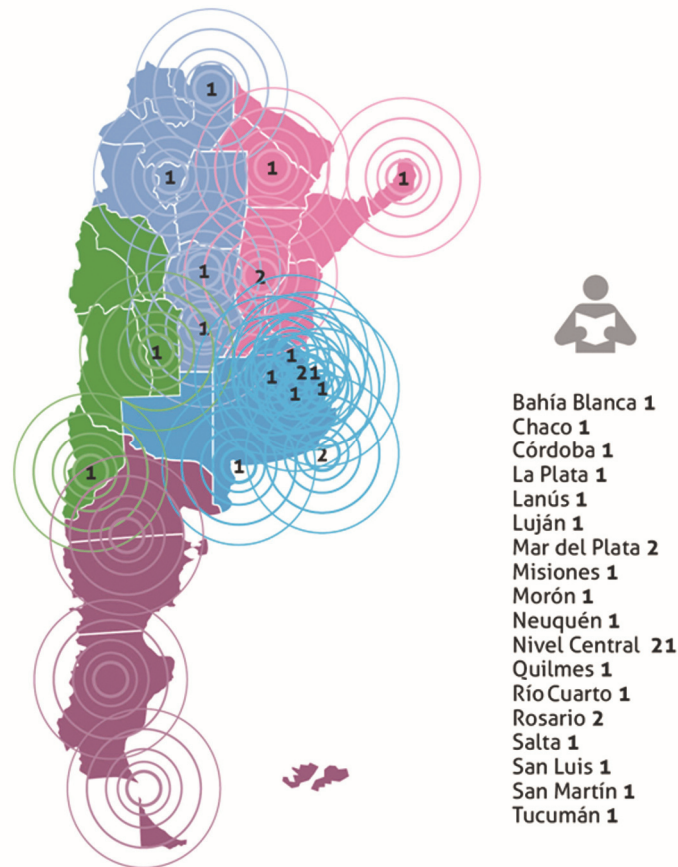


Source: Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

The Institute trained 40 workers in 2014. Currently, 28 of them are training the rest of the personnel in workshops as part of an outreach programme, which provides staff with tools to analyse and reflect as they fulfil their daily tasks. In 2015, 3,134 workers from the Institute have taken this course in 35 Local Management Units in every region of the country, with an average of 13 training days per month (see map 2).

Another outcome of the INSSJP and ECLAC training programme was the preparation of a guide on good practice in the provision of care to older persons, which collates the local experiences of staff on concrete and operational actions taken to protect the rights of INSSJP-PAMI members. Contributions from workshop participants will be added to this guide.

Map 2
Argentina: number of workers from the National Institute of Social Services for Retirees and Pensioners (INSSJP)-PAMI trained at the level 2 course on the rights of older persons, with a focus on tools for raising awareness and collaborative learning to promote the humanization of care and practice



Source: Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

(b) National Pension Board for Teachers (JUPEMA) of Costa Rica

The Social Benefits Department of the National Pension Board for Teachers (JUPEMA) of Costa Rica imparted a course to members of its provincial networks on “The rights of older persons” in March, April and May 2014, as part of the activities under its annual institutional operating plan. The Board had the support of institutions such as ECLAC, the National Council for Older Persons (CONAPAM) of Costa Rica, the Commission for Accessibility of the Judiciary and a group of pensioners and retirees. A total of 350 older persons participated. As a result of the impetus generated by the course, a workshop on empowerment was conducted in 10 regions, the conclusions of which were compiled into a manifesto on the empowerment of older persons and presented at the National Congress in late 2014.⁷

⁷ For a more detailed account of this course, see *La Pizarra*, N° 57, June 2014 [online] <http://www.juntadepensiones.cr/revistaFlash/pizarra57/LaPizarra57.pdf>.

The Board has continued to promote training on human rights among its members in 2015, using the ECLAC publication *Materiales avanzados de estudio y aprendizaje: los derechos de las personas mayores* as a reference. To date, 300 older persons have participated in these activities.

(c) Social Development Secretariat of the Mexico City government

Between December 2013 and July 2015 the Social Development Secretariat of Mexico City received technical support in various forms, including a training workshop on care as a human rights and public policy issue, held on 17 June 2015, in which 115 professionals from the government, civil society and universities participated.

(d) Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO) Chile and Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)

ECLAC representatives taught two classes between April and December 2014 —the first on the demographic transition in Latin America and the second on population ageing in Latin America and the Caribbean— as part of the economics and health diploma programme, which aims to help identify the challenges and deficits in the region's health sector.

