

# INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON THE RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS



**Organized by the Government of Mexico City and the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) - Population Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean-ECLAC**

Mexico City, 26 to 28 March, 2012





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## **A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK**

### **1. Place and date**

The International Forum on the rights of older people was held in Mexico City from 26 to 28 March, 2012. It was organized by the Government of Mexico City, through the Institute for the Care of Older Persons in Mexico City and the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) - Population Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean-ECLAC.

### **2. Attendance**

Government and civil society representatives from 22 countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Aruba, Austria, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Spain, United States, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Nepal, Peru, Puerto Rico, UK and St. Vincent and the Grenadines) participated in the Forum and was attended by 750 participants and observers.

Also, experts attended from Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of the United Nations, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, UN Women and the Organization of American States (OAS).

## **B. AGENDA**

The meeting was organized in accordance with the following agenda:

- Opening session.
- Session 1: Equality and non-discrimination in old age.
- Session 2: Integrity and mistreatment of older persons.
- Session 3: Access to justice and priority care for older persons.
- Session 4: Adequate standard of living, social services and ageing.
- Session 5: Women, life cycle and human rights.
- Session 6: Participation of older persons in political and public life.
- Session 7: Progress and challenges for the protection of the rights of older persons.
- Closing

Furthermore, the Forum held an informal session of the Working Group on the protection of human rights of older persons of the Organization of American States (OAS) to review the draft project of the American Convention on the Protection of Human Rights of Older Persons.

## **C. PROCEEDINGS**

### **1. Opening session**

At the opening session, statements were made by Mrs. Rosa Icela Rodríguez, Director General of the Institute for the Care of Older Persons in Mexico City, Mr. Dirk Jaspers\_Faijer, Director of the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) – Population Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean-ECLAC and Marcelo Ebrard Casaubon, Head of Government for Mexico City. They were accompanied by Mrs. Rosalinda Bueso, wife of the Head of Government and the Secretary of Social Development of Government of Mexico City, the Mr. Jesús Valdés.

In the opening remarks of the Forum, support of 22 countries was emphasizes and in the presence of participants and observers from Latin America and the Caribbean, North America, Europe and Asia. The common interest to know the situation of older persons in the region and the rest of the world, identify major gaps in protection of their human rights, and examine the challenges for the implementation of the Declaration of Brasilia were highlighted. The Head of Government of Mexico City reiterated that a universal social policy to ensure equality, especially in social security, should and can be implemented. For his part, the Director of CELADE, emphasized that for the first time ever, there is a widening consensus around the need to increase the protection of the rights of older persons.

## 2. Conduct of business in plenary

### Session 1: Equality and non-discrimination in old age

The session was moderated by Margaret Colunga Cruz, head of the Geriatric Social Care Centre's Health and Ageing (Centro de Atención Social a la Salud de las y los Adultos Mayores - CASSAAM) of the Mexican Social Security Institute (IMSS).

The keynote address was given by Luis Rodríguez-Piñero, specialist human rights attorney and researcher at the University of Seville, Spain. In his presentation, an analysis was made of discrimination as a multifaceted phenomenon, which makes its eradication a complex process that involves various areas of work. He said that the fight against discrimination against older persons is based on the right to equality and non-discrimination as the fundamental principle of the modern international human rights regime. He explained that the substance of the right to equality is the prohibition of differential treatment of arbitrary character on the basis of a number of categories recognized in international laws. It is the case of age that, after various international and regional precedents, it has been recognized as a prohibited ground of discrimination. The speaker said that non-discrimination does not exclude the possibility of a treaty differentiated when justified on objective grounds. The measures of "positive action" are just some of the actions that international standards require States as a means of combating discrimination, that include - in addition to the prohibition and punishment of discrimination - the active removal of legal, institutional and social barriers, the adoption of reasonable accommodation and awareness. He concluded, stating that in international law, protection against discrimination has been the driving force for the progressive recognition of group-differentiated rights, and the same is happening with older persons. The principle of equality and non-discrimination is, therefore, justification of a specific international instrument for the rights of older persons, which must give content to the differentiated obligations of States in relation to this group.

The following is a round table attended by Javier Hernández Valencia, Representative in Mexico of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; Marcos Acle, Legal Officer and Coordinator of Technical Secretariat on Human Rights for Older Persons for the Department of Social Development and Employment of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development of the Organization of American States (OAS), and Elena Lugo del Castillo, Director of Citizen Orientation and Human Rights High Court Justice of Mexico City.

Javier Hernández Valencia, said that due to the demographic transition the issue of human rights of older persons has become visible. He acknowledged that despite the changes taking place, there is an absence of public actions aimed specifically at this population group. He said that older people suffer from multiple discrimination because of their age, gender or health condition, which has a direct impact on their human rights. He noted that only two international instruments considered the principle of equality and non-discrimination of older persons - the Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers and their Families and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Referring to the United Nations Working Group on Ageing, he said that it aims to strengthen the human rights of older persons by examining international frameworks, identify deficiencies and gaps in protection, and monitor the implementation of existing regulatory frameworks and to propose new measures to address the gaps.

Marcos Acle began his presentation by unveiling the socio-demographic overview of older persons in the Americas and its impact on the economy and areas of social protection and health. He drew attention to the vulnerability of older persons in the workplace, inequality in income and access to health, and the lack of protection from violence. He stressed that the principle of equality and non-discrimination is transversal and must be addressed as a legal, cultural and social issue, whose recognition implies a paradigm shift. He stressed that in the international human rights doctrine there is no binding instrument that specifically protects older persons, unlike the inter-American system, in which the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Protocol of San Salvador) establishes the right to special protection in old age. But he warned that the Protocol is limited in scope because of its programmatic nature and stereotypical view of old age (ageist perspective) that influenced its content. He stated that there are national laws protecting the rights of older persons in several countries in the region, but has not



prioritized its monitoring and enforcement, hence the importance of a binding mechanism in regional legal frameworks to specifically address the situation of older persons.

Elena Lugo, referred to the work of the Directorate for which she is responsible, which aims to provide effective, prompt and expeditious care to citizen complaints against public servants of the High Court of Justice of Mexico City (TSJDF) and the Judicial Council for Mexico City. It also promotes, disseminates and encourages the actions of law enforcement and protection of human rights within the TSJDF. Its functions include the dissemination of human rights, civic orientation and detection of the areas in which age discrimination may be given within the TSJDF. She presented human rights indicators, among them accessibility, and noted that 52% of older persons found that the language of the judges is accessible, while recognizing the need to work in that sector and in the adequacy of facilities. She highlighted issues such as the training of magistrates and judges, the importance of working together with other institutions and the contribution of the service modules, which have brought closer the High Court of Justice of Mexico City to the population.

## **Session 2: Integrity and mistreatment of older persons**

The moderation of the meeting was led by Rubén Fuentes Rodríguez, Director of Territorial Operations Planning for the Institute for the Care of Older Persons in Mexico City.

