

Policies for Older Persons and Human Rights: Public Agenda in Latin America and Caribbean Countries

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Topic

This paper aims to examine ageing policies in Latin America and the Caribbean, particularly in countries that have ratified the *Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons* (Organization of American States [OAS], 2015). The paper seeks to describe the institutional dimension of ageing policies, as well as the definition of specific public actions related to the protection of the rights of older persons. The analysis will also consider the priority areas defined by the *Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing* (United Nations [UN], 2002) and their adjustments through successive reviews in the Latin American context.

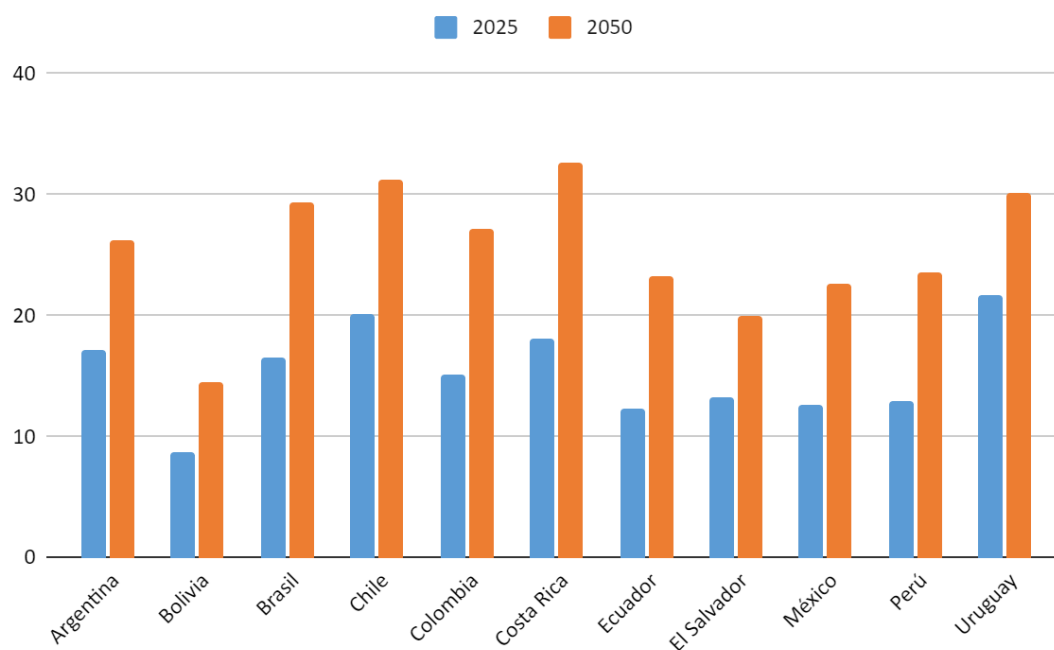
Theoretical Focus and Demographic Trends

The Latin American and Caribbean region is among the most affected by demographic ageing, a phenomenon expected to intensify in the coming decades, with a persistent rise in the population of older persons. The age structure of countries across the region is undergoing radical transformations due to an accelerated ageing process, driven by demographic transitions experienced over the past century. These transitions have taken varied and heterogeneous forms across Latin America, reflecting different phases of demographic ageing, though at a significantly faster rate than in regions such as Europe. In Latin America, the proportion of people over 60 was 5.6% by the mid-20th century; today, it exceeds 13%, and by mid-century, this percentage is expected to double, with one in four people being over 60. At that point, the number of people over 60 will surpass those under 15 across the region, with an annual growth rate of 4.3%.

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Currently, the populations of the Southern Cone are the most aged on the continent, with 21% of Uruguay's population over 60 years old, 20% in Chile, and 17% in Argentina. This phenomenon results from the early decline in fertility and mortality observed in Argentina and Uruguay relative to other countries in the region, with Chile undergoing this demographic transition at a later stage. Countries like Brazil, Mexico, and Costa Rica, which were in a phase of moderate ageing a decade ago, have now moved into a more advanced stage, with the proportion of older persons exceeding 15%, and around 17% in Costa Rica. Meanwhile, other countries, such as Bolivia, Paraguay, and Nicaragua, remain below 10%. The countries selected for analysis in this paper are expected to experience a substantial increase in their older populations over the next 25 years (Figure 1).

Figure 1 - Percentage of people aged 60 and over in the total population, 2025–2050. Latin America and the Caribbean. Selected countries.



Source: own elaboration based on UN Population Division available in <https://platform.who.int/data>

In the coming decades, changes in the age structure are expected to intensify and become more widespread across the region. As the demographic transition solidifies, overall

population growth rates will decline, while the growth rate of older persons, particularly those over 80, will triple.

In this context of progressive demographic ageing, the region has adopted various public policy measures, largely guided by initiatives from the *Second World Assembly on Ageing*, held in Madrid in 2002. Since then, successive conferences (Chile, 2003; Brasilia, 2007; San José, 2012; Asunción, 2017; Santiago, 2022) have been held to advance the implementation of the *Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing* (MIPAA), tailored to the specific needs of Latin America.

One of the central pillars of the MIPAA is the inclusion of older persons in the design, participation, and monitoring of public policies. In this regard, the consolidation of a rights-based approach has been strengthened in the region. The process culminated in the 2015 adoption of the *Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons* within the framework of the Organization of American States. This is the first and only legally binding international instrument that recognizes the rights of older persons and establishes mechanisms for monitoring its implementation (OAS, 2022) within the Inter-American human rights system. It establishes a specific rights-based approach, considering the unique characteristics of this population.

Given these two regional peculiarities—accelerated ageing in the coming decades and a unique, rights-based instrument—the aim of this paper is to present the institutional architecture and political actions that have taken place in the countries that ratified this convention, namely Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil², Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Peru, and Uruguay.

