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Fourth Regional Intergovernmental Conference
on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons
in Latin America and the Caribbean

Asunción, 27-30 June 2017

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

A. BACKGROUND

In its resolution 590(XXIX) of 2002, the Economic Commission for Latin America 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 in 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,¹ which was ratified by ECLAC in resolution 604(XXX) of 2004.

In that same year, the Commission for Social Development of the United Nations, in its resolution 42/1, decided to undertake the review and appraisal of Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing every five years.

Accordingly, the second Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing in Latin America and the Caribbean was organized jointly by ECLAC and the Government of Brazil in 2007, at which the Brasilia Declaration was adopted. In 2012, the third Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing was held in Costa Rica, where the San José Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean was adopted.²

On 8 June 2015, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 2015/5, “Modalities for the third review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002”, in which it recalled that the third review and appraisal exercise of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing would take place in 2017, and requested that the conclusions of that exercise be submitted to the Commission for Social Development at its fifty-sixth session in 2018. The resolution also requests the regional commissions to continue to facilitate the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action at the regional level, including, inter alia, by organizing regional review meetings and providing an analysis of the main findings, identifying key priority action areas and good practices, and suggesting policy responses by 2017.

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, 2004.

² The Government of Costa Rica and ECLAC held the first Follow-up Meeting on the San José Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2013. The Commission and the Government of Chile, through the National Service for Older Adults (SENAMA), organized the second Follow-up Meeting on the San José Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in 2016. Issues related to the implementation of the San José Charter were discussed at both meetings. The document, *Conclusiones y recomendaciones en relación al proceso preparatorio de la Cuarta Conferencia Regional Intergubernamental sobre Envejecimiento y Derechos de las Personas Mayores en América Latina y el Caribe, Paraguay 2017* (Spanish only), was adopted at the second Meeting (see [online] http://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/events/files/conclusiones_iireunion_2016.pdf).

At the regional level, at the second session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development of 2015, Paraguay undertook to host the fourth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2017, which was reaffirmed in resolutions 698(XXXVI) and 707(XXXVI) adopted at the thirty-sixth session of the Commission.

The Conference will seek to assess the progress made and the gaps in the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the San José Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean. It will also seek to identify key actions for expanding the protection of the rights of older persons in the next five years, specifically those that facilitate the development of a United Nations instrument on older persons' rights and the implementation of the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons. In addition, it will provide input for the discussions of the United Nations Open-ended Working Group on Ageing, to be held in July 2017; and it will agree the regional contribution that will be submitted to the Commission for Social Development at its fifty-sixth session, which will be held in February 2018.

B. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The fourth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean will take place in Asunción, from 27 to 30 June 2017. The opening ceremony will be attended by dignitaries from the host country and by representatives of ECLAC. On 28 June, following the meeting of heads of delegation, the Conference will resume with the adoption of the agenda and the presentation of the secretariat's report on regional implementation of the San José Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean. The rest of the day will be devoted to the presentation of status reports in that regard by country representatives and statements by representatives of civil society organizations. Thematic panel discussions will take place on 29 June. On 30 June there will be a round table, following which the meeting will conclude with the adoption of the agreements. In addition, an event organized by the host country will be held during the Conference.

C. DOCUMENTATION

To facilitate proceedings, the secretariat has prepared substantive documentation for the Conference. The main working document analyses the main trends in population ageing and information on the status of older persons in relation to their human rights. It also includes a review of the most significant progress made by the countries of Latin American and Caribbean in implementing the San José Charter on the Rights of Older Persons, with special emphasis on issues identified in the national implementation reports.

Working document:

- Challenges to older persons' autonomy and the interdependence of their rights (LC/CRE.4/3)

Reference documents:

- San José Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Report of the third Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/L.3526)
- Ageing in the Caribbean and the human rights of older persons: Twin imperatives for action (LC/L.4130)
- Cuestionario para la elaboración de informes nacionales
- Envejecimiento e institucionalidad pública en América Latina y el Caribe: conceptos, metodologías y casos prácticos (LC/L.4175)
- Conclusiones y recomendaciones en relación al proceso preparatorio de la Cuarta Conferencia Regional Intergubernamental sobre Envejecimiento en América Latina y el Caribe
- Caribbean synthesis report on the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the San José Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean

All of the documents will be available at the Conference website: <http://conferenciaenvejecimiento.cepal.org/4/en>.

D. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Report by the secretariat on the implementation of the San José Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean.
4. Statements by the countries.
5. Dialogue with civil society on the implementation of the San José Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean.
6. Thematic panel discussions on ageing and the rights of older persons in Latin America and the Caribbean.
7. Round table “Contribution of institutions for older persons to the protection of human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.
8. Consideration and adoption of agreements.
9. Other matters.

E. ANNOTATIONS TO THE 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 28 June 2017.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The delegates will have before them the provisional agenda of the Conference (LC/CRE.4/1/Rev.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 implementation of the San José Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean

The secretariat will present a regional overview of the main issues on the ageing agenda covering the past five years, as well as other emerging issues. The data will be drawn from information compiled during the previous period by ECLAC, as well as from reports that member States of the Commission have presented in response to the survey for the preparation of national reports. The document places particular emphasis on gaps in the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action.

The conclusions of the Caribbean subregional preparatory meeting for the fourth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Port of Spain on 1 and 2 June 2017, will also be presented.

4. Statements by the countries

Representatives of member States will be invited to report on the most important activities undertaken to extend the protection of older persons' rights; the progress achieved in adopting policies for older persons within the framework of the application of the San José Charter; 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.

5. Dialogue with civil society on the implementation of the San José Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean

The session will begin with a brief presentation by the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons on the importance of civil society participation in international processes aimed at enhancing the protection of older persons' human rights.

A limited number of civil society organizations will then have the opportunity to make oral statements, giving preference to those organizations with consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, time constraints permitting. Preference will also be given to organizations speaking on behalf of older persons' groups.

Oral statements should not exceed three minutes (i.e. about two double-spaced pages using a 12 pt. font size). Organizations that wish to give oral statements must register with the secretariat of the Commission before 28 June 2017.

6. Thematic panel discussions on ageing and the rights of older persons in Latin America and the Caribbean

In order to analyse certain priority topics on the regional agenda in depth, four plenary sessions will be held. 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 delegations 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: the value and importance of the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons; older persons' autonomy and independence in old age; the multiple forms of discrimination that affect older persons and their economic, social and political inclusion; and the care needs of older persons in the context of solidarity and interdependence.

7. Round table "Contribution of institutions for older persons to the protection of human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"

In order to carefully analyse future challenges to implementing and following up the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a round table has been organized, in which national authorities and international experts will participate. They will discuss the invaluable contribution that older men and women can make to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development if adequate safeguards are put in place, and the role of national institutions in advancing the protection and exercise of older persons' human rights.

8. Consideration and adoption of agreements

The agreements of the Conference will be submitted to the delegations for consideration.

9. Other matters

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