The keynote address was provided by Luciano Di Cesare, Executive Director for the National Institute of Social Services for Retirees and Pensioners (Instituto Nacional de Servicios Sociales para Jubilados y Pensionados-PAMI), Argentina. The speaker defined abuse as any action, series of actions or lack of appropriate action, which causes physical or psychological damage to an older person. The types of abuse identified were physical abuse, financial abuse, psychological abuse or emotional neglect, drug abuse, sexual abuse, among others; which may occur in the family, institutional or social context. The risk factors identified were the lack of social support, tolerance of violence, family stress, and limited autonomy, among several others. Subsequently, he emphasized the importance of building multidimensional societies that generate, through public policies, the economic, affective, motivational and health reserves, as well as relational social networks that act as protection factors and prevent any violence towards older persons in all contexts. Multidimensional societies, he stressed, are characterized as democratic, inclusive, and supportive, with a working model of comprehensive care.

The panel was composed of Nony Ardill, expert lawyer on issues of aging of the Commission for the United Kingdom Equality and Human Rights Commission, Tania Mora, Head of the Legal Unit of the National Service for Older Persons (Servicio Nacional del Adulto Mayor-SENAMA) of the Ministry of Social Development in Chile, and Ana Luisa Sánchez-Gavito Gamble, Coordinator of Gerontology of the Institute for the Care of Older Persons in Mexico City.

Nony Ardill described, based on the study *Close to home. An Inquiry into older people and human rights in home care*, the situation of the human rights of older dependents in the country for whom the government provides support through funding of the home care service. She said the study found among the caregivers the presence of prejudices and stereotypes about old age, financial abuse, as well as a lack of training and low wages. Meanwhile, older persons prefer to stay home and, facing the possibility of losing benefits, do not make complaints about the quality of services received. The study also found negligence on the part of care institutions not taking into account the views of older persons and lack of supervision by caregivers, who do not know their obligations to protect and promote the human rights of caregivers. He added that being private and voluntary agencies that offer the service, carers do not take their work as public servants and therefore are not held accountable for their actions. She recommended creating a culture of respect for older persons and apply human rights standards to care; improve legal protection and monitor services effectively.

Tania Mora said that abuse - as acts or omissions - is a complex problem, made invisible and perpetuated by some societies, for different reasons. She mentioned, among others, multiple discrimination, which negatively impacts the lives of older persons. She recognized the need for legal frameworks and monitoring mechanisms to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms of older persons, both at home and within institutions, and the need to understand and

specify human rights within the context of ageing. She referred also that laws must make the problem visible, educate, raise awareness and facilitate access to justice. She announced the progress that her country has made to prevent and punish mistreatment. Mainly, she focused on the scope of the Law 20.427 of abuse of older persons and the program against violence and abuse of older persons that the National Service for Older Persons (SENAMA) implements in Chile. She concluded that the comprehensive and multidisciplinary work is important as well as the financial resources to make the law work. She appreciated the contribution of civil society and of older persons themselves to advance the issue.

Ana Luisa Gamble, highlighted the work trajectory of the Government of Mexico City in its various programs, and focused on progress achieved since the early 2000, to prevent and address violence of older persons. She said the program that the Institute for the Care of Older Persons in Mexico City implements began with the knowledge of the incidence of abuse among those entitled to receive a non-contributory pension that the City Government provides. As part of the work strategy implemented, efforts were made to give a comprehensive solution to violence through inter-institutional linkages, enabling joint learning and close cooperation and coordination. She also reported that institutions and specialized programs have been created to ensure justice, whose personnel has been trained in ageing issues, human rights and non-discrimination. She said that quality care can only be achieved with multidisciplinary and interagency participation, because violence is a multifactorial problem.

### **Session 3: Access to justice and priority care for older persons**

The third session was chaired by Ruth Delgadillo Martínez, Director of Psychology for the Citizen Council of Public Safety and Law Enforcement of Mexico City.

Lupita Chaves Cervantes, Member of the High Judicial Council and Coordinator of the issue of access to justice for the older population in the Committee on Accessibility of Costa Rica, gave the keynote address. In her speech she defined the access to justice as an essential and instrumental human right. Once access to justice is made, it becomes an instrument that makes sense all other rights and institutional guarantees, she said. Access to justice, she continued, has three dimensions: access itself, the judgment well-founded in law and the resolution accomplished and executed. She explained the ways in which the right to justice for older persons is infringed, among which she mentioned the violation of due process, delaying the process, dehumanization, formalisms and inaccessible jurisdiction. She said it was necessary to move towards a paradigm shift that considers judicial management as part of a public policy and stressed the need to apply the Rules of Brasilia. Recommendations were proposed to improve judicial management, among which she mentioned the optimization of mechanisms for communication, transmission and access to information through electronic means, the creation of indicators of access to justice, the sharing of best practices in this area, the development of annual operating plans and strategic plans that include actions to lessen or reduce the causes that hinder access to justice.

The panel was composed of Luiz Roberto Salles, Advocate for Justice of Human Rights Office of the Public Prosecutor in São Paulo, Brazil, Gustavo Fallas, Legal Advisor to the National Council for Older Persons (CONAPAM) of Costa Rica, and Jesús Rodríguez Almeida, Attorney General of the Federal District.

Luiz Roberto Salles began his presentation by indicating that paradigm shift is needed regarding older persons so that they may be seen as full subjects of rights and free from all forms of discrimination. He noted that currently rules aimed

at older persons require guarantees, for which an international legally binding mechanism is needed to promote a change and/or adaptation of national legislation. He said that access to justice is a fundamental right of all human beings, which should happen in a climate of fairness, regardless of age. He affirmed that there are two factors that hinder access to justice: the physical and technical, and expanded upon his description. He ended by indicating that an ideal model of judicial services should meet the needs of all users in a reasonable time, remove architectural barriers that limit physical access, and promote access to technical defense in court proceedings.

Gustavo Fallas said that access to justice and giving priority to older persons are a human right and a positive step that should become the duty of every State. He presented the progress in the Republic of Costa Rica in relation to its accessibility policy. He announced that the judiciary in his country has an Accessibility Committee and from 2007 it has had ad-hoc subcommittees to serve vulnerable populations, including older persons. He said that prior to the implementation of the accessibility policy; older persons faced various problems among which were the lack of statistics about their needs, poor training and awareness of judicial personnel and the lack of tools to provide preferential treatment to this population. He detailed actions applied in the administrative and judicial area to overcome these difficulties and mentioned, among others, the identification and elimination of barriers, with particular emphasis placed on access to services and judicial decisions, ensuring access to justice to older persons, and establishing persons responsible for monitoring and policy enforcement.

Jesús Rodríguez Almeida, presented the judicial instruments, criminal offenses and the two areas that serve older persons in the Government of Mexico City. On legal framework, he provided knowledge of the Law on the Rights of Older Persons and the Criminal Code of Mexico City, among others. He noted that to guarantee the rights of older persons, the Attorney General of the Federal District (PGJDF) provides dignified and appropriate attention in any situation in which they are involved. Focus areas are the Specialized Agency for the Care of Older Victims of Family Violence, established in 2010 and unique in the country, and the Victimization Risk Care Center (CARIVA). He reported that staffs from both agencies have been trained in collaboration with the Institute for the Care of Older Persons in Mexico City.