² Although Brazil signed the Convention, it neither ratified nor deposited the instrument. Nevertheless, it will still be included in the analysis given its quantitative dimension and its relevance on the continent

Data and Methods

The data used come from a documentary review of public policies in the aforementioned countries, related to laws, measures, and national public policy actions. The analysis will be based on four main axes:

- Description of national initiatives in each country
- Explicit incorporation of a rights-based approach
- Articulation of political actions with the rights outlined in the OAS Convention
- Analysis of the MIPAA public policy areas, considering the priority directions people and development, health and well-being, supportive environments (physical environments and social environments), care and caregivers³.

Based on these axes, the actions identified in the eleven countries will be classified by rights, grouped into 12 categories, and areas of public policy impact, grouped into 5. Both analytical axes converge on key thematic points (Table 1).

³ The inclusion on this topic (care and caregivers) as a specific area, originally located in the social environments, is conceptualized separately given its increasing relevance in the Latin American public policy agenda in recent years.

Table 1 – Grouping of protected rights in the OAS Convention and Priority Directions in MIPAA.

		<i>Priority Directions – MIPAA</i>				
	<i>Human Rights of the elderly, OAS</i>	Older persons and development 1	Advancing health and well-being into old age 2	Creation of enabling and supportive environments in ageing - Physical environments 3	Creation of enabling and supportive environments in ageing – Social environments 4	Care and caregivers 5
1	Right to life and dignity in old age	x	x	x	x	x
2	Right to independence and autonomy	x	x	x	x	x
3	Right to health and to give free and informed consent on health matters		x			x
4	Rights to community participation, integration, accessibility, and personal mobility			x	x	
5	Right to freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information	x			x	
6	Right to a healthy environment (water and sanitation, food, and housing)		x	x		
7	Right to social security	x				
8	Right to work	x				
9	Right to safety and a life free of violence of any kind				x	
10	Right to justice	x			x	
11	Right of access to care and the rights of older persons receiving care		x		x	x
12	Right to education, Right to culture recreation, leisure, and sports	x			x	

Source: own elaboration based in OAS and MIPAA

To analyse the initiatives in each country, the following criteria were used to record the data:

- ✓ description of the policy
- ✓ policy objectives
- ✓ target audience
- ✓ explicit incorporation of the human rights approach
- ✓ rights protected under the OAS Convention
- ✓ rights protected in the Policy Area of the MIPAA

The data collection was done through the websites of the main institutions responsible for ageing policies in each country. Only the actions explicitly stated on these websites were included in the analysis. These institutions coordinate public policies in each country and are listed in the same order as in the original source. At this stage of the analysis, other institutions that may have broader policies including older persons—such as ministries of economy, public health, and housing—were not included. Ideally, these policies should be part of the central political institution and coordinated across sectors. This will be made clear in the analysis of the results.

Finally, it should be noted that there was not enough information available for Bolivia, Colombia, and El Salvador. As a result, these countries were excluded at this stage of the analysis.

The complete spreadsheets with the results are included in the appendix due to their length. While some specific actions will be noted, the analysis will be carried out in an aggregated way, based on the total number of initiatives identified and their distribution by public policy themes and the rights they cover.



Results

Institutional Framework for Policies on Older persons in Latin America

The institutional architecture of policies for older persons in Latin America is diverse, and in some countries, it has a long-standing tradition. However, it gained more relevance and, especially, developed a distinct identity and autonomy towards the end of the last century, consolidating over the past few decades.

Between 1998 and 2021, several special laws intended for older persons were approved in different Latin American countries. Since 2015, the years in which countries signed, acceded to, and/or ratified the OAS Convention have also been documented. Most of the time, these laws are aimed at protecting the rights of older persons. Sometimes, they establish regulatory frameworks, others explicitly state specific rights, and occasionally, they create national governing institutions for older persons 'policies.

Table 2 - Institutional Framework for Older persons in Latin America

Country	Law/Decree	OAS Year	Lead Institution Year	Lead Institution	Ministerial Area
Dominican Republic	1998	–	2007	National Council for the Elderly	Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance
Guatemala	1998	–	1998	National Committee for the Protection of the Elderly	Social Work Secretariat of the President's Wife
Costa Rica	1999	2015	1999	National Council for the Elderly	Office of the Presidency
Ecuador	1999	2019	–	Directorate for the Elderly Population	Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion
Chile	2002	2015	2002	National Service for the Elderly	Ministry of Social Development and Family
Mexico	2002	2023	2008	National Institute for Older persons	Ministry of Social Development
Paraguay	2002	–	2007	Directorate for Older Adults	Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare
Brazil	2003	2015	2003	National Secretariat for Human Rights of Older persons	Ministry of Human Rights and Citizenship
Honduras	2006	–	2007	General Directorate for the Elderly	Ministry of Social Development
Colombia	2008	2022	2008	National Council for the Elderly	Ministry of Health and Social Protection
Uruguay	2009	2015	2012	National Institute for Older persons	Ministry of Social Development
Nicaragua	2010	–	2002	National Council for the Elderly	Ministry of the Family
Bolivia	2013	2016	2014	Sectoral Coordination Council for a Dignified Old Age	Ministry of Justice and Social Transparency
Panama	2016 / 2020	–	2019	National Coordination for the Elderly	Ministry of Social Development
Peru	2016	2021	–	Directorate for Older persons	Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations
Argentina	2017	2015	2002	Federal Council of Older persons	Ministry of Human Capital (formerly Ministry of Social Development)
El Salvador	2021	2018	2021	National Council for Comprehensive Attention to the Elderly	Ministry of Local Development
Venezuela	2021	–	2024	Ministry for Older Adults , Grandfathers and Grandmothers of the Nation	



Source: own elaboration based in OAS and MIPAA

The majority of the governing institutions responsible for policies on older persons in these countries fall under the ministerial sphere of the social sector, mostly within ministries of social development or, alternatively, ministries of health, women, vulnerable populations, justice, among others (ECLAC, 2022). In the countries analysed in this work, the institutions responsible for implementing specific policies for older persons vary.

