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**REPORT OF THE MEETING OF EXPERTS ON AGEING
SECOND CENTRAL AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN FORUM
ON POLICIES FOR OLDER PERSONS**

San Salvador, 10-12 November 2004

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INTRODUCTION

The Meeting of Experts on Ageing —Second Central American and Caribbean Forum on Policies for Older Persons— was organized by the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), in coordination with the National Committee for the Support of Programmes for Older Persons of the National Secretariat of Family Affairs of the Republic of El Salvador.

The Meeting was part of the activities being carried out in follow-up to the Regional Strategy for Implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, adopted at the Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing, held in Santiago, Chile, in November 2003. It was attended by the governing bodies on ageing of the countries of Central America and the Spanish-speaking Caribbean, Mexico and Panama, as well as by experts from international organizations and eminent persons from the academic world and civil society organizations.

The meeting was divided into five sections. The first dealt with the progress made by the countries in designing and implementing policies on ageing and the three following sections reviewed the achievements observed in economic security, health and enabling and supportive environments. The meeting concluded with a section on the follow-up of the Regional Strategy, which included a discussion on possible indicators and a research agenda.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) was instrumental in organizing the meeting. Similarly, the National Support Committee for Programmes for Older Persons of the National Secretariat of Family Affairs of the Republic of El Salvador provided valuable assistance in coordinating and successfully conducting the event.

The contents and results of the meeting point to significant advances in the future application of the Regional Strategy and, as a corollary, to future challenges for its follow-up and evaluation.

A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

Place and date of the meeting

1. The Meeting of Experts on Ageing —Second Central American and Caribbean Forum on Policies for Older Persons— was organized by the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), in coordination with the National Support Committee for Programmes for Older Persons of the National Secretariat of Family Affairs of the Republic of El Salvador; it took place in San Salvador from 10 to 12 November 2004.

Attendance

2. The Meeting of Experts, which lasted three days, was attended by 85 persons from 15 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic), Spain and the United States (see annex 1).

3. Attending the meeting were the First Lady of the Republic of El Salvador, Ana Ligia Mixco Sol de Saca, and national representatives of the following bodies: Fressia Cerna of UNFPA, Eduardo Guerrero of PAHO, and Iveta Ganev of IDB.

4. Also participating were representatives of the Governments of Central America, Mexico and the Spanish-speaking Caribbean from the following national institutions relating to older persons: National Council on Ageing (Belize), National Council for Older Persons (Costa Rica), National Secretariat of Family Affairs (El Salvador), National Programme for Older Persons (Guatemala), Ministry of the Office of the President (Honduras), National Institute for Older Persons (Mexico), Ministry of the Family (Nicaragua), Ministry of Youth, Women, the Child and the Family (Panama) and the General Directorate for Protection of Older Persons (Dominican Republic), in addition to representatives of other governmental institutions relating to employment and social security.

5. Representatives of the following organizations that make up the Inter-Agency Group on Ageing were present: ECLAC, UNFPA, PAHO and IDB. Also attending the meeting were representatives of the following entities: Ibero-American Intergovernmental Network for Technical Cooperation (RIICOTEC), Help Age International, the United Nations Population Division, the Costa Rica Office of the International Labour Organization, CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC, academia and civil society.

Organization of the meeting

6. The meeting was divided into five parts (see annex 2). The first part, *Policies on ageing within the framework of the Regional Strategy*, placed the issue of policies on ageing in context in both conceptual and situational terms and identified the challenges deriving from the Strategy for their formulation and application. The focus was on the status of programmes and programmatic frameworks on ageing in the countries of Central America and the Spanish-speaking Caribbean and in Mexico and Panama. Following an overview of demographic ageing in the subregion, presentations were made in the

Round Table on the progress made in incorporating the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, into national policies on ageing and representatives of government institutions reported on the achievements of their respective countries.

7. The second part, *Economic security of older persons: opportunities and challenges*, sought to analyse two important issues relating to economic security in old age in the countries of the subregion: social security and employment, and possible strategies for improving the productivity and income of older workers of the informal sector. At the conclusion of that part, selected countries reported on the steps they were taking in that area.

8. The purpose of the third part, *Enabling and supportive environments: opportunities and challenges*, was to make known and analyse the mechanisms for ensuring an environment for older persons free of discrimination and violence. Two introductory presentations were made, which dealt with the rights of older persons, mechanisms and instruments for protection, and promotion strategies for their inclusion in the public agenda. That part ended with a round table discussion in which some countries reported on the measures being taken to upgrade social and physical environments in order to improve the quality of life of older persons.

9. The fourth part, *Health and well-being in old age: opportunities and challenges*, focused on an analysis of healthcare for older persons. Two introductory presentations dealt with the provision of comprehensive primary health services together with the planning and development of a system of long-term care for older persons. The fourth part ended with a round table discussion in which some countries reported on the advances they had made with concrete indicators as well as their future projections.

10. The fifth part, *An outstanding agenda: indicators and research for the follow-up of the Regional Strategy*, was presented by representatives of the Population Division, PAHO, ECLAC and RIICOTEC, who announced their proposals for the follow-up of the Regional Strategy. The global proposals were analysed in relation to the Madrid Plan, as well as more specific aspects of the national application of the Regional Strategy.

11. The meeting ended with a synthesis of the main issues discussed and the commitments that derived from the activity.

Agenda

1. Policies on ageing within the framework of the Regional Strategy
 - 1.1 Policies on old age within the framework of the Regional Strategy on Ageing
 - 1.2 Situation of the programmes and institutional frameworks on ageing in Central America and the Caribbean
 - 1.3 Ageing in Central America and the Spanish-speaking Caribbean
 - 1.4 Advances in incorporating the Madrid International Plan of Action, 2002 into national policies on ageing
2. Economic security of older persons: opportunities and challenges
 - 2.1 The challenges of social security and employment for older persons in Central America and the Caribbean

- 2.2 Strategies and operational actions for improving the productivity and economic security of older workers of the informal sector
- 2.3 Programmes and actions for improving the economic security of older persons
- 3. Enabling and supportive environments: opportunities and challenges
 - 3.1 Discrimination and violence in old age: legal mechanisms and international instruments for the protection of the rights of older persons
 - 3.2 Communication strategies for the inclusion of ageing on the public agenda
 - 3.3 Programmes and actions for improving the physical and social environment of older persons.
- 4. Health and well-being in old age: opportunities and challenges
 - 4.1 Provision of comprehensive primary care services for active ageing: implications for public health
 - 4.2 Planning and development of a system of extended care for the most vulnerable older persons
 - 4.3 Programmes and actions for improving the health of older persons
- 5. An outstanding agenda: indicators and research for the follow-up of the Regional Strategy
 - 5.1 Indicators and research for the follow-up of the Regional Strategy
- 6. Conclusions of the meeting and closing session

Documentation

12. The documents on ageing prepared by CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC were distributed in electronic version at the meeting, while the Regional Strategy for the Implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing was distributed in printed version. In addition, at the end of the meeting, the participants were given a copy of the electronic version (CD) of the presentations made during the event. These are also available on the web page of the meeting: <http://www.cepal.org/celade/sansalvador2004>.

B. PROCEEDINGS

13. At the inaugural session, statements were made by Iveta Ganey, Social Security Expert of IDB-El Salvador, Rogelio Fernández, Director of the UNFPA Country Technical Services Team, UNFPA-Mexico, Eduardo Guerrero, Representative of PAHO-El Salvador, José Miguel Guzmán, Officer-in-Charge of the Population and Development Area of CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC and the First Lady of the Republic of El Salvador, Ana Lúgía Mixco Sol de Saca.

14. The Social Security Expert of IDB-El Salvador thanked the Government of the host country, the organizing team of the Secretariat for Family Affairs and ECLAC/CELADE for organizing the meeting and gave a brief assessment of the population of older persons in El Salvador. She said that more than half of elderly Salvadorans had no income, while less than 20% received social security pensions. Moreover, the information sources excluded older persons of the population studied and who were potential beneficiaries of a policy. She reflected on the role of older persons, the organizations and networks for

promoting their well-being and the need for support from the society and the private sector. She underscored the effort that IDB had made to achieve that objective, and the importance of the Inter-Agency Group on Ageing, which brought together prestigious institutions that were working together for the well-being of older persons.