#### **Session 4: Adequate standard of living, social services and ageing**

The session was moderated by Teresita Ithurburu, Head of the Unit for Strategic Development and Quality Management for the Executive Directorate of the National Institute for Retirees and Pensioners-PAMI, Argentina.

The keynote address was conducted by Rocío Barahona, Vice-President of the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, who said that international human rights instruments are applicable to all vulnerable groups like children, women, and persons with disabilities, among others. These provisions have also been created to provide protection for older persons, but do not specifically mention them. With this argument, several sectors of opinion consider unnecessary an international provision specifically for older persons. Nevertheless, she said it is of utmost importance that human rights of older people become explicit and specific in order to be translated into national standards to guide the affairs of States. Also, she explained that the bodies responsible for the oversight of treaties have made a progressive interpretation of the rights of older persons to contribute to their understanding. It is the case of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, through its General Comments: number 6 on the economic, social and cultural rights of older persons (1995), number 14 on the right to health (2000), number 19 on the right to social security (2008) and number 20 on non-discrimination and economic, social and cultural rights (2009).

Participating in the round table were Martín Hopenhayn, Director of the Social Development Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, ECLAC, José Acarón, State Director for AARP in Puerto Rico, and Rosa Icela Rodríguez Velázquez, Director General of the Institute for the Care of Older Persons in Mexico City.

Martín Hopenhayn emphasized that the region is in full demographic transition and as a result, over the coming decades there will be a change in the age composition of the population. Ageing will certainly pose an equation between the

productive and the dependent population, which require high levels of productivity to generate the resources needed to meet requirements in health and social security in the most vulnerable ages. Taking as a framework for analysis the rights perspective and the situation of older persons in the region, he stated that there has been progress, setbacks and delays in implementing policies aimed at this social group, for which an increase in the resources currently allocated is required and that these are progressive, combining contributory and non-contributory benefits. Similarly, he added, work must be done to strengthen the role of the State to exercise fully the tasks of regulation and supervision of pension resources and expand, gradually, the mechanisms of social protection.

José Acarón highlighted the measures implemented in Puerto Rico, in the area of adequate standard of living of older persons. He described joint work strategies between government and civil society to expand the provision of services. He also described in detail the various programs implemented in their country, such as the nutrition assistance program, electricity subsidies, the home care assistant program, the qualification for health services and housing. He indicated that with this range of services and benefits they seek to respond adequately to the needs of older people and provide social services and care required in the older ages.

Rosa Icela Rodríguez Velázquez made a full report on how the Mexico City has been implementing the commitments of

the Brasilia Declaration. She referred to the Non-Contributory Pension, which is universal from the age of 68, and described the process of implementation of the benefit since 2001 onwards. She stressed the free medical care and medications, home health care visits, the verification of the status of each older person and in particular to detect cases of violence or abandonment. She said the City Government has implemented programs that seek to provide an increasingly comprehensive care to older people, which now include access to identity documents, will elaboration at low cost and schools for older persons with a specialized educational program. She also stressed that to promote the mobility of people over 60 years of age, transport of the Government of Mexico City is free.

### **Session 5: Women, life cycle and human rights**

The session was moderated by Alma Navarro, Deputy Director of Training and Evaluation of the Institute for the Care of Older Persons in Mexico City.

The keynote address was made by Ferdous Ara Begum, Gender Affairs Specialist, former member and Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Working Group on General Comments of the CEDAW on the rights of older women. She said that discrimination for women lasts the entire life cycle and increases when they are older, recommending the implementation of a human rights approach to address the problems that afflict the female population at each stage of life. She stressed that for ageing with dignity, governments should develop gender-sensitive policies, ensure health through free medical care; provide economic security, promote access to employment, non-contributory pensions and dignified housing. She also highlighted that we must generate a positive image of women, promote their social participation and access to justice. In this context, she said, States must ensure the rights of women as recommended by the United Nations, among the key measures she stated the constitutional recognition of the rights of older women and the development of mechanisms for monitoring and implementation of policies in their favor. She stressed the urgency of ensuring that the problems of older women are documented in the reports that States present before the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

The roundtable involved Sonia Montaña, Chief, Division of Gender Affairs of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean – ECLAC; Aparna Mehrotra, Senior Advisor for Coordination and Focal Point for Women in United Nations System of UN Women, and María Dolores Puga, Researcher for the Spanish National Research Council.

Sonia Montaña analyzed the situation of women in relation to the feminization of poverty, lack of income, limited access to pensions and retirement and their contribution through unpaid reproductive work. She commented on the value of General Comment No. 27 on older women and human rights of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and its contribution to the momentum of the actions in their favor. She stressed the differentials that exist between men and women in the course of life, and as in old age women have a greater life expectancy, but with a more advanced deterioration in their health and functionality. She also highlighted the contribution that women make to care work and that, in older women this is reflected in the responsibility they assume in caring for their spouses and grandchildren. States, she said, should take measures to ensure access to justice and equality for older women, as well as health services, with special attention to the types of dependence to which they face. She states that older women not only require assistance policies, but also recognition of their contribution to society.

Aparna Mehrotra began by asserting that the life cycle of women is characterized by a history of inequality and discrimination, which adds to the lack of recognition of their work in different contexts, in many cases without any financial reward, which usually determines the living conditions of women in old age. She also referred to the gender discrimination that involves a marked inequality of opportunity to access health, nutrition, education and work, which increases the vulnerability of women. In this regard, she said, the interconnectedness of gender and ageing should not be ignored and the importance of reducing the gaps to ensure the rights of women of all ages. Finally, she emphasized the responsibility of States to open opportunities for women throughout their life cycle, and the protection of their human rights through legal frameworks and public policies with a gender perspective. She also called for creating information tools that allow disaggregation by sex and age in order to have a clearer understanding of the situation of older women around the world.

María Dolores Puga called attention to the marked feminization of the ageing population and the vulnerability and invisibility that affects women in later life. She said that women live a greater number of years with some difficulty that limits their mobility, receive less economic income, do not count on their own assets, and usually receive less care than their male counterparts. Their lack of income leads them to economic dependence and often lose autonomy. In this sense, she said, the conditions in which they develop their biographical stages have direct influence on the fragility of women in old age. She made special reference to older women carers who provide services to their predecessors and successors. Their situation is particularly worrying and is accentuated by the fact that there is no conducive environment that in the short and medium term changes in the sexual division of labor for care can happen, mainly due to institutional weaknesses that hides or does not recognize this as a problem. She proposed the drawing up of policies that facilitate the construction of the fortification through the female life course, which should include, among others, access to education, work, family security, reconciliation of work time and family life, universality of the non-contributory pension system and health care.

### **Session 6: Participation of older persons in political and public life**

The session was moderated by Hegel Cortés Miranda, Director General of the Civil Registry of Mexico City.

