



**EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF THE  
CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE (CDCC)**  
*30 March – 1 April 2000*  
*Chaguaramas Convention Centre, Trinidad and Tobago*

---

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN  
Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE

GENERAL  
CDCC 18/INT.3  
13 March 2000  
ORIGINAL ENGLISH

**REPORT ON THE OLDER PERSONS**

## **REPORT ON THE OLDER PERSONS**

In keeping with the General Assembly resolution 50/141 which declared the year 1999 as the International Year of Older Persons, with the theme "Towards a society for all ages", the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean/Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (ECLAC/CDCC) secretariat convened a meeting on 3 September 1999, in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. The expert group meeting on the Status of Older Persons in the Caribbean, formed part of a two-day meeting convened to review the Plan of Action of the World Summit for Social Development (WSSD).

The meeting examined the critical issues affecting the aged in regard to income security, personal planning, access to quality health care, care and care giving, productive ageing, safety and intergenerational relationships.

Seventy-two persons from 14 CDCC member and associate member countries were in attendance together with representatives from regional United Nations agencies, intergovernmental organizations and representatives from civil society and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Five expert papers were presented on the following topics:

- (1) The Economic Impact of Older persons on the Society.
- (2) Financing the Needs of the Elderly.
- (3) The well being of older persons- what is the necessary policy response.
- (4) Information Technology and older persons.
- (5) Infrastructure in the Caribbean – Are we ready for the ageing population.

A background document prepared by ECLAC/CDCC on the Phenomenon of Ageing and the Situation of Older Persons in the Caribbean was also tabled for discussion.

Arising out of the deliberations a number of recommendations were made. Significant among them were the following:

- (a) That greater autonomy of National Insurance Systems needs to be considered;

(b) That regional governments need to consider the development of a clear employment generation policy to achieve the level of development and equity which is desired in the Caribbean, which can both meet the needs for employment of youth and the elderly;

(c) That the development of relevant policies to support the inevitable ageing of Caribbean populations should be given priority attention;

(d) That support should be given for the promotion of the notion of economically active ageing;

(e) That research should be conducted which could lead to clearly defined policies regarding an integrated approach between the formal and informal systems/methods of providing for the older person;

(f) That development, through training, of a cadre of personnel in the region who are able to deal with the ageing population issues was necessary;

(g) That there was a need for legal reform to protect the inheritance rights of women and children and reduce the impoverishment of older women;

(h) That development of policies which aim at bridging the gap between the generations should be undertaken; and

(i) That the establishment of a Caribbean Institute for Ageing that could incorporate, inter alia, the study of income security and pension systems should be considered.

The meeting concluded by endorsing the Draft Caribbean Charter on Health and Ageing and mandated the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat to develop guidelines for a Policy on Ageing and Older Persons for the Caribbean, taking into account the deliberations of the meeting.