

PROTECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS ^{1/2/}

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2012)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING resolution AG/RES. 2654 (XLI-O/11), “Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons,” adopted at the fourth plenary session of the General Assembly, held on June 7, 2011;

TAKING NOTE of the presentations and recommendations made by member states, experts from the academic sector and civil society, and international organizations, at the meeting of the Working Group on diagnosis and evaluation, held on November 11, 2011 and February 22, 2012, respectively;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the contributions of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) included in resolutions CD49.R15 (2009), “Plan of Action on the Health of Older Persons including Active and Healthy Aging”; and CD50.R8 (2010), “Health and Human Rights, adopted by PAHO’s Directing Council”; as well as the contributions of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), in particular the Regional Strategy for the Implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing of 2003 and the Brasilia Declaration (2007); and the document “Guidelines for a Convention on the Rights of Older Persons”;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

The installation of the Working Group on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons, at the meeting of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs on September 22, 2011, pursuant to the mandate in resolution AG/RES. 2654 (XLI-O/11);

The “Report on the Situation of Older Persons in the Hemisphere and the Effectiveness of Binding Universal and Regional Human Rights Instruments with Regard to Protection of the Human Rights of Older Persons” (CAJP/GT/DHPM-14/11 rev. 1), agreed upon by the Working Group at its meeting on December 2, 2011 and presented to the Permanent Council on December 14, 2011, pursuant to the mandate in resolution AG/RES. 2654 (XLI-O/11);

The mandate articulated by the Heads of State and Government at the Sixth Summit of the Americas ^{3/ 4/} regarding “progress in strengthening protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of older persons by promoting public policies, programs, and services,

^{1.} Canada reserves its position on the need to prepare a draft inter-American convention for the promotion and protection of the rights of older people, pending the results of the discussions of the ...

^{2.} “The United States remains convinced of the importance of working in the OAS and in the United Nations to address the many challenges faced by older persons in this hemisphere and throughout...

^{3.} The Republic of Ecuador formulates an express reservation regarding the references to the Sixth Summit of the Americas, held on April 14 and 15 in Cartagena de Indias, . . .

^{4.} The Government of Nicaragua believes that the reference to the Summit in Cartagena, Colombia, and the call for the strengthening of what is known as the “Summit of the Americas” . . .

thereby safeguarding their dignity, their physical, mental, social well-being and their quality of life, taking into account efforts being undertaken at the inter-American level to prepare a legally-binding instrument to protect the rights of older persons and the consideration of the issue at the international level”;

The presentation of the preliminary draft inter-American convention on the human rights of older persons to the Permanent Council on April 26, 2012, pursuant to the mandate in resolution AG/RES. 2654 (XLI-O/11);

Complementary efforts underway at the United Nations and its agencies to effectively identify and address the particular needs of older persons, including considering, as appropriate, the feasibility of further legal instruments and measures regarding the rights of older persons; and

The draft Inter-American Convention on the Human Rights of Older Persons and the Compendium of Proposals, presented to the Permanent Council in May 2012 as documents CAJP/GT/DHPM-37/12 and CAJP/GT/DHPM-44/12, respectively, which shall be used as basic documents to begin the formal process of negotiation aimed at preparing the inter-American convention on the human rights of older persons; and

CONVINCED that it should be possible, in the framework of the Organization of American States (OAS), to add value to existing efforts and meet a need that has not been addressed,

RESOLVES:

1. To request the Permanent Council to extend the mandate of the Working Group on the Human Rights of Older Persons, so that it can conduct, with technical support from the Department of Social Development and Employment, the process of formal negotiation of the draft inter-American convention on the human rights of older persons and seek to present it to the OAS General Assembly for adoption at its forty-third regular session.

2. To urge member states, in collaboration with civil society, to take additional actions to make older persons, their families and caregivers, as well as other relevant stakeholders, aware of their rights and responsibilities, so as to safeguard the dignity and the physical, mental and social well being of older persons.

3. To encourage the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) to continue their cooperation with the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS), member states, experts from the academic sector, civil society, and international organizations to promote regional cooperation, *inter alia*, by identifying best practices for designing public policies that address the specific needs of older persons in the Hemisphere within the context of universal and regional human rights instruments.

4. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its forty-third regular session on the implementation of this resolution. Execution of the activities envisaged in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.