Alexandre Sidorenko, Senior Adviser for European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research in Vienna, Austria, gave the keynote speech. Firstly, he made a distinction between political orientation and political participation. He clarified that the first refers to the content, intensity and stability of the connection that individuals have with certain political goals. The second concerns the ways in which individuals try to influence or take part in government activities. For older persons, the political orientation does not differ radically from other groups, he said. In this sense, chronological age and life course are less important in defining political orientation, than with the effects associated with birth cohorts and historical periods. Political participation, he added, can be through citizen control or creation of public awareness. At the same time it adopts different forms and can be institutionalized and not. He distinguished three meanings of political participation of older persons: organizations of and with older persons, political influence in elections, campaigns and protests, and participation in decision-making. The first is institutional, the second non-

institutional and the third can be both. The speaker acknowledged the contributions, especially for older women, of organizations to facilitate and channel the participation of older persons through advocacy and the promotion of interaction between generations. He gave examples of civil society organizations, trade unions and political parties. Then, referring to the political influence of older persons, he analyzed in depth the advisory bodies that include them among its members, and drew attention to the absence of coordinating bodies on ageing where older people have no direct influence in decision-making. He continued by referring to the participation of older people in the international arena and then to their participation in public policy. He made a complete analysis of the situation in each of these issues in different countries of the world and identified the main barriers for countries to address the issues of ageing. He concluded that civil society organizations can leverage the political clout of older people and ensure that they participate effectively in decision-making processes at all levels of government.

The roundtable was attended by Susanne Paul, President of Global Action on Ageing, Zulema Villalta, Advisor to the Consultative Forum on Ageing of Costa Rica, and Alejandra Barrales Magdaleno, Head Representative of the Governance Committee of the Legislative Assembly of Mexico City, V Legislature.

Susanne Paul noted that older persons have demonstrated their ability to demand their rights throughout the world. However, its success can only be ensured through the establishment of a popular movement that demands visibility of their demands and monitoring their compliance in the future. On the other hand, she emphasized that governments need to have a human rights instrument that allows them to define, defend and support human rights of older persons. She added that, although some countries have national standards, in many cases these are not implemented. She concluded by drawing attention that, despite the difficulties, there are millions of older people involved who are actively participating in organizations and popular movements in various countries to demand the guarantee of their rights.

Zulema Villalta indicated that we must consciously work on removing the obstacles to achieving full equality in old age. We must train and be trained in human rights and democratic life, to ensure the full exercise and full protection of older persons, who can and should participate actively in the social construction of the paradigm shift. She added that older persons must be heard and assert their collective interests through clear processes and supported by all sectors of society. She called for older persons to be part of the *common good* promoting the construction of an inclusive, full, independent, continuous and dynamic democracy. Free, responsible and independent expression, without restrictions, is now a strategy that should be used by older people and their organizations, she concluded.

Alejandra Barrales Magdaleno informed that in the Federal District Legislative Assembly the so-called reverse mortgage initiative is in process, through which older persons can receive a pension for the rest of his life, in exchange for the sale of their home to the Government of Mexico City. Additionally, she referred to the progress made in the Federal District, through the Institute for the Care of Older Persons. Specifically, she referred to the non-contributory pension and health care. Moreover, she indicated that the participation of older people claiming their rights in the streets is a sign of the injustice and inequality that they face daily. Seniors were invited to participate in their communities, acting as lookouts, informants, supervisors. Finally, she commented that in the electoral process, persons 60 years and older are the second most involved group.

### **Session 7: Progress and challenges for the protection of the rights of older persons**

The session was divided into two panels. In the first, on advances for the protection of the rights of older people, participated Sergio Vieira, Social Affairs Officer for the United Nations Programme on Ageing, Leonardo José Rolim Guimarães, Secretary for Social Welfare Policy of the Ministry of Social Welfare of Brazil; Norma Licona Alberto, Director of the Non-Contributory Pension for the Institute for the Care of Older Persons in Mexico City, and Rocío Casariegos Vázquez, Advisor to the Ministry of Education of the Mexico City. The moderation was assigned to Evelyn Magdaleno, Head of new projects and international relations of the Planning and Development Division of the National Service for Older Persons (SENAMA) in Chile.

Sergio Vieira focused on the work of the United Nations Working Group on Ageing and pointed out that it was the result of the World Assemblies on Ageing and the contributions of the human rights mechanisms, which together have contributed to generate more participatory approaches and promote ageing with dignity. He considered that, at present, it is possible to identify two major challenges: the inclusion of older people in the political, social and cultural spheres, and their training for the claiming of their rights. He explained that the Working Group was established in order to identify and address gaps in human rights of older people. Among the challenges identified by the Working Group during its session in 2011, is age and multiple discrimination, violence, and poor health protection. These issues have gaps in normative terms, in implementation and monitoring. As a solution it has been proposed, inter alia, the elaboration of an international legally-binding instrument, the creation of a new rapporteur on human rights and greater use of existing international instruments.

Leonardo José Rolim Guimarães commented that 11% of the population in Brazil is 60 years and older and currently have a social welfare policy that has reduced poverty by 7%. Likewise, he added, his country provides care to older persons through care centers and a continuous allowance is granted (equivalent to the minimum wage). He explained the Brazilian national legislation consisting of Law 8842 of 1994 which provides for a national policy on older persons and creates the National Council for Older Persons - which works on three levels of government - and Law 10741 of 2003 which provides the Statute of Older persons. He said that the Ministry of Health has policies to promote active ageing and that Brazilian law penalizes discrimination and works to eradicate barriers to accessing public services. He recounted the challenges facing his country in strengthening the protection of the rights and ended with a call proceed with a convention to protect the rights of older persons.

Norma Licona Alberto presented the progress in protecting the rights of older people and the commitment to action in Mexico City. She referred in detail to the non-contributory pension that is universal for people aged 68 and over. She acknowledged that the pension is part of the tenth item of the Declaration of Brasilia, and aims to provide basic economic security in old age. The pension is non-contributory, is based on political rights, combating inequality and promotes fairness and social inclusion. She presented the procedures for implementation and the amount allocated by way of benefit (equivalent to half the minimum wage in Mexico City.). She announced that the program has coverage of approximately 480 thousand in rights holders and represents 3% of the budget of the Government of Mexico City. She concluded by noting that the pension is one of the more audited social programs of the administration, which has helped to improve its implementation.

Rocío Casariegos Vázquez signaled that the Human Rights Program of the Federal District, identifies older persons as a group at risk of having their rights violated. Regarding education, she affirms that remnants exist regarding the exclusion of age, which is expressed in that 24% of people 50 and older are illiterate, with women being most affected. In response, inclusion and equity education programs and actions have been implemented in conjunction with the Institute. She acknowledged that public policies should be designed with a positive view of ageing. She considered that the Schools for Older Persons of the Institute for the Care of Older Persons in Mexico City, now serving 745 people, have consciousness-raising impact and social inclusion.

