

Bogota Declaration

October 2003
Chia, Colombia

From beneficiaries to participants: "Older People of Latin America and the Caribbean: co-protagonists of development in our countries".

We, the "Red Tiempos of Colombia" (Colombian network of Older People's Organisations) consider it appropriate for the Bogota Declaration to be preceded by the following introduction.

Introduction

The regional and national older people's movements, recognise the positions and protocols of the Second World Assembly on Ageing held in Madrid, and from the first Meeting of Older People's Leaders from Latin America and the Caribbean and the Regional Meeting held in Santiago de Chile, as frameworks for humankind and particularly for the region, to create an inspirational vision of our activities.

States should commit themselves to supporting and strengthening older people's organisations, recognising the particular cultures within each country, their level of progress and their strengths and weaknesses without interfering in their identity and autonomy.

There is a need to transcend the welfare culture through awareness raising about older people's rights, and observing and claiming these rights.

Given that the legal development of each country is planning different advances regarding the rights and entitlements of older people, it is a priority for older people's organisations as well as for national governments in Latin America and the Caribbean to undertake a careful review of the implementation of existing laws. New legal frameworks should be created to ensure existing laws are observed and governments are held accountable.

Bogota Declaration

We, the leaders and representatives of Older People's Organisations from the following countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, Panamá and Perú, meeting in the city of Bogota-Chía, Colombia, from 1-4 October 2003, within the framework of the Second Latin American and Caribbean Meeting of Older People's Leaders and Organisations, have decided to put forward the following Declaration, through which:

We declare and commit ourselves:

Regional and national movements should consolidate their work, generating processes of acknowledgment in relation to the Madrid Agreements so that these can be linked together in each country and serve as a monitoring tool which will help to ensure their implementation.

This will allow us to generate a proposal for joint action, with the aim of responding to the guidelines which have been increasingly legitimised through a collective process of development since the meetings held in Lima, Madrid and Chile. These are:

'There is a need to transcend the welfare culture through awareness raising about older people's rights...'

HelpAge International is a global network of not-for-profit organisations with a mission to work with and for disadvantaged older people worldwide to achieve a lasting improvement in the quality of their lives

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HelpAge
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‘Each country should promote legislation in favour of the older person, recognising ethnic, cultural and environmental diversity.’

- To strengthen older people’s organisations with regard to Human Rights, for which it is necessary to know the five UN principles (Independence, Participation, Care, Self-Fulfillment and Dignity). Raising awareness of these principles should be done through educational programmes which allow for the participation of people from diverse ethnic, cultural and social backgrounds.
- To generate processes to improve the preparation of older adults in the knowledge and awareness of their rights. Although all regions have tried to strengthen the knowledge of those rights, a satisfactory level of knowledge in order to allow a critical evaluation has not yet been reached. Thus it has been proposed that this area be strengthened through training workshops.
- These educational processes should link actors of all ages. The problem of ageing concerns all of us, in that it forms part of our life cycle, so that intergenerational dialogue is necessary and should be promoted.
- To develop a strategy which allows the development of a sense of autonomy and equity, based on particular identities and individual cultures with the aim of strengthening ongoing action.
- To push for the recognition of non-remunerated work of older women, reclaiming their moral and legal rights. They should be an object of special attention, because they suffer from disadvantages in several ways: lack of access to social security, fewer educational opportunities and enjoyment of free time, particularly due to the heavy workloads borne even in advanced old age.
- To reject measures which lead to the destruction of the sovereignty of our countries and our free development, particularly the processes of globalisation and the FTAA (Free Trade Area of the Americas). These types of agreements generate poverty and unemployment and directly attack the wellbeing of older people. We aim to promote the consolidation of regional markets which overcome the damaging terms of trade and economic exchanges.
- To integrate older people into cultural, recreational and sports fora and activities through programmes which respect our particular needs.
- Each country should promote legislation in favour of the Older Person, recognising ethnic, cultural and environmental diversity.
- To work for the establishment of an integral social security system for older people.
- Networks and methods of communication should be consolidated to facilitate the flow of information (carrying out censuses and surveys) in order to establish indicators to measure quality of life, human development and the implementation of the monitoring process. Joint actions through the mass media which articulate the common objectives agreed, should also be developed.

4 October, 2003

Signed by leaders and representatives of Older People’s Organisations:

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