2. Courses and workshops not organized by ECLAC

(a) University of Valparaiso, Chile

Two talks were given on 5 April 2015 to students of the diploma on speech therapy for older persons, organized by the Speech Therapy Programme of the University of Valparaiso.

(b) Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID)

Two talks were given as part of a course on promoting the participation of older persons at the local level by reviewing programme needs, planning, implementation and evaluation. This course was organized by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) and held in Montevideo from 23 to 26 July 2014.

C. DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE AND CHALLENGES FOR DEVELOPMENT

As one of the main consequences of demographic change has been a shift in the population's age structure, CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC has attached great importance to studying the effects of that shift on development. In particular, a dramatic change has been seen in the ratio of the potentially active population (adults) to the potentially dependent population (children, young persons and older adults) and so too, therefore, in the composition of investment in education and health care, social protection and the care of dependent persons.

Against this backdrop, CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC is coordinating the Latin America and Caribbean Regional Network for National Transfer Accounts, an international collaborative initiative whose goal is to measure the economic relationships between different groups within national economies: between the young and the old, between rich and poor and between men and women.

The plan is for the Regional Network to turn the national accounts into a public policy instrument that can help to address two of the challenges of the twenty-first century: population ageing and persistent inequality. The global network currently consists of 46 countries and is still growing both in the region (10 of whose countries are now members) and elsewhere in the world.

During the reporting period, members of the Regional Network (specialists from the national teams responsible for national transfer accounts) took part in a number of regional outreach and training activities. CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC organized two training workshops, one on estimating national transfer accounts, held in Santiago in November 2013, and the other on estimating the value of unpaid work and national time transfer accounts as part of the Counting Women's Work project, which was held in Lima in August 2014.

In December 2014, an original study entitled "National Inequality Accounts: The Case of Chile" was published in the magazine of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) *Policy in Focus*. The study was based on national transfer accounts data and the methodology it expected to be applied to other countries in the region.

A new study entitled "Population ageing, demographic dividend and gender dividend: assessing the long-term impact of gender equality on economic growth and development in Latin America" is expected to be published in late 2015, as a chapter in a book from Springer International Publishing on demographic dividends in different parts of the world (*Demographic Dividend: Emerging Challenges and Policy Implications*).

1. Applied research on ageing, social protection and socioeconomic challenges

During the period under review, several applied research studies have been carried out, as well as knowledge creation and management projects:

- *Necesidades de cuidado de las personas mayores en la Ciudad de México: diagnóstico y lineamientos de política*, Project document (LC/W.664): this document on the care requirements of older persons in Mexico City seeks to provide a theoretical and empirical basis for the creation of a care programme in Mexico City. To this end, it examines conceptual background information on the topic, describes the general context of care in Mexico City—in particular the demand for care and the ways in which families are meeting that demand—and, lastly, it analyses the findings of a survey on the care of social pension beneficiaries in Mexico City, based on the responses of 23,699 people interviewed in the first quarter of 2015.⁸
- *Acceso al crédito de las personas mayores, Pensión Alimentaria y derechos conexos en la Ciudad de México*: this document addresses older persons' access to credit, an issue that is often overlooked in the actions taken to improve this group's situation, despite the significant contribution it can make in terms of economic inclusion and security. The topic is covered from a human rights perspective, with a specific focus on economic, social and cultural rights and the principles of equality and non-discrimination.⁹

⁸ See [online] http://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/38879/S1500754_es.pdf?sequence=1.

⁹ See [online] http://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/38530/S1500613_es.pdf.