The session on challenges for the protection of the rights of older persons was moderated by Alejandro Orozco, Director of the National Institute of Older Persons (INAPAM) of Mexico. Panelists included Evelyn Jacir, Director of the Department of Social Development and Employment of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development of the Organization of American States (OAS), Mónica Roqué, National Director for Policy on Ageing of the National Secretariat for Children, Youth and Family of the Ministry of Social Development of Argentina; Pedro Valdés Corchado, Gerontology Coordinator of the Institute for the Care of Older Persons in Mexico City, Sandra Huenchuan, specialist in the field of ageing of the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) - Population Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean-ECLAC, and Jessica Frank López, representative of the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People.

Evelyn Jacir addressed the ageing population in the region of the Americas and its relationship to inequality and discrimination. She referred to situations of violence, barriers in access to justice, persistence of negative stereotypes

and gaps in legal frameworks. She identified the challenges associated with protecting the rights of older people, putting emphasis on the normative dispersion as a limitation for its full exercise. She said it is the responsibility of public policy to ensure a full life taking into account the needs and interests of all age groups, visualize older persons with capabilities, even after retiring from work, to continue participating in the family and society and adapting social services to strengthen their autonomy. She stressed the importance of the construction of binding instruments that will safeguard older persons and the development of an inter-American convention.

Mónica Roqué emphasized the importance of a convention for the rights of older persons to reduce the injustice of an imperfect world. The Convention as a legally binding instrument would serve to promote, protect and ensure the full enjoyment of equal rights, in which older persons must be included. She reported that the meeting of the Working Group for the protection of human rights of older persons of the Organization of American States, to be held on April 16, 2012, is an occasion to strengthen the position of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in favor of an inter-American convention. She released the contents of the draft of the Draft Inter-American Convention on the Protection of Human Rights of Older Persons, which includes priority issues such as: equality and non-discrimination, gender equality, freedom and personal safety, the prevention of torture, exploitation and abuse, freedom of expression, education, health, employment, adequate standard of living, social participation and culture.

Pedro Valdés Corchado, explained that as part of the epidemiological and demographic transition experienced by the region chronic degenerative diseases have increased, which can affect the function, independence and autonomy of older people. He added that, due to physiological reasons, beginning at 85 years of age the fragility and dependence on health grounds increases, which can be a barrier to older people to effectively exercise their rights. Without autonomy there is no participation and without participation no rights, he added. He noted the need to change the perspective of work with respect to addressing the issues of older people, and that the State should have the duty to provide specialized and comprehensive care to meet their obligations through the ratification of international human rights covenants. He said that interdisciplinary work strategies must be implemented and work subjectively and objectively to evaluate the status of older persons. He emphasized on bringing services to those who have disabilities so they may access them and generate indicators to assess the quality of care received by older persons.

Sandra Huenchuan analyzed the rights of older persons and the challenges that exist in practice make them effective. Despite the progress that has existed in the human rights of older persons, from the Brasilia Declaration on, she said that

there are limitations in its full exercise. She detailed the progress made in the Human Rights Council, in the Social

Development Commission, in the inter-American area and in domestic legislation. In contrast she announced the situation facing older persons in the region in terms of income security, health and social inclusion, concluding that it requires a new agreement to broaden social protection systems and include within them the needs and interests of older persons. She concluded by highlighting the importance of involving older persons in the ECLAC proposal that promotes development with equality and that this is essential to ensure the inclusion of social services as a fourth pillar of social protection systems, in addition to education, social security and health, in order to reduce equality gaps and build capacity at all ages.

Jessica Frank López, presented the work of the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People, created by nine organizations of society, the private sector, academia and citizens of different ages. Its vision is that of older people living free, without discrimination and enjoying their rights through an international instrument that strengthens these rights. It is a movement that is inviting interested persons to join in order to develop awareness of the need for the creation of an international convention to protect the rights of older people.



### **Closing**

The meeting was closed by Dirk Jaspers\_Faijer, Director of the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) - Population Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean - ECLAC and Jesús Valdés Peña, Secretary of Social Development of Mexico City.

The Director of CELADE was grateful for the collaboration of the Institute for the Care of Older Persons in Mexico City and announced that the results of the Forum shall be presented at the third Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in San José, Costa Rica from 8 to 11 May, 2012. He said the activity is a sign of commitment that the countries of the region accepted in the Brasilia Declaration. He urged participants to work to advance the long-awaited equality at all ages and the full inclusion of older persons in society.

The Secretary of Social Development of Mexico City thanked ECLAC for the opportunity to jointly organize the event and highlighted its importance for Mexicans and the rest of the countries represented. He called on those present to make every effort to achieve a better quality of life for all people, and older persons in particular. He emphasized that to achieve this requires a grand bargain which involves the State and society. He highlighted the policies developed in Mexico City and described them as cutting-edge in the social area, with programs that translate into benefits for the entire population. Finally he proceeded to the official closing of the meeting.

### **D. CONCLUSIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON THE RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS**

1. Older people and their rights are gaining increasing visibility in the regional and international agenda of social development and human rights. However, challenges remain. The structural inequality of the Latin American and Caribbean region has a particular expression in old age.

In this context, the State must be able to assume strategic management, with a look to long-term development. It must increase participation in the economic benefits of the excluded and vulnerable sectors, developing public policies that provide goods and social protection and, above all, reverse the inertial force of the inequality that is reproduced within markets and families.

2. Older persons are a group whose specific characteristics or needs make them potential objects for discrimination in various areas, find themselves in situations of substantive inequality in the enjoyment of generally recognized human rights, and are vulnerable to a greater extent than other groups, to specific violations of these rights, and therefore require special attention. The growing international consensus around it also provides an objective and reasonable justification for special measures in order to achieve substantive equality for older persons and protect them from situations of vulnerability.

3. Older persons suffer different types of violence. Although there is no uniform concept in this regard, in practice, by the mere fact of being older, people often face situations that affect their health, dignity and integrity. Different countries are working toward the prevention and punishment of different types of violence. However, this is often inadequate and requires broader protection measures that include, in addition to promotion, appropriate sanctions to eradicate this scourge.

4. Access to justice and priority attention are key aspects to advance in the exercise of human rights. The diagnosis indicates that older people often face a number of obstacles related to lack of information, specialized legal advice, inadequate services and insufficient staff training, as well as the lack of institutional mechanisms to simplify procedures and requirements. To overcome these deficiencies it is critical to exchange of best practices and develop strategies to promote a policy of adequate access to justice for older persons.

5. International covenants on human rights set out the obligations of States with regard to economic, social and cultural rights and the supervisory bodies of the treaties have contributed to the understanding of them in the context of ageing. However, the vulnerability of the older population is worrying and is expressed in various areas - such as access to social

security, health and care. Thus the obligation to promote, protect and fulfill do not always lead to practice, producing situations of exclusion and differentiation within the same older population. In this context, it is essential to stress that social protection must adapt not only to the changing age structure of the population, but also to changes in the labor market, families and the economy as a whole.

6. Combining gender and age has a multiplier effect that can contribute to understanding the lives of women in general, and of older women in particular. We must recognize that female ageing is different from the male version and often carries multiple risks that often deepen in later life. The recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) indicate that States must provide special protection for older women, ensuring their dignity and equality and the full exercise of all their human rights. However, there is still a widespread ignorance about how to address the situation of older women, and an apparent lack of attention to it, not only by governments but also by the organizations for older persons and leaders in general.