In Costa Rica, it depends on the Presidency, and in Mexico, on the Federal Government. In Bolivia and Brazil, these responsibilities lie with the Ministry of Justice and Social Transparency and the Ministry of Human Rights and Citizenship, respectively. In Chile, El Salvador, and Uruguay, they are handled by the Ministries of Social Development, while in Ecuador it is the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion. In Argentina, it is currently called the Ministry of Human Capital, while in Colombia it is the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, and in Peru, the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations. Beyond this main governing institution, there has been a gradual increase in intersectoral participation in preparing reports and the emergence of new institutions involved in the design of public policies (ECLAC, 2022).

On the other hand, it is important to highlight the increasing involvement of older persons in these institutional settings, which has facilitated opportunities for dialogue with various civil society organizations (Huenchúan, 2016). Since the adoption of the MIPAA in Madrid, specific mechanisms have been established to promote the participation of older persons in the design, implementation, and evaluation of public policies. The extent and nature of this participation vary according to the specific context of each country and the policy areas concerned.

In any case, the progress made in recognizing older persons as a group with specific needs and interests has grown within the public agenda of Latin American governments. This marks a paradigm shift, moving away from a purely charitable or welfare-based approach and towards incorporating a human rights-based framework.

In this sense, this paper will focus on the countries that have ratified the OAS Convention and the specific actions they have implemented, seeking to highlight the incorporation of a human rights-based paradigm.

Policy Measures for Older persons in the Selected Countries

The policy measures identified in this report come from the main institutions responsible for public policy on older persons in each country, as outlined in the methodology section. This institutional framework has undergone significant change, particularly since the beginning of this century and following the *Second World Assembly on Ageing* in Madrid (Huenchuán, 2016). Previously, policies for older persons were managed by bodies linked to social security or public health. With the new understanding of older persons and their role in public policy processes, the main institutions responsible for ageing policies have gradually emerged within the sphere of social development, as discussed in the previous section, and have also sought to improve intersectoral coordination.

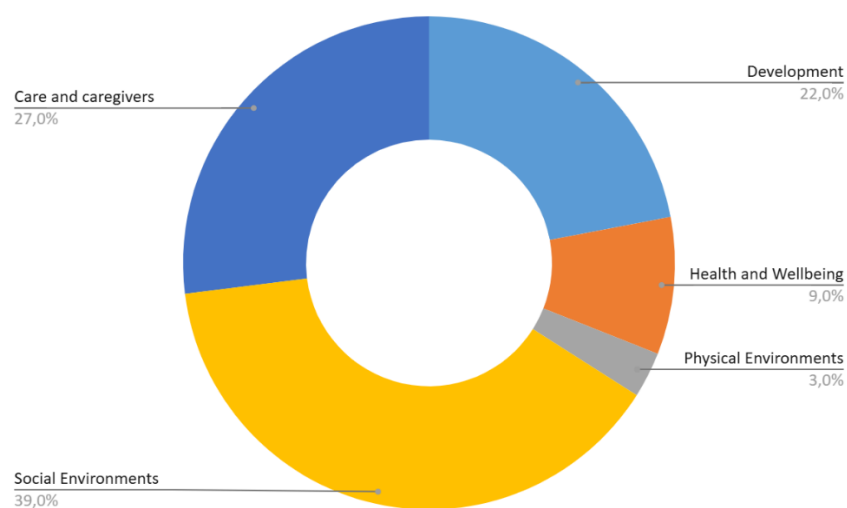
This has led to a paradigm shift in how older persons are viewed, reflected in the trend towards a more comprehensive approach to public policy. The main institutions responsible for ageing policies have, to some extent, responded to this shift by developing coordinated public policies within social ministries. However, these institutions often coexist with others that continue to manage historically rooted actions within more traditional frameworks—reflecting welfare-based paradigms towards older persons. This, in turn, makes intersectoral coordination more difficult. Nonetheless, the degree of consolidation of these efforts varies depending on the institutional structure in each country.

Based on these considerations, this study focuses on analysing the actions carried out by the main institution responsible for public policy on older persons in the countries that have ratified the OAS Convention and for which information was available for review

A total of 67 initiatives related to the older adult population were identified in the selected countries in the region. Most of these initiatives are grouped in the social environments area of the *Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing* (Figure 4), accounting for 39% of the total initiatives identified. The second most common group includes initiatives related to care

(27%), either directly targeting older persons or focusing on the training of caregivers. Approximately one in five (22%) are linked to development areas, which include economic security, poverty, employment, and education for older persons. Health and well-being efforts identified within the main institutions responsible for older adult policies represent 9%, while those aimed at improving physical environments—such as housing or urban areas—account for just 3%.

