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SIDE EVENT

XLII GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES “TOGETHER AGAINST INEQUALITY AND DISCRIMINATION”

ROUND TABLE “OLDER PEOPLE IN THE AMERICAS: PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES”

October 3, 2022

Introduction

In recent decades, the Region of the Americas has been experiencing a considerable aging of the population, which implies a series of challenges for States and international organizations. Faced with this situation, the States of the region and international organizations such as the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) have been promoting actions to promote healthy aging and the rights of older persons in the Americas.

Given this situation, in 2015, the OAS General Assembly, together with the technical support of PAHO, approved the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons. This is the first and only legally binding instrument that recognizes and protects the human rights of older persons. Currently, 9 member states have ratified the Convention, and one more is required for the follow-up mechanism to come into operation, which is highly relevant to promoting the effective implementation of the Convention.

In 2020, the United Nations proclaimed the period between 2021-2030 as the Decade of Healthy Aging with the aim of working together to improve the lives of older people, their families, and their communities. The Decade has four fundamental areas of action related to combating ageism, promoting age-friendly environments, consolidating health and social services and systems that respond to the needs of the older population and provide long-term care for those who require it. All work in the areas of action is based on the rights and protection of older persons, and the Convention is an essential legal tool to promote the application of these rights in the Americas and establish a regional legal framework that recognizes action to promote healthy aging as a priority for governments.

On the other hand, the COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately affected older people and has made visible the seriousness of the existing gaps in health and social policies, systems, and services, in particular, for older persons in vulnerable situations such as people with disabilities, indigenous, Afro-descendants, or LGBTI people.



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Therefore, within the framework of XLII General Assembly of the Organization of American States "Together against Inequality and Discrimination" and the commemoration of the International Day of Older Persons, the Department of Social Inclusion of the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity of the OAS and the Healthy Life Course Unit of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) organize the Round Table "Older Persons in the Americas: Advances and Challenges"

Objectives:

Generate a dialogue on the rights of older persons in the Americas, in order to promote the ratification and/or accession of the Inter-American Convention on the Protection of the Human Rights of Older Persons by the Member States, as well as the implementation of actions within the framework of the Decade of Healthy Aging and the Global Campaign to Combat Ageism.

Make visible the experiences, voices and priorities of older people, public officials, representatives of civil society, caregivers of older people, and the impact of ageism in the configuration of structural inequalities that reduce opportunities of older persons and create barriers to the full realization of their rights.

Increase opportunities for joint collaboration and strategies to advance concrete actions towards healthy aging

Product:

A document that makes visible the impact and proposals to promote the ratification and/or accession of the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons, as well as the implementation of actions within the framework of the Decade of Healthy Aging and the Global Campaign to Combat Ageism.

Modality:

Hybrid

Date and Time:

October 3, 2:0000pm (Peru time)

Place:

Salón de los Espejos del Teatro Municipal de Lima (Jirón Ica 337, Lima, Perú)

Broadcast on Facebook Live of OAS Inclusion



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Program

Opening words

- 2:00pm- 2:10pm Gloria González, Councilor of the Metropolitan Municipality of Lima
- Miguel Angel Trinidad, Representative of the Organization of American States (OAS) in Peru
- Carlos Garzón, Representative of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) in Peru

Agenda for Older Persons' Rights

- 2:10pm- 2:20pm Liz Vela, Commissioner of the Ombudsman for Older Persons in Peru
- Enrique Vega, Unit chief - Healthy Life Course Unit, Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO)

Experiences and Challenges from the National perspective

2:20 pm- 3:00 pm

Kirk Humphrey, Minister for People's Empowerment and Elderly Affairs of Barbados

Laura Gil, Vice Minister of Multilaterals of the Ministry of International Relations of Colombia

Norbel Roman, President of the National Council for Older Persons of Costa Rica

Elba Espinoza, Director of the General Direction of Family and Community of the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations of Peru

Moderator: Ivy Talavera, Advisor – Family, Health Promotion and Life Course at the PAHO/WHO Representation in Peru



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Experiences and Challenges from the Local perspective

3:00pm- 3:30pm

Andrea Astorga, Responsible for the Age-friendly Community Program of the National Service for the Elderly of Chile

Mary Carmen Bayardo, Director of Strategic Projects at the Secretariat of the Jalisco Social Assistance System, Mexico

Lucía Solís Alcedo, Manager of Social Development of the Metropolitan Municipality of Lima, Peru

Moderator: Gabriela Orozco, Founder of *Los Nonos* TV

Experiences and Challenges from the Organizations

3:30pm -4:00pm

Edilia Camargo, Executive Secretary of the Continental Network of Older Persons in Latin America, and the Caribbean

Denise Eldemire-Shearer, Director of the Center for Aging and Wellness at the University of West Indies – Mona, Jamaica

Elena Zuñiga, Founder and Director of the School for Older adults' Caregivers

Moderator: Pilar Leis, Founder of *Longeviarte*

Conclusions and closing

4:00pm - 4:05pm

Roberto Rojas Davila, Chief of the Section for Groups in Situation of Vulnerability; Organization of the Department of Social Inclusion of the OAS