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Caribbean preparatory meeting for the
Fourth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons
1-2 June 2017, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE CARIBBEAN PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE FOURTH REGIONAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE ON AGEING AND THE RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS

As set out in Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Resolution 2015/5, the third regional review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (2002) takes place in 2017 to be followed by a global review by the United Nations Commission for Social Development in early 2018. In line with Resolution 2015/5, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) will facilitate the review and appraisal exercise within the region.

As part of the review process, there will be a meeting for Caribbean member States which will be held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago from 1 to 2 June 2017. This will precede the Fourth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean to be held in Asuncion, Paraguay from 27 to 30 June 2017.

The Caribbean preparatory meeting will be an opportunity to focus particularly on the progress made in the subregion (and gaps) in the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action and the San Jose Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean¹. The meeting will seek to identify future priorities and policy responses and will prepare contributions to the discussions at the subsequent regional conference.

The Regional Conference will assess the status of implementation of the San José Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean. It will also seek to identify key actions for expanding the protection of the human rights of older persons, specifically those that facilitate the implementation of the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons. Furthermore, it will endeavour to prepare contributions to the discussions at the next session of the United Nations Open-ended Working Group on Ageing and to agree on the regional input that will be presented to the Commission for Social Development at its fifty-sixth session, which will take place in February 2018.

To inform the assessment, information has been collected from member States through a survey on legislation, policies and programmes for older persons and measures taken to improve protection of their human rights. The survey was sent to member States in January and is also available at http://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/events/files/survey_ageing_third_mipaa.pdf.

The Caribbean preparatory meeting is also an opportunity to assess the progress that has been made in addressing the issues discussed at the Caribbean Conference on Ageing, Elder Abuse and the Rights of Older Persons which was held in November 2015 in Roseau, Dominica.

DOCUMENTATION

Main document:

The main background document for the meeting will be a study, prepared by ECLAC, which will be based on the information provided by member States in response to the questionnaire and information collected from other sources.

Reference documents:

Also relevant is the study published by ECLAC in 2016 '[Ageing in the Caribbean and the human rights of older persons: Twin imperatives for action](#)'.

¹ ECLAC (United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean) (2012), San Jose Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/G.2537), Santiago, Chile.

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening ceremony

Introductory statements.

2. A report by ECLAC on the status of implementation of the San Jose Charter on the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean.

ECLAC will present the main background document for the meeting.

3. Statements by country representatives

Representatives of member States will be invited to report on the most important measures which have been taken to strengthen protection for the rights of older persons, including new or improved, laws, policies and programmes for older persons. The information provided in the national questionnaire responses should form the basis of these country statements. There will also be an opportunity for discussion in order to share experiences.

4. Thematic sessions on selected issues related to the rights of older persons in the Caribbean

In order to analyse certain priority topics in depth, two panel sessions will be held. The topics to be addressed in the thematic sessions are as follows:

Panel 1: Age-friendly health and social care services

The increasing number of older persons will both increase the demand for services and change the nature of that demand. There will be greater demand for treatment for conditions commonly suffered by older persons: chronic diseases as well as conditions such as memory loss and dementia. More attention must be paid to palliative care and the growing number of older persons living with HIV. These trends will demand an increasing investment in public health care services in addition to policy interventions to limit the projected increases in the prevalence of these conditions. There will be similar increases in the demand for care services such as home help, residential and nursing care and respite care. This panel will address these and other implications of population ageing for health and care services.

Panel 2: The contribution of older persons to family, community and public life

Both governments and NGOs have an important role to play in encouraging older persons to remain physically and socially active. This panel will consider how the lack of an independent income, disability, or isolation and abuse can undermine the health and wellbeing of older persons and prevent them from fully participating in their communities. It will consider how policies and laws in each of these three areas can better protect the human rights of older persons and how government, NGOs, employers and service providers can recognise, support and encourage the contribution that older persons can make to society.

5. Discussion of the conclusions of the meeting

This penultimate item on the agenda is to allow country representatives to discuss the conclusions of the meeting which will consist of recommendations to further the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action and the San Jose Charter.

6. Closing statements