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Preparatory meeting for the Fifth Regional Intergovernmental
Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons
in Latin America and the Caribbean

Virtual meeting, 18 November 2021
11 a.m.– 2 p.m. (Santiago time, GMT-3)

CONCEPT NOTE

1. Background

Increased life expectancy is one of mankind's greatest achievements. The population ageing that accompanies this is one of the most significant trends in the world. In Latin America and the Caribbean, albeit with differences between countries, these demographic changes are reshaping economies and societies and creating challenges for public policy and development, as well as for the effective enjoyment of human rights, especially by older persons.

In 2002, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), in resolution 590(XXIX), taking into account the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing—which states that the regional commissions have responsibility for translating the Plan into their regional action plans and should also assist, upon request, national institutions in implementation and monitoring of their actions on ageing—requested organization of a regional intergovernmental conference on ageing, for the purpose of formulating a regional strategy for the implementation of the Plan. Every five years since then, ECLAC has worked with the governments of the region to review progress and challenges relating to implementation and fulfilment of the Plan. The Commission has therefore monitored both the ageing process in the countries of the region and public policies relating to older persons, paying special attention to the rights-based approach and participation of older persons through civil society organizations.

The follow-up meetings to the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, held in Santiago (2003), Brasilia (2007), San José (2012) and Asunción (2017), with the participation of governments and civil society organizations, were politically important events for the consolidation of older persons' rights. The next milestones in this process will be the Fifth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, in 2022, and the fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, in 2023.

Preparations for these events began in 2021. The first step was presentation to the countries of the region of the *Guide for the preparation of country reports on the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002*.¹ In addition, with a view to preparing a regional report, the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC, in its

¹ LC/RPE.2021/3.

capacity as technical secretariat of the Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, is supporting the governments of the region in the preparation of their national reports, which cover the three priority areas set out in the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing: (i) older persons and development; (ii) advancing health and well-being into old age; and (iii) ensuring enabling and supportive environments. The goals of the Regional Strategy for the Implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing are aligned with these three areas. The regional report will also take into account follow-up to the Brasilia Declaration (2007), the San José Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean (2012), the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons (2015) and the Asunción Declaration (2017).

Preparation of the regional report also provides an opportunity to assess progress on implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development (2013), agreed at the first session of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, in particular chapter C on ageing, social protection and socioeconomic challenges.

According to the in the fourth report on regional progress and challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean,² the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has sharpened adverse trends in growth, investment, employment, inequality and environmental sustainability in the region and has had a catastrophic impact on older people.

Hence, the national reports are also intended to be a space for reflection and sharing of experiences and challenges relating to implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and one in which new perspectives can be raised, in the framework of the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021–2030), which is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals and conceived as a unique opportunity to improve the lives of older persons, their families and their communities.

In addition to being key to formulation of the regional report, the preparation of the national reports is also an opportunity to review the progress made by governments, their cross-sectoral strategies, and ways of including older people's organizations. The preparatory meeting will be a chance to raise awareness of challenges at the national level, but also those at the regional level, in the framework of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.

Another milestone in the regional review and appraisal process will be the Fifth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in 2022, at which each of the countries will report on population ageing and progress and challenges relating to the human rights of older persons. The Conference and its preparatory meeting are an opportunity to take stock of achievements since 2017 and the challenges that remain for the next five years, and to mainstream the human rights, gender and intercultural approaches. In addition, there will be analysis of government responses to the crisis caused by the pandemic, which is affecting older people in the region more acutely.

In this context, the preparatory meeting's goals include making a preliminary proposal for content for preparation of the regional report and other emerging issues resulting from the health crisis that should be addressed owing to their impact on older people.

The preparatory meeting is also intended as an opportunity to report on progress and experiences in the process of preparing national reports on the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of

² Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), *Building forward better: action to strengthen the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (LC/FDS.4/3/Rev.1), Santiago, 2021.

Action and the commitments made in the framework of the Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean. In this regard, the technical secretariat will give a brief account of the support and technical assistance provided to the countries of the region for the preparation of their respective reports, while governments will have the opportunity to give a brief voluntary presentation on their progress and experiences in this process (maximum six minutes).

Civil society organizations and the academic sector will also participate in the event and will have a space to talk about matters such as their contribution to the drafting of national reports.

Lastly, there will be a discussion regarding organization of the Fifth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in 2022, including selection of the venue.

2. Preliminary programme

18 November 2021

11 a.m.– 2 p.m. (Santiago time, GMT-3)

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| 11–11.15 a.m. | <p>Opening session</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Luis Yáñez, Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raúl García-Buchaca, Executive Secretary for Management and Programme Analysis of ECLAC • Florbela Fernandes, Deputy Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) • Víctor Hernán Martínez, Deputy Minister for Comprehensive Health Care of Paraguay, in his capacity as Chair of the Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean |
| 11.15–11.30 a.m. | <p>Report of the technical secretariat of the Conference on the support and technical assistance provided to countries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simone Cecchini, Chief of the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC |
| 11.30 a.m.–1 p.m. | <p>Progress and experiences in preparation of country reports</p> <p>Statements by delegations</p> |
| 1–1.10 p.m. | <p>Recess</p> |
| 1.10–1.30 p.m. | <p>Preliminary proposal for the content of the regional report on the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zulma Sosa, Regional Adviser on Population and Development of CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC |
| 1.30–1.45 p.m. | <p>The contribution of civil society and the academia to review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the regional instruments on ageing and human rights</p> <p>Statements by civil society and academia</p> |
| 1.45–1.55 p.m. | <p>Selection of the venue for the Fifth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean</p> |
| 1.55–2 p.m. | <p>Close of the meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simone Cecchini, Chief of CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC |