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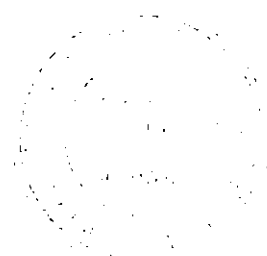
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CEPAL  
Economic Commission for Latin America



REPORT OF THE LATIN AMERICAN REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING  
FOR THE WORLD ASSEMBLY ON AGING  
(San José, Costa Rica, 8-12 March 1982)

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Part One - Attendance and organization of work .....	1
Place and date .....	1
Attendance .....	1
Officers .....	1
Agenda .....	2
Opening meeting .....	2
Adoption of the report .....	4
Closing meeting .....	4
Part Two - Summary of the debates .....	5
Part Three - Latin American Programme of Action on Aging .....	8
Foreword .....	8
I. Introduction .....	8
A. Demographic background .....	9
B. Living conditions of the aged .....	10
II. Principles and objectives .....	11
III. Recommendations for action .....	12
A. Actions at the national level .....	15
1. Humanitarian aspects .....	15
2. Developmental issues .....	20
B. Action at the regional level .....	21
Annex 1 - List of participants .....	23
Annex 2 - List of documents .....	27
Annex 3 .....	28
Annex 4 - Health of the elderly .....	43

## Part One

### ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

#### Place and date

1. The Latin American Regional Preparatory Meeting for the World Assembly on Aging was held in San José, Costa Rica, from 8 to 12 March 1982. The Meeting was convened by the Economic Commission for Latin America (CEPAL) pursuant to General Assembly resolution 35/129, dated 11 December 1980, which approved the recommendation contained in resolution 1980/26 of the Economic and Social Council, which requested the regional commissions to convene regional meetings to promote national and regional activities in this field.

#### Attendance 1/

2. The Meeting was attended by representatives of the following Member States of CEPAL: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Spain, United States, Uruguay and Venezuela.
3. The Netherlands Antilles, an associate member of the Commission, also attended.
4. The United Nations Secretariat was represented by the Secretary-General of the World Assembly on Aging, Mr. William Kerrigan; its Executive Secretary, Mr. Tarek Shuman, and the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General of the Assembly, Mr. Edvind Hytten.
5. The Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations in charge of the Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Affairs also attended as a special guest.
6. The following bodies and specialized agencies of the United Nations system were also represented: United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International Labour Organisation (ILO) and Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO).
7. The following non-governmental organizations attended the Meeting: International Women's Council (IWC); League of Red Cross Societies.

#### Officers

8. The Officers of the Meeting were:
- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Chairman:      | Estrella Zeledón de Carazo (Costa Rica) |
| Vice-Chairmen: | Pedro Palacios (Chile)                  |
|                | John W. McDonald (United States)        |
|                | Sybil Francis (Jamaica)                 |
| Rapporteur:    | Heriberto Amaral (Venezuela)            |

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1/ See complete list of participants in Annex 1.

Agenda

9. The Meeting adopted the following agenda:
  1. Election of Officers
  2. Adoption of the provisional agenda
  3. Address by the Secretary-General of the World Assembly on Aging
  4. General view of the demographic trends of aging in Latin America
  5. Consideration of the humanitarian aspects of aging
    - (a) Health
    - (b) Housing and environment
    - (c) Family
    - (d) Security of income
    - (e) Education
  6. Consideration of development aspects
    - (a) The impact of the aging of population structures on economic and social development
    - (b) Spatial distribution of the labour force
    - (c) Participation in consumption and saving
    - (d) Provision of social services
  7. Action programme on aging for Latin America
  8. Consideration and adoption of the final report.

Opening meeting

10. The opening session of the Meeting was attended by the President of Costa Rica, Mr. Rodrigo Carazo Odio and the First Lady and Chairman of the National Family Care Council, Mrs. Estrella Zeledón de Carazo. Those who took the floor during that session included the Deputy Executive Secretary for Economic and Social Development of CEPAL, Mr. Norberto González; the Secretary-General of the World Assembly on Aging, Mr. William Kerrigan; and the Minister of Labour and Social Security of Costa Rica, Mr. Germán Serrano Pinto. At the close of the session the President of Costa Rica addressed the participants.

11. After expressing his gratitude for the hospitality extended by the Government and people of Costa Rica, the Deputy Executive Secretary of CEPAL noted that the trend towards aging of the population of Latin America was part of a crisis characterized by an unusual combination of international problems of recession and inflation, and that the phenomenon should be considered within the context of global development policies closely related to problems of employment, critical poverty, rural backwardness, the coverage and cost of social security services, and changes in patterns of demand and saving.

12. He pointed out that it was therefore essential to deal with the problem of aging in an integrated manner within the framework of development strategies, bearing in mind the implications of aging both for the aged and for other sectors and the importance of active participation by this segment of the population, which was growing much more rapidly at the present time than the others.

13. The Secretary-General of the World Assembly on Aging expressed his gratitude for the honour bestowed on the inaugural session of the Meeting by the presence of the President of Costa Rica and the First Lady and for the wholehearted collaboration of the Government of Costa Rica and the National Gerontological Commission in organizing the event. He also expressed his gratitude for the co-operation provided by the Deputy Executive Secretary of CEPAL and the UNDP Representative in Costa Rica and their respective institutions.

14. After noting the variety of problems associated with the aging of population structures, the broad spectrum of policies and programmes to deal with the phenomenon and the diversity of perceptions and attitudes towards it, the Secretary-General recalled that aging of the population was taking on the nature of a constant in the interplay of developmental forces. What was already a current challenge in the wealthiest societies or strata would by tomorrow be the ineluctable problem of the developing countries. Consequently a more comprehensive, integral and realistic interpretation of the issue, based on demographic facts and projections, was required, in addition to appropriate planning and accurate forecasting.

15. In his opinion, the massive increase in the number of aging persons was convincing proof that humanity was winning the struggle against its age-old physical and social enemies. It was now necessary to consolidate that victory by providing the aging with a socially advantageous environment. Much could be learned from the wisdom of traditional social structures in the so-called less developed countries, where old people retained or even enhanced their function in society, and where caring for their needs was a natural and welcome obligation of the active population. Even in more materially advanced societies with elaborate social security systems for the aged, the principal structures of support should continue to be the family and the immediate community.

16. The World Assembly on Aging, which had the decided support of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, would meet with the success that all desired if the problems and challenges regarding the topic were explored with the active participation of all the Member States of the United Nations and the non-governmental organizations interested in the issue.

17. The Minister of Labour and Social Security of Costa Rica stated that his country was aware of the need for formulating policies and goals for the aging. Through the National Family Care Council, efforts were being made to safeguard the right of the aging to participate in the productive process and be provided with occupational training and retraining; to provide for their health; to provide them with decent housing; and, above all, to ensure their occupational, social and cultural integration in a climate of respect within the family and the community.

18. The President of Costa Rica, Mr. Rodrigo Carazo Odio, emphasized that the Meeting was being held with the aim of studying and formulating valid policies for the entire region so that those reaching an advanced age could participate fully in the life of their community, contribute to improving it and receive benefits and services from society on an equal footing with respect to rights and obligations.

/19. He

19. He noted that care for the aging should be a part of integral care for the family, as had been recognized in his country in 1979 with the establishment of the National Gerontological Commission within the framework of the National Family Care Council. Man's productive life should not be interrupted with the passing of the years, but should be adapted to personal capacities and work possibilities.

20. The President concluded his remarks by expressing his best wishes for the success of the debates of both the Regional Preparatory Meeting and the World Assembly.

#### Adoption of the report

21. At the final working meeting, the Rapporteur submitted a draft report of the Meeting. He stressed the importance of the decision taken by the United Nations to study a phenomenon which would cause the number of elderly people in the world to double between 1970 and 2000, with all the social, economic and even political problems that would entail, and expressed the hope that the fig tree of Bengal, which was the symbol of the World Assembly on Aging, would really stand as a symbol of protection of the elderly.

22. The draft report was adopted with minor amendments. The final version is given later in this document.

#### Closing meeting

23. At the closing session, Ms. Sary White, Executive President of the Joint Institute of Social Assistance, took the floor on behalf of the Government of Costa Rica, stressing the importance of the work accomplished. Ms. Lillian Gómez Mañón (Dominican Republic), speaking on behalf of all the participants, thanked the Government and people of Costa Rica for their hospitality. Finally, Mr. Daniel Blanchard, Acting Secretary of the Commission, speaking on behalf of the Executive Secretary of CEPAL, said that the Regional Plan of Action which had emerged from the Meeting and was characterized by realism and confidence in the efforts being made at the national and regional levels, would certainly be of great help to the World Assembly on Aging in its work.

Part Two

SUMMARY OF THE DEBATES

24. The work of the Meeting began with the presentation of a document prepared by the Secretariat,<sup>2/</sup> which described and analysed the principal trends of the aging of the population and their relationship to development and the living circumstances of elderly people in Latin America.
25. The participants then presented their views on the present situation and the perspectives regarding aging of the population in their respective countries, on the problems that had arisen as a consequence of this process in the economy, in society and in the living circumstances of the aged, and on the measures that had been taken to deal with them.
26. With respect to population aging trends, they noted the rapid increase in the absolute and relative size of the elderly population.
27. The information presented by the representatives of the different countries made it possible to appreciate the great variety of situations existing in Latin America with regard to life expectancy of the population and the growth of the population over 60 years of age in comparison with other age groups.<sup>3/</sup>
28. There was consensus that the changes taking place were having important repercussions on fundamental aspects of development, such as employment and the need to improve the quality of social services and increase their coverage.
29. The representatives of the Governments expressed their particular concern at the problems deriving from the increase in both life expectancy and the proportion of the aged population, since such increases reduced the relative size of the work force.
30. The adverse consequences of the aging of the population on the financial situation of social security contribution systems were also emphasized.
31. There was consensus in pointing out that employment and social security problems were intimately related and that their solution depended on adoption of an integral approach that would take into account all the factors determining the population's participation in the labour market, particularly with regard to the training of human resources and the establishment of legal regulations and incentives to govern participation by the aged in economic activities.
32. In their statements the participants described the circumstances and principal problems of the aged in their countries with respect to health, education, housing and the environment, social welfare and employment.
33. It was noted that especially in the developing countries, the basic welfare requirements of the elderly were often indistinguishable from the basic needs of the population as a whole. It was emphasized in that connexion that a World Plan of Action on aging should presuppose the existence of the necessary international conditions to ensure the realization of the right to development and a fair and equitable international economic order.

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<sup>2/</sup> See the list of documents presented at the Meeting (Annex 2).

<sup>3/</sup> See the statistical data in Annex 3.

34. As far as health was concerned, it was recognized that the elderly were affected by specific problems.<sup>4/</sup> It was nevertheless indicated that programmes and policies designed to improve the circumstances of the elderly should be integrated in over-all health plans, with those formulated for other specific groups also requiring special attention. There was consensus in that health care for the aged, preventive measures and rehabilitation should form a fundamental component of all such programmes.

35. In that respect, several delegations expressed the hope that the World Assembly would develop a more detailed definition of the elderly than the phrase "60 and over".

36. It was also emphasized that the education of the aged was a determining factor in the role they could play in society. Particular note was taken of the relationship between the educational levels of such persons and their ability to participate in the labour market. The need was stressed to develop and improve training programmes for adults especially designed to reorient their participation in economic activities while at the same time taking due account of the changes in their physical capacities and the demands of the labour market. The importance of preparing people for old age was also stressed, noting that such preparation should begin at an early age. It was also felt that educational programmes to improve the participation of the aged in family, working and social life should include measures to promote better understanding of their problems by society as a whole and to improve the relations between generations.

37. Information was supplied on the many activities being carried out by Governments and non-governmental organizations in providing social welfare services for the elderly, and in that regard some representatives were of the opinion that Governments should support and promote the activities of such organizations.

38. The importance was stressed of extending and improving benefits in order to attain more active participation of the elderly in society and not merely offer palliatives for their problems.

39. The participants also emphasized the fundamental importance attached by their countries to the family as the basic unit of society. In particular, they noted that the family was the primary social group within which the older person's needs could be satisfied, and expressed concern because the economic and social changes that had been occurring in the countries in the region were negatively affecting the family's ability to fulfil that function. There was consensus that the State should take measures to support and strengthen the family, particularly with reference to its possibilities of caring for the aged. The importance was also stressed of adopting specific measures to attend to the needs and problems of aged persons with no family.

40. Special reference was made to unemployment problems affecting the aged. Mention was also made of both the high incidence of participation of the aged until very advanced years in the least productive and most poorly remunerated economic activities -although it was recognized that the elderly should be given the opportunity of working until such advanced ages if they so desired- and of the measures that were being taken or should be taken to improve their employment situation. The importance for national development of achieving more active

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<sup>4/</sup> See Annex 4.



participation of the elderly in the labour force was also stressed, and it was indicated that to that end retraining incentives and programmes should be established while at the same time an attempt should be made to eliminate the economic insecurity that compelled them to work to excessively advanced ages.

41. In discussing programmes and policies related to the aging of the population and the living circumstances of aged persons, repeated reference was made to the need for such measures to be formulated in the broader framework of national development policies and strategies and with an interdisciplinary and multisectoral approach. With respect to formulating plans and policies, special mention was also made of the need to take into account the wide range of situations pertaining to aged persons and to the national and subnational contexts of such situations.

42. The countries participating stressed the great importance they attached to the forthcoming World Assembly on Aging and to the adoption of an international plan of action to deal with the problems of the aged.

43. The delegates presented their views on the most important factors to be considered in formulating plans and policies, and these opinions are reflected in the Regional Programme of Action included in the present report. Special mention should be made, however, of the fundamental importance the countries attached to developing and improving the bases for formulating programmes and policies, particularly in the fields of information, training and research.

44. In order to attain such objectives, the countries considered that co-operation among the participating countries, the action of non-governmental organizations and the co-operation of international organizations were of fundamental importance.

45. Several delegations commented on the insufficient information made available to the general public on the matter of aging and requested CEPAL to encourage the media to write about and report on these issues. One delegate suggested that a magazine on aging be published and circulated throughout the region. Another delegation commended the United Nations Office of Public Information on inviting eight journalists from different parts of the region to the present conference, so that they could help to spread knowledge and understanding about this subject. Obviously much remained to be done, but this was at least a start.

### Part Three

46. The Latin American Regional Preparatory Meeting for the World Assembly on Aging approved the Latin American Programme of Action reproduced below.

#### LATIN AMERICAN PROGRAMME OF ACTION ON AGING

##### FOREWORD

1. Recognizing that the question of the aging of the population is a topic of growing concern to many countries, the General Assembly of the United Nations decided, at its thirty-third session, to convene a World Assembly on Aging in 1982. The World Assembly was convened to serve as a forum to launch an international action programme aimed at guaranteeing economic and social security to older persons, as well as opportunities to contribute to national development. Later, the General Assembly, in resolution 35/129, adopted the recommendations of resolution 1980/26 of the Economic and Social Council, which, inter alia, requested the regional commissions to convene regional meetings to promote national and regional activities in this field. The most important objective of such meetings is to formulate regional programmes of action on aging, to be taken into account subsequently in preparing the Draft International Plan of Action on Aging that the United Nations Secretariat will present to the World Assembly on Aging.
2. In order to comply with the above mandates, delegates from 20 countries met in San José, Costa Rica, from 8 to 12 March 1982 and made an in-depth study of demographic, humanitarian and development issues linked to the question of the aging population of Latin America. At this meeting they formulated and approved a Regional Programme of Action on Aging.
3. Although specifically concerned with aging, this regional programme of action should not be viewed in isolation from other international instruments designed to promote economic and social development. The questions of individual aging and the aging of population structures should be considered within the broader context of social and economic trends, so as to appreciate the complexity of the question and to understand the interrelation of aging with the problems of society at large.
4. This programme of action on aging is part of the larger framework of the Regional Programme of Action for Latin America in the 1980s approved by CEPAL resolution 422 (XIX) in 1981, and it should not be considered as dissociated from other recommendations and conventions on the subject approved, inter alia, by ILO, WHO and the United Nations.
5. At the international level it must be borne in mind that the efforts to guarantee the rights of the elderly in society require a just economic order among nations. In this context, such efforts must be consistent with the objectives of the New International Economic Order and the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade.

##### I. INTRODUCTION

6. In preparing the Regional Programme of Action the trends and prospects regarding the aging of the population and the concomitant economic and social changes occurring in the various countries of Latin America must be taken into account. A preliminary evaluation of the knowledge available on these topics /demonstrates the

demonstrates the broad spectrum of situations and trends observed in the nations of the region and the existence of large gaps in both statistical information and in knowledge of the interrelations between aging and economic and social development.

#### A. DEMOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND

7. Available studies indicate that average life expectancy in Latin America has increased very significantly in recent decades; however, it varies greatly from country to country and within different social or specially defined strata. Basic statistical information on mortality and morbidity rates is very scarce and of poor quality. In addition, theoretical and empirical knowledge of the causes of such differences is also very limited. Furthermore, inasmuch as the average life expectancy of a specific cohort of the population and the state of health of its members when they reach the advanced stages of life are the result of their previous morbidity and mortality history, it is evident that the study or research required to obtain a sound basis for formulating policies cannot be circumscribed to knowledge of the present-day circumstances of the aged, since this would incur the risk of dealing with their problems merely symptomatically.

8. The aging of the population is a phenomenon that has only recently begun to show signs of speeding up in certain countries of the region. Nevertheless, forecasts made by the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE) indicate that this trend has started to spread in the region and will accelerate further after the year 2000.

9. The population group over age 60 has increased more rapidly than the total population of most countries and, according to forecasts, its growth rate will increase in the future until it soon surpasses that of any other age group in the great majority of countries, reaching extremely high rates after the year 2000. This means that by 2025 the population over 60 will increase its 1980 estimated size by three or five times, according to the country in question. On the other hand, both the economically active population of 15 to 59 years of age and the population of young people will grow much more slowly. The growth of the population under 15 years of age will be particularly slow in the majority of countries and in some cases even show negative figures.

10. The growth trends of different age groups will bring about significant changes in certain areas that are important in studying the problems of aging: an initial reduction in the dependency rate and its subsequent upswing as the population ages in many countries; an accelerated increase after the year 2000 of the proportion of those over 60 years of age within the potentially dependent population, and an accelerated increase after the year 2000 of the ratio between the economically active population and the population over retirement age.

11. The aging process differs in urban and rural areas in all countries. The proportion of those over 60 years of age is significantly greater in urban areas than in rural areas in 11 of 20 countries for which information is available, whereas in the remaining nine the contrary is true. The dependency rate of the rural population, however, considerably surpasses that of the urban population in almost all countries although it shows a downward trend in both cases. The proportion between the population over 60 years of age and the total dependent population is and will continue to be greater in urban than in rural areas and will continue to increase in both. On the other hand, the ratio between the

/economically active

economically active and the retirement-age population varies relatively little by virtue of place of residence and tends to decrease in all countries, particularly after the year 2000. Urban and rural populations also differ significantly with respect to sex structure. The imbalance in favour of women among the population over 60 that may be observed in all countries is even more pronounced in urban areas, whereas in most cases males predominate in the rural population.

12. The statistics referred to above show the great diversity of situations and trends current in Latin America with regard to aging. In order to determine the effect of changes in demographic variables on this process, more extensive research will have to be carried out on the extent and direction of such variables and their determining factors.

#### B. LIVING CONDITIONS OF THE AGED

13. Scientific and empirical knowledge of the living conditions of the elderly in Latin America is extremely meagre. Few in-depth studies have been made on this topic, and research carried out to date on the living conditions of the population and its socio-economic characteristics as a whole with respect to poverty, employment, education and health has generally been lacking in detail as far as those over 60 are concerned. Censuses, which are a potential source of information on the elderly, have so far not been exploited to their fullest extent.

14. It has been observed that the proportion of women over 60 living alone -that is, those who have lost their spouses- is much greater than that of men in the same situation. This difference increases with age, since women generally live longer than men and men generally marry women younger than themselves. There are also indications that the difference between men and women in this respect is greater in urban than in rural areas.

15. According to census information, a high percentage of older persons continue to be heads of households, although the proportion diminishes significantly with age. Nevertheless, in defining as head of household the person considered as such by the other members of the household, it must be recalled that the oldest member may have been designated as head for reasons of respect or simple traditionalism.

16. Census information reveals wide variation in the educational level of older persons, according to the degree of development of the countries concerned and whether such persons live in urban or rural areas. Wide differences also exist in this respect between the sexes and these, like urban and rural differences, are greater in the relatively less developed countries.

17. Available census information provides significant data on the occupational situation of elderly persons. Economic activity indices for such persons are very high for men and in rural areas -especially in relatively less developed countries- and continue high even with respect to the most advanced ages. Occupational information shows that open unemployment is not very widespread among older persons; however, this may be because they do not continue to seek work when they are unable to find it and accept being underemployed in very low-productivity occupations, particularly in rural areas.

18. The proportion of inactive aged persons living on pensions or some other income is very small among women and in rural areas, especially in the relatively less developed countries. This, combined with the fact that rates of participation are lower in the relatively more developed countries, would appear to indicate that in general those who have reached retirement age and continue to work do so

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because of the need for subsistence income. Other facts, such as the greater participation of older persons in rural areas, where living conditions are more precarious and working days are longer, substantiate this hypothesis.

19. The disadvantaged situation of the elderly in the labour market is also reflected in the fact that the proportion working in the agricultural sector is significantly higher than that of lower age groups and that a high proportion of those who work in other areas are engaged in less-skilled, lower-productivity occupations, many of them on a self-employed basis.

## II. PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES

20. This draft regional programme of action on aging seeks to identify the principal problems associated with the aging of the population in Latin America, propose general guidelines for the formulation of specific policies aimed at providing for the needs of the elderly, solve the problems posed by the aging of the population in respect of economic, social and cultural development, and formulate recommendations for action by governments and international organizations.

21. In accordance with the basic objectives of the World Assembly on Aging, this programme of action will constitute a contribution to the Draft International Plan of Action to be discussed at that meeting and includes the viewpoints of the member countries of CEPAL on the problems related to aging that will be discussed at the World Assembly.

22. The regional programme of action should contain specific guidelines to enable governments and international organizations to carry out a set of activities aimed at tackling the problems created by the increasing aging of the population, achieving economic growth and social progress in general, and improving the living conditions of the aged in particular. The formulation of the programmes and policies to cope with these problems is a sovereign right of each State; however, international co-operation should make its contribution to bring about full exercise of this right, in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter.

23. The regional programme of action must take into consideration a number of basic principles specifically related to aging, especially the following:

(a) Aging of the population and the increase of life expectancy are two of the inevitable consequences of development. The implications of this structural change are very varied and far-reaching, but the real effect will depend largely on how economies and societies adjust to this change. The aim of each country should be to promote the changes required for achieving the adjustment that most contributes to progress.

(b) The effects of the aging process depend not only on the absolute and relative size of the aged population but also on the absolute and relative sizes of other functional age groups. Consequently, both the diagnoses of the problems related to this process and the formulation of plans and policies to solve them should be effected within the broader framework of changes in the age structure of the population.

(c) Similarly, the living conditions of aged persons are largely the result of their prior experience since birth. Study of such experiences is essential in attempting to formulate policies that will go beyond mere symptomatic treatment of the problems afflicting such persons.

/(d) Humanitarian

(d) Humanitarian aspects and the consequences for development deriving from the aging of the population are intimately related with one another and should be considered within the overall picture of the problems of national societies in planning economic and social development.

(e) Elderly persons are a valuable human resource, and appropriate measures should be taken to achieve better use of their capacities for the benefit of society as a whole through the development of intergenerational roles that provide them with personal satisfaction.

(f) The right to work and the right to retire are not incompatible. Governments can and should develop legal mechanisms to ensure the exercise of both, bearing in mind both national circumstances and the essential heterogeneity of the elderly as a group.

(g) Generally speaking, aged persons constitute a particularly vulnerable socio-economic group that should be protected in order to ensure its members as normal a life as possible within their own environment.

(h) Physical, mental and cultural preparation for living in the advanced stages of life is a process that should begin at a very early age. The development of appropriate attitudes for the recognition and proper evaluation of the elderly is an essential component of such preparation.

(i) The family, in its different conformations, constitutes the basic unit of society and as such should be strengthened and protected. Its function of helping to satisfy the needs of its elder members should be supported by the State.

(j) The elderly constitute a very heterogeneous age group in so far as their physical and socio-economic characteristics are concerned. Widows, the handicapped and the extremely poor are examples of categories requiring priority attention.

24. Based on these principles, the objectives for the Latin American Programme of Action on Aging are established as follows:

(a) To promote national and international understanding of the determining factors involved in the aging of the population and their economic, social and cultural consequences.

(b) To suggest and promote the formulation of action programmes and policies to improve the living conditions of persons of advanced age and to enable them to take a greater part in the development process and its benefits.

(c) To present policy alternatives compatible with national values and goals and with the principles set forth in the preceding paragraph that may be applied within varying national contexts.

(d) To promote teaching, training and research on problems related to aging of the population in order to improve the bases for formulating programmes and policies and promoting the exchange of experiences and knowledge in this field.

### III. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

25. The actions recommended in this Programme should be considered as policy options suggested to Member States. The actions recommended at the international level should be considered as complementary to or in support of those carried out by Governments. In any case, the recommendations of this Latin American Programme of Action should be included within the broader framework of the Regional Programme of Action for Latin America in the 1980s;<sup>1/</sup> the report of the Latin American

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<sup>1/</sup> Although this programme does not explicitly consider the elderly as a group for which social policies should be designed, many of the problems it deals with particularly affect aged persons.

Technical Meeting on the Elderly (San José, December 1980); the Plan of Action for the Implementation of Regional Strategies of the Pan-American Health Organization; the Draft International Plan of Action on Aging (proposal of a conceptual framework) (Vienna, August 1981); and the report of the WHO Preparatory Conference for the World Assembly on Aging (Mexico City, December 1980).

26. The Latin American Programme of Action on Aging should be considered as an instrument that will assist in improving the formulation of programmes and policies to solve various problems posed in the Regional Programme of Action for Latin America in the 1980s, in which the aging process plays an important role as does employment and the extension of coverage of social security services, health and education. Furthermore, in explicitly presenting the situation and problems of the aged, the present Programme of Action establishes a further group of persons for which a specific social policy is called for.

27. Aging of the population in the region is characterized by a great heterogeneity of situations and trends according to the countries concerned, and the interrelations of this process with the economic and social development process probably vary according to national contexts. The countries are therefore recommended to: (a) study the growth trends and structure of the population, as well as their economic and social consequences, and formulate appropriate programmes and policies to respond to the changes in these, and (b) to take a long-term view of the problem and set up efficient observation and evaluation systems within national planning organizations.

28. As a consequence of the rapidity of the demographic transition process, the aging of the population in many countries in Latin America will also be rapid. This fact, combined with the fact that the implications of this process are little known and do not yet constitute a serious concern in most of the countries of the region, may mean that they will face serious problems before the present generation runs its course. The experience of the most developed countries shows that although their aging process was slower and there was more awareness of its trends and possible consequences, substantial problems continue to exist, partly attributable to the fact that timely measures were not taken to enable society and the economy to adjust to the trends characteristic of the process.

29. It is recommended that programmes and policies to bring about integral and balanced development should: (a) take into account the concomitant aging of the population, and (b) adopt measures to ensure that prolongation of life constitutes a forward step that will enable elderly people to participate to a greater extent in the development process and its benefits and avoid their continuing to lead a marginalized and passive existence.

30. Inasmuch as persons of advanced age constitute a separate population group as regards their capacities, needs and limitations, policies and programmes aimed at promoting their participation must be intimately related with those aimed at improving their position as members of a very vulnerable group. Both kinds of policies should take into account the positive and negative aspects of the specific situations of such persons rather than their mere inclusion within an age group or subgroup.

31. It is generally recognized that the process of aging begins at conception and continues until the death of the biological organism, and that the growth and maturation of the organism take place in the early and middle stages of human development. The aging are those who are in the final third or quarter of the life-span, when the loss and decline of their physiological and psychological

/faculties and

faculties and their economical and social status are greatest. Such a decline is not always due to biological forces: it may also be a result of social, economic, environmental and cultural factors. The expression "the aging" provides a more adequate description than the terms "the elderly" or "the aged". It suggests continuing development and change during the later stages of the life-span, rather than a fixed or static period of life. "The aging", therefore, is the term that could best be used to define those sections of the population that have left the middle years of life behind them: it encompasses several stages of the life-span and a vast range of differences. For practical reasons, however, a statistical definition of old age has been used in demographic studies and analysis and social policies relating to aging. For the purposes of the World Assembly "the aging" are defined as those who are 60 years of age and over. A further definition of the stages of aging is required, however, since it is no longer practical, from a policy point of view, to place all the aging into one group called "60 and over".

32. The aging of the population constitutes a source of serious problems which the countries of the region must face in the future. These problems are not only related to the living conditions and participation of elderly persons but also, and fundamentally, to changes in the growth, structure and functioning of the economy and society.

33. The most obvious effect of the aging process of the macro-social level is the change in the relative size of the work force. Over the decades to come, the growth of the economically active population will exceed that of the potentially dependent population in most of the countries of the region; however, the change in dependency rates (that is, the dependent population with respect to the economically active population) will also largely depend on variations in the rates of participation at the extreme age limits constituted by very young people and those over 60 years of age, and most particularly on the pace of the incorporation of women into the labour market. It is therefore recommended that a study should be made of these trends as an essential component of medium and long-term planning.

34. Other aspects of structural change related to aging of the population -although less evident and little studied in Latin America- are those concerned with levels and patterns of consumption, saving, investment and the demand for various social services. In this case it is also important to note that, according to present projections, in the majority of the countries of the region in the coming decades the proportion of young people will tend to diminish and that of older persons to increase, so that in many cases the changes in absolute terms will be of great magnitude. It is therefore recommended that countries should evaluate the possible impact of such changes on consumption, saving, investment and the demand for social services and take them into account in preparing their strategies and policies.

35. Aging of the population has a very direct and significant impact on social security systems. In most countries of the region the ratio between the economically active population and the population over 60 years of age is decreasing at an ever-faster rate. This trend, compounded by the reduction in economic participation rates at the extreme limits of the period of active life are important factors creating financial imbalances in these systems. Countries should bear such changes very much in mind in planning extension of coverage or restructuring of their social security systems.



## A. ACTIONS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

36. For the best possible implementation of the policies proposed it is recommended that national actions should be promoted in the specific fields indicated below, within the context of national development plans and bearing in mind the economic, social and cultural characteristics of the different countries.

### 1. Humanitarian aspects

37. The humanitarian issues are those related to the specific needs of the aging. Although there are many aspects that older persons share in common with all members of the population, certain issues affect their individual characteristics and requirements. In particular, these comprise the topics outlined by the United Nations Secretary-General in his programme for the World Assembly on Aging, namely, health, housing and the environment, income security, education and the family.

#### (a) Health

38. Health should be considered within the frame of reference provided by the definition of the World Health Organization: a state of biopsychosocial well-being and not simply an absence of sickness. This is important when considering the extent to which the old can contribute to and participate in the development process of their countries.

39. Regarding the health of the aging the following recommendations are made:

(a) Action should be promoted based on the concept of preventive medicine, linked intimately to the concept of education and including the following points:

(i) Development from an early stage of life of good eating habits, physical exercise and the elimination of bad habits such as alcohol, tobacco and a sedentary lifestyle.

(ii) Education with the aim of preventing accidents and ensuring the safest possible environment.

(iii) Early diagnosis and treatment of diseases, regular medical checkups and the recognition of warning symptoms.

(iv) Education in pathological processes to ensure co-operation in the control of disease and to avoid complications.

(v) Education in certain aspects of rehabilitation.

(b) The concept of primary health care should be the main strategy for achieving the goal of health for the aging, as this is one of the most effective ways to include aging persons in the health care system.

(c) The promotion and establishment of medical services with an appropriate geriatric focus at two different levels: a primary level providing knowledge to medical and paramedical personnel regarding the medico-social aspects of aging, and a secondary level promoting geriatric services at the general hospital level with specialized outpatient treatment and hospitalization. As a result of the use of these services, the need arises for day hospitals and geriatric hospitals, both with units for the recovery of the chronically sick aged and the handicapped, and psychogeriatric units designed to serve the special problems of their mental health. A great deal of geriatric care can however be offered effectively by minimally trained lay persons, by professionals in allied fields, and by family and friends. One does not need to wait for the full development of geriatric professionals to develop a broad range of useful services for the elderly within the means of the countries of the region.

/(d) Research

(d) Research should be promoted on the biology of aging as well as the psychosocial environment of aging, the family and society (social gerontology), because scientific knowledge constitutes the foundation of all programmes of attention to the aged.

(e) In each country, research should be carried out to define the psychosocial and health profiles of the elderly and provide base line data, and specifically epidemiological information, in order to facilitate the planning, programming and evaluation of appropriate strategies for the care of the elderly population.

(f) Basic sanitary services in urban and rural areas should be improved.

40. In 1980 the Governing Council of the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) approved regional strategies as the contribution of the Americas to global strategies designed to attain the goal of Health for All by the year 2000. In addition, in 1981 the twenty-eighth Meeting of the Governing Council of PAHO approved a Plan of Action for the Implementation of Regional Strategies, as a frame of reference for preparing national health plans in order to attain regional objectives and goals.<sup>2/</sup> The health of the elderly has been stressed among the Plan of Action's priority areas within the programmes for the protection and promotion of the health of special groups.

41. The recommendations of the Latin American Technical Meeting on Aging, for their part, are consistent with the guidelines indicated by the Regional Plan of Action to Governments for the adoption of policies with respect to the aged.<sup>3/</sup>

(b) Housing and the environment

42. Most of the countries of Latin America are characterized by large housing deficits, which run into the hundreds of thousands even in the smallest nations.

43. The causes of the deficits are many and varied, and hence complex: they include rapid population growth, the low income of a large part of the population, the formation of new families at relatively early ages, shortages of skilled manpower, lack of construction materials, the high cost and scarcity of land, and the unavailability of mortgage financing.

44. The result is overcrowding in the available dwellings, the construction of large numbers of ramshackle houses from makeshift materials and, in many cases, unplanned, insanitary, uncomfortable environments for large numbers of citizens, including the aging.

45. New dwellings are generally of limited size and can accommodate only nuclear families - 3 to 4 persons. The traditional situation, then, where the aged lived with their married children has been upset by the overall housing problem. It has been noted, however that this is not so much the case in rural areas and among the aged who are still active in the national work force.

46. In this respect it is recommended:

(a) That housing be designed in the light of the physical and psychological needs of the aged;

(b) That research be conducted into different alternative living patterns and housing for the aged;

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<sup>2/</sup> Pan-American Health Organization/World Health Organization, Health for All by the Year 2000. Plan of Action for the Implementation of Regional Strategies Official Document No. 179, Washington, D.C., 1982.

<sup>3/</sup> See document E/CEPAL/CONF.74/L.2/Rev.1, 18 January 1982.

(c) That new urban and rural areas be planned which are characterized by small clusters integrating the housing, work and recreation areas of the residents, and that in all matters relating to urban and rural planning housing should be integrated into the habitat to which the respective population is accustomed, considering the development of productive forces and the increase of housing and services as key elements in this respect;

(d) That new urban and rural centres should give more attention to recreation needs as a means of promoting intergenerational contact;

(e) That the aged should be integrated into the new urban and rural areas in such a way as to permit them to resolve their own needs and yet to remain a vital part of the overall social fabric;

(f) That the aging should be encouraged to live near or with their children and efforts should be made to bring this about;

(g) That the development of obstacle-free housing should be encouraged for the elderly who are disabled.

(c) The family

47. The family in Latin America maintains strong links, and esteem for the elderly within the family is still preserved in the majority of cases. Statistics indicate that, for the region as a whole, the majority of the elderly reside with their families. However, the increasing trends of urbanization, modernization and migration indicate that the traditional concept of the place and relationship of the elderly in the family is undergoing major change. The traditional extended family is itself going through a stage of transformation and becoming more nucleate. In addition, because of increasing life expectancy, there are now many instances of four and even five-generation families.

48. In spite of these changes, the family in the region continues to be a fundamental social institution which plays an important role in the life of the aging and meets a wide spectrum of their needs, including non-material needs.

49. Consequently, the following recommendations are made:

(a) Ways and means should be sought to strengthen and/or preserve the family, and the place of the elderly within the family.

(b) Assistance to the elderly should, whenever possible, be within the context of the family, for the most effective outside assistance may well consist in helping the family to help its members, the aging in particular.

(c) Research is needed on (i) the changing roles of the family, and (ii) the cultural heritage of Latin American traditions.

(d) A sense of responsibility on the part of younger family members to their elderly relatives should be fostered.

(e) State, political, social, cultural and educational planning should include encouragement to aged persons to participate actively in formulating and implementing plans dealing with aging, so as to bring about a change in their attitudes with regard to the problems that prevent them from full participation.

(f) Methods should be sought to preserve and strengthen the family and the place of the elderly within the family. Assistance to the elderly should, when possible, be given through the family.

(g) Particular attention should be given to the problems of elderly women and to their relationship to the family.

(h) Special programmes should be established to help disabled old people within the family and the community.

(d) Income security

50. Latin America is characterized by heavy economic dependency ratios in all age cohorts. Overall dependency is 3:1 -i.e., three persons depend on each worker.

51. As might be expected, the participation in the work force drops at each progressively older age cohort. Nevertheless, it should be pointed out that over 20% of the population over 65 in Latin America is actively engaged in the labour force and over 45% of those in the age cohorts 55-64.

52. The reasons for this heavy participation at relatively late periods in life are varied and complex and include limited social security coverage, inflation which undermines pension plans, and tradition. Special attention was given to social security in its formal dimensions, and it was noted that coverage in Latin America varies generally from 30% to 50% of the population, depending on the country. Extremes were Costa Rica with 80% coverage and Haiti with 1.5% coverage.

53. The social security systems in most of the countries share certain characteristics such as limited coverage, inequality of benefits for different groups of workers, delays in adjusting contribution to actuarial requirements, use of long-term reserves to pay for short-term health-related needs and unprofitable investments in such items as office buildings, hospitals and in some cases luxury housing.

54. Taking into account both the psychosocial and economic aspects of income, it is recommended that:

(a) The labour laws in force in each country should be reviewed.

(b) The able-bodied aged should be encouraged to work and to use their skills productively.

(c) Age discrimination in the labour market should be abolished.

(d) Training programmes should be established for those who, at an older age, wish to enter the labour market for the first time.

(e) Retraining programmes should be established for those workers who become unemployed or who must change occupations because of age-related physical limitations or because of shifts in employment demands.

(f) Retirement age and old age benefits should be set flexibly, in accordance with length of service and type of occupation.

(g) Retirement should be gradual and voluntary, within a certain time span.

(h) Social security coverage should be expanded in all of the countries even if this means that individual benefits will be limited.

(i) Appropriate minimum and maximum levels of contributions and benefits should be fixed according to the real economic capacity of the country and the need of protection of the aged.

(j) Health services should be separated from pensions, both financially and administratively.

(k) The investment of social security funds should be oriented towards programmes of social and economic interest, with due regard to their safety, yield and liquidity.

(l) Mechanisms should be studied to preserve the purchasing power of retirement pensions.

(m) Government contributions to and participation in the social security system should be regularized.

(n) A minimum pension should be provided for all elderly persons, regardless of the number of years worked and contributions made.

(o) Inasmuch as Latin American families contribute greatly to the economic security of older persons, governments should support these efforts of the family through economic incentives where possible.

(e) Education

55. One of the keys to Latin America's future development lies in the education of its people. The region has always been characterized by high rates of illiteracy and outright ignorance in many social sectors.

56. In viewing the problems of the aged within this context there are several points to be made. Firstly, those persons who are 60 years of age and over are products of educational systems which were far different from the current ones. The result is a group badly prepared for the latter years of life in terms of understanding what is happening to them physically, socially and culturally. It is in the developing countries of the world, including much of Latin America, that rapid social and technological change and modernization have eroded the position and status of the elderly. The increasing informational obsolescence and outworn traditions of the aged mean that older people must have access to basic education, in addition to the access which all sectors of the population should have to continuous life-span education. Secondly, the population at large is in general ignorant of the problems of the aged. This too is a problem which will be effectively addressed only through the appropriate education of the entire population. Thirdly, since the educational systems of the area are not prepared to fully serve the population at large in many countries, they are even less prepared to retrain the over-60s or train those who are not yet aged about the need and problems of the aged.

57. Bearing in mind this situation the following recommendations are made:

(a) Research should be carried out in all the countries of the region to assess the needs of the aged with regard to education and the attitude of the population at large towards the aged.

(b) Educational programmes should be prepared for professional personnel in social and medical disciplines to permit them to meet and understand the needs of the aging population in all of their emotional, psychological and physical complexity.

(c) Educational programmes should be prepared for the community with the aim of teaching its members about the problems of the aged.

(d) Programmes should be prepared for the population aged 60 and over which later could be extended to younger groups and workers. These programmes would aim to re-educate and update them on modern technology, thus permitting them to continue an economically active life either in their lifelong occupation or in a new one.

(e) Women and especially housewives should be provided with specific programmes which give them a chance to acquire capacities which will allow them either to participate in the productive process or simply improve their personal well-being.

(f) Educational programmes should be promoted for the general population and especially the aged, about their fundamental rights including labour rights.

(g) Specialists should be trained so that they can train other professionals on the educational system.

(h) Older workers should be prepared for retirement through special courses which ease the transition and help them plan their new lives.

(i) Gerontological and geriatric courses should be set up in undergraduate and graduate medical training in university medical schools.

(j) Educational programmes should be prepared for the community, including professionals and para-professionals, to teach them about problems of the aged.

58. It is recommended that due importance should be given to the development of training and research centres on aging, responsible for preparing specialized human resources to meet the needs of the aging at various levels, ranging from geriatric specialists of university level to auxiliary personnel in the field of gerontology, with particular emphasis on establishing first of all national

/training centres

training centres and promoting relations among them either by reason of geographical proximity or of the kinds of activities in which they are engaged, with eventual co-operation both among nations and among concerned governmental and non-governmental organizations.

## 2. Developmental issues

59. Development is a multi-dimensional set of interrelated processes affecting all major institutional spheres and patterns of social behaviour and leading to sustained gains in economic output and a higher standard of living and human well-being. It involves changes in the productive, the distributive, and the integrative capabilities of a social system.

60. Many regions of the world, including Latin America, are witnessing the aging of their population. Economic growth and social progress influence fertility, mortality and some types of migration and result in a continuing increase in the numbers and percentages of older persons. This aging of the population has an impact on societal development. It has implications with regard to production, consumption and saving, employment, investment, migration and rural development, among others.

61. The aging of the population also has major implications with regard to social development. The countries of Latin America are undergoing rapid changes in the social sphere and the implications of these changes are far-reaching and dramatic in scope. No country is an exception and no group within the countries is exempt from the impact of this change. The breadth and the symptoms of this social change vary from one Latin American country to another, but the fundamental nature of the change is the same in all of the nations.

62. Societies which have been characterized by their traditional rural-agricultural social systems and economies are being transformed into less traditional societies and economic systems characterized by a trend towards urbanization, modern agricultural enterprises, industrialization and a growing tertiary sector. The changes are sometimes difficult and sometimes relatively easy but the one thing that is definite about them is their inevitability. The effects of these changes in the Latin American societies are various: they include the disruption of family patterns; varying patterns of demographic transition; the rise of urban centres, with accompanying congestion, pollution and physical insecurity; the institutionalization of the job market; rural-urban migration and other types of migration of large groups of people; rising expectations; and accompanying unrest among the citizenry and the emergence of large bureaucratic institutions. On the positive side, the social change has brought, in most countries, a rise in living standards, improved health conditions, better educational standards, higher literacy and considerable increases in life expectancy.

63. Because of changes in social patterns and economic development, the Latin American region is witnessing an aging of its population. Policy planners should therefore examine more carefully the impact of an aging population on future development plans.

64. In particular, the migration of young people from rural to urban areas often leads to high densities of older persons in rural areas, and this high concentration of older persons could lead to decreased productivity.

65. Another important aspect which will affect development is the problem of income security for the aging.

66. In view of these realities, the following recommendations are made:

(a) Within the context of agricultural development, every effort should be made to slow migration to the cities and increase productivity by (i) increased investment in agricultural areas; (ii) availability of agricultural loans; (iii) a review of farm pricing policies; (iv) special training in new agricultural techniques for peasants, and (v) greater use of co-operatives.

(b) In the formulation of agricultural development programmes, special consideration should be given to ensuring that elderly peasants are not discriminated against on the basis of age.

(c) Educational programmes should be established to train the aged for employment and re-employment.

(d) Employers and workers in the various labour sectors of the countries should be informed of the advantages of employing older persons.

(e) Within the context of the development process, existing pension programmes should be improved to ensure stable economic and social assistance for all groups.

(f) Special attention should be devoted to the investment of social security funds and their role in economic and social development.

(g) Governments should encourage initiatives by aging citizens to adopt new methods of production and start new enterprises by increasing their knowledge as to what products are needed and telling them how they may best be marketed for their own benefit.

(h) Legislation should be introduced to ensure the continued participation of the aged in development and avoid discrimination due to age.

(i) The possibility of formulating pension policies with built-in incentives designed to stimulate older people to work beyond retirement age should be studied.

(j) Older persons should be encouraged to utilize their spare time in volunteer social welfare activities in their communities.

(k) The greater involvement of non-governmental organizations in the planning and provision of services to the aging should be encouraged and supported.

(l) Technology adapted to the capabilities of the aging should be introduced.

(m) Social service systems should remain dynamic and attuned to the development process.

(n) National research should be undertaken on the effects caused by migration on the elderly who are left behind.

#### B. ACTION AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

67. The success of this programme will depend essentially on the activities of governments, which should take full advantage of the support provided by non-governmental organizations and the collaboration offered by international organizations.

68. Regional action will be basically directed towards supporting and strengthening the activities undertaken by the countries. The work programme to be prepared with this objective in mind should take into account national priorities and short and long-term national programmes on aging expected to be formulated by Member States after the World Assembly to be held in 1982.

/69. The

69. The activities carried out should be included within the broader framework of tasks undertaken to implement the Regional Programme of Action for Latin America in the 1980s, whose appraisal will include consideration of actions and policies related to problems of aging and the living conditions of the elderly.

70. The United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, CEPAL (through CELADE), and the specialized agencies of the United Nations will provide assistance to governments in carrying out activities in national programmes in accordance with their resources and work programmes.

71. In view of the intersectoral and multidisciplinary nature of the problems addressed by the present Latin American Programme of Action, and in order to meet the technical assistance needs of the countries with regard to improving and developing basic information, training and research on aging, and related problems, special emphasis should be placed on the establishment of joint projects by the United Nations Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, CEPAL (through CELADE), the United Nations specialized agencies, and other concerned organizations.

72. In order to carry out the tasks to be determined in the work programme, the Voluntary Fund for the World Assembly on Aging, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and the United Nations Development Programme are requested to provide maximum assistance in implementing the activities to be carried out in support of national programmes of action on aging.

73. The conclusions and recommendations of this Latin American Programme of Action on Aging will be submitted for the consideration of the Economic Commission for Latin America and other appropriate intergovernmental organizations, and it is recommended that they be taken into account in preparing CEPAL's work programme.



Annex 1

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Angel Herrera, Resident Representative in Costa Rica

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Mujeres de Costa Rica

Elvira Leal, Presidenta, Consejo Nacional de Mujeres  
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Carmen Sardá de Urrutia, Presidenta Relaciones Públicas

League of Red Cross Societies

Elena Quesada, Jefe Nacional, Sección Enfermeras Voluntarias,  
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Jorge Muñoz Pazmino, Deputy Delegate, Inter-American  
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G. Specially invited guest

Robert Mullen, Director and Deputy to the Assistant Secretary-General, Office  
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H. Secretariat of the Meeting

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Norberto González, Deputy Executive Secretary for  
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Daniel Blanchard, Acting Secretary of the Commission

César Pelaez, Expert, CELADE.

Annex 2

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

- E/CEPAL/Conf.74/L.1/Rev.1 - Temario provisional
- E/CEPAL/Conf.74/L.2/Rev.1 - Informe de la Reunión Técnica  
Latinoamericana sobre la Tercera Edad
- E/CEPAL/Conf.74/L.3/Rev.1 - Envejecimiento de la Población en  
América Latina

Annex 3

Table 1

LATIN AMERICA: ESTIMATES AND PROJECTIONS OF LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH, BY COUNTRIES

	1950-1955	1980-1985	1995-2000	2020-2025
<u>Andean area</u>				
<u>Bolivia</u>				
Men	38.5	48.6	57.0	64.5
Women	42.5	53.0	62.0	70.0
Total	40.4	50.7	59.4	67.2
<u>Colombia</u>				
Men	48.8	61.4	64.7	69.0
Women	52.6	66.0	69.3	73.8
Total	50.6	63.6	66.9	71.3
<u>Chile</u>				
Men	52.3	63.8	67.4	68.5
Women	56.0	70.4	73.9	75.5
Total	54.1	67.0	70.6	71.9
<u>Ecuador</u>				
Men	46.0	60.6	67.0	69.3
Women	47.9	64.7	71.0	73.8
Total	46.9	62.6	69.0	71.5
<u>Peru</u>				
Men	42.6	57.6	62.7	69.5
Women	44.8	60.7	66.1	73.0
Total	43.7	59.1	64.4	71.2
<u>Venezuela</u>				
Men	50.3	65.1	68.1	71.0
Women	54.4	70.6	73.8	77.0
Total	52.3	67.8	70.9	73.9
<u>Atlantic area</u>				
<u>Argentina</u>				
Men	60.4	66.7	68.1	68.6
Women	65.1	73.3	74.5	75.5
Total	62.7	69.9	71.2	72.0
<u>Brazil</u>				
Men	49.8	61.6	65.2	69.1
Women	52.2	65.4	69.7	74.8
Total	51.0	63.5	67.4	71.9
<u>Paraguay</u>				
Men	50.0	62.8	65.3	69.0
Women	54.0	67.5	70.5	74.5
Total	51.9	65.1	67.8	71.7
<u>Uruguay</u>				
Men	63.3	67.1	69.5	70.1
Women	69.4	73.7	76.0	77.1
Total	66.3	70.3	72.7	73.6

Table 1 (continued)

	1950-1955	1980-1985	1995-2000	2020-2025
<u>Central American Isthmus</u>				
<u>Costa Rica</u>				
Men	56.0	68.7	70.4	71.4
Women	58.6	73.3	75.4	76.6
Total	57.3	70.9	72.8	73.9
<u>El Salvador</u>				
Men	44.1	62.6	69.4	71.1
Women	46.5	67.1	73.3	75.1
Total	45.3	64.8	71.3	73.1
<u>Guatemala</u>				
Men	42.1	59.7	66.8	70.2
Women	43.3	61.8	69.3	74.3
Total	42.7	60.7	68.0	72.2
<u>Honduras</u>				
Men	40.9	58.2	66.0	70.2
Women	43.5	61.7	69.7	74.3
Total	42.2	59.9	67.8	72.2
<u>Nicaragua</u>				
Men	41.5	55.8	62.8	67.8
Women	44.6	59.5	66.8	72.5
Total	43.0	57.6	64.7	70.1
<u>Panama</u>				
Men	57.6	68.5	70.4	70.5
Women	60.1	73.0	75.4	76.6
Total	58.8	70.7	72.8	73.5
<u>Mexico and the Caribbean Republics</u>				
<u>Cuba</u>				
Men	56.7	71.8	72.7	73.0
Women	61.0	75.2	76.7	77.4
Total	58.8	73.4	74.7	75.1
<u>Haiti</u>				
Men	36.3	51.2	56.7	63.8
Women	38.9	54.4	60.2	68.4
Total	37.6	52.7	58.4	66.0
<u>Mexico</u>				
Men	50.3	63.9	68.0	70.6
Women	53.3	68.2	72.3	75.0
Total	51.8	66.0	70.1	72.7
<u>Dominican Republic</u>				
Men	43.6	60.7	66.1	70.4
Women	46.7	64.6	70.2	74.6
Total	45.1	62.6	68.1	72.4
<u>Other Caribbean countries</u>				
<u>Barbados</u>				
Men	56.0	68.8	70.8	72.7
Women	59.0	73.5	75.0	77.8
Total	57.5	71.1	72.9	75.2
<u>Guadeloupe</u>				
Men	55.0	67.8	70.2	72.4
Women	58.1	73.0	75.0	77.8
Total	56.5	70.4	72.6	75.1

Table 1 (concluded)

	1950-1955	1980-1985	1995-2000	2020-2025
<u>Guyana</u>				
Men	53.7	67.7	69.9	72.3
Women	58.3	73.3	75.2	77.9
Total	56.0	70.5	72.5	75.0
<u>Jamaica</u>				
Men	56.4	69.0	70.8	72.4
Women	59.5	73.5	75.0	77.8
Total	57.9	71.2	72.8	75.0
<u>Martinique</u>				
Men	55.0	67.8	70.2	72.4
Women	58.1	73.0	75.0	77.8
Total	56.5	70.4	72.6	75.1
<u>Puerto Rico</u>				
Men	63.0	70.2	71.8	73.1
Women	66.7	76.7	77.1	78.4
Total	64.4	73.4	74.4	75.7
<u>Suriname</u>				
Men	54.4	66.3	69.8	72.2
Women	57.7	71.5	75.0	77.8
Total	56.0	68.8	72.3	74.9
<u>Trinidad and Tobago</u>				
Men	56.4	67.1	71.3	72.9
Women	59.4	73.0	74.0	77.7
Total	57.8	70.0	72.6	75.2

Source: World Population Prospects as Assessed in 1980. Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, Population Studies No. 78, United Nations, New York, 1981.



Table 2

TOTAL POPULATION AND PERCENTAGE STRUCTURE OF POPULATION OF 28 LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, BY BROAD AGE GROUPS, 1950-2025

(Percentage of the total population in each group)

Age group	1950	1975	1980	2000	2025
<u>Andean group</u>					
<u>Bolivia</u>					
0 - 14	42.05	43.15	43.45	43.54	36.66
15 - 59	52.78	51.53	51.34	51.43	57.45
60 and over	5.17	5.32	5.21	5.03	5.89
Total population (thousands)	2 766.00	4 894.00	5 570.00	9 724.00	18 294.00
<u>Colombia</u>					
0 - 14	43.24	42.58	39.45	32.68	24.90
15 - 59	51.32	52.26	55.00	60.50	62.33
60 and over	5.44	5.16	5.55	6.82	12.77
Total population (thousands)	11 597.00	23 177.00	25 794.00	37 999.00	51 718.00
<u>Chile</u>					
0 - 14	38.19	35.23	32.54	28.04	23.09
15 - 59	55.44	56.96	59.36	62.11	60.71
60 and over	6.37	7.81	8.10	9.85	16.20
Total population (thousands)	6 091.00	10 196.00	11 104.00	14 934.00	18 758.00
<u>Ecuador</u>					
0 - 14	41.76	44.82	44.43	41.29	32.94
15 - 59	52.71	49.65	50.28	53.37	59.54
60 and over	5.53	5.53	5.29	5.34	7.52
Total population (thousands)	3 307.00	6 891.00	8 021.00	14 596.00	25 725.00
<u>Peru</u>					
0 - 14	40.15	43.41	42.28	40.43	35.20
15 - 59	51.85	51.17	52.47	54.06	57.36
60 and over	8.00	5.42	5.25	5.51	7.44
Total population (thousands)	7 988.00	15 397.00	17 625.00	30 703.00	56 036.00
<u>Venezuela</u>					
0 - 14	42.17	43.97	42.16	35.72	27.72
15 - 59	52.62	51.72	53.37	58.53	61.79
60 and over	5.21	4.31	4.47	5.75	10.49
Total population (thousands)	5 139.00	13 109.00	15 620.00	27 207.00	42 846.00
<u>Atlantic area</u>					
<u>Argentina</u>					
0 - 14	30.53	28.37	27.90	25.45	21.99
15 - 59	62.43	59.67	59.38	59.93	60.55
60 and over	7.04	11.96	12.72	14.62	17.46
Total population (thousands)	17 150.00	25 378.00	27 036.00	33 222.00	39 058.00
<u>Brazil</u>					
0 - 14	42.38	41.16	39.18	33.91	30.42
15 - 59	53.58	53.04	54.72	58.63	58.66
60 and over	4.04	5.80	6.10	7.46	10.92
Total population (thousands)	52 842.00	108 400.00	122 320.00	187 494.00	291 252.00

Table 2 (continued)

Age group	1950	1975	1980	2000	2025
<u>Paraguay</u>					
0 - 14	42.38	43.97	42.70	37.70	29.00
15 - 59	51.64	50.76	51.89	56.70	61.54
60 and over	5.98	5.27	5.41	5.60	9.46
Total population (thousands)	1 371.00	2 686.00	3 168.00	5 405.00	8 552.00
<u>Uruguay</u>					
0 - 14	27.87	27.69	26.83	24.69	21.96
15 - 59	60.34	58.19	58.48	58.70	60.28
60 and over	11.79	14.12	14.69	16.61	17.76
Total population (thousands)	2 239.00	2 829.00	2 899.00	3 330.00	3 803.00
<u>Central American Isthmus</u>					
<u>Costa Rica</u>					
0 - 14	43.47	42.03	37.87	31.73	26.33
15 - 59	51.28	52.73	56.53	60.83	59.70
60 and over	5.25	5.24	5.60	7.44	13.97
Total population (thousands)	858.00	1 965.00	2 213.00	3 377.00	4 893.00
<u>El Salvador</u>					
0 - 14	42.16	45.67	45.20	40.66	30.82
15 - 59	53.20	49.16	49.70	53.77	60.70
60 and over	4.64	5.17	5.10	5.77	8.48
Total population (thousands)	1 940.00	4 143.00	4 797.00	8 708.00	15 048.00
<u>Guatemala</u>					
0 - 14	44.26	45.06	44.08	39.49	31.70
15 - 59	51.22	50.56	51.44	54.75	59.56
60 and over	4.52	4.38	4.48	5.76	8.74
Total population (thousands)	2 962.00	6 243.00	7 262.00	12 739.00	21 717.00
<u>Honduras</u>					
0 - 14	44.75	48.05	47.82	42.31	34.08
15 - 59	52.03	47.70	47.77	52.71	59.10
60 and over	3.22	4.25	4.41	4.98	6.82
Total population (thousands)	1 401.00	3 093.00	3 691.00	6 978.00	13 293.00
<u>Nicaragua</u>					
0 - 14	44.09	48.35	48.04	44.07	35.42
15 - 59	51.40	47.75	48.10	52.15	58.48
60 and over	4.51	3.90	3.86	3.78	6.10
Total population (thousands)	1 109.00	2 318.00	2 733.00	5 154.00	9 752.00
<u>Panama</u>					
0 - 14	41.58	41.95	39.80	31.50	25.25
15 - 59	50.55	52.02	53.78	60.58	61.29
60 and over	7.87	6.03	6.42	7.92	13.46
Total population (thousands)	825.00	1 678.00	1 896.00	2 823.00	3 937.00
<u>Mexico and Caribbean Republics</u>					
<u>Cuba</u>					
0 - 14	36.19	36.91	31.33	24.12	20.19
15 - 59	57.10	53.52	58.23	62.92	59.54
60 and over	6.71	9.57	10.44	12.96	20.27
Total population (thousands)	5 858.00	9 332.00	9 732.00	11 718.00	13 575.00

Table 2 (continued)

Age group	1950	1975	1980	2000	2025
<u>Haiti</u>					
0 - 14	39.52	43.42	43.56	43.39	37.17
15 - 59	54.02	50.84	50.88	51.76	57.23
60 and over	6.46	5.74	5.56	4.85	5.60
Total population (thousands)	3 097.00	5 157.00	5 809.00	9 860.00	18 312.00
<u>Mexico</u>					
0 - 14	42.77	45.92	44.65	36.28	26.80
15 - 59	52.67	48.84	50.20	58.00	63.13
60 and over	5.16	5.24	5.15	5.72	10.07
Total population (thousands)	26 886.00	60 102.00	69 752.00	115 659.00	173 960.00
<u>Dominican Republic</u>					
0 - 14	44.73	47.68	44.80	35.50	28.32
15 - 59	50.06	48.11	50.84	58.86	61.23
60 and over	5.21	4.21	4.36	5.64	10.45
Total population (thousands)	2 361.00	5 231.00	5 947.00	9 329.00	14 495.00
<u>Other Caribbean countries</u>					
<u>Barbados</u>					
0 - 14	33.18	32.65	29.28	24.06	20.21
15 - 59	58.29	54.70	58.17	65.31	58.27
60 and over	8.53	12.65	12.55	10.63	21.52
Total population (thousands)	211.00	245.00	263.00	320.00	381.00
<u>Guadeloupe</u>					
0 - 14	39.52	36.92	31.00	23.73	20.34
15 - 59	53.81	54.77	59.27	63.28	58.84
60 and over	6.67	8.31	9.73	12.99	20.82
Total population (thousands)	210.00	325.00	329.00	354.00	413.00
<u>Guyana</u>					
0 - 14	41.07	43.74	40.21	28.27	21.73
15 - 59	52.53	50.57	53.79	64.78	62.41
60 and over	6.40	5.69	6.00	6.95	15.86
Total population (thousands)	375.00	791.00	883.00	1 238.00	1 620.00
<u>Jamaica</u>					
0 - 14	36.07	45.23	40.63	28.34	21.73
15 - 59	58.09	46.25	50.59	63.02	63.63
60 and over	5.84	8.52	8.78	8.64	14.64
Total population (thousands)	1 403.00	2 043.00	2 188.00	2 872.00	3 764.00
<u>Martinique</u>					
0 - 14	37.39	40.12	33.23	24.87	20.00
15 - 59	55.40	50.62	56.92	62.15	61.16
60 and over	7.21	9.26	9.85	12.98	18.84
Total population (thousands)	222.00	324.00	325.00	362.00	430.00
<u>Puerto Rico</u>					
0 - 14	43.31	33.66	31.21	23.85	20.32
15 - 59	50.61	57.10	59.92	65.04	59.24
60 and over	6.08	9.24	8.87	10.11	20.44
Total population (thousands)	2 219.00	3 105.00	3 675.00	5 312.00	6 463.00
<u>Suriname</u>					
0 - 14	40.00	53.72	51.29	43.84	25.53
15 - 59	51.63	40.50	43.04	51.29	67.00
60 and over	8.37	5.78	5.67	4.87	7.47
Total population (thousands)	215.00	363.00	388.00	698.00	1 097.00

Table 2 (concluded)

Age group	1950	1975	1980	2000	2025
<u>Trinidad and Tobago</u>					
0 - 14	40.41	37.99	32.88	24.48	20.35
15 - 59	53.46	55.45	59.67	65.74	59.64
60 and over	6.13	6.56	7.45	9.78	20.01
Total population (thousands)	636.00	1 082.00	1 168.00	1 483.00	1 789.00

Source: For the Andean and Atlantic areas, Central American Isthmus and Mexico and other Caribbean Republics, CELADE projections. For the other countries of the Caribbean: World Population Prospects as Assessed in 1980, Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, Population Studies No. 78, United Nations, New York, 1981.

Table 3

POPULATION GROWTH RATES OF 28 LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, BY BROAD AGE GROUPS, 1950-2025

(Annual average growth rates) a/

Age group	1950-1975	1975-1980	1980-2000	2000-2025
<u>Andean group</u>				
<u>Bolivia</u>				
0 - 14	2.39	2.72	2.80	1.84
15 - 59	2.19	2.51	2.80	2.79
60 and over	2.39	2.19	2.61	3.16
Total population (thousands)	2.28	2.59	2.79	2.53
<u>Colombia</u>				
0 - 14	2.71	0.61	1.00	0.15
15 - 59	2.84	3.16	2.41	1.35
60 and over	2.55	3.63	2.96	3.75
Total population (thousands)	2.77	2.14	1.94	1.23
<u>Chile</u>				
0 - 14	1.74	0.12	0.74	0.14
15 - 59	2.17	2.53	1.71	0.82
60 and over	2.87	2.44	2.46	2.90
Total population (thousands)	2.06	1.71	1.48	0.91
<u>Ecuador</u>				
0 - 14	3.22	2.86	2.63	1.36
15 - 59	2.70	3.29	3.29	2.70
60 and over	2.94	2.15	3.04	3.64
Total population (thousands)	2.94	3.04	2.99	2.27
<u>Peru</u>				
0 - 14	2.94	2.18	2.55	1.85
15 - 59	2.57	3.21	2.92	2.64
60 and over	1.07	2.05	3.02	3.60
Total population (thousands)	2.62	2.70	2.78	2.41
<u>Venezuela</u>				
0 - 14	3.91	2.67	1.95	0.80
15 - 59	3.68	4.13	3.24	2.03
60 and over	2.99	4.21	4.03	4.22
Total population (thousands)	3.75	3.51	2.77	1.82
<u>Atlantic area</u>				
<u>Argentina</u>				
0 - 14	1.27	0.93	0.57	0.06
15 - 59	1.39	1.17	1.08	0.69
60 and over	3.69	2.48	1.73	1.36
Total population (thousands)	1.57	1.27	1.03	0.65
<u>Brazil</u>				
0 - 14	2.76	1.43	1.41	1.33
15 - 59	2.83	3.04	2.48	1.76
60 and over	4.33	3.43	3.14	3.29
Total population (thousands)	2.87	2.42	2.14	1.76