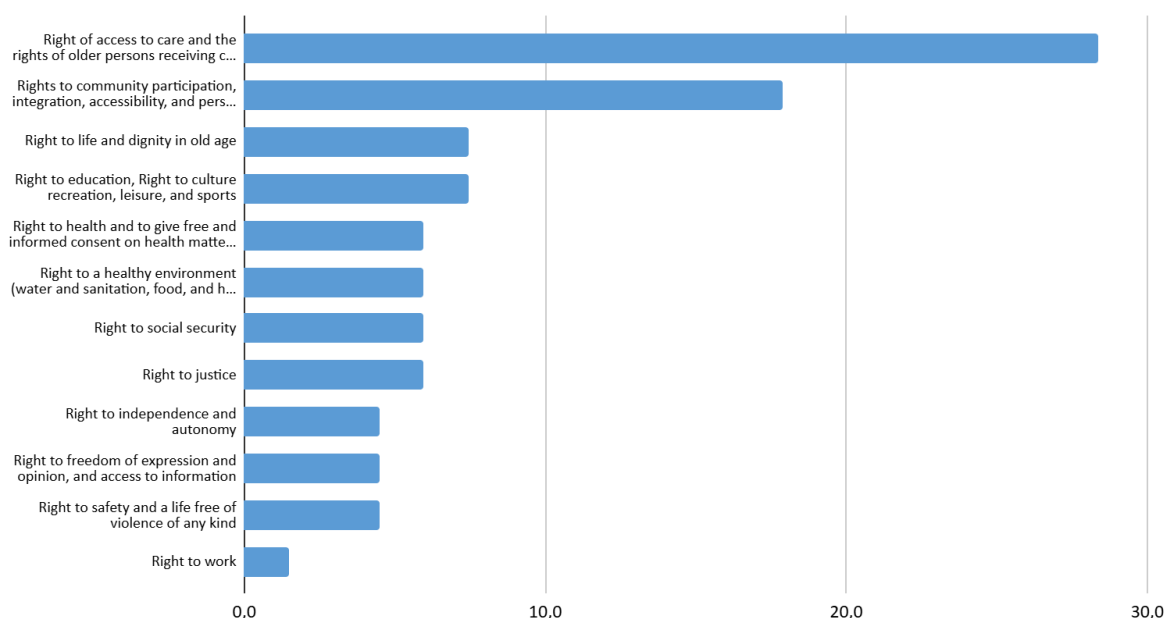
Figure 2. Distribution of actions by public policy area under the MIPAA in Latin America. Selected Countries



Source: Own elaboration on collected data.

Regarding the rights protected under the OAS Convention, a significant proportion of the identified initiatives are linked to access to care and the rights of those receiving care (Figure 3). This issue has attracted growing attention on the Latin American policy agenda, reflecting the region's ageing population, the rise in functional dependence, and the increasing demand for professionalised care. In several countries, it has been noted that only a minority of caregivers receive formal training, which in turn affects the rights of older persons and the quality of care they receive. In this regard, it has been suggested that Latin American countries prioritise expanding and improving the quantity and quality of care services for older persons, as well as the training of caregivers, as part of the public agenda (PAHO and IDB, 2023).

Figure 3. Proportion of actions by groups of rights protected under the OAS Convention in Latin America. Selected countries.



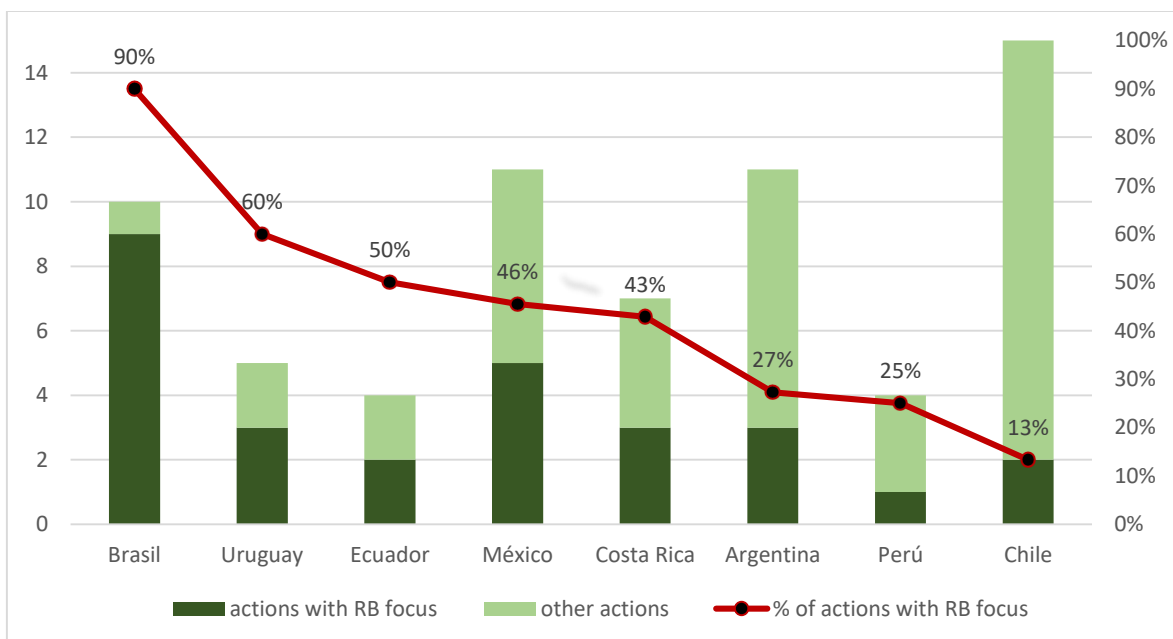
Source: Own elaboration on collected data.

The second most common group of initiatives (18%) involves the participation and community integration of older persons within public policy. Rights related to equality and non-discrimination account for 8% of the initiatives. The same percentage applies to those related to education, culture, and recreation. A smaller proportion of initiatives—6% of the total—are linked to health, access to basic goods, social security, and justice. Similarly, initiatives related to the protection of rights connected to independence and autonomy, freedom of expression and access to information, and safety and freedom from violence account for 4% of the total. Finally, initiatives related to the protection of the right to work represent only a minimal percentage.

