USEFUL RESOURCES

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CONTACT US:

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND STATISTICS UNIT: email: social-pos@eclac.org

> MEDIA tel: +1.868.224.8075 email: media-pos@eclac.org





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> ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, 1 Chancery Lane, P.O. Box 1113, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, West Indies

> > Telephone: +1.868.224.8000 Facsimile: +1.868.623.8485 E-mail: registry@eclacpos.org



SUBREGIONAL **HEADQUARTERS** UNITED NATIONS FOR THE ECLAC CARIBBEAN

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A Caribbean fit for older persons: protecting all our futures

WHAT ARE THE TAKE-HOME MESSAGES?

- Population ageing is taking place now and the change will be rapid.
- Public policies and programmes for older persons are not adequate to meet the needs of the current generation of older persons let alone future generations.
- Older persons' contribution to economic, social and family life is both under-appreciated and an untapped resource.
- Older persons are rights holders and greater recognition of these rights is in all our interests.



WHAT IS ECLAC DOING?

ECLAC is putting the increasingly urgent issue of population ageing squarely on the agenda of Caribbean governments, promoting the rights of older persons, and calling for the strengthening of policies and programmes for this age group.

In addition, ECLAC is raising public awareness on issues related to population ageing, the positive contribution of older persons to society, and steps that can be taken to create a Caribbean fit for older persons



WHY IS AGEING AN ISSUE?

The Caribbean* will see a dramatic change in the makeup of its population over the coming decades. Between 2015 and 2035, the number of persons aged 60 and over will increase from 1.1 million (13% of the population) to 2 million (22%). This rapid and imminent ageing of the population has major implications for public policy in areas such as pensions, health and social care. The impacts will also be felt in the workplace, community and family life.

* Here the Caribbean refers to Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Curaçao, Dominica; Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guyana, Jamaica, Martinique, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sint Maarten, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands.