15. The Director of the UNFPA Country Technical Services Team congratulated the Government of El Salvador and the members of the Inter-Agency Group on Ageing on the initiative of organizing a subregional meeting to review the progress made by countries in implementing at the national level the Regional Strategy on Ageing. He underscored the support that UNFPA had given to the organization of the event and other activities in follow-up to the Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing held in Santiago, Chile, in November 2003 and confirmed that UNFPA would continue to provide support on the issue of ageing.

16. The representative of PAHO-El Salvador congratulated the international organizations and the local counterpart for convening such an important meeting which, he said, was the fruit of a joint effort to assess the progress that the countries of the subregion had made since 2000, when the first Central American and Caribbean Forum on Policies for Older Persons had been organized by PAHO. The challenges identified at the first forum included the preparation of policies and legislation, the reorientation of primary health care and the exercise of strategies for promoting and strengthening research into public health. He invited participants to discuss those issues and to identify the new challenges that derived from the application of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.

17. The Officer-in-Charge of the Population and Development Area of CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC thanked the Government of El Salvador for its support in organizing the meeting. He commented on the objectives of the event and the regional and global context in which it was taking place. He said that it was necessary to change the traditional view of older persons and advocated the development of a rights approach to the treatment of the status of older persons. He urged the Governments of Central America and the Spanish-speaking Caribbean to make every effort to improve the quality of life of their older populations and said that following the mandate of the Regional Strategy for Implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, CELADE and the Inter-Agency Group on Ageing would be providing support to ensure that the commitments made in Santiago in 2003 became a reality in the medium and long term.

18. The First Lady of the Republic of El Salvador welcomed participants to the meeting and thanked the international organizations for choosing her country as the venue for the meeting. She said that it was important to create conditions for achieving a better quality of life for older persons and highlighted the efforts being made in that regard by her country and other nations of the subregion. She underscored the role that the private sector and civil society should play in conjunction with the State for the recognition and exercise of the rights of older persons and made an appeal for bilateral and subregional exchange to strengthen the current measures being taken.

Policies on ageing within the framework of the Regional Strategy

19. The Regional Advisor for Aging and Health of PAHO-Washington was the moderator of the first panel of the meeting. A professional of CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC gave a presentation on "Policies on old age in the context of the Regional Strategy on Ageing". She outlined basic concepts on the policies of ageing, the hegemonic approaches existing in the countries of the region, the methodological steps for their formulation and an example of the phase which some countries of the region were going through. She described the challenges faced by the countries of Central America and

the Spanish-speaking Caribbean in incorporating ageing into the public and government agenda and the subsequent implementation of that approach through services, programmes and projects. Policies on ageing were conceptualized as actions organized by the State in order to deal with the social, economic and cultural consequences of population and individual ageing. Three dimensions of the policies were identified: the symbolic dimension, which resulted in the shaping of a public agenda, the substantive dimension in the government agenda and the operational dimension in the implementation process. The hegemonic approaches to policies on ageing in the region were: poverty, resulting from a decline in the level of subsistence due to age; social exclusion, in which age is a source of vulnerability, and rights, where older persons are subjects of rights in a framework of solidarity. Within the framework of the Regional Strategy, policies on ageing were instruments for incorporating the issue in public policies and in adapting the State to demographic change. She concluded by pointing out that the countries of Central America and the Spanish-speaking Caribbean were at different stages with respect to their policy on ageing, classifying them in accordance with the political dimension in which they were located (symbolic, substantive and operational). That condition implied that the challenges were different for each country and bore a relationship to the structural and generational issues, a common feature among them being the need to identify on a continual basis the challenges posed by the Strategy in its three priority areas.

20. The Consultant of CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC gave a presentation on the status of the programmes and institutional frameworks on ageing in Central America and the Spanish-speaking Caribbean. She said that of the 11 countries studied, eight (Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic) had mainstreamed ageing into their government plans. In those plans, the situation of older persons was explicitly incorporated into the following areas: health (El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Dominican Republic), economic and social areas (Cuba), family and social safety nets (Honduras), social and family strengthening (El Salvador) and social protection (Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama). In the area of health, the issues addressed included the promotion of healthy lifestyles and self-care, access to health services, inter-agency coordination and human resource training. With respect to environments, the issues addressed were support for shaping and strengthening local and community networks, promoting a favourable image of ageing, building intergenerational relationships, preventing, and dealing with, situations of domestic violence, developing voluntary work and strengthening family ties. With respect to institutional frameworks, seven countries (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama and the Dominican Republic) had a National Council established by law or decree. Institutional programmes developed for older persons in seven countries were aimed basically at generating equitable and integrated access to health and at fostering an enabling and supportive environment, guaranteeing equal opportunities and a life of dignity, strengthening family ties and networks, developing more professional care in the home and daycare centres and making the society aware of the rights of older persons and appreciative of their true value. In conclusion, she highlighted the fact that the different Governments recognized the importance of addressing the issue of ageing and that institutional programmes were aimed especially at strengthening social dimensions. There were a variety of successful experiences, which countries could share and implement and the institutional frameworks established had been constituted in line with the features of each country.

21. The representative of UNFPA-Guatemala moderated the second part of the panel. The Officer-in-Charge of the Population and Development Area of CELADE - Population Division of ECLAC reported on ageing in Central America and the Spanish-speaking Caribbean and pointed out that in the subregion, as in the rest of the world, population ageing was an inevitable process, but that patterns varied widely. Specifically, he analysed some indicators of the process of demographic ageing as well as its principal causes (increase in life expectancy and decline in fertility). He said that Puerto Rico and Cuba were the countries in the subregion that were most advanced in terms of demographic ageing. The countries could

be classed in three subgroups: the first group, whose demographic transition had been accelerated since the beginning of the period (Cuba and Puerto Rico), the second group in intermediate transition, in which demographic ageing would accelerate in the year 2025 (Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic) and the third group, where the transition was incipient (Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua). Each of those groups of countries faced different challenges. The countries undergoing accelerated ageing had to cope with the demands of older persons at a time when the needs of children and adolescents were not yet fully met. The countries with incipient ageing had a margin of time within which to act, but, in general, had weak institutions and a significant percentage of their population lived in poverty. In that regard, he analysed the levels of ageing of the countries and the sources of income of older persons and said that, in general, a high percentage of elderly persons had no income, while a low percentage received a pension (on average 12,5%). Thus, the future challenges in the subregion were to ensure an appropriate income in old age and a progressive universal coverage of social security, to guarantee appropriate access to healthcare services together with human resource training and to supervise the functioning of long-term care institutions. It was also important to ensure group transport and appropriate housing conditions for a dignified old age and, above all, to create conditions so that future generations could enjoy a better quality of life in old age.

22. Representatives of Mexico, Costa Rica and Nicaragua participated in the round table discussion on incorporation of the Madrid International Plan of Action, 2002, in national policies on ageing. The Director of the National Institute of Older Persons of Mexico stated that since 2000 his country had initiated a new phase in terms of the care of older persons. A legal framework had been established with the passage of the Rights of Older Persons Act and the National Institute for Older Persons (INAPAM) had been appointed as the decentralized public body for guiding national policy. Currently, INAPAM operated through four strategic pillars: employment and support for the economy; social and community development; health, research and human resource training in gerontology; and transmission of values. The achievements made included the setting up of the Inter-agency Coordinating Council on Older Persons and the Citizens' Advisory Council on Older Persons. The main challenges facing the country in that area were to promote public policies in the field of labour, to include the older population as human capital and to generate opportunities for work which would counteract the impact of demographic transition on public finances; to coordinate the institutions that provided gerontological care by strengthening the performance of the different social actors and to promote the continuity of those programmes that had demonstrated their efficiency and efficacy; to generate opportunities that would enable the older person to improve his/her quality of life by setting goals and actions for achieving them, providing stable, dignified and well paid jobs, to create areas that are spiritually uplifting and to develop motor skills and, above all, to innovate gerontological programmes that would contribute to a society based on equal opportunities.