An analysis was also conducted on the explicit incorporation of a human rights approach in the initiatives examined (Figure 4). This approach may be evident in the design of the measure, the target audience, or the scope of the public policy. Overall, 42% of the total initiatives identified explicitly include a human rights approach. A country-level analysis reveals that, although Chile has the highest number of public policy initiatives targeting older persons, only 13% explicitly adopt a human rights-based approach. In contrast, Brazil

exhibits the highest proportion of initiatives with this explicit orientation, encompassing the vast majority (90%) of its actions. Uruguay and Ecuador follow, with a comparatively lower number of initiatives; however, approximately 50% of them incorporate a human rights perspective. Mexico and Costa Rica show slightly lower proportions, around 45%, although Mexico has twice as many initiatives as Costa Rica in absolute terms. Meanwhile, Argentina and Peru integrate this approach in roughly one out of every four initiatives implemented by their respective lead institutions. Notably, Argentina includes 11 such actions, while Peru has only 4.

Figure 4. Number of actions and proportion of actions explicitly adopting a rights-based approach in Latin America. Selected countries.



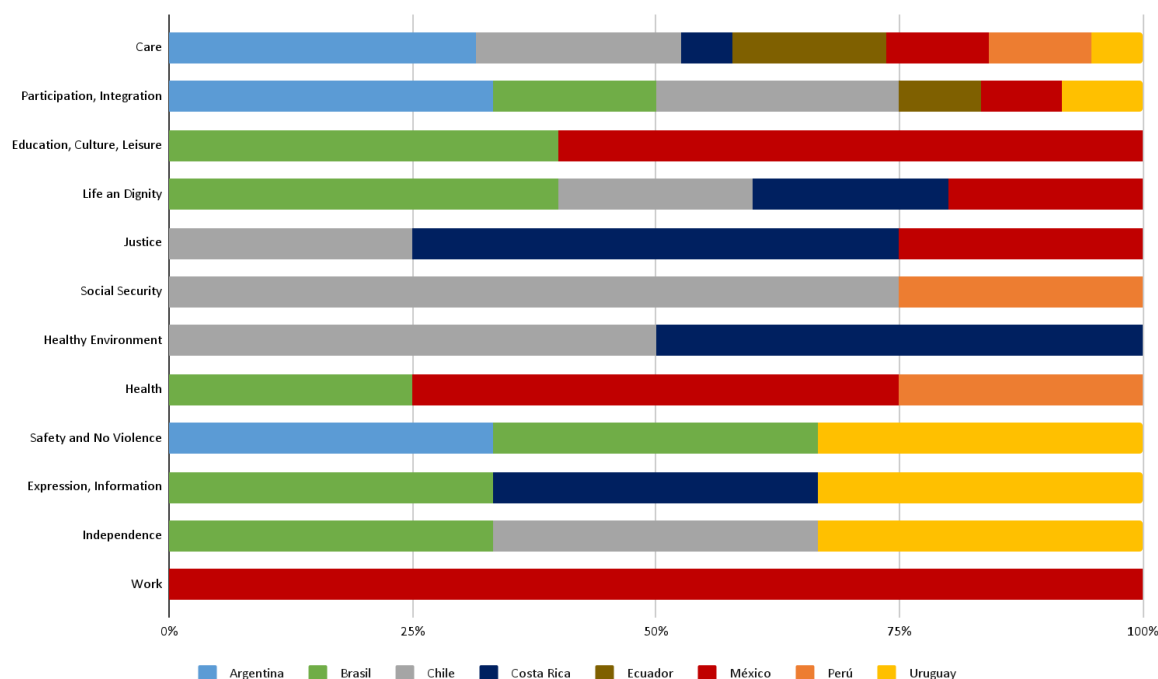
Source: Own elaboration on collected data.

Therefore, the number of actions implemented in each country targeting the older population is not necessarily associated with the explicit incorporation of a rights-based approach. Although this perspective may not be overtly stated in the description of policy measures,

the initiatives can nonetheless be categorized according to the type of rights with which they are aligned.

Next, we will analyse the initiatives based on the type of right they protect (grouped according OEA Convention) and the participation of each country in this group (Figure 5).

Figure 5. Participation of each country's actions by type of right protected (OEA Convention) in Latin America. Selected countries



Source: Own elaboration on collected data.

Regarding each country's participation in the various groups of rights, it is worth noting that Argentina shows the highest level of involvement in the protection of the right to care, followed by Chile and Ecuador. In the case of the right to participation and community integration, Argentina and Chile again have the highest participation, followed by Brazil. Explicit policy initiatives aimed at protecting access to education, culture, and recreation are identified in Mexico and Brazil. For equality and non-discrimination based on age, Brazil presents the most initiatives, followed by Chile, Costa Rica, and Mexico. The protection of the right to justice includes initiatives in Chile, Costa Rica, and Mexico. Brazil, Mexico, and

Peru have formulated initiatives that address the right to health. The protection of safety and freedom from violence—which often includes actions to prevent the abuse and mistreatment of older persons—is prioritised in Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay. Initiatives concerning freedom of expression and access to information are implemented in Brazil, Costa Rica, and Uruguay. The right to independence and autonomy for older persons is addressed in initiatives from Brazil, Chile, and Uruguay. Finally, only Mexico has implemented an initiative to protect the right to work within the main institution responsible for public policy.

Main findings

Latin America has made significant progress regarding ageing policies. These advances largely took place in the first two decades of this century, when most countries began creating their first public institutions to coordinate ageing-related policies. These initiatives were developed alongside agreements that reflect recommendations from various international contexts: some at the global level, others regional; some within intergovernmental frameworks, with growing involvement from civil society organisations. The institutions responsible for ageing policies fall under different areas of government, depending on the country. They have often faced challenges in achieving cross-sectoral work and coordination. Nevertheless, their very existence — and their aim to coordinate all matters related to ageing — is seen as an important step forward, particularly given that ageing is becoming a more prominent focus of public policy across the region.