- *Focus, Issue No. 2, 2015. Ageing in the Caribbean and the rights of older persons*: the aim of this magazine is to inform governments about topical issues and intergovernmental collaboration in areas of social, economic and sustainable development. This issue gives a general overview of ageing in the subregion and covers specific issues related to the health, care and social security of older persons. One topic of focus is planning for retirement in Trinidad and Tobago.¹⁰
- *Autonomía y dignidad en la vejez: teoría y práctica en políticas de derechos de las personas mayores*: this book compiles the studies and conclusions from the second International Forum on the Human Rights of Older Persons, held in Mexico City in June 2014. It addresses, among other topics, international progress in the protection of the rights of older persons, jurisdictional and institutional guarantees for the enjoyment of these rights and care and social services provided to strengthen older persons' autonomy.¹¹
- *Perspectivas globales sobre la protección de los derechos humanos de las personas mayores, 2007-2013*, Project document (LC/W.566): this document gives an overview of the progress made worldwide in recent years with regard to the human rights of older persons. The description and analysis it contains are complemented by empirical data on the specific problems faced by this social group in exercising their rights around the world. It documents the efforts being made by different institutions to solve these problems and analyses the limitations and challenges involved in achieving further progress on this issue, highlighting proposals to improve understanding of these obstacles and facilitate action to overcome them by the countries in the region.¹²
- *Materiales avanzados de estudio y aprendizaje: los derechos de las personas mayores*: this document identifies materials that seek to extend the dissemination of the data available on the human rights of older persons. It contains the following four modules:
 - (i) Module 1. Theoretical and conceptual background to the human rights of older persons. Definitions of ageing and old age. Universal and specific human rights in the context of ageing. Factors that limit the formal and real equality of older persons. Tensions and controversies in the international discussion of the rights of older persons. Considerations in defining "older persons".
 - (ii) Module 2. The rights of older persons in the international context. The human rights instruments of the United Nations: treaties and oversight bodies, special procedures of the Human Rights Council, General Assembly resolutions and international action plans on ageing. Other universal international standards. Inter-American human rights standards. Significant steps taken recently to protect the rights of older persons: the working groups of the United Nations and OAS, the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons and initiatives in Africa and Europe.
 - (iii) Module 3. Regional and national regulations and policies on older persons. Regional policies: Regional Intergovernmental Conferences on Ageing in Latin America and the Caribbean. National regulations and policies: constitutional protection and specific legislation on the rights of older persons. Institutional (political and jurisdictional) and citizen guarantees to enforce the rights of older persons.

¹⁰ See [online] <http://www.cepal.org/portofspain/noticias/bolnoticias/9/54989/UNECLACFocusMagAprJun2015FinalUpdated.pdf>.

¹¹ See [online] http://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/37523/S1421014_es.pdf.

¹² See [online] http://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/35929/LCW566_es.pdf.

- (iv) Module 4: The value ensuring high-level protection of the rights of older persons. The need for greater international protection. Options for enhancing the protection of older persons' rights. Similarities and differences between the processes of recognizing the rights of persons with disabilities and older persons. Topics of particular interest with respect to human rights in this social group: dignity, autonomy, mistreatment as a violation of rights, awareness-raising, comprehensive care and special protection measures for specific groups.
- *Participación laboral femenina y bono de género en América Latina*, Project document (LC/W.570): this study presents an overview of trends in female labour participation in Latin America and, on this basis, puts forward concepts and methodologies for analysing the gender dividend —understood as the potential economic benefit that can be obtained by increasing female participation in productive activities— and quantifying its economic impact in the region.¹³

Lastly, as part of the ECLAC programme of work on this topic, issue No. 11 of the *Boletín Envejecimiento y Desarrollo* was published in November 2013¹⁴ and No. 12 in December 2014.¹⁵

D. TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

As one of the main instruments employed by ECLAC to implement its biennial programme of work, technical cooperation both complements and reinforces the Commission's analytical and normative work. Thanks to technical cooperation, the fruits of these labours can be translated into operational actions, thus contributing inputs and recommendations for the design and implementation of economic, social and environmental public policies, with an integrated approach to development in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.¹⁶

Technical cooperation activities are a key part of the Commission's work on the rights of older persons. In particular during this reporting period, support was provided to the Social Development Secretariat of the Mexico City government in two areas: access to social credit for non-contributory pension recipients and care. In both cases, ECLAC helped lay the conceptual, empirical and methodological foundations on these topics and gave recommendations on the design and implementation of programmes.

ECLAC prepared a document entitled *Acceso al crédito de las personas mayores, Pensión Alimentaria y derechos conexos en la Ciudad de México*, which acted as a foundation for the design of a programme to give social pension beneficiaries access to credit. This low-cost loan initiative backed by the Mexico City government aims to facilitate older persons' access to financial services.

With respect to care, the Social Development Secretariat and ECLAC jointly designed a survey on the care of social pension beneficiaries in Mexico City in late 2014, which was completed by 23,699 older persons in the first quarter of 2015. Its results were compiled in a document entitled *Necesidades de cuidado de las personas mayores en la Ciudad de México: diagnóstico y lineamientos de política*, which also sets out basic guidelines for drafting the operating rules for a new social programme.

¹³ See [online] http://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/35897/S20131095_es.pdf.

¹⁴ See [online] http://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/36679/BoletinEnvejecimiento11_es.pdf?sequence=1.