23. The Chairman of the Advisory Board of the National Council for Older Persons of Costa Rica stated that his country showed a trend towards longevity. In 1999, 7.9% of the total population was over 60 years old and, by 2030, it was estimated that that group would account for 18.5% of the total population, thereby generating with it a greater demand for services. In that context, Costa Rica had adopted measures for the benefit of the older adult population culminating in the drafting and enactment of six laws: the Comprehensive Act for Older Adults (Law no. 7935), Act for the creation of taxes on alcohol, beer and cigarettes, Reform of the Regulatory Paid Transport Act for Persons in Motor vehicles, the Workers' Protection Act, Social Development and Family Allowance Act and the Equal Opportunities for Disabled Persons Act. In terms of institutions, the National Council on Older Persons (CONAPAM) was designed to guarantee the improvement of the quality of life of older persons through the formulation of comprehensive public policies that generate the creation of conditions and opportunities for a full and dignified life. As part of its work, the Council had set up the National Technical Support System for the

Comprehensive Care of Older Persons (SINATEC) as the technical body responsible for providing advice for the formulation, execution and evaluation of policies and programmes developed for older persons. The Council, together with SINATEC and with technical support from UNFPA, had defined the national policy for the care of older persons —Plan of Action 2002-2006. Its main strategic lines were social security and housing, social empowerment, community facilities, education and promotion of health. The challenge for the country was to comply with the provisions of Law 7935 in the different public institutions and to incorporate the issue of demographic ageing into the National Development Plan with programmes that responded to an integrated strategy in social, educational and health issues.

24. The Director of Policies, Standards and Accreditation of the Ministry of the Family of Nicaragua said that her country's National Development Plan and the proposed National Policy for Social Protection provided for older persons as a vulnerable group. The National Policy for Social Protection was being developed under a scheme for comprehensive treatment and shared responsibilities with families, communities, civil society organizations and local governments. It was the governing body for social protection which had to ensure coverage, quality and the sustainability of care for vulnerable and extremely poor groups, including older persons. Within that framework, the Ministry of the Family considered that the future policy for older persons would be the guiding instrument that would establish the objectives, strategies and general guidelines for promoting “active ageing” in Nicaragua on the basis of the principles of the United Nations for older persons. In order to define the policy for older persons, two central elements would be considered: active ageing —of universal scope with full exercise of rights— and protection and social assistance, which would be more targeted in scope. The application of that policy was expected to lead to the promotion of safe environments with systems of social support for older persons, the strengthening of intergenerational solidarity, the promotion of a positive image of ageing, the independence of the older person and the coordination of care for older persons.

Economic security of older persons: opportunities and challenges

25. The Deputy Director of Economic Benefits of the National Institute for Pensions of Public Employees of El Salvador, moderated the first panel on the second part of the meeting. The Social Security Expert of ILO-Costa Rica presented a paper on the challenges of social security and employment in old age in Central America and the Spanish-speaking Caribbean, co-authored with Fabio Bertranou, Social Security Expert of ILO-Chile. He said that the main challenge in the area of employment was to promote opportunities for access to decent, productive jobs under conditions of freedom, equity, security and dignity. The labour market in Latin America was characterized by three outstanding features. The number of retired workers was on the decline and the number of dependents per worker was on the rise; unemployment continued to be very high and was increasing. Among non-agricultural workers, sources of employment were changing and becoming more unstable. In that context, older workers —in particular women— accounted for a growing participation rate, an increase in unemployment rates, a reduction in working hours, a tendency to a decrease in paid employment and a transition to informal employment. With respect to social security, the most important issues were the coexistence of two social security models and the need to ensure that the individual systems of account did not weaken the systems based on solidarity. Lastly, he said that in public policies, old age should be viewed as a challenge for the society, which should seek to secure a gradual and flexible transition, and adopt measures to avoid discrimination against older workers. Such policies should give effective responses to changes in family structure and lifestyles, guarantee equal treatment for men and women (pensionable age, widow's or widower's pension, amount of the pension, etc.); take advantage of the positive effects of good health enjoyed by older workers to compensate for the costs attributable to ageing in health systems and evaluate the scope and replacement of workers due to migration as a solution for population ageing.

26. The representative of IDB-Washington and the Executive Director of the Costa Rican Gerontological Association (AGECO) presented a paper on strategies and operational actions for improving the productivity and economic security of older workers in the informal sector. They recalled that the aim of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, was “to ensure that persons everywhere are able to age with security and dignity ...”, participation in the labour market being one of the principal mechanisms for achieving economic security in old age. The achievement of economic security was determined by the combination of three elements: labour as a generator of income, the social security system and support, mainly family, networks. Currently, the participation of older persons in the labour market was characterized by the existence of a series of factors —demographic change, poverty, economic dependence, weakness of support networks, exclusionary employment policies, crises in the social security system— which resulted in their integration in the informal sector of the economy and in the coexistence of opposing cultural constructs with respect to old age. In that context, the AGECO proposal was an intervention strategy that gave preference to a rights approach and proposed as basic components the development of actions for the generation of knowledge, organization, a support system, niches in productive processes, technical assistance, training and financing. Its purpose was to create the mechanisms that would enable older persons to find employment in the informal sector on the basis of their needs and capacities for achieving greater productivity.

27. The Assistant Representative of UNFPA-El Salvador moderated the round table “Programmes and actions for improving the economic security of older persons”, in which the representatives of Mexico, El Salvador and Panama took part. The National Director of the National Institute of Older Persons of Mexico stated that the Institute’s main achievements had been to generate awareness in the Mexican business class of the need to open up work opportunities for older persons and to set up the Emma Godoy Computer Centre, where older persons could acquire knowledge in computing and the Internet, thereby providing them with the means to expand their scope for employment. Other actions organized by the Institute included the issue of a membership card, the Older Persons’ Employment Programme, through which they fostered the creation of opportunities for decent jobs, the Tercera Llamada, consisting in technical assistance and financial support for viable productive initiatives, Employment Fairs and the Artisanal Support Programme. The challenges were to flexibilize labour life so as to postpone the retirement age and take advantage of all the knowledge and experience accumulated throughout a person’s life, develop regional technical cooperation which would make it possible to establish action lines geared to gender equity and to overcome gender-based discrimination in the economic sphere in order to achieve a coordinated action between the government and the society to guarantee economic well-being in old age.

28. The Director-General of Social Security and Employment in the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of El Salvador, said that the organization responsible for social security in his country should consider the national and international demographic context in drawing up policies and incorporating the principle of joint responsibility between all the sectors and levels of society. In El Salvador, the National Secretariat for Family Affairs promoted the creation of regulatory legal frameworks, which culminated in the adoption of the Comprehensive Care for Older Persons Act (2000) and the creation of the National Council for Comprehensive Care for Older Persons. The Comprehensive Care for Older Persons Act contained a section on the Social Security and Insurance Regime. In terms of the work of other government institutions, the Ministry of Labour was developing a Plan for the Care of Older Persons with a view to improving the living conditions of that group by increasing the scope for employment or self-employment in order to generate income to satisfy the basic needs and the needs of the family group. Various recreational/educational programmes had been developed to promote, among other things, micro-enterprises and mental health, days for raising awareness among public and private enterprises, self-employment fairs and creation of a productive window through a Web page. The main challenges in that

respect were to promote training programmes for strengthening the entrepreneurial capacities of older persons through programmes that used older instructors to train young people and to strengthen the National Network for Employment Opportunities.

29. The Director of the National Programme for Senior Citizens of the Social Security Fund of Panama said that more than half of the older persons in his country did not have access to social security benefits and were obliged to continue to work in poorly paid informal jobs, without coverage against illness or accidents and without any possibility of obtaining an old-age pension in the future. In that context, the National Programme for Senior Citizens of the Social Security Fund sought to guarantee sufficient minimum income, improve employment conditions for active workers, reduce poverty among the older adult population and ensure that the social security system included more and more of the elderly population. Each one of those objectives had been translated into concrete actions and programmes of which the hallmark was cooperativism through the supply of microcredit, national security and occupational health programmes, financing of sustainable development projects and programmes in rural and indigenous areas and strengthening control of the payment of worker and employer contributions. The main challenges facing Panama were to convince the older persons themselves of their potential as productive actors capable of becoming owners of their own microenterprises, to eliminate the existence of laws and disincentives for working after reaching retirement age, to resolve actuarial problems in the social security system and to raise awareness among the insured population of the implementation of the non-contributory pension system.

Enabling and supportive environments: opportunities and challenges

30. The National Coordinator of the Unit for Defence of the Family and the Child of the Attorney-General's Office of the Republic of El Salvador moderated the first panel of that section. The PAHO Human Rights Lawyer presented the topic "Discrimination and violence in old age: legal mechanisms and international instruments for the protection of rights in old age". He began by establishing the links between human rights, public health and healthy ageing. The first link concerned human rights violations, which had a negative effect on the health of persons in general and especially that of the most vulnerable persons. The second link concerned policies, plans, practices and legislation on ageing, which could have a positive or negative effect on the exercise of human rights and fundamental liberties, especially in the case of those suffering from chronic illnesses or disabilities. The third link was that the exercise of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights and the enjoyment of a certain level of physical and mental health were prerequisites for obtaining the maximum level of well-being in old age and fulfilment as citizens in accordance with national constitutions. The role of human rights in constructing the physical and mental well-being of older persons was to incorporate in national policies, legislations, plans or practices current international regulations, especially those international and regional standards that protected the human rights of older persons in view of their particularly vulnerable position. However, there was limited knowledge of those instruments, which often resulted in failure to respect the relevant rights. The instruments in question included the Inter-American System for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights, the American Convention on Human Rights, the Protocol of San Salvador and the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities. Lastly, he stated that the mechanisms for protection available currently under the Inter-American System for Protection and Promotion of Human Rights were the presentation of individual cases, investigation "in loco", precautionary measures, hearings and the formulation of special standards for protection.

31. The Lawyer and International Consultant for UNFPA presented the topic "Communication strategies for the inclusion of ageing on the public agenda". He said that the first step towards developing

a communication strategy whereby the issue of ageing could be incorporated in the public agenda should be to define substantive questions with respect to the mission, goals, diagnosis, spheres of decision-making and knowledge of the opposition. The possible strategies to be used were the social introduction of the topic, the construction of clear, well-defined messages for communication, the mobilization of social attention and the generation of a climate of opinion which would permit the discussion of issues that affected older persons. To that end, it was necessary to identify the types of audience and appropriate strategies in order to obtain a change in the social environment and thus increase the visibility of the issue with a view to incorporating it in the public agenda. Currently, the image of old age was associated with a series of prejudices (passiveness, illness, social burden), which were the expression of the imagination of a society based on productivity, where the older person did not match the dominant archetype. The consequences of that situation were invisibility, indifference, abandonment, exclusion or negation of opportunities and roles, abuse and physical violence, in short, the non-recognition of older persons as subjects with rights. Thus, policies designed for older persons should incorporate the rights approach that would promote the construction of citizenship and an inclusive society for all ages.

32. The representative of the Directorate for Legal and International Affairs of the National Secretariat for Family Affairs of El Salvador moderated the round table on “Programmes and actions for improving the physical and social environment of older persons”, in which the representatives of El Salvador, Honduras, Panama, Guatemala and Cuba participated. The Technical Coordinator of the Support Committee for Programmes for Older Persons of El Salvador, referred to the instruments and organizations in her country which enabled authorities to respond to the needs of older persons. One such organization was the National Council for Comprehensive Care for Programmes for Older Persons (CONAIPAM), which maintained alliances with various strategic institutions (National Council for Mental Health, National Council for Comprehensive Care for Disabled Persons, Office of the Deputy Minister of Housing, Office of the Deputy Minister of Transport, among others), in order to improve the physical and social environment of older persons. In that sphere, the main advances of the country were: (i) coordination of housing projects that benefited older persons, dissemination of the legal regulations relating to architectural barriers in transport and communications; (ii) dissemination campaigns (bulletins, leaflets) designed to promote good health and active ageing, popularization of health campaigns (vaccination, pneumonia prevention, etc.), holding of the national day of the older person entitled “Abrazo Mundial Solidario” and creation of clubs in urban and rural zones, (iii) actions within the framework of the Comprehensive Care for Older Persons Act, such as the establishment of clubs at the national level with the support of the National Health Network, the organization of fairs for the sale of their products, implementation of a bank of small jobs, management of preferential treatment in all the government and municipal institutions, institutionalization of the National Prize for Innovation in the care of older persons. Lastly, in terms of promoting equal opportunities and access to lifelong education, El Salvador had incorporated into national educational plans and programmes contents that favoured respect for older persons and had prepared non-formal vocational training manuals. The principal projections at the general level included the implementation of a system of information, research on health and ageing, strengthening health personnel and establishment of a follow-up system for public policies, among others.

33. The representative of the Technical Support Unit of the Ministry of the President of Honduras said that the “Act relating to a Special Treatment Regime for Senior Citizens, Retirees and Disability Pensioners” had been enacted under decree No. 220-1993 in order to improve the physical and social environment of older persons in their country by granting discounts and special rates for the payment of public and private services to retirees and pensioners over the age of 60. In addition, authorities had adopted a national policy for the prevention of disabilities and for care and comprehensive rehabilitation of persons with disability and for the promotion and protection of their rights and duties”. That policy sought to implement a plan to eliminate urbanistic and architectural barriers on the basis of criteria and

technical standards applicable to the public and private sector, through which they would promote the progressive and gradual adaptation of the networks of collective public transport networks and the incorporation of appropriate systems of communication adapted to the needs of disabled persons. With respect to the elimination of all forms of discrimination and abuse, values such as tolerance and respect for diversity of social conditions, such as gender, age and ethnic background had been incorporated in national curricula. Other actions included the training of health staff for dealing with insured persons, the financing of projects of the Innovative Fund for the Development and Social Assistance (FIDAS) and the establishment of the Honduran Social Investment Fund (FHIS), which focused on improving economic, political, social, cultural and biological conditions, transferring income directly through a Senior Citizens' Bond (Family Allowance Programme). The main challenge that Honduras was facing was to manage to sustain over the long term the Poverty Reduction Strategy, which placed special emphasis on the status of older persons.

34. The Director of the Office of the Older Person in the Ministry of Youth, Women, the Child and the Family of Panama referred to the advances made in her country in that area. Panama had a juridical-legal framework established under the National Constitution, a family code and particular standards; in addition, concrete actions, such as the Programme for rapid support for low-cost housing had been taken. In terms of the increase in the availability, sustainability and upgrading of social support systems for older persons, the country had a draft bill for a daycare centre, which consisted in a temporary subsidy for families who were responsible for looking after older persons. The future projects of the National Office for Older Persons also included the creation of a law to regulate the supervision of homes for the elderly. The country had two programmes for the elimination of all forms of discrimination and illtreatment against older persons: the programme for raising awareness and providing education on ageing and old age (urban/marginal areas) and the programme for the comprehensive care for older persons in situations of social risk. Through the National Council for the Older Person, Panama had made strides in inter-agency coordination. The purpose of the Council was to create appropriate conditions for coordinating the full participation of older persons in society in order to promote their empowerment as a social group and strengthen the exercise of active citizenship. In terms of the promotion of equal opportunities and access to lifelong education, mention should be made of the existence of the Universidad de la Tercera Edad, the preparation of a computer project and the national programme for transmission of cultural patterns and folklore. Lastly, in order to promote a positive image of old age, several strategies had been implemented, for example, the weekly radio programme by a government broadcaster, radio and television advertisements referring to the topic and the projection of a positive image in primary schools and kindergartens.

35. The Director of the National Programme for Older Persons in Guatemala stated that in her country the Programme in question was aimed at promoting initiatives, projects and actions at the local and national level in order to improve the quality of life of older persons. Advances in setting up enabling and supportive environments had been recorded in the areas of food security (food allowance, creation of dining rooms), health (free geriatric medical attention, ophthalmological and odontological medical days), culture and recreation (crafts classes, fairs, international day of older persons, literacy, training for caregivers). In addition, inter-agency coordination with other ministries, the National Statistical Institute, municipalities, the provincial government, private entities, international community and UNFPA-Guatemala had been improved. Thus, it had been possible to obtain data on the older adult population at the national level and to issue an identification card for older persons (as yet without benefits), to hold the Diagnosis for Older Persons for the implementation of the Gerontological Plan and to incorporate the issue of ageing into the Social Policy Matrix 2000-2004, whose main line of action was support for the reforms to the Protection for Senior Citizens Act (Decree 80-96). Guatemala planned to launch a number

of initiatives; in particular, it envisaged implementing the Gerontological Plan, opening up dining rooms and a shelter for indigents in Guatemala City and installing a psychological clinic.

36. The representative of the University of Havana, Cuba, reported on the advances made in her country in the area of education for older persons. She said that the National Education Programme for Older Persons was one of the main lines of action for improving the physical and social environment of older persons. To that end, the Universidad de la Tercera Edad had been established to promote cultural advancement, scientific and technical upgrading and the social reintegration of that social group. It had branches in urban and rural areas. Its centre of reference was the University of Havana and its curriculum consisted of basic and follow-up courses. Its theoretical basis included the psychology of development in old age, “andragogy” as a branch of adult education and “gerontagogy” as the application of the science of education to gerontology, in short, the older person as a student. Plans are to continue with the creation of branches or universities for older persons in densely populated areas and agricultural communities, to pursue the training of the human resources that these plans cater for and to promote the introduction of course work for older graduates in organizations of the economy and in social, community and scientific institutions.

Health and well-being in old age: opportunities and challenges

37. The representative of the Panamanian Geriatric and Gerontological Council moderated the first panel on health. The Regional Advisor for Aging and Health of PAHO-Washington presented a study on the supply of comprehensive primary care services for active ageing: implications for public health. She said that the fulfilment of the objectives of the Madrid International Plan of Action in the area of health and well-being came up against a number of barriers to access, namely a lack of guaranteed benefits, lack of training, the absence of instruments for attending to older persons and lack of information. Effective social protection in health was predicated on the existence of a policy and financing that would guarantee a series of benefits and a basic health care package. The central elements to be considered for the supply of appropriate health services for older persons were the promotion of universal health coverage, the mainstreaming of ageing as an essential component in legislations and national health policies and the establishment of a comprehensive health service which would respond to the needs of older persons by strengthening and reorienting existing services and creating new ones where necessary. The guiding principles in the fulfilment of those objectives were information, education and training; an adapted, updated management system and accessibility of the physical environment. The specific actions for primary care should include promoting health and preventive medicine, medical attention, community based rehabilitation and community mental health care, as well as periodic health checks, the comprehensive geriatric evaluation with validated and standardized instruments, immunizations, screening, social and community support, management of acute illnesses, control of chronic degenerative diseases and second and third level reference capacity. Lastly, he referred to the challenges facing primary health care centres, as a result of population ageing and suggested that the centres should adapt the administrative procedures to the specific needs of older persons and prepare norms and health service protocols for them, establishing objectives that should be pursued as well as how to achieve them.

38. The Chairman of the Advisory Board of the National Council for Older Persons of Costa Rica gave a presentation on planning and development of a system of extended care for the most vulnerable older persons and said that the activities that Costa Rica promoted in that area were geared to the integrated improvement of living conditions in old age, encompassing physical, psychological, social and functional dimensions. The enactment of Law No. 7935 marked a change in attitudes in the society towards the process of ageing and promoted planned responses to the demands and needs of that population, which was growing at an accelerated pace. Other advances included the support that the Costa

Rican Social Security Fund provided to a wide network of establishments and the development of the specialization of Geriatrics and Gerontology. That specialization resulted in the implementation of a strategy of extended care for older persons presenting a bio-psycho-social risk through a Network for the Progressive Care of Older Persons at the National Geriatric and Gerontological Hospital. That network provided care for outpatients as well as hospitalization, complementary programmes to the process of comprehensive care and services within the community. The main achievements identified included the holistic treatment of older persons by trained interdisciplinary teams who performed diagnoses and provided timely treatment; the support of a network of health services; a higher population coverage and specialized care for those older persons that had been victims of abuse, neglect and abandonment. The country expected to face challenges in the area of planning and definition of joint strategies and envisaged strengthening the network of long-stay social services, creating geriatric units in the different health units and boosting primary and secondary geriatric care.

39. The representative of the Ministry of Health of El Salvador moderated the round table entitled “Programmes and actions for improving the health of older persons”, in which the representatives of Panama, Belize and El Salvador participated. The representative of the Panamanian Geriatric and Gerontological Council said that Panama lacked a health plan for older persons, although the Ministry of Health had integral rules for care that applied to all population groups and the Social Security Fund (CSS) observed national standards for senior citizens and had a basic set of medicines and official selection regulations as a guarantee for the provision of basic medicines for older persons. As regards the establishment of a comprehensive health service, the country had a National Mental Health Plan adopted by Executive Decree in 2003 and CSS was developing a health education programme on self-care, health promotion and disease prevention, although it did not have a plan for the promotion of healthy lifestyles. There was also a legal framework (Executive Decree No. 3/1999, Resolution No. 59/1999 with a Single Internal Regulation for Subsidized and Private Homes), which provided protection and governed the rights of older persons that used the long-term care facilities. It was operated by the National Directorate for Older Persons of the Ministry of Youth, Women, the Child and the Family of Panama (MINJUMNFA), which was responsible for the supervision and evaluation of subsidized and private institutions for family protection. As an alternative to the care of disabled older persons who did not wish to be placed in an institution, CSS provided a Comprehensive Home Care Service. In terms of the challenges facing the country in the area of health in old age, El Salvador needed to establish operational coordination between programmes and institutions, implement the national plan for action with respect to ageing, conduct the National Survey on the Health Requirements of Older Persons, develop continuous and accelerated specialized human resource training and promote gerontological research especially in backward and indigenous areas.

40. The representative of the National Council on Ageing of Belize said that her country had 16,000 older persons and that that figure was expected to double by 2025. Most older persons suffered chronic and degenerative diseases and did not have the resources to pay for medical insurance; nor did they have social security and the medicines and medical examinations were very costly. The situation was more acute in the rural areas. Faced with that problem, the National Council on Ageing had sought to comply with the objectives of the Madrid International Plan of Action. Since February 2003, the country had a medical form that covered all medicines required by older persons, including those for diabetes and hypertension. It was also promoting legislative reform for the establishment of a network of health care services for older persons, training centres to train persons who were in charge of older persons and a National Medical Plan. In addition, a study was being prepared to determine how AIDS affected the lives of older persons. Studies and methodologies were being prepared to examine the physical, geographical and financial barriers to access to the health of vulnerable persons, including, it was hoped, older persons. The Ministry of Health was collecting data in order to have quantifiable information on the patterns of

morbidity among older persons. As regards the objective of promoting health and well-being in old age, health reform contained elements that sought to reeducate the older adult population on issues such as physical and mental activity so that the tendency towards inactivity would be reduced and older persons would achieve a better quality of life. Lastly, she said that the objective relating to human resources training had not been fulfilled in Belize, since there were no geriatric specialists in Belize; she sought the cooperation of the countries of the region and international organization to help solve that problem.