7. Older persons in the region and the world have gradually become significant players in political and public affairs. Their organizations have promoted the normative development of their rights and have defended themselves against regressive initiatives. However, much remains to be done so that older persons can be fully recognized actors in society. This social group needs to be empowered in order to exercise citizenship, enforce the laws that protect them and expand their inclusion on the development agenda. Along with this, effective mechanisms for involving older people must be truly provided, through the establishment of explicit citizen guarantees in legislation- which often only includes a nominal participation -, the creation of opportunities for empowerment and exercise in decision-making and awareness of decision makers on their duty to consult on any matter affecting them.

8. With respect to these and other issues discussed at the Forum, major advances have been presented. However, the current and future challenges are enormous. Older persons have the opportunity to expand their sphere of influence and States can promote positive action to achieve formal and real equality.

The main international developments in the last five years derive from the action that has been generated in the framework of the United Nations through the creation of the Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing and, in the inter-American area thanks to the creation of Working Group on the protection of human rights of older persons. Both share a mandate to create mechanisms to extend the protection currently provided by human rights treaties to older persons.

Under the United Nations Working Group a consensus has been reached on the need to strengthen the protection of older persons and, among other measures, have identified the most effective use of existing international norms, the designation of a special rapporteur on the rights of older persons and the study of the creation of an international legally binding instrument. Under the Working Group of the Organization of American States the mandate is focused on the development of a draft inter-American convention on the rights of older persons. The complementary nature of both processes is evident and in no way exclusive.

9. Finally, the experts and participants at the International Forum on the rights of older persons reaffirm that the creation of a treaty to protect the rights of people is a pressing need. The same must meet the needs and interests of older persons, and ground itself in existing international and regional recommendations on the subject, with clear and appropriate content to facilitate the identification and understanding of the obligations of States with regard to the rights they seek to protect.

A convention - regardless of whether it is international or American - must in itself be a sign of the impending requirement that human rights and the instruments that enshrine them must be relevant to the context of ageing.

A future convention should, therefore, reinforce with appropriate protections, but not repeat the rights established in existing human rights treaties, to take into account the particular circumstances of older people in the region and the world.

## ANNEX 1 MEETING AGENDA

### INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON THE RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS

Organized by the Government of Mexico City and the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) - Population Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean-ECLAC  
26 to 28 March, 2012

#### 26 March

- 09.00-10.00 Registration
- 10.00-11.15 Inauguration  
Rosa Icela Rodríguez Velázquez, General Director for the Institute for the Care of Older Persons in the Federal District, Mexico City  
Dirk Jaspers, Director of the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Center (CELADE)-Population Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean - ECLAC  
Marcelo Ebrard Casaubon, Head of Government for Mexico City  
Accompanied by:  
Sra. Rosalinda Bueso, wife of the Head of Government  
Jesús Valdés, Secretary of Social Development for the Government of Mexico City
- 11.15-11.45 Coffee

#### EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION IN OLD AGE

- 11.45-12.30 Conference by Luis Rodríguez-Piñero, Specialist Human Rights Lawyer, Researcher for the University of Seville, Spain
- 12.30-13.30 Round table  
Javier Hernández Valencia, Mexico Representative for the United Nations Office for the High Commissioner for Human Rights  
Marcos Acle, Legal Officer, Coordinator for the Technical Secretariat on Human Rights of Older Persons Department of Social Development and Employment, Executive Secretariat for Integral Development, Organization of American States (OAS)  
Elena Lugo del Castillo, Director of Citizen Orientation and Human Rights High Court Justice of Mexico City  
*Moderator:* Margarita Cruz Colunga, Geronto-geriatric Head of the Center for Social Care of Health for Older Persons (CASSAAM)-IMSS
- 13.30-14.00 Questions
- 14.00-16.00 Lunch

#### INTEGRITY AND MISTREATMENT OF OLDER PERSONS

- 16.00-16.45 Conference by Luciano Di Cesare, Executive Director of the National Institute of Social Services for Retired Persons and Pensioners-PAMI, Argentina
- 16.45-17.45 Round table  
Nony Ardill, Expert lawyer on ageing issues for the UK Equality and Human Rights Commission, United Kingdom  
Tania Mora, Head of the Judicial Unit for the National Service for Older Persons, Ministry of Social Development, Chile  
Ana Luisa Gamble Sánchez Gavito, Gerontology Coordinator of the Institute for the Care of Older Persons in Mexico City  
*Moderator:* Rubén Fuentes Rodríguez, Director of Territorial Operations Planning for the Institute for the Care of Older Persons in Mexico City
- 17.45-18.15 Questions

#### 27 March

**ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND PRIORITY CARE FOR OLDER PERSONS**

- 09.00-09.45 Conference by Lupita Chaves Cervantes, Member of the High Judicial Council and Coordinator of the issue of access to justice for the older population in the Commission for Accessibility, Costa Rica
- 09.45-10.45 Round table  
Luiz Roberto Salles, Justice Advocate for Human Rights, Public Prosecution Office of Sao Paul, Brazil  
Gustavo Fallas, Legal Advisor for CONAPAM, National Council for Older Persons, Costa Rica  
Jesús Rodríguez Almeida, Public Prosecutor of Justice of the Federal District (Mexico City)  
**Moderator:** Ruth Delgadillo Martínez, Director of Psychology for the Citizen Council of Public Safety and Law Enforcement of Mexico City
- 10.45-11.15 Questions
- 11.15-11.45 Coffee

**ADEQUATE STANDARD OF LIVING, SOCIAL SERVICES AND AGEING**

- 11.45-12.30 Conference by Rocío Barahona, Vice-President of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) of the United Nations
- 12.30-13.30 Round table  
Martín Hopenhayn, Director of the Social Development Division, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)  
José Acarón, State Director of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) in Puerto Rico  
Rosa Icela Rodríguez Velázquez, General Director for the Institute for the Care of Older Persons in the Federal District, Mexico City  
**Moderator:** Teresita Ithurburu, Head of the Unit for Strategic Development and Quality Management for the Executive Directorate of the National Institute for Retirees and Pensioners-PAMI, Argentina
- 13.30-14.00 Questions
- 14.00-16.00 Lunch

**WOMEN, LIFE CYCLE AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

- 16.00-16.45 Conference by Ferdous Ara Begum, Gender Affairs Specialist, former member and Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Working Group on General Comments of the CEDAW on the rights of older women
- 16.45-17.45 Round table  
Sonia Montañó, Director of the Division of Gender Affairs of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)  
Aparna Mehrotra, Main Coordinating Advisor and Focal Point for Women in the United Nations System, UNWomen  
María Dolores Puga, Spanish National Research Council (CSIC), Spain  
**Moderator:** Alma Navarro, Deputy Director of Training and Evaluation of the Institute for the Care of Older Persons in Mexico City
- 17.45-18.15 Questions

