



American States bolster the negotiation process towards an Inter-American Convention on the Human Rights of Older Persons during the 42nd OAS General Assembly



The Heads of Delegation of the Organization of American States (OAS) Member States approved during the recent OAS General Assembly the Resolution [AG/RES. 2726 \(XLII-O/12\)](#) on “Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons”, in which the mandate of the OAS 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 an Inter-American convention on the human rights of older persons and seek to present it to the OAS General Assembly for adoption at its next regular session. The basic documents that will be used to begin this process will be the “draft Inter-American Convention on the Human Rights of Older Persons” and the “Compendium of Proposals”, presented by the Working Group to the Permanent Council in May 2012.

The Resolution affirms in its preamble the conviction of the American States that it should be possible, in the framework of the OAS, to add value to existing efforts and meet a need that has not been addressed so far. The Resolution takes into account the efforts that are being developed at the United Nations and its specialized agencies to effectively identify and address the particular needs of older persons, including considering; these efforts are considered to be complimentary.

Furthermore, the General Assembly urges 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. It also encourages sister organizations such as the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) to continue their cooperation with the OAS General Secretariat, 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.

We invite you to read the complete Resolution through the following [link](#) [http://www.oas.org/en/sedi/ddse/pages/documentos/AG2012_ENG.pdf].

For more information on the XLII General Assembly, please click [here](#) [<http://www.oas.org/en/42ga/>].