41. The representative of the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance of El Salvador said that his country had an institutional health plan for the care of older persons that defined the guaranteed services in each of the different levels of care. Both the Ministry of Health and the Salvadoran Social Security Institute had regulations that guaranteed appropriate care for the aged. With respect to rules and protocols for care, the Ministry had worked with a model for comprehensive care for the health of older persons (2001), a manual for procedures for caring for older persons (2002) and guidelines for primary health care for older persons (2003); currently, it was preparing clinical guidelines for the treatment of diseases prevalent among older persons. The Social Security system also worked with a programme for comprehensive health care for older persons and a manual of technical norms for the programme. The comprehensive health service for older persons included a mental health plan at the primary care level, which supplemented treatment for older persons with psycho-education techniques and training of care-givers. A national policy promoting healthy behaviours was being prepared and the National Council, in coordination with other competent institutions, advocated healthy lifestyles, with emphasis on the importance of physical activity and the exchange of intergenerational experiences. The legal framework which provided protection to older persons living in long-term care facilities was enforced by the National Secretariat of the Family, which maintained the registry and the regulations governing the formation of residential centres. The support networks that had permitted multidisciplinary teams to visit older persons in their homes were an important protective mechanism. With respect to human resources training, the didactic plan for training in primary health care for older persons had been prepared and would be incorporated in the curricula of medical and related careers. The main challenges facing the country were to apply a national health survey on older persons and to set up a national committee which would define specific indicators and targets for a period of 5 to 10 years and create a centre for research into public health and ageing.

An outstanding agenda: indicators and research for the follow-up of the Regional Strategy

42. The Director of the Country Technical Services Team of UNFPA-Mexico moderated the panel entitled “Indicators and research for the follow-up of the Regional Strategy”, in which experts from PAHO, ECLAC/CELADE, the United Nations Population Division and RIICOTEC participated. The representative of the United Nations Population Division said that, in constructing an agenda, two factors should be taken into consideration: first, the Meeting of Experts held in Malta in 2003, where a methodological framework was proposed for the follow-up of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, based on a bottom-up approach, that is, considering the needs and requirements of the bases and incorporating the different instruments, contents and stakeholders that might be necessary; second, resolution 42/1 (February 2004) of the United Nations Commission for Social Development, which established that the process should be carried out every five years and should focus on one of the Plan’s three priority directions. In that context, the minimum components of the follow-up and evaluation process were defined as follows: to gather information, transform it into a format that would be relevant for public policies and make the necessary adjustments to policies and programmes on the basis of the conclusions and recommendations obtained. As a complement to the foregoing, it was suggested that a monitoring mechanism for national coordination should be established (under the responsibility of the Government) and that an autonomous national (non-governmental) body should be appointed. Such a

body would have consultative functions and its main tasks would be to raise awareness in the society as a whole and the political class in particular, bring together trained human resources in order to carry out the process and collect the necessary financial resources. The basic structure for the construction of indicators was the International Plan of Action and the suggestion was to work with a model of quantitative statistical information supplemented with qualitative information.

43. With respect to the construction of global indicators, the Officer-in-Charge of the Population and Development Area of CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC suggested reconsidering the proposal of indicators agreed at the Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing, held in Santiago in 2003, and constructing a system of regional indicators for monitoring international conferences. In addition, a database with aggregated and disaggregated census indicators should be set up and a model on the status of older persons should be designed and implemented for incorporation in household surveys. In the line of research, he suggested that the focus should be on economic security, health, physical and social environments and on improving the quality of information on mortality at advanced ages and support networks.

44. The Regional Advisor for Aging and Health of PAHO-Washington proposed using two indicators—an instrumental one and a results-oriented one—for each of the objectives, in order to develop the central element in the issue of fostering health and well-being in old age, the idea being to reduce the 64 health indicators and ensure that they were monitored more effectively in the countries. The indicators in question included the coverage of health institutions geared to the care of older persons, the development of a base line relating to the functionality and disability of older persons, a base line for nutrition for the population, the availability of a law to protect the rights of older persons, whether or not there was a plan for the development of human resources in geriatrics and the creation of a database on the health of persons over the age of 60 by sex and age group, notwithstanding the difficulties in monitoring a database of that kind. The shortlist reduced the complication of monitoring a longer list of indicators.

45. The Executive Secretary of RIICOTEC said that countries needed to coordinate their information in order to fulfil the objectives of the Plan of Action, hence the need for a series of common basic indicators which could serve as a matrix of information for executing actions, which should come from national bodies. In that context, he underscored the need to create councils of older persons in countries where none existed, in order to involve the public in social policies. He also emphasized that RIICOTEC was making plans to reinforce coordination with international organizations.

46. The panellists agreed that the major challenges for constructing an agenda of indicators and research for the follow-up of the Regional Strategy were to validate the existing sources of information, develop new sources, define priorities and mobilize resources in order to carry out research on the basis of the International Plan of Action, pursue training, develop systems of information appropriate to the reality of each country—without neglecting the follow-up at the local level—and incorporate the diversity of situations that existed between different regions in the world and the interior of each region and country.

Conclusions

47. The main commitment reached by the organizations participating in the Meeting of Experts was to implement the actions needed for the effective national application of the Regional Strategy on Ageing. In that context, the meeting was an ideal forum for observing the wealth of experiences that the different countries could exchange and demonstrated that the different nations were responding to demographic change by moving away from a welfare approach towards one that gradually sought to promote the exercise of rights by older persons.

48. The participants agreed that the Governments of the subregion had recognized the need to address the issues of ageing; however, to date, it had been done in a fragmented way and a more holistic approach to ageing was urgently needed. The emphasis on reducing poverty levels and on achieving efficient policies for social protection stood out as supports for security and dignity in old age.

49. The discussions enabled participants to define common concrete objectives which would guide actions in the medium term in compliance with the Regional Strategy for the Implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.

50. In terms of economic security, the actions proposed reinforced those already established in the Regional Strategy; a universal, non-exclusionary social security system, opportunities for decent employment for older persons who wished to continue to work, the elimination of gender discrimination in access to social protection and, indeed, raising the awareness of all the stakeholders involved in achieving income security for the elderly.

51. With respect to health, the actions proposed were directed to the promotion of self-care and healthy lifestyles through education. Participants also agreed to place emphasis on primary care—with a special focus on the health of older women—but considering also the need to establish national health plans that offered structures by levels of attention (facilities for the treatment of acutely ill patients, intermediate care facilities, facilities for the treatment of chronically ill patients, day hospitals, home care, units for rehabilitation and palliative care, etc.). In that connection, it was agreed that training in geriatrics and gerontology was indispensable both for primary care personnel and for professionals interested in postgraduate training in that area. Participants also agreed to establish a agenda for targeted research in epidemiology and the health care needs of each country, region or ethnic group.

52. In terms of enabling environments, it was agreed that steps should be taken to place the issue of ageing on the public agenda, both from the point of view of the real status of older persons, their needs and rights and from the point of view of their empowerment for self-management and participation in decisions concerning them. The consensus was that there was a need to promote intergenerational exchange, the transmission of values and a positive, non-stereotypical image of old age. Emphasis was also placed on the problem of discrimination against older persons, which called for an improvement in the systems of prevention and detection. In that regard, an important point discussed was the need to consider older persons as subjects with rights and to disseminate the existing mechanisms for the protection of those rights for older persons.

53. The short-term challenges identified for the national application of the Regional Strategy in the countries of Central America, the Spanish-speaking Caribbean, Panama and Mexico included institution-building geared to older persons, in order to provide professionals, mechanisms and resources for effectively fulfilling the recommendations emerging from the meeting, the establishment of consensus at the national level to address population ageing as an important policy issue for each country's development and the use of mechanisms for strengthening the treatment of the issue at the national level. Such mechanisms included human resource training, technical cooperation among countries, the development of appropriate promotion strategies and the creation of conditions for the effective exercise of rights and duties by older persons.

