



Forum of the Countries
of Latin America and
the Caribbean on
**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**
Santiago
25-28 April **2023**



Side event, 26 April 2023 12-2:30 p.m. (Chile)

Towards a society for all ages in Latin America and the Caribbean: progress and challenges of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing

Concept Note

Background

The Second World Assembly on Ageing, which met in Madrid in 2002, approved the Madrid Political Declaration and International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002¹. The goals and objectives of the Plan were established and conceived with a view to building what was called "a society for all ages", therefore, 20 years after its approval, it continues to be an instrument that provides a transformative vision of ageing from an international perspective, as well as guidelines for the design and implementation of national policies. The Political Declaration and Plan of Action constitute a great contribution to the construction of the international regime for the protection of the human rights of older persons.

From 13 to 15 December 2022, the Fifth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean was held at ECLAC Headquarters in Santiago, Chile, pursuant to resolution 743(XXXVIII), approved at the thirty-eighth session of the Commission, held in October 2020, and resolution 4(IV) of the Fourth Meeting of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in June 2022.

Within this framework, in order to systematize and analyze the progress and challenges of the region in the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, ECLAC prepared the document Ageing in Latin America and the Caribbean: inclusion and rights of older persons, which constitutes the region's report for the fourth examination and evaluation of the Plan. The document looks at the regional experience 20 years after the approval of the Plan, focusing on emerging issues and new opportunities and challenges in Latin America and the Caribbean.

At the Fifth Regional Conference, the countries approved the Santiago Declaration "Human rights and participation of older persons: towards an inclusive and resilient care society", through which they reaffirmed their commitment to the Madrid International Plan of Action and the promotion, the protection and respect of human rights, dignity and fundamental freedoms of all older persons, without any type of discrimination and violence, while ratifying the responsibility of States to provide the necessary measures and actions to guarantee healthy ageing, with dignity and rights.

For its part, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development explicitly includes older persons, age, or both in different Development Goals (SDGs), such as SDG 1 (target 1.3. on universal social protection), SDG 3 (target 3.8 on universal health coverage), SDG 10 (target 10.2 on social, economic and political inclusion), SDG 11 (target 11.5 on universal accessibility) and SDG 17 (target 17.18 on disaggregation of data and statistics). However, a cross-sectional look at the needs and interests of older persons makes it

¹ A/CONF.197/3/Add.2, 3 y 5, y A/CONF.197/MC/L.1/Add. 2, 3, 5 y 8.

possible to identify areas of opportunity in other SDGs that do not include them in a particular way, but apply to all of them.

Among the countries of the region, there are concerns, particularly due to the lag that existed during the COVID-19 pandemic, regarding the achievement of the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels and particularly with respect to more vulnerable populations, such as older persons. The Santiago Declaration called for mobilizing the necessary resources for this purpose, in accordance with national plans and strategies to improve the well-being of older persons.

Side Event Goals

The Sixth Meeting of the Forum offers an adequate space to reflect, analyze and identify priorities with special reference to the commitments assumed in the Santiago Declaration, which is the regional road map for the next five years, to move towards full access to older persons to the protection and guarantee of their rights.

Care and its importance for the sustainability of life, as well as the low visibility of the care sector in the economies of the region, is one of the topics that will be addressed in this panel. The issue of care—which cuts across all the priority core focus of the Madrid International Plan of Action—has been one of those that has received the most attention in the countries of the region, both conceptually and in the field of policies. In light of the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, governments have agreed that it is urgent to implement a change in the style of development and welfare states to move towards a care society in which interdependence is recognized, between people, as well as between production processes and society; that is, a care society that places the sustainability of life and the planet at the center of development.

A second issue to be addressed, connected to the previous one, is comprehensive and specialized healthcare for the needs of older persons. This is one of the challenges posed by both the Madrid International Action Plan and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and which served as the basis for the proclamation by the United Nations General Assembly, in December 2020, of the Decade of Healthy Ageing 2021-2030. Added to this framework are the challenges derived from the COVID-19 pandemic, which has particularly affected older persons, who were exposed to a greater risk of death and continue to suffer complications and side effects as a result of the disease, as well as greater vulnerability. The lockdown measures also had negative effects on their mental health, their physical health and their social support networks.

Exposure to socio-environmental disasters of various kinds, as revealed during the COVID-19 pandemic, is also a relevant issue to address in the panel, since physical, political, economic and social factors can represent enormous challenges for the enjoyment of human rights. This is due to discrimination in access to services and unequal or inadequate treatment of older persons, which deepens when the intersection of age with other characteristics such as gender, socioeconomic status and disability status is taken into account, alongside migratory and ethnic-racial dimensions, among many others.

The Santiago Declaration also advocated moving forward with a proposal for a multilateral legal instrument in order to strengthen the international regime for the protection of older persons, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 76/138 of December 16, 2021. In paragraph 22 of this resolution, Member States are encouraged to continue to contribute to the work of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing, in particular by presenting measures to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights and dignity of older persons, such as best practices, lessons learned, and proposals for the possible content of a multilateral legal instrument.

These four topics are of the greatest interest to be addressed in the panel from the scope of the actions that the countries of the region have implemented and the challenges that arise in light of the Madrid International Action Plan, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Decade of Healthy Ageing, the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, the Declaration of Santiago and the Inter-American Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Older Persons.

Program

13.00 -13.10 p.m.	<p><i>Opening</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Simone Cecchini, Director of the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Center (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC</i> - <i>Susana Sottoli, Representative of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)</i>
13.10 a 14.00 p.m.	<p><i>Panel</i></p> <p><i>Moderation: ECLAC</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Francisca Gallegos. Undersecretary of Social Services (S), Ministry of Social Development and Family of Chile, in her role as Chair of the Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Aging (emphasis on care)</i> - <i>Victor Alegria. Director Sustainable Development Unit. Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management, Belize (emphasis natural disasters)</i> - <i>Alberto Fernandez, National Director of Attention to the older persons of Cuba (emphasis on health)</i> - <i>Adriana Rovira, Advocacy Group of the Liaison Table, Civil Society (emphasis on the four topics)</i>
14.00 a 14.20 p.m.	<i>Debate</i>
14.20 a 14.30 p.m.	Coffee

ZOOM (EVENTO) - INT ESP/ING

Event information

Interpretation will be offered on Zoom (English/Spanish).

 Topic: “Towards a society for all ages in Latin America and the Caribbean: progress and challenges of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Aging”

Date: April 26, 2023 / 13:00 - 14:30 hours CLT

 To start or join the online meeting

 Go to: https://cepal-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_gGGwbl42QuG6cCiPRAQ7jw.

Note: The link will open 30 minutes prior to the start of the side event for connection testing and will close 15 minutes after the end time.