



Fifth Regional
Intergovernmental Conference
on **Ageing and the Rights
of Older Persons**
in Latin America and the Caribbean
Santiago, 13–15 December 2022

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ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA



A. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The Political Declaration and Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002¹ were adopted at the Second World Assembly on Ageing, held in Madrid in 2002. The goals and objectives of the Plan were established and conceived with a view to building “a society for all ages”, and therefore, 20 years after its adoption, it remains an instrument that provides a transformative vision of ageing from the perspective of international policy, along with guidelines for the design and implementation of national policies and, above all, constitutes a major contribution to the construction of the international framework for the protection of the human rights of older persons.

In 2003, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), in fulfilment of the mandate of the Second World Assembly on Ageing and in conjunction with the Inter-Agency Group on Ageing, convened the Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing in Santiago, at which the Regional Strategy for the Implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing² was adopted.

The Regional Strategy set out to define the priorities for the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, and established the following guidelines: active ageing; the central role of older persons in the achievement of their economic well-being; recognition of the heterogeneity of older persons as a group, determined by factors such as age, gender, socioeconomic level, ethnicity, migration or displacement status and place of residence, among others; the adoption of the life-cycle approach and long-term vision; intergenerational solidarity and the incorporation of ageing into the agenda for comprehensive development and into public policies. On the basis of this instrument, the countries set out to define specific goals adapted to their own realities in order to monitor progress.

In resolution 616(XXXI) of 2006, ECLAC member States asked the secretariat to organize a regional intergovernmental conference to review and assess the progress made by the countries of the region in the application of the Regional Strategy for the Implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing. This was done with the support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in 2007 in Brasilia.

The second Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing in Latin America and the Caribbean resulted in the Brasilia Declaration, in which the countries reaffirmed their commitment to spare no effort to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of older persons, work to eradicate discrimination and violence, and create networks for the protection of older persons with a view to the effective exercise of their rights. In addition, as part of the Declaration, the country representatives pledged to consult with their governments to promote the drafting of a convention on the rights of older persons within the framework of the United Nations.³

In 2012, the third Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing in Latin America and the Caribbean was held in San José. It resulted in the adoption of the Charter of San José on the Rights of Older Persons,⁴ which is a commitment by the States of the region to strengthen actions designed to increase the protection of the human rights of older persons at the national level and to improve social protection systems so that they meet their needs.

¹ A/CONF.197/3/Add.2, 3 and 5, and A/CONF.197/MC/L.1/Add. 2, 3, 5 and 8.

² LC/G.2228.

³ LC/G.2359.

⁴ LC/G.2537.

Another important precedent at the regional level is the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, adopted in 2013 within the framework of the first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. Chapter C of the Montevideo Consensus focuses on ageing, social protection and socioeconomic challenges.

In 2015, the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons was signed within the framework of the forty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS). This agreement is the first binding international instrument specifically addressing the human rights of older persons, and incorporates in its articles the right to non-discrimination and other rights that are the result of social struggles to shed light on diversity and encourage the inclusion of all older persons. It thus enables progress in the building of more just societies for people of all ages.

That same year, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. ECLAC is fully committed to the 2030 Agenda and has emphasized for the Latin American and Caribbean region: (i) the centrality of equality; (ii) balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development; (iii) building capabilities through good-quality education; (iv) universal protection and the care economy; (v) the creation of employment with rights; (vi) the provision of better public goods and access to information and (vii) citizen participation.

In 2017, the fourth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Asunción, to continue following up on the commitments made by the countries. In the Asunción Declaration: “Building inclusive societies: ageing with dignity and rights”⁵ adopted there, the countries emphasize the diverse contributions of older persons to the functioning of societies and recognize that obstacles remain in the regional context that undermine their participation in political, social, economic and cultural life. They also urge governments to build the issue of ageing into policies in a cross-cutting manner and to implement specific policies for older persons that recognize gender inequalities, bearing in mind that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development represents a historical opportunity. The Declaration underscores the progress and challenges relating to older persons achieving autonomy and independence, and the need to combat age discrimination along with other forms of discrimination that occur simultaneously, to provide care services for older persons and to implement policies that promote intergenerational solidarity. It also emphasizes the importance of the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons and of advancing in its ratification.

Lastly, pursuant to resolution 743(XXXVIII), adopted at the thirty-eighth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), held in October 2020, and resolution 4(IV) of the fourth session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in June 2022, the fifth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean will be held in hybrid format (in-person and virtual) at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, from 13–15 December 2022. The session will serve as the framework for the fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, which at the global level will take place in 2023 within the framework of the sixty-first session of the United Nations Commission for Social Development.

1. Place and date

The fifth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean will be held at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago from 13–15 December 2022.

⁵ See *Report of the fourth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean* (LC/CRE.4/4).

2. Objectives

The objectives of the meeting include identifying the region's achievements and challenges in the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, and in building a dignified future for ageing and older persons in Latin America and the Caribbean. A regional report on the implementation of the International Plan of Action will also be presented.

3. Organization of work

On Tuesday, 13 December, the election of the presiding officers and adoption of the meeting agenda will be followed by the presentation of the document *Ageing in Latin America and the Caribbean: inclusion and rights of older persons*, which is the report of Latin America and the Caribbean for the fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, prepared by the secretariat with the support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The presentation will be followed by a discussion and exchange of views on the document. Next, the reports on activities carried out in the period 2017–2022 will be presented by the outgoing Chair of the Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean and the technical secretariat of the Conference.