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
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Belice/Belize

Representante/Representative:

- Kamela Palma, National Council on Ageing, Ministry of Human Development, Women and Children and Civil Society

Costa Rica

Representante/Representative:

- Fernando Morales, Presidente de la Junta Rectora, Consejo Nacional de la Persona Adulta Mayor (CONAPAM), Presidencia de la República

Guatemala

Representante/Representative:

- María Fernanda Ros de Castillo, Directora, Programa Nacional del Adulto Mayor, Secretaría de Obras Sociales de la Esposa del Presidente

El Salvador

Representante/Representative:

- Ana Ligia Mixco de Saca, Primera Dama de la República de El Salvador, Coordinadora del Consejo Nacional de Atención Integral a los Programas de los Adultos Mayores (CONAIPAM)
- Ana María Liévano de Sol, Coordinadora, Comité Técnico de Apoyo a los Programas de los Adultos Mayores y Directora de Asuntos Jurídicos de la Secretaría Nacional de la Familia
- María Teresa Sagastume Henríquez, Dirección de Asuntos Jurídicos y Responsables del Área del Adulto Mayor, Secretaría Nacional de la Familia
- Sonia Artola de González, Dirección de Asuntos Jurídicos y Responsables del Área del Adulto Mayor Secretaría Nacional de la Familia
- Hernán Landaverde Piche, Dirección de Asuntos Jurídicos y Responsables del Área del Adulto Mayor Secretaría Nacional de la Familia

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México/Mexico

Representante/Representative:

- Pedro Borda Hartmann, Director General, Instituto Nacional de las Personas Adultas Mayores (INAPAM)

NicaraguaRepresentante/Representative:

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- Elizabeth Castro Santamaría, Directora de Políticas, Normas y Acreditación, Ministerio de la Familia

Panamá/PanamaRepresentante/Representative:

- Maribel Coco, Directora de Adultos Mayores, Ministerio de la Juventud, la Mujer, la Niñez y la Familia
- Ricardo Sandoval, Director del Programa Nacional de la Tercera Edad , Caja del Seguro Social

República Dominicana/Dominican RepublicRepresentante/Representative:

- Pedro Khoury , Director General Protección a la Vejez, Programa de Protección a las Personas Adultas Mayores, Secretaría de Estado de Salud Pública y Asistencia Social, Ministerio de Salud Pública y Asistencia Social

**A. United Nations bodies
Organismos de las Naciones Unidas**

Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL)/Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

- José Miguel Guzmán, Oficial a cargo Área de Población y Desarrollo, Centro Latinoamericano y Caribeño de Demografía (CELADE)-División de Población de la CEPAL
- Sandra Huenchuan, CELADE-División de Población de la CEPAL
- Daniela González, CELADE-División de Población de la CEPAL
- Mónica Villarreal, Consultora, CELADE-División de Población de la CEPAL
- Jasmine Delgado, Consultora, CELADE-División de Población de la CEPAL

Fondo de Población de las Naciones Unidas (UNFPA)/United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

- Rogelio Fernández, Director Equipo de Apoyo Técnico, UNFPA, México
- Alanna Armitage, Representante del Fondo de Población de las Naciones Unidas en Honduras y Directora de País UNFPA El Salvador
- Fressia Cerna, Representante Auxiliar Fondo de Población de las Naciones Unidas, El Salvador
- Gustavo Argueta, UNFPA-Guatemala

División de Población de las Naciones Unidas

- Paulo Saad, División de Población de las Naciones Unidas

Organismos especializados de las Naciones Unidas

- Organización Panamericana de la Salud (OPS)/Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS)
- Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)/World Health Organization (WHO)

- Martha Peláez, Asesora Regional en Envejecimiento y Salud, OPS/OMS, Washington, D.C.
- Javier Vásquez, Abogado especialista en derechos humanos, OPS/OMS, Washington, D.C.
- Eduardo Guerrero, Representante OPS El Salvador
- Maritza Romero, Asesora Promoción de la Salud, OPS El Salvador

Organización Internacional del Trabajo (OIT)/International Labour Organization (ILO)

- Sergio Velasco, Especialista en seguridad social, OIT-Costa Rica

Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo/Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

- Tomás Engler, División de Programas Sociales Región I, Washington, D.C.
- Iveta Ganev, Especialista en seguridad social, El Salvador

Asociación Gerontológica Costarricense (AGECO)

- Zaida Esquivel, Directora Ejecutiva

Federación Iberoamericana de Asociaciones de Personas Adultas Mayores (FIAPAM)

- Ruth Rivera Viquez, FIAPAM-Costa Rica

Fundación Universidad Nicaragüense de la Tercera Edad (FUNITE)

- Humberto López, Presidente
- Eneida Arzate

Help Age International

- James Blackburn, Representante Regional para América Latina, HelpAge Internacional-Bolivia

Red Nacional Hondureña de Adultos Mayores (RENHAM)

- Gladys Gaviria, responsable RENHAM, Honduras

**B. Special guests
Invitados especiales**

- Alejandro Morlchetti, Consultor UNFPA, Argentina
- Teresa Orosa Fraiz, Catedrática de la Facultad de Psicología Cátedra del Adulto Mayor, Universidad de la Habana, Cuba
- Manuel Sánchez Montañés, Secretario Ejecutivo Red Intergubernamental Iberoamericana de Cooperación Técnica para las políticas de Discapacidad y Adulto Mayor-RIICOTEC, España
- Judith de Sosa, Directora del Programa de Prevención y Erradicación de la Violencia Intrafamiliar, Secretaria de Obras Sociales de la Esposa del Presidente, El Salvador
- Julio Garay Ramos, Ministerio de Salud Pública y Asistencia Social, El Salvador
- Alma Johana de Pineda, Coordinadora de la Unidad de Familia de la Procuraduría General de la República de El Salvador
- Luis M. Cornejo Alemán, Especialista en Geriatría Clínica y Preventiva, Sociedad Panameña de Geriatría y Gerontología, Consejo de Geriatría y Gerontología, Panamá
- Cecilia Donderis Louison, Consejo Panameño de Geriatría, Panamá
- Tomás Velásquez, Sub-Gerente de Prestaciones Instituto Nacional de Pensionados Públicos (INPEP), Panamá
- Jazmín Delgado, Gerencia del Adulto Mayor, Ministerio de Salud Pública y Asistencia Social, Panamá

C. Other guests
Otros invitados

- Jurilza Barros de Mendonca, Vocal RIICOTEC-Brasil
- Marco Antonio Román Carvajal, Representante Federación Cruzada Nacional de Protección al Anciano, FECRUNAPA, Costa Rica
- Héctor Rafael Haeussler Paredes, Instituto de Estudios Interétnicos, Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala
- Patricia Orellana P., Ministerio de Salud de Guatemala
- Ana María Escobar, Defensoría del Adulto Mayor, Guatemala
- Sandra Barrientos, Defensoría del Adulto Mayor, Guatemala
- Thelma Gómez, SEGEPLAN-Guatemala
- José Andrés Cordova Valle, Presidente de la Asociación de Geriatria de El Salvador y Representante CONAIPAM, El Salvador
- José Antonio Velásquez Portillo, Representante Asociación de Geriatria de El Salvador y Director del Centro de Atención a Ancianos “Sara Zaldívar”, El Salvador
- Luis Alonso Quintanilla, Instituto Nacional de Pensionados Públicos (INPEP), El Salvador
- Lourdes Barrera de Morales, Directora Consejo Nacional de Atención Integral a la Persona con Discapacidad (CONAIPD), El Salvador
- Martha Iris de Sibrian, Directora Consejo Nacional de Salud Mental, El Salvador
- Hazle M. Valdez, Consejo Nacional de Salud Mental, El Salvador
- Helga Romero, Ministerio de Salud Pública y Asistencia Social/Club del Adulto Mayor Unidad de Salud Mejicanos, El Salvador
- Edgar Jiménez, Jefe del Departamento de Educación de Adultos, Ministerio de Educación, El Salvador
- Ana Celina Fontg, Ministerio de Educación, El Salvador
- Adilia Rosibel de Valle, Jefe del Departamento de Prestaciones, Instituto de Previsión Social de la Fuerza Armada (IPSF), El Salvador
- Marigel de Alarcón, Programas a Pensionados del Instituto Salvadoreño del Seguro Social ISSS, El Salvador
- Raúl Humberto Salazar, Jefe Programas a Pensionados del Instituto Salvadoreño del Seguro Social ISSS, El Salvador
- Ivania de Nieves, Prestaciones Económicas del Instituto Salvadoreño del Seguro Social ISSS, El Salvador
- Martha de Herrera, Jefe de la Unidad de Atención al Adulto Mayor, Ministerio de Trabajo y Previsión Social, El Salvador
- Francisco Sorto, Intendente de Pensiones Superintendencia de Pensiones, El Salvador
- Alfredo Hernández, Dirección General de Estadísticas y Censos (Digestyc), El Salvador
- Mario Huevo, Cancillería El Salvador, El Salvador
- Delmy Flores, Representante de las Organizaciones no Gubernamentales en el CONAIPAM, El Salvador
- Consuelo Cabezas de Linqui, Universidad Francisco Gavidia y representante RIMA (Red Iberoamericana de Adultos Mayores), El Salvador
- Olga Miranda de Vilanova, Presidenta de la Fundación Salvadoreña de la Tercera Edad (FUSATE), El Salvador
- Lila Vega, Fundación Salvadoreña de la Tercera Edad (FUSATE), El Salvador
- Ana Victoria Portillo, Fundación Salvadoreña de la Tercera Edad (FUSATE) Centro de Día Soyapang, El Salvador
- Miguel Ramírez, Hogar de Ancianos Ramón Meléndez, El Salvador