These developments largely reflect the importance that population ageing has gained in recent decades in Latin America, and the recognition that old age is a stage of life that requires specific protection of rights.

Two instruments have been central to this process: the *Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing* (United Nations [UN], 2002) and the *Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons* (Organization of American States [OAS], 2015). These documents have played a key role in promoting policies and actions aimed at older persons. They also highlight a shift in the understanding of ageing and old age, along with a move towards integrating a rights-based approach into public policies.

This study has examined the public policy actions currently being implemented in countries that have ratified the OAS Convention. These actions are coordinated by the main institutions responsible for public policies concerning older persons in each country. The findings reveal a diverse and robust set of policy initiatives. Most measures focus on care and caregiving, as well as on promoting supportive social environments for older persons. This focus reflects the role of the coordinating institutions, which prioritise these areas over economic issues, usually handled by other organisations responsible for pensions or retirement schemes in each country. However, some actions related to poverty or employment conditions have been identified in certain countries.

These actions clearly represent a positive step forward in Latin American countries. The focus on care and caregivers in the Latin American public agenda is particularly relevant, as rising life expectancy has been accompanied by only very modest gains in healthy life expectancy, leading to higher levels of dependency at older ages.

This is the result of declining functional capacity associated with increased dependency in advanced old age (Aranco et al., 2022; Baptista et al., 2024; Martínez et al., 2021). Therefore, the expansion of care systems and the specific actions identified in the countries analysed — whether aimed at older persons or their caregivers — are especially relevant.

However, it is important to approach the implementation of these measures with caution, particularly regarding how explicitly a rights-based approach is incorporated. These policies generally target highly vulnerable populations whose ability to exercise their rights is constrained by their condition, making it essential to take this into account.

In addition, implementing measures to improve social environments is particularly important, as this is the area where intervention is most needed and where, overall, there are fewer indicators for diagnostic purposes. This analysis has shown that several of the countries studied have introduced initiatives to promote the participation and social integration of older persons.

Other key areas where governments have developed initiatives include respect for life and dignity in old age, independence, safety, and protection from violence — all of which inevitably require a rights-based approach. From this perspective, Brazil stands out as the

country with the most initiatives incorporating such an approach. Notably, its lead agency for policies on older persons falls under the Ministry of Justice. This reflects the institutional structure of public policies and their capacity to address ageing in a comprehensive way.

Equally, it is deemed critically important to incorporate additional perspectives into ageing policies, particularly those grounded in a gender-sensitive approach and informed by intersectional and intercultural frameworks (Montes de Oca, 2024). Such integration serves to enhance the reach and effectiveness of actions targeting older persons within a rights-based paradigm.

More in-depth research is needed to better understand the challenges that countries have faced in the development of their institutions as they have sought to incorporate these approaches more fully into public policies. This is particularly relevant for countries that have ratified the OAS Convention, given the additional obligation this entails for its implementation.

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ANEXX – Policies analysed in each country

Country	Program	Description	Right Based Approach	OAS	MIPAA
Argentina	National Program of Home Caregivers	Training courses for community members in home care for older adults with some level of dependency.	No	11	5
Argentina	National Program for Promoting Quality of Life for People with Cognitive Impairment, Alzheimer's, and Other Dementias	Training for certified home caregivers.	No	11	5
Argentina	National Training Program for Home Caregivers in Palliative Care for Older Adults	Palliative care training courses for certified home caregivers from the National Home Care Program or similar initiatives.	No	11	5
Argentina	National Program for Promoting Personal Autonomy and Universal Accessibility for Older Adults	Training for certified caregivers.	No	11	5
Argentina	National Registry of Home Caregivers	Online platform providing information about individuals who offer home caregiving services for older adults and are accredited in this role.	No	11	5
Argentina	Experience Matters	Training aimed at youth and middle-aged individuals seeking to learn a trade. Also includes course offerings for older adults with experience or traditional knowledge.	No	4	1
Argentina	Actively Engaged	Physical and recreational activities at retiree and pensioner centers or organizations of older adults. Includes monthly events and intergenerational social gatherings.	Yes	4	2
Argentina	Promotion of Respectful Treatment toward Older Adults	Training sessions to promote respectful treatment. Includes education, outreach, and awareness-raising activities.	Yes	9	4
Argentina	Gerontology Training	Educational programs in gerontology.	No	4	1
Argentina	Institutional Strengthening	Financial subsidies for purchasing equipment or furniture for the following older adult care facilities: Retiree Centers, Assisted Living, Day Centers, and Long-term Residences.	No	4	4

Country	Program	Description	Right Based Approach	OAS	MIPAA
Brazil	Aging in the Territories Program	Established by Ordinance No. 561, September 4, 2023, this program aims to promote the right to age with dignity for all individuals and to uphold the human rights of older adults in Brazil. It includes training Human Rights Agents for Older Adults and strengthening institutional frameworks that ensure the implementation of aging policies in local territories.	Yes	4	4
Brazil	Live More Citizenship Program	Promotes the rights and strengthens the citizenship of older adults in vulnerable situations and those facing multiple forms of discrimination.	Yes	4	1
Brazil	Live More Digital Citizenship Project	Ensures that older adults have safe and informed access to technology and the digital environment through knowledge of access methods, devices, websites, apps, risks, and financial/asset-related cyber threats.	No	5	4
Brazil	Live More Periphery Project	Provides assistive support equipment for bedridden or homebound older adults living in underserved peripheral areas of Brazil.	Yes	2	3
Brazil	Dignified Life at Home Project	Promotes citizenship and human rights for bedridden or homebound older adults and their caregivers, with a focus on the right to health, comprehensive care, and social assistance, aiming to reduce institutionalization and ensure dignity.	Yes	3	2
Brazil	Education for Life Project	Promotes educational actions for older adults and individuals over 50, through intersectoral efforts, affirming the human right to education and dignified aging.	Yes	12	1
Brazil	Strengthening and Valuing the Culture of Older Adults from Traditional Communities	Aims to strengthen and value the cultural identity of older adults from Traditional Peoples and Communities, fostering cultural appreciation, health, and quality of life.	Yes	12	4
Brazil	Intergenerationality Project: Strengthening the Culture of Respect for Older Adults' Rights and Dignified Aging	This cross-cutting initiative promotes awareness and respect for older adults' rights among students and teachers in the public education system. It includes: (a) distribution of comic books and literature workshops based on intergenerational themes, and (b) professional training via an online platform (AVAMEC) for educators in partnership with the Ministry of Education. The project uses comic storytelling to encourage learning and address rights violations, promoting respect for diverse aging experiences.	Yes	1	4



