AGEING AND DEVELOPMENT IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
Towards a society for all ages and rights-based social protection

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Executive Secretary
ECLAC
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1. Rapid and uneven population ageing in Latin America and the Caribbean
The proportion of older people vary considerably in different regions of the world.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Percentage of Population Aged 60 and Over, 2007</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EUROPE</td>
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<td>NORTHERN AMERICA</td>
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<td>OCEANIA</td>
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<td>LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN</td>
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<td>ASIA</td>
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<td>AFRICA</td>
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<td>WORLD</td>
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The population is ageing rapidly in Latin America and the Caribbean

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION AGED 60 AND OVER. 1950-2050

Source: Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) - Population Division of ECLAC, population estimates and projections [online] www.eclac.cl/celade_proyecciones/basedatos_BD.htm.
The region’s countries are at different stages of population ageing.


Source: Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) - Population Division of ECLAC, population estimates and projections [online] www.eclac.cl/celade_proyecciones/basedatos_BD.htm.
2. Demographic bonus: opportunities, limitations and proposals
From 2025, the dependency ratio will begin to increase. From 2040, there will be more older persons than children under the age of 15.

**DEPENDENCY RATIO: TOTAL, CHILDREN AND OLDER PERSONS, 1950-2100**

- **Dependency ratio for those aged 60+**
- **Dependency ratio for children under the age of 15**
- **Total dependency ratio**

**Source:** Prepared by the author and Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) - Population Division of ECLAC, *Observatorio demográfico: proyección de población*, No. 3; population estimates and projections [online] www.eclac.cl/celade_proyecciones/basedatos_BD.htm.
In summary,

In the coming decades, demographic changes will continue.

There is time to implement the reforms needed to tackle population ageing.

Any delay in reforms will cause population ageing to put considerable pressure on social protection systems.

The aim of reform is to ensure that the increase in the number of older adults does not result in social and economic tensions that may affect social cohesion.
To take advantage of the demographic bonus, countries must face up to region’s current limitations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Labour markets</th>
<th>Health systems</th>
<th>Pension systems</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Labour markets are not a universal and dynamic means of accessing social protection systems</td>
<td>• Epidemiological backlog</td>
<td>• Low coverage of contributive and non-contributive pensions</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Inequitable access (risk and income)</td>
<td>• Regressive effect amidst low public investment</td>
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<td>• Dissociated funding and service provision</td>
<td>• Financial insolvency and segmentation</td>
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</table>

To overcome these limitations, ECLAC has proposed a reform agenda to strengthen social protection systems

REFORM AGENDA FOR A NEW SOCIAL PROTECTION COVENANT

Labour markets
- Improve economic performance in terms of growth rate and stability
- Facilitate formal employment
- Promote policies that reconcile labour flexibility with social protection

Health systems
- Create solidarity mechanisms to provide equitable access to health services irrespective of people's levels of income and risk
- Reduce costs and improve the efficiency of resource allocation in response to demographic, epidemiological and technological changes

Pension systems
- Strengthen non-contributive pension systems
- Improve the solidarity of the contributive system using a model that integrates both systems, maintains contribution incentives and guarantees financial solidarity

Source: Prepared by the author on the basis of Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Shaping the Future of Social Protection: Access, Financing and Solidarity (LC/G.2294(SES.31/3)/E), Santiago, Chile, March, 2006.
3. Madrid+5: follow-up and future priorities of the Regional Strategy for its implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean
Regional follow-up of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing: main areas of work developed by ECLAC

Source: Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) - Population Division of ECLAC.
Brasilia Declaration, 2007: main recommendations for action

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic security</th>
<th>Health</th>
<th>Environments</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Increased coverage of social security systems (contributory and non-contributory)</td>
<td>• Care of disabled older persons</td>
<td>• Promotion of lifelong learning</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Access to decent employment in old age</td>
<td>• Equitable access to health services</td>
<td>• Accessibility of public areas and adaptation of housing</td>
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<td>• Supervision of long-stay facilities</td>
<td>• Elimination of discrimination and violence in old age</td>
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<td>• Creation of palliative care services</td>
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Brasilia Declaration, 2007: emphasis for implementation and follow-up

BRASILIA DECLARATION: MAIN AREAS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND FOLLOW-UP

- Strengthening technical skills
- Implementation support (participation and gender)
- Research into ageing and development
- Creation of mechanisms to protect human rights (a convention of the rights of older persons within the framework of the United Nations and a Special Rapporteur responsible for the promotion and protection of the human rights of older persons)
- International follow-up (MDGs and world conferences)
- International cooperation
Contribution of ECLAC to supplement national actions in the area of ageing and development

- We will support the design and implementation of relevant public policies, placing emphasis on mainstreaming the gender perspective and citizenship-building in actions geared towards older persons.
- We will produce inputs in support of decision-making processes: systems of indicators and research into issues relevant to the region.
- We will create forums for the exchange of best practices and will provide the opportunity for technical skills to be strengthened (information, impact, etc.).

As requested of ECLAC in the Brasilia Declaration:

*We will intensify our activities in the area of ageing and development in order to foster and strengthen efforts by the countries of the region to adapt their policies to demographic change.*