Best Practices in Public Policies for Older Persons with a Human Rights Approach

Concept Note

Advancements in legislation processes favoring the protection of human rights of older persons mark a crucial turning point in advocating and ensuring their dignity, autonomy, freedom, and fundamental rights. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the development of laws, norms, decrees, ministerial resolutions, as well as the regulatory processes supporting institutional actions and programs, intensified following the Second World Assembly on Ageing held in Madrid in 2002. Even 20 years after its approval, it continues to be an instrument that provides a transformative vision of ageing from an international perspective and guidelines for designing and implementing national policies. At this historical juncture, referencing good practices in public policies for older persons means addressing the integration of human rights perspectives and their harmonization with gender and intersectionality, contributing substantively to the well-being of populations.

Developing good practices in public policies for older persons with a human rights perspective requires considering at least three dimensions: a) Normative-administrative; b) Programmatic, and; c) Institutional arrangements, confirming the transition from a welfare-based approach to one where the rights of older persons are at the core of public policy actions. The Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, in its Chapter A, highlights the importance of establishing and strengthening public institutional bodies responsible for population and development issues at the national and subnational level, ensuring their integrity and sustainability, with the active participation of non-governmental actors. Regarding older persons and other population groups in situations of greater vulnerability, it is noted that promoting their development involves implementing public policies, drafting norms, and creating leading institutions that sectorally carry out affirmative policies, plans, and programs integrating principles of equality and non-discrimination at all government levels, with the involvement of organized civil society throughout the process of designing, implementing, and evaluating these instruments.

From 13-15 December 2022, the Fifth Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean was held at the ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, in line with 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.
During the Fifth Regional Conference, countries approved the Santiago Declaration "Human Rights and Participation of Older Persons: Towards an Inclusive and Resilient Care Society," reaffirming their commitment to the International Madrid Plan of Action (MIPAA) and the promotion, protection, and respect of human rights, dignity, and fundamental freedoms of all older persons, without discrimination or violence. They also reaffirmed the responsibility of States to provide the necessary measures and actions to ensure healthy ageing, with dignity and rights.

In this context, the Fifth Meeting of the Executive Board of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean provides a fitting space to reflect on, analyze, and exchange experiences on good public practices for older persons, aiming to advance towards full access for the protection and guarantee of their rights.

The event will present and discuss the most relevant results of the study "Best Practices in Public Policies for Older Persons with a Human Rights Approach" conducted by ECLAC, within the framework of the "Cooperation Agreement between the Republic of Korea and ECLAC 2022". The study identified three relevant common analytical elements in the region: on one hand, actions before the Second World Assembly on Ageing in 2002 that produced the MIPAA, the subsequent stage where ECLAC followed up through intergovernmental meetings, and a third moment represented by the impetus in the thematic context of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development (ECLAC, 2013) and the Inter-American Convention on the Protection of the Human Rights of Older Persons from 2015, aligned with the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals within the framework of the 2030 Agenda.

Based on the national experiences of public policies for older persons analyzed in the study, it is expected that participation, discussion, reflection, and dialogue among participants will be promoted regarding the results, challenges, and recommendations made by the study to contribute with evidence to the design and management of public policies on ageing and the rights of older persons.

In order to achieve this, the following questions will guide the dialogue and debate at this event:

i) Do you agree with the proposal of a typology for analyzing good practices in public policies for older persons in the context of ageing?

ii) Considering the definition of good practices in policies for older persons and their connection with the human rights-based approach, which countries and policies in the study fall under this approach?

iii) What challenges do countries face in implementing policies for older persons based on human rights?

iv) How have the International Madrid Plan of Action on Ageing, the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, the 2030 Agenda, and the Sustainable Development Goals influenced the new approaches adopted in public policies on ageing and older persons?

v) In what ways should public policies be oriented to promote an inclusive care society, with gender equality, and social, economic, and environmental sustainability?
vi) What are the entry points to influence the formulation of these policies?

**Methodology**

The selected methodology for this event is a panel discussion. The discussion will be led by a moderator and will involve four panelists sharing their diverse perspectives: government representatives from some of the countries analyzed in the study, a representative from the Caribbean countries, and a representative from civil society experienced in public policies.

The moderator will introduce the panelists, set the session objectives, and then present the main results of the study "Best Practices in Public Policies for Older Persons with a Human Rights Approach". The panel will open with guiding questions; each panelist will have 5 minutes to respond to the question and 2 minutes for a follow-up intervention. The moderator will lead the dialogue with the panelists in two rounds of participation. This will be followed by a debate session with the event participants, and finally, a final message will be included for each panelist in the closing and conclusion of the session.

**Description of the Side Event**

The meeting will take place at the Enrique Iglesias Auditorium at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, Chile, in a hybrid format (in-person and virtual) **on 13 November at 4:30 PM Chile time**. Simultaneous interpretation will be available in Spanish and English.

If you are attending **in person**, you must register at the following link: https://eventos.cepal.org/event/121/registrations/ (registration closes November 10th)

If you are attending **virtually**, please register at the following link: https://cepal-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_dTJL-P8gQhO_YAHHF5ud4g

**Duration**: 1:30 hours

**Preliminary Agenda**

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<tr>
<td>4.30 - 4.40 pm</td>
<td><strong>Opening</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Simone Cecchini, Director of the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Center (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC</td>
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<td>- Susana Sottoli, Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).</td>
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<td>- Francisca Gallegos, Undersecretary of Social Services of the Ministry of Social Development and Family of Chile as the presidency of the Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing and Rights of Older Persons</td>
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<td>4.40 - 5.40 pm</td>
<td><strong>Moderation</strong>: Gladys González Álvarez, Cabinet Advisor for Community Engagement, National Service for Older Adults (SENAMA) of Chile.</td>
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<td><strong>Panel Discussion</strong></td>
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- Presentation of the results of the study "Best Practices in Public Policies for Older Persons with a Human Rights Approach," Verónica Montes De Oca, Consultant CELADE-CEPAL

**Questions to Panelists**
- Juan Carlos Alfonso, Government of Cuba
- Michel Toledo Ortiz, President of the Regional Foundation for Senior Rights

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<td>5.40 – 5.55 pm</td>
<td><strong>Debate</strong></td>
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<td>5:55 - 6:00 pm</td>
<td><strong>Closure</strong></td>
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- Simone Cecchini, Director of the Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Center (CELADE)-Population Division of ECLAC

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**ZOOM (C-02) (EVENT) / Sala Enrique Iglesias**

**Event Information**

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**Topic**: Best Practices in Public Policies for Older Persons with a Human Rights Approach

**Date**: 13 Nov 2023, 04:30 PM Santiago

**Meeting Number**: 821 1404 6013

**Meeting Password**: 382393

To start or join the online meeting

**Go to**: [https://cepal-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_dTJL-P8gQhO_YAHHF5ud4g](https://cepal-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_dTJL-P8gQhO_YAHHF5ud4g)

**Note**: The session will be available one hour before, on the same day of the meeting, for connection testing.