

Government Participation in Buenos Aires Meeting

Argentina

May 20-21, 2009

Important Argentine Authorities were present, including the International Relations Minister from Argentine Republic (Jose Enrique Taiana); the National Secretary for Children, Teenagers and Family (Marcela Paola Vessvessian); Mônica Roque (National Secretary for Policies for Old People); Remo Carlotto (an Argentine Congressman); and the Human Rights Secretary of Argentina Republic (Eduardo Duhalde).

Human Rights Sub-Secretary of Brazil (Perly Cipriano) represented the the Brazilian Authority.

In addition to Argentina and Brazil, the following countries sent government representatives: Chile, Bolívia, Peru, Paraguay, Uruguay, Netherlands (Curaçao); Cuba, and others.

A number of experts took part: Carmen Artigas (CEPAL, CHILE); Javier Vasquez (PAHO); Robert Dinerstein (Washington College of Law); Santiago Cantón (Argentina); Cristel Weisek (Caritas Germany); José Carlos Baura (OISS, Spain); John Beard (Director Department of Ageing and Life Course, WHO) and others.

Observers: Many interested aging advocates and experts from a number of Latin America and Caribbean countries attended, including Jurilza Mendonça de Barros (who had organized the Brazilian meeting in September 2008) and her colleague, Beth.Hernandez.

GAA's correspondent told us that two principal activities occurred each day: In the morning, Experts laid out their views for a Human Rights Convention, elaborating on why a Convention is important and suggesting strategies to move forward. In the afternoon, around 3:00 pm, government representatives met. Others, including observers and researchers could to be present—but not participate—in the discussions. Mostly, they talked about the document that the Argentine government had prepared.

4- Main news and outcome

- a) The Argentine International Relations Minister participated, indicating that his Government is giving the Human Rights Convention its official support.
- b) The governments agreed to meet again in Chile in November 2009.
- c) The movement for an International Convention is gaining widespread support from governments and non-government organizations.