

Caribbean Position on Ageing

*Caribbean Intergovernmental Conference
Prep-Meeting for ECLAC Member States
Held at ECLAC (POS) Office
Trinidad and Tobago
October 30, 2007*

Participating Countries

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Grenada
- Montserrat
- Netherlands Antilles
- Suriname
- Dominica
- Jamaica
- St. Vincent & the Grenadines
- Trinidad & Tobago

Caribbean Interest on Ageing

- **Int'l Conference on Population & Development**
- **Madrid Int'l Plan of Action on Ageing (2002)**
- **Regional Strategy for Implementation (2003)**
- **Caribbean Symposium on Ageing (2004)**

Impact of Ageing on the Caribbean

- **Disparities in demographic transition**
- **Improved general health and living conditions**
- **Socio-economic challenges**
- **Opportunities for investments in social protection plans and pension schemes for working age population**

Older Persons and Development (Challenges)

- **Need for intergenerational links with CBOs, FBOs and cultural groups to national bodies and institutions**
- **Elders under-utilized as guides & resource-persons in formal/informal settings**
- **Protection of human rights of elders and the creation of conditions for economic and social security**

Older Persons and Development (Challenges)

- **Need for opportunities to gain income and secure social protection**
- **Inequities in pensions and social welfare schemes due to gender and former employment status**
- **Women as de facto caregivers are disadvantaged in access to formal labor**

Older Persons and Development (Opportunities)

- Provide framework for “society for all ages” through collaboration of key stakeholders
- Enhance the role of the elderly as social & cultural mentors involving the young and old
- Create sustainable employment opportunities for older persons to secure incomes

Older Persons and Development (Opportunities)

- **Establish non-contributory pension schemes indexed to cost-of-living for informal sector**
- **Overcome bureaucratic hurdles to make pensions more accessible to those who are entitled**
- **Increase allocations in the national budget to programmes supporting the elderly**

Advancing Health and Well-Being (Challenges)

- **Impact of chronic non-communicable diseases & demand for long-term care**
- **More training on ageing and geriatrics for healthcare providers & family members**
- **Impact of migration of trained healthcare professionals on care for the elderly**

Advancing Health and Well-Being (Challenges)

- **Need to enhance community care & outreach to rural and outlying areas**
- **More affordable & accessible healthcare and medication for chronic diseases required**
- **Prevalence of HIV/AIDS among older persons on the rise**

Advancing Health and Well-Being (Opportunities)

- **Promote healthy lifestyles at all levels of society through schools & radio/TV networks**
- **Enhance training in geriatric care for family members, care providers & healthcare workers**
- **Regulatory framework by Governments to ensure quality standards of care for elderly are provided in public/private care facilities**

Advancing Health and Well-Being (Opportunities)

- **Promote the inclusion of HIV/AIDS prevention & treatment into healthcare programmes**
- **Improve working conditions, benefits packages & career perspectives for healthcare providers to stem migration**

Advancing Health and Well-Being (Opportunities)

- **Strengthen community healthcare services and/or utilize available mobile care facilities to facilitate elderly in remote areas**
- **Identify mechanisms to ensure equal access to healthcare services including special treatments/medications to poor & vulnerable older persons**

Enabling and Supportive Environments (Challenges)

- **Prevention of discrimination and elder abuse in physical, psychological & cultural terms**
- **Grandparents burdened with additional family responsibilities due to migration**
- **Inclusion of the elderly in disaster preparedness and mitigation plans**

Enabling and Supportive Environments (Challenges)

- **Access to support needed to upgrade their accommodations**
- **Public spaces to provide accessibility for older persons particularly those with disabilities**
- **Men in older age often excluded from informal social networks in post-retirement years**

Enabling and Supportive Environments (Opportunities)

- **Promote initiatives for older persons to acquire affordable property or access support**
- **Improve access to public buildings and affordable public transportation**
- **Include elderly & disabled in national and regional disaster preparedness and mitigation plans**

Enabling and Supportive Environments (Opportunities)

- **Provide legislation to combat various forms of violence, abuse, neglect of the elderly**
- **Promote the inclusion of older persons into all aspects of social and political life in region**
- **Promote formation and maintenance of informal networks for elderly men and women**

Enabling and Supportive Environments (Opportunities)

- **Promote the establishment of mechanisms to assist the elderly in care-taker roles, borne out of the impact of migration**
- **Need to streamline social policies and programmes and share best practices across the region in the context of the Caribbean Single Market & Economy**



Thank You!

*Best Wishes for the Christmas Season and the
New Year*

*From the Government of the
Republic of Trinidad and Tobago*