On Wednesday, 14 December, the session will begin with statements by high-level government authorities relating to the presentation of national reports on the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing. This will be followed by a dialogue with civil society organizations on the implementation of the International Plan of Action in Latin America and the Caribbean. Next, during the afternoon session, the first thematic panel discussion on “Older persons and development: protecting their rights and creating conditions that encourage their full inclusion in society”, will be held.

On Thursday, 15 December, the session will begin with the second thematic panel on “Advancing health and well-being into old age: comprehensive health services and quality of life in old age”. The afternoon session will include the third panel discussion on “Ensuring enabling and supportive environments: physical, social and cultural environments that enhance the exercise of rights”. The meeting will conclude with the consideration and adoption of the agreements of the Conference.

B. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Presentation of the document *Ageing in Latin America and the Caribbean: inclusion and rights of older persons*.
4. Reports on activities carried out in the period 2017–2022.
5. Presentation of national reports on the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.
6. Statements of civil society organizations on the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in Latin America and the Caribbean.

7. Progress and challenges in meeting the goals of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in the region.
8. Other matters.
9. Consideration and adoption of agreements.

C. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers

During the preparatory meeting for the fifth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, held virtually on 18 November 2021, the countries accepted the offer of the Government of Chile to host the fifth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean.

At the beginning of the meeting, the Conference shall elect a Chair and two or more Vice-Chairs. It is customary for the intergovernmental meetings of ECLAC to be chaired by the head of the delegation of the host country.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The delegations will have before them the provisional agenda for consideration and adoption.⁶ Member countries may make such observations or suggest such amendments as they deem appropriate under the rules of procedure of ECLAC.

3. Presentation of the document *Ageing in Latin America and the Caribbean: inclusion and rights of older persons*

Under this agenda item, the secretariat will present the document *Ageing in Latin America and the Caribbean: inclusion and rights of older persons*, which is the report of Latin America and the Caribbean for the fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (2002), prepared on the basis of the national reports of 18 countries in the region. The document presents the achievements and challenges in the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and examines the regional experience 20 years after its adoption, focusing on emerging issues and new challenges in Latin America and the Caribbean. It also provides a current overview of population ageing in Latin America and the Caribbean and of the protection of the human rights of older persons in the region, highlighting the progress made on the institutional front and the challenges faced as a result of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. Moreover, it examines the interlinkages between older persons and development, focusing on issues such as progress in economic participation in the labour market and access to education throughout their lifetime, as well as the promotion of health and well-being in old age, with emphasis on the protection of the right to well-being in old age. The report also addresses the creation of an enabling environment for older persons, focusing on progress in building supportive physical, social and cultural environments, the promotion of cultural change and prevention of discrimination and violence against older persons, as well as good practices in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Lastly, it addresses the issue of care, understood as a dynamic and heterogeneous process that is experienced throughout a person's lifetime and that allows them to live well and make use of their capabilities and skills, with a view to promoting comprehensive care systems that ensure co-responsibility between the State and society and between women and men, which are indispensable for moving towards a care society.

⁶ LC/CRE.5/1.

Working document

- Ageing in Latin America and the Caribbean: inclusion and rights of older persons (LC/CRE.5/3)

4. Reports on activities carried out in the period 2017–2022

The outgoing Chair of the Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean will report on the activities carried out since the fourth Regional Intergovernmental Conference, including preparatory activities for the fifth Regional Intergovernmental Conference. Next, the technical secretariat of the Conference will report on the activities carried out during the past five years in relation to ageing and the rights of older persons. The report will address the work in support of the Chair relating to the activities carried out within the framework of the Conference, among other topics.

5. Presentation of national reports on the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing

Under this agenda item, governments will have the opportunity to highlight the most important activities carried out to improve the protection of the rights of older persons, and the progress made in terms of policies in favour of older persons within the framework of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing. The presentation of this progress will make it possible to showcase experiences that help to address similar problems, best practices and replicable solutions.

6. Statements of civil society organizations on the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in Latin America and the Caribbean

By virtue of the United Nations recommendation to encourage greater participation of older persons and their organizations in discussion and decision-making forums, this agenda item involves a dialogue of representatives of regional civil society organizations in which the achievements and challenges relating to ageing and the rights of older persons are presented based on their own perspective and political and social experience.

7. Progress and challenges in meeting the goals of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in the region

The Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing sets out three priority areas for achieving its objectives: (i) older persons and development, (ii) advancing health and well-being into old age and (iii) ensuring enabling and supportive environments. The goals set forth in the Regional Strategy for the Implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing are directly related to these priority areas.

Within this framework, three thematic panels will be organized to address this agenda item, the main focus of which will be the document *Ageing in Latin America and the Caribbean: inclusion and rights of older persons*. Based on the outcomes discussed in this document, the panels will analyse the achievements of the region and the challenges it faces for the full implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in each of its three priority areas. The first panel will focus on “Older persons and development: protecting their rights and creating conditions that encourage their full inclusion in society”. The second will focus on “Advancing health and well-being into old age: comprehensive health services and quality of life in old age”. And the third will address the theme of “Ensuring enabling and supportive environments: physical, social and cultural environments that enhance the exercise of rights”.

The panels will comprise speakers from government, civil society, international organizations and the academic sector. At the end of each panel, delegations will have the opportunity to ask questions and make comments.

8. Other matters

Under this agenda item, the delegations may raise any other matters they wish to examine.

9. Consideration and adoption of agreements

Under this agenda item, delegations will have before them the agreements of the Conference for consideration and adoption.