Table 3 (continued)

Age group	1950-1975	1975-1980	1980-2000	2000-2025
<u>Paraguay</u>				
0 - 14	2.84	2.71	2.05	0.78
15 - 59	2.62	3.74	3.11	2.16
60 and over	2.18	3.81	2.85	3.94
Total population (thousands)	2.69	3.30	2.67	1.84
<u>Uruguay</u>				
0 - 14	0.91	-0.14	0.28	0.06
15 - 59	0.79	0.60	0.71	0.64
60 and over	1.66	1.29	1.31	0.80
Total population (thousands)	0.93	0.50	0.69	0.53
<u>Central American Isthmus</u>				
<u>Costa Rica</u>				
0 - 14	3.18	0.30	1.23	0.74
15 - 59	3.43	3.77	2.48	1.41
60 and over	3.31	3.71	3.53	4.00
Total population (thousands)	3.31	2.38	2.11	1.48
<u>El Salvador</u>				
0 - 14	3.35	2.72	2.45	1.08
15 - 59	2.72	3.15	3.38	2.67
60 and over	3.47	2.66	3.42	3.87
Total population (thousands)	3.03	2.93	2.98	2.19
<u>Guatemala</u>				
0 - 14	3.05	2.58	2.26	1.25
15 - 59	2.93	3.37	3.12	2.47
60 and over	2.85	3.52	4.06	3.80
Total population (thousands)	2.98	3.03	2.81	2.13
<u>Honduras</u>				
0 - 14	3.45	3.44	2.57	1.71
15 - 59	2.82	3.56	3.68	3.04
60 and over	4.29	4.26	3.79	3.83
Total population (thousands)	3.17	3.53	3.18	2.58
<u>Nicaragua</u>				
0 - 14	3.32	3.16	2.74	1.68
15 - 59	2.66	3.43	3.58	3.01
60 and over	2.37	3.11	3.05	4.47
Total population (thousands)	2.95	3.29	3.17	2.55
<u>Panama</u>				
0 - 14	2.88	1.40	0.82	0.45
15 - 59	2.95	3.12	2.58	1.38
60 and over	1.77	3.70	3.04	3.45
Total population (thousands)	2.84	2.45	1.99	1.33
<u>Mexico and Caribbean Republics</u>				
<u>Cuba</u>				
0 - 14	1.94	-2.44	-0.38	-0.12
15 - 59	1.60	2.52	1.32	0.37
60 and over	3.28	2.58	2.01	2.38
Total population (thousands)	1.86	0.84	0.93	0.59
<u>Maliti</u>				
0 - 14	2.42	2.45	2.63	1.86
15 - 59	1.80	2.39	2.73	2.88
60 and over	1.57	1.75	1.96	3.05
Total population (thousands)	2.04	2.38	2.65	2.48

Table 3 (concluded)

Age group	1950-1975	1975-1980	1980-2000	2000-2025
<u>Mexico</u>				
0 - 14	3.50	2.42	1.49	0.42
15 - 59	2.96	3.53	3.25	1.97
60 and over	3.28	2.60	3.06	3.89
Total population (thousands)	3.22	2.98	2.53	1.63
<u>Dominican Republic</u>				
0 - 14	3.44	1.31	1.09	0.86
15 - 59	3.02	3.67	2.98	1.92
60 and over	2.33	3.29	3.53	4.23
Total population (thousands)	3.18	2.56	2.25	1.76
<u>Other Caribbean countries</u>				
<u>Barbados</u>				
0 - 14	0.53	-0.76	0.00	0.00
15 - 59	0.34	2.65	1.56	0.24
60 and over	2.17	1.25	0.15	3.52
Total population (thousands)	0.60	1.42	0.98	0.70
<u>Guadeloupe</u>				
0 - 14	1.47	-3.25	-0.97	0.00
15 - 59	1.82	1.82	0.69	0.33
60 and over	2.63	3.40	1.81	2.50
Total population (thousands)	1.75	0.24	0.37	0.62
<u>Guyana</u>				
0 - 14	3.24	0.51	-0.07	0.02
15 - 59	2.83	3.44	2.62	0.93
60 and over	2.51	3.27	2.42	4.38
Total population (thousands)	2.99	2.20	1.69	1.08
<u>Jamaica</u>				
0 - 14	2.41	-0.77	-0.44	0.02
15 - 59	0.59	3.16	2.46	1.12
60 and over	3.01	1.97	1.28	3.19
Total population (thousands)	1.50	1.37	1.36	1.08
<u>Martinique</u>				
0 - 14	1.79	-3.71	-0.91	-0.18
15 - 59	1.15	2.41	0.98	0.62
60 and over	2.51	1.29	1.92	2.18
Total population (thousands)	1.51	0.06	0.54	0.69
<u>Puerto Rico</u>				
0 - 14	0.34	1.86	0.50	0.14
15 - 59	1.83	4.33	2.33	0.35
60 and over	3.02	2.55	2.50	3.60
Total population (thousands)	1.34	3.37	1.84	0.78
<u>Suriname</u>				
0 - 14	3.27	0.41	2.15	-0.36
15 - 59	1.12	2.55	3.81	2.88
60 and over	0.62	0.93	2.18	3.52
Total population (thousands)	2.10	1.33	2.94	1.81
<u>Trinidad and Tobago</u>				
0 - 14	1.88	-1.36	-0.28	0.01
15 - 59	2.27	3.00	1.68	0.36
60 and over	2.40	4.06	2.55	3.62
Total population (thousands)	2.13	1.53	1.19	0.75

Source: Table 2.

Table 4

LATIN AMERICA (28 COUNTRIES): GROSS REPRODUCTION RATE (GRR), LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH (LEB)  
AND PROPORTION OF WOMEN IN THE POPULATION OVER AGE 60, 1950-2025

Country	GRR	LEB	Percentage of women in population			
	1975-	1975-	age 60 and over			
	1980	1980	1950	1980	2000	2025
<u>Andean area</u>						
Bolivia	3.12	48.6	53.8	53.9	54.2	54.9
Colombia	2.10	62.2	55.6	54.6	53.7	52.6
Chile	1.51	65.7	55.2	56.6	56.1	55.3
Ecuador	3.07	60.0	59.0	52.7	52.1	52.4
Peru	2.68	57.1	56.7	52.2	51.6	51.9
Venezuela	2.31	66.2	58.2	52.5	53.9	55.0
<u>Atlantic area</u>						
Argentina	1.40	69.2	49.3	54.0	55.5	55.3
Brazil	2.20	61.8	53.3	50.7	51.2	52.3
Paraguay	2.54	64.1	56.1	54.3	54.0	53.6
Uruguay	1.41	69.5	51.9	55.4	56.6	56.1
<u>Central American Isthmus</u>						
Costa Rica	1.74	69.7	51.1	52.6	52.9	52.5
El Salvador	2.93	62.2	52.2	55.0	54.0	52.3
Guatemala	2.77	57.8	50.7	51.0	51.0	51.1
Honduras	3.48	57.1	53.3	51.8	51.2	51.5
Nicaragua	3.20	55.2	54.0	57.8	57.4	54.2
Panama	2.01	69.6	49.2	50.5	51.5	51.8
<u>Mexico and the Caribbean Republics</u>						
Cuba	1.06	72.8	46.3	48.1	51.1	51.4
Haiti	2.89	50.7	53.0	54.7	54.7	53.9
Mexico	2.63	64.4	53.3	54.0	53.4	52.5
Dominican Republic	2.44	60.3	48.0	50.8	52.3	52.0
Barbados	1.30	70.0	72.2	57.6	58.8	54.9
Guadeloupe	1.40	69.3	64.2	53.1	56.5	53.5
Guyana	1.92	69.1	54.2	54.7	54.7	54.1
Jamaica	2.00	70.1	58.5	54.7	56.9	54.8
Martinique	1.40	69.3	56.2	53.1	57.4	54.3
Puerto Rico	1.15	73.0	51.1	54.3	58.8	57.9
Suriname	3.00	67.2	50.0	54.5	61.8	58.5
Trinidad and Tobago	1.30	68.9	53.8	51.7	52.4	52.0

Sources: Table 2.



Table 5

TOTAL POPULATION AND PERCENTAGE STRUCTURE OF THE URBAN AND RURAL POPULATION  
OF 20 LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, BY BROAD AGE GROUPS, 1975-2025

(Percentage of the population in each group)

Age group	1975		1980		2000		2025	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
<u>Andean group</u>								
<u>Bolivia</u>								
0 - 14	39.99	45.38	39.03	47.02	39.46	48.85	33.76	42.73
15 - 59	55.49	48.74	56.63	47.06	55.94	45.57	60.79	50.48
60 and over	4.52	5.88	4.34	5.92	4.60	5.58	5.45	6.79
Total population (thousands)	2 021.00	2 873.00	2 489.00	3 081.00	5 502.00	4 222.00	12 376.00	5 918.00
<u>Colombia</u>								
0 - 14	40.42	46.25	37.52	43.23	31.56	36.53	24.31	28.22
15 - 59	54.41	48.63	56.93	51.22	61.64	56.60	62.96	58.79
60 and over	5.17	5.12	5.55	5.55	6.80	6.87	12.73	12.99
Total population (thousands)	14 552.00	8 624.00	17 108.00	8 686.00	29 405.00	8 593.00	43 895.00	7 823.00
<u>Chile</u>								
0 - 14	34.02	39.31	31.44	36.61	27.30	31.88	22.64	26.33
15 - 59	58.29	52.50	60.58	54.84	62.97	57.60	61.32	56.32
60 and over	7.69	8.19	7.98	8.55	9.73	10.52	16.04	17.35
Total population (thousands)	7 850.00	2 346.00	8 743.00	2 362.00	12 543.00	2 391.00	16 450.00	2 308.00
<u>Ecuador</u>								
0 - 14	42.53	46.47	42.63	46.21	39.63	43.39	31.94	35.01
15 - 59	52.12	47.86	52.65	48.36	55.19	51.07	60.71	57.10
60 and over	5.35	5.67	5.12	5.43	5.18	5.54	7.35	7.89
Total population (thousands)	2 899.00	3 992.00	3 589.00	4 432.00	8 172.00	6 424.00	17 369.00	8 355.00
<u>Peru</u>								
0 - 14	41.53	46.32	40.53	45.32	39.17	43.77	34.42	38.45
15 - 59	53.37	47.76	54.52	48.91	55.55	50.10	58.37	53.17
60 and over	5.10	5.92	4.95	5.77	5.28	6.13	7.21	8.38
Total population (thousands)	9 352.00	6 045.00	11 178.00	6 448.00	22 291.00	8 412.00	45 216.00	10 820.00
<u>Venezuela</u>								
0 - 14	42.45	48.33	40.76	46.66	34.80	40.10	27.20	31.16
15 - 59	53.45	46.72	54.99	48.16	59.67	53.11	62.59	56.43
60 and over	4.10	4.95	4.25	5.18	5.53	6.79	10.21	12.41
Total population (thousands)	9 719.00	3 390.00	11 905.00	3 714.00	22 471.00	4 736.00	37 341.00	5 505.00
<u>Atlantic area</u>								
<u>Argentina</u>								
0 - 14	26.38	36.42	26.05	36.12	24.07	33.95	20.96	30.46
15 - 59	60.85	54.87	60.45	54.67	60.65	55.52	61.02	56.74
60 and over	12.77	8.71	13.50	9.21	15.28	10.53	18.02	12.80
Total population (thousands)	20 343.00	5 035.00	22 066.00	4 970.00	28 586.00	4 636.00	34 816.00	4 241.00
<u>Brazil</u>								
0 - 14	38.05	45.69	36.37	43.90	32.06	39.41	29.24	36.46
15 - 59	55.67	49.20	57.08	50.74	60.16	54.09	59.56	54.07
60 and over	6.28	5.11	6.55	5.36	7.78	6.50	11.20	9.47
Total population (thousands)	64 233.00	44 166.00	76 791.00	45 529.00	140 247.00	47 247.00	243 764.00	47 488.00
<u>Paraguay</u>								
0 - 14	36.76	48.34	36.44	46.64	34.02	40.67	26.15	32.47
15 - 59	56.89	47.05	56.99	48.69	59.23	54.66	63.08	59.65
60 and over	6.35	4.61	6.57	4.67	6.75	4.67	10.77	7.88
Total population (thousands)	1 013.00	1 674.00	1 223.00	1 945.00	2 406.00	2 999.00	4 699.00	3 852.00
<u>Uruguay</u>								
0 - 14	27.33	29.46	26.47	28.64	24.39	26.64	21.71	23.90
15 - 59	57.99	59.14	58.27	59.58	58.46	60.23	60.07	61.92
60 and over	14.68	11.40	15.26	11.78	17.15	13.13	18.22	14.18
Total population (thousands)	2 345.00	483.00	2 430.00	470.00	2 883.00	447.00	3 372.00	431.00