**28 March****PARTICIPATION OF OLDER PERSONS IN POLITICAL AND PUBLIC LIFE**

- 09.00-09.45 Conference by Alexander Sidorenko, Head Advisor for the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, Vienna, Austria
- 09.45-10.45 Round table  
Susanne Paul, President of Global Action on Ageing  
Zulema Villalta, Advisor of the Consultative Forum of Older Persons of Costa Rica  
Alejandra Barrales Magdaleno, Head Representative for the Government Commission of the Mexican

Legislative Assembly, V Legislature

**Moderator:** Hegel Cortés Miranda, Director General of the Civil Registry of Mexico City

10.45-11.15 Questions

11.15-11.45 Coffee

## PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS

11.45- 13.05 Round table on progress

Sergio Vieira, Officer for Social Affairs of the United Nations Ageing Programme

Leonardo José Rolim Guimarães, Secretary for Social Welfare Policies, Ministry of Social Welfare, Brazil

Norma Licona Alberto, Director of the Non-Contributory Pension for the Institute for the Care of Older persons in the Federal District, Mexico City

Mario Martín Delgado Carrillo, Education Secretary for Mexico City

**Moderator:** Evelyn Magdaleno, Head of new projects and international relations of the Planning and Development Division of the National Service for Older Persons (SENAMA) in Chile

13.05-13.25 Questions

13.25-15.30 Lunch

15.30-16.50 Round table on challenges

Evelyn Jacir, Director, Department of Social Development and Employment, Executive Secretariat for Integrated Development, Organization of American States (OAS)

Mónica Roqué, National Director for Policy on Ageing of the National Secretariat for Children, Youth and Family of the Ministry of Social Development of Argentina

Pedro Valdés Corchado, Geriatrics Coordinator for the Institute for the Care of Older Persons in the Federal District, Mexico City

Sandra Huenchuan, specialist on the issue of ageing, Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Center (CELADE)-Population Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

Jessica Frank López, representative of the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People

**Moderator:** Alejandro Orozco, Director of the National Institute of Older Persons (INAPAM) of Mexico

16.50- 17.10 Questions

17.10 Closing

Dirk Jaspers Faijer, Director of the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE) – Population Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean-ECLAC

Jesús Valdés Peña, Secretary of Social Development of Mexico City

**ANNEX 2  
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS****ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**

- Cindy Price, Ministry of Social Transformation

**ARGENTINA**

- Luciano Di Cesare, Executive Director for the National Institute of Social Services for Retirees and Pensioners (Instituto Nacional de Servicios Sociales para Jubilados y Pensionados-PAMI)
- Marcelo Rinaldi, National Institute of Social Services for Retirees and Pensioners (Instituto Nacional de Servicios Sociales para Jubilados y Pensionados-PAMI)
- María Teresita Ithurburu, National Institute of Social Services for Retirees and Pensioners (Instituto Nacional de Servicios Sociales para Jubilados y Pensionados-PAMI)
- Mónica Roqué, Ministry of Social Development
- Marcela Bordenave, Ministerio de Foreign Relations, International Commerce and Culture
- Nora Pochtar, Human Rights Secretariat for the Nation
- Claudia Arias, Universidad Nacional de Mar del Plata

**ARUBA**

- Wilbert Marchena, Ministry of Economic, Social and Cultural Affairs

**AUSTRIA**

- Alexandre Sidorenko, European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research in Vienna, Austria

**BANGLADESH**

- Ferdous Ara Begum, National Council for Older Persons

**BOLIVIA, Plurinational State of**

- Rolando Villena, Ombudsman
- Marco Antonio Lucero, Ombudsman

**BRASIL**

- Leonardo Jose Rolim Guimarães, Ministerio de Social Welfare
- Luis Roberto Souza Salles, Office of the Public Prosecutor of São Paulo
- Floriano Martins, Associação Nacional dos Fiscais de Contribuições Previdenciárias (ANFIP)
- Jurilza Mendonca, Ministry of Social Welfare
- Iadya Gama Maio, Office of the Public Prosecutor

**COLOMBIA**

- Luz Adriana Arboleda, Ministry of Social Protection
- María Del Pilar Zuluaga, Ministry of Health and Social Protection

**COSTA RICA**

- Gustavo Fallas, National Council for Older Persons (CONAPAM)
- Zulema Villalta, National Council for Older Persons (CONAPAM)
- Lupita Chaves Cervantes, High Judicial Council
- Maribel León Fernández, National Council of Regents (CONARE)

**CHILE**

- Mario Venegas, Chamber of Deputies
- Marcela Sabat, Chamber of Deputies
- Tania Mora, National Service for Older Persons (SENAMA)
- Evelyn Magdaleno, National Service for Older Persons (SENAMA)
- Mercedes Zavala, Universidad de Concepción
- Atenea Flores, Independent

**GUATEMALA**

- Teresa Maldonado, Ombudsman for Older Persons
- Blanca Alcira Tobar, Ombudsman for Older Persons

**HONDURAS**

- Francisco Amador, Secretariat of the Interior and Population (SEIP)
- Karen Pavón, Secretariat of the Interior and Population (SEIP)

**JAMAICA**

- Faith Innerarity, Ministry of Work and Social Security

**MEXICO**

- Marcelo Ebrard Casaubon, Government of Mexico City
- Jesús Valdés Peña, Government of Mexico City
- Francesca Ramos Morgan, Government of Mexico City
- Mario Martín Delgado, Government of Mexico City
- Alejandro Orozco, Institute for the Care of Older Persons in Mexico City (INAPAM)
- Tania Torres Vargas, Institute for the Care of Older Persons in Mexico City (INAPAM)
- Alejandra Barrales, Deputy, Mexico City Legislative Assembly
- Rosa Icela Rodríguez Velázquez, Institute for the Care of Older Persons in Mexico City (INAPAM)
- Pedro Valdés Corchado, Institute for the Care of Older Persons in Mexico City (INAPAM)
- Rubén Fuentes, Institute for the Care of Older Persons in Mexico City (INAPAM)
- Ana Luisa Gamble, Institute for the Care of Older Persons in Mexico City (INAPAM)
- Norma Licon, Institute for the Care of Older Persons in Mexico City (INAPAM)
- Alma Navarro, Institute for the Care of Older Persons in Mexico City (INAPAM)
- Jairo Angulo Vargas, Institute for the Care of Older Persons in Mexico City (INAPAM)
- Anel Teresita Chavela Torres, Institute for the Care of Older Persons in Mexico City (INAPAM)
- Bertha Pimentel, Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Hidalgo
- David López Romero, Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Hidalgo
- Verónica Rodríguez Contreras, Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Hidalgo
- Claudia Sandoval, State System of Integral Development of the State of Querétaro
- Yolanda Escobar, State System of Integral Development of the State of Querétaro