Country	Program	Description	Right Based Approach	OAS	MIPAA
Brazil	Dial 100 – Priority Service Flow for Violations of Older Adults' Rights	A joint initiative by the National Human Rights Ombudsman and the National Secretariat for the Rights of Older Adults to establish a dedicated channel for reporting rights violations. It ensures accessible communication, information, and guidance—particularly addressing financial and asset-related abuse.	Yes	9	4

Country	Program	Description	Rights-Based Approach	OAS	MIPAA
Chile	Winter Bonus	A non-application-based financial contribution aimed at helping pensioners with low pensions cope with increased expenses during the winter season.	No	6	1
Chile	Housing Services Fund for Older Adults	Actions aimed at providing comprehensive housing and socio-health care services to people over 60. Part of an agreement between the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MINVU) and the National Service for Older Adults (SENAMA). Includes Long-Stay Establishments (ELEAM) and Sheltered Housing Condominiums (CVT).	No	6	1
Chile	Vínculos Program	Continuous accompaniment for people over 65 who enter the new Social Protection and Opportunities System, offering psychosocial tools to strengthen their identity, autonomy, and sense of belonging. Includes individual and group psychosocial support and direct, personalized accompaniment.	No	2	4
Chile	National Fund for Older Adults	Encourages the participation, self-management, and association of older adults by funding their organizations to implement projects that improve quality of life. In the last year, over 4,400 organizations received funding.	Yes	4	4
Chile	Senior Advisors Volunteer Program	Promotes social integration and intergenerational relationships between older adults and children from vulnerable families, through knowledge-sharing and academic support.	No	4	4



Country	Program	Description	Rights-Based Approach	OAS	MIPAA
Chile	Active Ageing Program	Offers workshops, seminars, and public events to promote active ageing. Provides tools for personal development and access to cultural, recreational, and leisure activities.	No	1	4
Chile	National Older Adults Volunteer Program	For retired older adults who volunteer by supporting children (grades 2–8) from vulnerable families through educational support. Provides a stipend for nine months and training for effective volunteering.	No	4	4
Chile	Respectful Treatment of Older Adults	Aims to prevent elder abuse and promote respectful treatment through training, awareness, and coordination with local services. Also handles case management of elder abuse, especially in domestic settings.	Yes	10	4
Chile	Long-Stay Establishment Subsidy Fund	Improves living conditions for dependent and vulnerable older adults in non-profit ELEAMs. Funds must be applied for and used in projects focused on basic needs, medical care, community integration, rights protection, and active ageing.	No	11	5
Chile	Day Centers for Older Adults	Daytime facilities for older adults with mild dependency, offering socio-health and family support services. Focuses on promoting autonomy, cultural engagement, and delaying functional decline.	No	11	5
Chile	Home Care Program	Provides care services to dependent older adults without a primary caregiver, aiming to improve quality of life, autonomy, dignity, and independence.	No	11	5
Chile	Long-Stay Establishments (ELEAM)	Residences for older adults who require a protected environment due to biological, psychological, or social reasons. Must be authorized by the regional health authority.	No	11	5
Chile	Old-Age Solidarity Pension Contribution	A monthly cash benefit for low-income individuals who contributed to the AFP system, aimed at increasing their pension income.	No	7	1
Chile	Childbirth Bonus	A monetary benefit for women for each live-born or adopted child. Deposited in their individual pension savings account to increase future pensions.	No	7	1
Chile	Universal Guaranteed Pension (PGU)	Replaces previous solidarity pension benefits with a fixed monthly payment. Automatically granted to eligible individuals over 65 from the most vulnerable 90%, or upon application.	No	7	1

Country	Program	Description	Rights-Based Approach	OAS	MIPAA
Mexico	Directory of Benefits with INAPAM Card	Official ID issued to adults over 60 years old in Mexico. It allows access to discounts, benefits, and services in various areas such as health, transportation, food, culture, and entertainment.	NO	1	1
Mexico	INAPAM Clubs	Operate under specific regulations enabling self-managed groups of older adults to make decisions and actively participate in community life. Clubs offer sports, cultural, and social activities.	YES	12	4
Mexico	INAPAM Cultural Centers	Spaces offering gerontological care through educational, cultural, and recreational activities, tailored to the needs and interests of older adults seeking productive use of free time.	NO	12	4
Mexico	Memory Clinic	Provides comprehensive outpatient consultations to detect or confirm diagnoses of mild cognitive impairment or major neurocognitive disorders.	NO	3	2
Mexico	Comprehensive Care Center - INAPAM University	Provides primary-level medical care with a gerontological focus, aiming to protect, promote, and restore the health of older adults.	NO	3	2
Mexico	INAPAM Shelters and Day Residences (Permanent)	Offer 24/7 gerontological care for older adults. Services include permanent housing, medical care, meals, general care, physical, recreational, occupational, and cultural activities, and cognitive stimulation to enhance well-being and functional capacity.	YES	11	5
Mexico	INAPAM Shelters and Day Residences (Daytime)	Provide temporary daytime care (Mon–Fri, 08:00–15:00) including medical and psychological care, meals, occupational therapy, and cognitive stimulation, promoting autonomy and social interaction.	YES	11	5
Mexico	Training	INAPAM offers training on gerontology from a biopsychosocial perspective with a human rights, gender equality, and life-course approach. Aims to promote older adults' rights and support healthy, dignified aging.	YES	12	4
Mexico	Legal Counseling	Older adults have free access to legal guidance from INAPAM personnel on family, civil, criminal, and other matters.	YES	10	4
Mexico	Productive Engagement for Older Adults	Promotes paid employment and volunteer activities for older adults based on their skills or profession. Includes business sensitization, job placement services, and a Voluntary Bagging System to encourage social inclusion.	NO	8	1
Mexico	Physical Activity and Sports	Planned and consistent exercise as a way to develop and maintain physical abilities in older adults.	NO	4	2