- Gilda de Alvarez, Representante Club Época de Oro, El Salvador
- Adonis Andonie, Programa del Adulto Mayor, Ministerio de Salud, Honduras
- Verónica Montes de Oca, Secretaría Técnica del Instituto de Investigación Sociales Universidad Autónoma de México, México
- Margaria Díaz Abregó, Directora de Políticas en Población, Unidad de Planeación e Inversión Estratégica, Gobierno del Estado de Guanajuato, México
- Ana Elena Macías Amescua, Coordinadora Capacitación y Bolsa de Trabajo, Delegación Estatal Jalisco, México
- Edilia Camargo, Jubilada de la UNESCO, Panamá
- Carmen Delia Sánchez, Catedrática Escuela Graduada de Trabajo Social, Universidad de Puerto Rico

AGENDA**Wednesday 10 November (a.m.)**

8.30-9.00 Registration of participants and delivery of support materials

9.00-10.00 Opening statements

Moderator:

Master of Ceremonies of the First Lady of the Republic of El Salvador
 Iveta Ganev, Specialist in Social Security, IDB-El Salvador
 Rogelio Fernández, Director of the UNFPA Country Technical Services Team
 UNFPA, México
 Eduardo Guerrero, PAHO Representative-El Salvador
 José Miguel Guzmán, Officer-in-Charge, Population and Development Area,
 CEPAL/CELADE
 Ana Ligia Mixco de Saca, First Lady of the Republic of El Salvador

10.00-10.30 Coffee break

PART I: POLICIES ON AGEING IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE REGIONAL STRATEGY**Moderator:**

Martha Peláez, Regional Advisor for Ageing and Health PAHO, Washington

10.30-11.00 Policies on ageing in the framework of the Regional Strategy on Ageing
 Sandra Huenchuan, CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC

11.00-11.45 Situation of programmes and institutional frameworks on ageing in Central
 America and the Caribbean
 Jasmine Solís, Consultant, CELADE-Population Division of ECLAC

11.45-12.30 Discussion

12.30-15.00 Luncheon for international delegations hosted by the First Lady of the Republic
 of El Salvador, Ana Ligia Mixto de Saca

Wednesday 10 November (p.m.)**Moderator:**

Gustavo Argueta, UNFPA-Guatemala

15.00-15.30 Ageing in Central America and the Spanish-speaking Caribbean
 José Miguel Guzmán, Officer-in-Charge, Population and Development Area,
 CEPAL/CELADE

15.30-16.15 Progress in incorporating the 2002 Madrid International Plan of Action into
 national policies on ageing

Round table:

Pedro Borda, Director del Instituto Nacional de las Personas Adultas Mayores,
 México

Fernando Morales, Presidente Junta Rectora del Consejo Nacional de la Persona
 Adulta Mayor, Costa Rica

Elizabeth Castro, Directora de Políticas, Normas y Acreditación, Ministerio de la
 Familia, Nicaragua

16.15-16.35 Coffee break

16.35-17.05 Discussion

Thursday 11 November (a.m.)

PART II: ECONOMIC SECURITY FOR OLDER PERSONS: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Moderator:

Tomás Velásquez López, Sub Gerente de Prestaciones Económicas del Instituto
 Nacional de Pensiones de los Empleados Públicos, El Salvador

9.00-9.30 The challenges of social security and employment for older persons in Central
 America and the Caribbean
 Sergio Velasco, ILO-Costa Rica and Fabio Bertranou, ILO-Chile

9.30-10.00 Strategies and operational actions for improving the productivity and economic
 security of older workers of the informal sector.
 Tomás Engler, IDB-Washington and Zaida Esquivel, Executive Director of
 AGECO, Costa Rica

10.00-10.30 Discussion

10.30-10.50 Coffee break

10.50-11.55 Programmes and actions for improving the economic security of older persons.

Moderator:

Fressia Cerna, Assistant Representative UNFPA-El Salvador

Round table:

Pedro Borda, Director of the National Institute of Older Persons, Mexico
 Walter Palacios, Director General of Social Security and Employment in the
 Ministry of Labour, El Salvador
 Ricardo Sandoval, Director of the National Programme for Senior Citizens of the
 Social Security Fund, Panamá

11.55-12.30 Discussion

12.30-14.30 Lunch break

Thursday 11 November (p.m.)**PART III: ENABLING ENVIRONMENTS: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES****Moderator:**

Alma Yohana de Pineda, National Coordinator of the Unit for Defence of the
 Family and the Child of the Attorney-General's Office of the Republic of El
 Salvador

14.30-15.00 Discrimination and violence in old age: legal mechanisms and international
 instruments for the protection of the rights of the aged
 Javier Vásquez, a human rights lawyer with the Pan American Health
 Organization

15.00-15.30 Communication strategies for the inclusion of ageing in the public agenda
 Alejandro Morlachetti, Consultant UNFPA

15.30-16.00 Discussion

16.00-16.20 Coffee break

16.20-18.05 Programmes and actions for improving the physical and social environment of
 older persons

Moderator:

María Teresa Sagastume, Directorate for Legal and International Affairs of the
 National Secretariat for Family Affairs of El Salvador

Round table:

Ana María Liévano de Sol, Technical Coordinator of the Support Committee for
 Programmes for Older Persons of El Salvador; Suyapa Muñoz, Technical
 Support Unit of the Ministry of the President of Honduras
 Maribel Coco, Director of the Office of the Older Person in the Ministry of
 Youth, Women, the Child and the Family of Panama (MINJUMNFA), Panama

María Fernanda Ros de Castillo, Director of the National Programme of Older Persons in Guatemala
Teresa Orosa, University of Havana

18.05-18.30 Discussion

Friday 12 November (a.m.)

PART IV: HEALTH AND WELL-BEING IN OLD AGE: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Moderator:

Luis Cornejo, Panamanian Council for Geriatrics and Gerontology, Panamá

9.00-9.30 Provision of comprehensive primary care services for active ageing: implications for public health

Martha Peláez, Regional Advisor for Aging and Health of PAHO-Washington

9.30-10.00 Planning and development of a system of extended care for the most vulnerable older persons

Fernando Morales, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Council for Older Persons of Costa Rica

10.00-10.30 Discussion

10.30-10.50 Coffee break

10.50-11.50 Programmes and actions for improving the health of older persons

Moderator:

Yasmyn Delgado, Ministry of Health of El Salvador

Round table:

Cecilia Donderis, Panamanian Council for Geriatrics and Gerontology, Panama

Kamela Palma, National Council on Ageing, Belize

Julio Garay, Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance, El Salvador

11.50-12.30 Discussion

12.30-14.00 Lunch break

14.00-15.00 Workshop on the conclusions of the Meeting in each of the priority areas of the Regional Strategy

Friday 12 November (p.m.)

PART V: AN OUTSTANDING AGENDA: INDICATORS AND RESEARCH FOR THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE REGIONAL STRATEGY

Moderator:

Rogelio Fernández, Director of the UNFPA Country Technical Services Team
UNFPA, México

15.00-16.00 Indicators and research for the follow-up of the Regional Strategy

Round table:

Martha Peláez, PAHO.
José Miguel Guzmán, CEPAL/CELADE
Paulo Saad, United Nations Population Division
Manuel Sánchez-Montañes, Executive Secretary, RIICOTEC

16.00-16.30 Presentation and conclusions of the Meeting

17.00-18.30 Closing session