- Margarita Cruz Colunga, Center for Social Care of Health for Older Persons (CASSAAM)-IMSS
- Hegel Cortés, Civil Registry for Mexico City
- Luis Wertman Zaslav, Citizen Council on Public Security and Law Enforcement for Mexico City
- Patricia Rebolledo, Network of Older Persons of Mexico City
- Olivia Norman Mora, Council of Evaluation of the Social Development of Mexico City
- Pablo Yanes Rizo, Council of Evaluation of the Social Development of Mexico City
- María Ysabel González Martínez, National Network of Older Persons Organizations, Retirees and Pensioner Civil Association
- Lindy López Gómez, Public Service of Telephone Localization (Locatel)
- Daniel Castillo Herrera, Defense Lawyer for the Dignification and Respect of the Human Rights of Older Persons
- Eduardo Pérez y Muños, Government of Mexico City
- Juan José Perdomo Salgado, National Network of Older Persons Organizations, Retirees and Pensioner Civil Association
- José Gómez González, Family Prosecution, Public Prosecutor of Mexico City
- Vanessa del Castillo Ibarra, Network of Participative Older Persons in Mexico City
- Gladis Rojas González, Secretariat for Social Development of Mexico City
- Judith Macías Paz, Secretariat for Social Development of Mexico City
- Aldo Muñoz Ortiz, Secretariat for Social Development of Mexico City
- Alma Bermúdez Espinosa, National School of Social Work (UNAM)
- Rosaura Ávalos Pérez, National School of Social Work (UNAM)
- Arisbeth Juárez Rodríguez, Independent
- Edgar Galindo Arriaga, Independent
- Omar Pérez Chacón, Hospital the chronically ill “Dr. Gustavo Baz Prada”
- Laura Sánchez Almaraz, National Institute for Women
- Rodolfo Estrada Zelada, Independent Gerontologist
- Alejandro Uribe Hernández, National Gerontology Council of Mexico Martha González Castellanos, Mexican Geronto-Geriatric Society
- Sarahí Elvira Franco, Foundation for the Well-being of Older persons, Private Care Facility
- Liliana Giraldo Rodríguez, Geriatrics Institute
- Carina Vélez y de la Rosa, Foundation “Mano Amiga a Mano Anciana”, Private Care Facility
- Eduardo Granados García, General Directorate of Socio-Demographic Statistics (INEGI)
- María Pilar de Abiega, Tepito Participative Community, Civil Association (94)
- Ruth Delgadillo Martínez, Citizen Council on Public Security and Law Enforcement for Mexico City
- Elizabeth Caro Lopez, Geriatrics Institute
- Rocío Quintana Rivera, Secretariat of Linkage with Civil Society and Incidences in Public Policies, Human Rights Commission of Mexico City
- Salvador Castro Aguilera, Mexican Association of Studies for Old Age, Civil Society
- Lucía Burgos Uriarte, Mexican Association of Studies for Old Age, Civil Society
- Javier Robles Cueto, Independent Gerontologist
- María Ascensión Morales, Administrative Secretariat for the National School of Social Work (UNAM)
- Celia Ramírez Posadas, Foundation for the Well-being of Older persons, Private Care Facility
- Alejandra Alvarez Orozco, Cosío Ducoing Home, Civic Association
- Concepción González Rangel, Un Granito De Arena, Civic Association
- Francisco Javier Márquez, Un Granito De Arena Civic Association
- María de Los Ángeles Haces, General Directorate for Care of Crime Victims, Public Prosecutor of Mexico City
- María Eugenia Nicolín, Victimization Risk Care Center (CARIVA)
- General Samuel Lara Villa, Social Security Institute for the Armed Forces
- Honorio Robledo González, Social Security and Services Institute for State Workers
- Fernando Rodríguez Romero, National Network of Older Persons Organizations, Retirees and Pensioner Civil Association
- Pedro Estrada González, Rescue and Medical Emergencies Squad (ERUM)



- Javier Hernández Hernández, Electoral Institute of Mexico City
- Donato Martínez Contreras, Active Training
- Enedina Jaramillo Rodríguez, Civil Registry for Mexico City
- María Eugenia Arellano, Centro Universitario del Valle de Teotihuacán
- Ana María Hernández, Victimization Risk Care Center (CARIVA)
- Juan Vega Lomelí, Universidad Iberoamericana
- Silvia García Miranda, Network Council for Older Persons
- Jesús Alberto López, Independent
- Armando González Bedoy, National School of Social Work (UNAM)
- Irma Escamilla Granados, Institute for the Care of Older Persons in Mexico City (INAPAM)
- Daniel de Jesús Uribe González, National Gerontological Council of Mexico
- Ale Manué Uribe González, National Gerontological Council of Mexico
- Olivia Hernández Hernández, General Directorate of the State System for Integral Development for Mexico City
- Esteban López Castillo, National Institute for Women (INMUJERES) of Mexico City
- Pablo José Mejía Escalona, Independent
- Margarita Morales Ávila, National School of Social Work (UNAM)
- Jesús Rodríguez Almeida, Public Prosecutor of Mexico City

## **NICARAGUA**

- Juan Ramón Jiménez, Nicaragua National Assembly
- Rafaela Morales, Universidad Politécnica de Nicaragua and National Council of Universities

## **NEPAL**

- Deepak Panta, Rural Development Program (RADP)
- Kumar Shrestha, Rural Development Program (RADP)
- Devendra Malla, Rural Development Program (RADP)

## **PERU**

- Elia Luna del Valle, Ministry for Women and Social Development

## **PUERTO RICO**

- José Acarón, AARP

## **SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES**

- Key Ferguson, Ministry of National Mobilization

## **SPAIN**

- Luis Rodríguez-Piñero, University of Seville
- María Dolores Puga, Spanish National Research Council

## **UNITED KINGDOM**

- Nony Ardill, Equality and Human Rights Commission

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

- Jessica Frank, AARP
- Susan Somers, INPEA
- Susanne Paul, Global Action on Ageing
- James Paul, Global Policy Forum

**Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)**

- Guillermo Acuña, Legal Advisor, Commission Secretariat
- Martín Hopenhayn, Director of the Division of Social Development
- Sonia Montaña, Director of the Division of Gender Affairs
- Dirk Jaspers\_Faijer, Director of CELADE-Population Division
- Sandra Huenchuan, Research Assistant and specialist on ageing of CELADE-Population Division
- Claudia Guerrero, Team Assistant for CELADE-Population Division

**United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)**

- Rocío Barahona, Vice-President

**United Nations Department of Economic and social affairs (DESA)**

- Sergio Vieira, Social Affairs Officer

**United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**

- Alfonso Barragues, Human Rights Advisor

**Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)**

- Javier Hernández Valencia, Mexico Representative

**UN Women**

- Aparna Mehrotra, Senior Advisor for Coordination and Focal Point for Women in United Nations System of UN Women

**Organization of American States (OAS)**

- Evelyn Jacir, Director of the Department of Social Development and Employment
- Ana Pastorino, President of the Working Group on the Protection of the Human Rights of Older Persons and Alternate Representative of Argentina at the OAS
- Marcos Acle, Legal Officer and Coordinator of Technical Secretariat on Human Rights for Older Persons for the Department of Social Development and Employment



# Instituto para la Atención de los Adultos Mayores en el Distrito Federal