Country	Program	Description	Rights-Based Approach	OAS	MIPAA
Costa Rica	Social Organizations Welfare	In Costa Rica, all organizations that serve older adults are private entities authorized by the Ministry of Health and the respective municipality. Some aim to be certified by IMAS as Social Welfare Organizations (OBS). Once an agreement is established and requirements are met, these OBS can receive public funds administered by CONAPAM to support older adults in poverty or extreme poverty.	NO	6	1
Costa Rica	Legal Clinic	The Legal Clinic, in collaboration with the Law School of the University of Costa Rica, serves older adults who cannot afford legal services due to low income.	YES	10	4
Costa Rica	Complaints	This resource provides guidance on what to do when encountering older adults facing abandonment, violence, discrimination, or other vulnerable situations.	YES	10	4
Costa Rica	Care Modalities	Describes four types of care services: permanent residential homes, day centers, care networks, and services for older adults in abandonment conditions.	NO	11	5
Costa Rica	Golden Line (Línea Dorada)	A project that offers services affirming the dignity, integrity, and human rights of older adults in social risk, victims of violence, abandonment, extreme need, indigence, or homelessness.	YES	1	1
Costa Rica	Housing Grant Certification	A housing grant is a donation provided by the State to eligible individuals who meet specific requirements.	NO	6	3
Costa Rica	Older Adults Information System	A registry system for older adults who are beneficiaries of CONAPAM services.	NO	5	4

Country	Program	Description	Rights-Based Approach	OAS	MIPAA
Ecuador	Residential Gerontological Centers	Offers care services for older adults who voluntarily request admission. Temporary stays apply to those who, once stabilized or reconnected with family, return home through family reintegration. Permanent stays are for users without proven family support, in vulnerable situations or with full dependency.	YES	11	5
Ecuador	Day Gerontological Care Centers	The daytime modality provides comprehensive care services to older adults, including stimulation of their capacities, assistance, meals, nutrition, rehabilitation, recreation, and more.	NO	11	5

Country	Program	Description	Rights-Based Approach	OAS	MIPAA
Ecuador	Socialization and Meeting Spaces	Focuses on prevention and promotion of active and healthy aging through recreational, cultural, social, educational, and preventive activities. These promote coexistence, participation, solidarity, family and community interaction, and the dissemination of rights. Two modalities: with meals (for older adults in poverty) and without meals.	YES	4	4
Ecuador	Home Care	A social worker visits older adults in their homes to provide care, rehabilitation, social, and recreational activities. The goal is to foster autonomy, caregiver training, entertainment, and the strengthening of social participation and inclusion.	NO	11	5

Country	Program	Description	Rights-Based Approach	OAS	MIPAA
Peru	Pension 65 Program	Supports adults aged 65 and over who lack the basic means for subsistence by providing a financial subsidy of S/ 250.00 soles every two months to help meet their needs.	NO	7	1
Peru	Amachay Network	Aims to provide promotion, prevention, and protection services to reduce the impact of COVID-19 and prevent new cases, while also lessening the vulnerability of older adults.	NO	3	2
Peru	National "Gratitude" Program	This initiative enables older adults to access comprehensive and specialized services, with prevention as its cornerstone. It specifically targets high-risk elderly populations to provide care and support.	YES	11	5
Peru	Care Centers for Older Adults (Ceapam)	Public or private, accessible spaces offering basic, comprehensive, specialized, and multidisciplinary care services for older adults.	NO	11	5



Country	Program	Description	Explicit Rights-Based Approach	OAS	MIPAA
Uruguay	Long-Stay Facilities	List of certified long-term care facilities for older adults.	NO	11	5
Uruguay	Consultation and Intervention Service for Older Adults in Vulnerable Situations	A space for guidance, care, and follow-up for older adults facing rights violations, abandonment, or social risk. This service operates for residents of Montevideo and the metropolitan area.	YES	2	4
Uruguay	Care Service for Older Adults in Situations of Abuse and/or Mistreatment	An interdisciplinary team provides social, psychological, legal, and health support to older adults, as well as to their families, close contacts, institutions, or organizations, through a comprehensive approach.	NO	9	4
Uruguay	Digital Inclusion for Older Adults	Promotes inter-institutional and intersectoral collaboration to build digital citizenship for older adults by developing their skills for autonomous online interaction.	YES	5	4
Uruguay	National Network of Older Adults' Organizations	The National Network of Older Adults' Organizations (Redam) is a coalition of diverse organizations across the country—including senior groups, retirement associations, women's groups, and more—focused on the rights and welfare of older adults. The network facilitates exchange and collaboration among its members.	YES	4	4