Table 5 (continued)

Age group	1975		1980		2000		2025	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
<u>Central American Isthmus</u>								
<u>Costa Rica</u>								
0 - 14	36.67	45.93	33.02	41.96	28.24	36.82	24.04	32.23
15 - 59	57.13	49.52	60.48	53.20	63.53	56.89	61.13	56.02
60 and over	6.20	4.55	6.50	4.84	8.23	6.29	14.83	11.75
Total population (thousands)	828.00	1 137.00	1 011.00	1 202.00	2 006.00	1 372.00	3 522.00	1 371.00
<u>El Salvador</u>								
0 - 14	40.66	49.25	40.39	49.00	36.92	45.12	28.38	35.58
15 - 59	53.22	46.25	53.61	46.60	56.78	50.18	62.46	57.27
60 and over	6.12	4.50	6.00	4.40	6.30	4.70	9.16	7.15
Total population (thousands)	1 729.00	2 413.00	2 119.00	2 678.00	4 740.00	3 968.00	9 958.00	5 090.00
<u>Guatemala</u>								
0 - 14	41.34	47.12	39.71	46.59	36.47	41.78	29.54	34.33
15 - 59	53.47	48.95	55.07	49.35	57.77	52.46	61.80	56.83
60 and over	5.19	3.93	5.22	4.06	5.76	5.76	8.66	8.84
Total population (thousands)	2 220.00	4 023.00	2 651.00	4 611.00	5 492.00	7 247.00	11 920.00	9 796.00
<u>Honduras</u>								
0 - 14	44.58	49.99	44.52	49.92	39.85	45.08	32.66	37.16
15 - 59	50.94	45.89	50.86	45.81	55.02	50.10	60.42	56.24
60 and over	4.48	4.12	4.62	4.27	5.13	4.82	6.92	6.60
Total population (thousands)	1 110.00	1 983.00	1 432.00	2 259.00	3 699.00	3 279.00	9 904.00	4 198.00
<u>Nicaragua</u>								
0 - 14	46.32	50.41	46.18	50.20	42.80	46.55	34.55	37.98
15 - 59	49.30	46.19	49.52	46.45	53.14	50.25	59.05	56.80
60 and over	4.38	3.40	4.30	3.35	4.06	3.20	6.40	5.22
Total population (thousands)	1 169.00	1 150.00	1 471.00	1 261.00	3 400.00	1 754.00	7 283.00	2 470.00
<u>Panama</u>								
0 - 14	37.68	46.50	35.94	44.58	29.00	36.73	23.60	30.44
15 - 59	55.87	47.93	57.24	49.50	62.78	55.97	62.63	57.08
60 and over	6.45	5.57	6.82	5.92	8.22	7.30	13.77	12.48
Total population (thousands)	864.00	813.00	1 048.00	848.00	1 913.00	910.00	2 988.00	949.00
<u>Mexico and Caribbean Republics</u>								
<u>Cuba</u>								
0 - 14	33.90	42.08	28.87	36.32	22.58	29.87	19.21	26.33
15 - 59	55.27	50.51	59.49	55.67	63.62	60.26	59.78	58.03
60 and over	10.83	7.41	11.64	8.01	13.80	9.87	21.01	15.64
Total population (thousands)	5 899.00	3 433.00	6 515.00	3 216.00	9 240.00	2 478.00	11 707.00	1 868.00
<u>Haiti</u>								
0 - 14	41.08	44.05	41.25	44.26	41.35	44.34	35.96	38.16
15 - 59	54.18	49.94	54.15	49.89	54.58	50.44	59.22	55.61
60 and over	4.74	6.01	4.60	5.85	4.07	5.22	4.82	6.23
Total population (thousands)	1 100.00	4 057.00	1 340.00	4 469.00	3 144.00	6 717.00	8 235.00	10 077.00
<u>Mexico</u>								
0 - 14	44.50	48.25	43.36	47.09	35.47	38.90	26.37	29.10
15 - 59	50.26	46.50	51.50	47.74	58.84	55.28	63.62	60.55
60 and over	5.24	5.25	5.14	5.17	5.69	5.82	10.01	10.35
Total population (thousands)	37 400.00	22 702.00	45 673.00	24 079.00	88 225.00	27 433.00	146 138.00	27 822.00

Table 5 (concluded)

Age group	1975		1980		2000		2025	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
Dominican Republic								
0 - 14	44.72	49.90	42.07	47.19	33.76	38.33	27.27	30.96
15 - 59	51.15	45.83	53.65	48.37	60.71	55.85	62.33	58.17
60 and over	4.13	4.27	4.28	4.44	5.53	5.82	10.30	10.87
Total population (thousands)	2 240.00	2 991.00	2 784.00	3 163.00	5 783.00	3 546.00	10 657.00	3 838.00

Source: CELADE, Boletín Demográfico, No. 28, Santiago, Chile, July 1981.

Table 6.

LATIN AMERICA: PROPORTION OF WOMEN IN THE URBAN AND RURAL POPULATION BY BROAD AGE GROUPS, 1980<sup>a/</sup>

Country	0 - 14		15 - 59		60 and over	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
<u>Andean area</u>						
Bolivia	49.8	50.0	52.0	50.2	56.6	52.4
Colombia	50.1	48.1	52.1	44.7	57.9	48.0
Chile	49.4	48.6	51.9	44.3	59.1	48.2
Ecuador	50.4	49.0	52.0	48.1	56.4	49.8
Peru	49.9	48.8	49.9	50.0	52.9	51.2
Venezuela	49.6	48.7	51.1	46.3	55.3	45.0
<u>Atlantic area</u>						
Argentina	50.0	46.6	50.5	45.0	55.0	47.4
Brazil	49.8	48.9	51.1	46.9	53.6	44.7
Paraguay	49.8	49.1	53.3	48.2	58.4	50.7
Uruguay	49.3	48.4	51.9	41.3	57.4	41.8
<u>Central American Isthmus</u>						
Costa Rica	49.8	48.7	53.1	46.4	57.9	46.6
El Salvador	50.0	48.8	52.4	47.2	62.2	49.3
Guatemala	49.9	48.7	51.8	47.7	56.1	47.2
Honduras	50.1	49.6	52.6	47.8	57.0	48.2
Nicaragua	49.8	48.8	53.7	47.1	63.2	49.7
Panama	49.9	48.4	51.4	44.9	54.6	44.8
<u>Mexico and the Caribbean Republics</u>						
Cuba	48.9	48.9	51.0	45.4	51.5	38.1
Haiti	52.2	48.9	57.2	49.5	63.9	52.5
Mexico	49.5	48.7	50.9	47.8	56.6	49.0
Dominican Republic	50.4	48.4	52.6	46.5	56.7	45.8

Source: CELADE, Boletín Demográfico, No. 28, Santiago, Chile, July 1981.

a/ 20 countries.

Annex 4

HEALTH OF THE ELDERLY

Approaches

Demographic projections in some countries of the Region forecast a considerable increase of the older population. The processes of urbanization, industrialization, increasing participation of women in the working force and the consequent changes in traditional socio-cultural values may have a significant influence on family cohesion and composition, including attitudes towards the care of the elderly.

The rising cost of health care for the aged has placed an increasing burden on the family as well as society in general, since some chronic diseases which are prevalent in this age group have risen dramatically.

Multiple factors affect the health of the aged. The programs aimed at the protection and promotion of health of the aged must be intersectoral and multifaceted and should meet their health and social needs in an integral fashion.

The Plan of Action emphasized the study and analysis of the magnitude of the problems affecting the health of the elderly; development of comprehensive care approaches within the health and social services aimed at providing continuity and quality of care to the elderly; promotion of the concept of self and family care. Emphasis will also be given to community participation through its pertinent organizations.

Areas of action

(1) Assessment of the situation and adoption of policies for health care delivery to elderly population groups:

- Development of national demographic and epidemiological studies to define the extent of current problems and their projections
- Analysis of the characteristics of the elderly population
- Adoption of national policies which address the social and health needs of elderly groups

(2) Development of comprehensive care of the elderly within general health services:

- Development of programming approaches and techniques in order to include the needs of the elderly population in rural and urban development programs
- Definition of activities for the elderly by levels of care
- Development of studies to improve knowledge regarding the availability of services for the care of the elderly, and to reorient current institutional care in this area
- Inclusion of epidemiologists and social scientists in studies of problems related to care of the elderly

(3) Promotion and development of community action programs:

- Development of educational programs and information materials to encourage and to orient self-care and non-institutional health care approaches for the elderly

- Promotion of the development and co-ordination of community services addressing the social needs of the elderly, such as social centres and home care
- Promotion of participation of community groups in the development of social and vocational reorientation programs for the aged
- (4) Development of human resources:
  - Training the health services regular personnel, by health care levels, on the problems of the elderly
  - Inclusion of primary health care approaches in the training of gerontology and geriatric specialists

Suggestions for indicators:

- Countries having recognized the significance of the problem and having specific policies, legislation and programs for the health care and social needs of the aged
- Legislation and programs of urban and rural development that recognize the needs of the elderly
- Proportion of health services for the aged
- Decreasing proportion of institutionalized elderly
- Increasing proportion of elderly maintaining normal functioning within the familial and social environment.