¹⁵ See [online] http://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/11362/37586/4/BoletinEnvejecimiento12_es.pdf.

¹⁶ See [online] <http://www.cepal.org/es/cooperacion-tecnica>.

The Commission's cooperation with the Social Development Secretariat includes ongoing coordination with staff, resulting in a mutually beneficial relationship in which the local team strengthens its technical capacities thanks to the knowledge provided by ECLAC and ECLAC learns from the Social Development Secretariat's experience.

Another ongoing cooperation activity is the work with the National Pension Board for Teachers (JUPEMA) of Costa Rica. In this case, ECLAC provides advice to build older persons' capacity for making proposals and taking action in defence of their human rights. This has led to awareness-raising campaigns, the submission of proposals to parliament and the expansion of the Board's participation in initiatives on the rights of older persons at the international level, among other achievements.

Table 1 details the main cooperation activities performed in the region between July 2013 and July 2015.

Table 1
Technical cooperation activities carried out by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, July 2013 to July 2015^a

| Country | Institution | Technical support activity |
|-------------------|---|--|
| Argentina | National Institute of Social Services for Retirees and Pensioners (INSSJP)-PAMI | One-day conference on the challenges and opportunities associated with ageing, 18 November 2015. |
| | National Directorate of Policies for Older Adults (DINAPAM) | Presentation at the second Latin American Congress on Community Gerontology, 15-16 November 2013. |
| Chile | National Service for Older Adults (SENAMA) | Article on the mistreatment of older persons, examining policy concepts, standards and experiences at the international level as a contribution to the book <i>Maltrato a las personas mayores en Chile: haciendo visible lo invisible</i> , 2013. |
| | Coordinating Committee for the Rights of Older Persons | Presentation at the second National Assembly for the Human Rights of Older Persons, 10 December 2013. |
| Costa Rica | National Pension Board for Teachers (JUPEMA) | Substantive support for activities related to the awareness-raising of the human rights of older persons. Activity is ongoing to date. |
| Cuba | Government of Cuba and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) | Presentation via video link at the Workshop on Public Policies on Care: Exchanging Regional Experiences. Havana, 3-4 December 2014. |
| Mexico | Social Development Secretariat of the Mexico City government | Technical support in designing a credit programme for social pension beneficiaries. |
| | | Technical support in the design and analysis of the survey on the care of social pension beneficiaries in Mexico City (23,699 respondents). |
| | Federal District Human Rights Commission | Substantive support provided to the Work Unit on the Care Economy of the Mexico City government. Article on the international protection of the rights of older persons, examining progress, limitations and opportunities in the current context, as a contribution to <i>Dfensor</i> magazine, No. 12, December 2013. |

Table 1 (concluded)

| Country | Institution | Technical support activity |
|---------------|---|---|
| | National Autonomous University of Mexico | Article on ageing from the perspective of public policies and social rights as a contribution to the book <i>Salud y envejecimiento: situación actual, retos y propuestas</i> . |
| Panama | Policies Department of the Ministry of Social Development | Technical support in preparing the draft national plan of action for older persons and the draft bill on social protection for older persons. |
| Peru | Department of Policies and Strategies of the Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion | Presentation at the international seminar on exchanging experiences on social protection policies to promote the autonomy of older adults, 30 June 2015. |

Source: Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

^a This table does not include the training activities and events already mentioned above.

IV. FINDINGS AND OUTLOOK

ECLAC has had a productive biennium with regard to the activities that it has carried out, through CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC, in respect of ageing, social protection and socioeconomic challenges. A clear impact has been made at the national and regional levels. Action taken at the national level included support for institutional change in Argentina, the empowerment of older persons in Costa Rica and the creation of programmes that directly benefit older persons in Mexico City.

At the regional level, the Commission's work has raised the profile of important issues in respect of older persons' well-being and public policy formulation. It has achieved recognition of care for older persons as a human rights issue and the need to study the impact of population's changing age structure on development.

The adoption of the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons opens up new avenues for work and inter-institutional cooperation, lends weight to the work being carried out by ECLAC in this area and facilitates the drafting of new proposals for activities based on a standardized definition of the rights of older persons.

In 2017, ECLAC will organize the Fourth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing, at which progress towards implementing the San José Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean will be evaluated. It will undoubtedly be an opportunity to identify regional achievements in this area and define ways of complementing the follow-up efforts of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the new Inter-American Convention, highlighting the contributions of these two instruments in protecting the rights and dignity of older persons.