

Virtual Briefing of national focal points to present the Guide for the preparation of the Voluntary National Report within the framework of the fifth review and evaluation of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (2002)

Simone Cecchini

Director, CELADE – Population Division of ECLAC

April 10, 2026

Good morning, everyone. I warmly welcome you to this meeting, where we will present the Guide for the preparation of the Voluntary National Report on the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.

A special greeting to my colleague Miosotis Rivas, Director of the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean of the ECLAC.

And a special greeting to Harold Robinson, Director of the UNFPA Sub Regional Office for the Caribbean, an organization with which we share a fruitful history of cooperation and joint work in this and other areas.

The Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) is a comprehensive roadmap for the formulation of policies and programs on ageing and the rights of older persons.

Every five years the United Nations conducts a review and evaluation of MIPAA's implementation, both regionally and globally, analyzing progress in its three priority areas: 1) older persons and development; 2) promoting health and well-being in old age; and 3) creating an enabling and supportive environment.

The regional review will take place in 2027 within the framework of the Sixth Intergovernmental Regional Conference on Aging and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean. We expect that in 2026 countries will be able to prepare their voluntary national reports and then present them at the Regional Conference next year.

These reports will highlight the public policies that countries in the region are implementing to improve the well-being and realize the rights of older persons.

The information provided by member states in the voluntary national reports will also form the basis for the preparation of ECLAC's regional report. These results will then be taken to the global level, to the 66th session of the United Nations Commission for Social Development in 2028.

To support the countries of the Caribbean in preparing their voluntary national reports, at the ECLAC, as Technical Secretariat of the Regional Conference, we have prepared a new Guide for the preparation of the voluntary national report on the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action. This guide provides guidelines on the content and format of the report, as well as guiding questions on the three areas of the MIPAA.

One of the main recommendations for preparing the voluntary national report is to ensure the participation of the various government institutions involved in policies for older persons, as well as of representatives of civil society organizations that represent them. Aging and the rights of older persons are issues of the highest priority. They deserve greater visibility and require urgent action in various policy areas, such as universal access to health services, expansion of social protection, and strengthening the national and international legal framework for the protection of the human rights of older persons.

We also believe it is important to rethink public policies from the perspectives of human rights, gender, and interculturality.

Before concluding, let me highlight that the population in Latin America and the Caribbean is aging very rapidly. According to United Nations projections, 101 million people aged 60 and over currently live in the region, representing 15% of the total population. By 2050, this age group is estimated to reach 183 million people, representing approximately 25% of the regional population. Likewise, the group aged 80 and over—which is the fastest growing—will practically triple its proportion in the next 25 years, going from 2% to 6% of the total population in 2050.

Thanks to all of you for the participation, we hope that Caribbean countries will prepare NVRs on MIPAA and we are very happy to have here with us the United Nations Population Fund, our strategic partner on population and development issues.