

Sample Position Paper

Committee: The World Health Organization

Topic: Dealing with an Aging Population

Country: St. Lucia



St. Lucia is an island nation located in the Caribbean. We have 2 million inhabitants and 5% of them are over the age of 65. An aging population is a world problem because the cost of pensions and health care for elderly people is very high. This is a big issue in the world because of higher life expectancies due to improved health-care and nutrition. Families are also having fewer children than in the past.

8% of the population of the world is over the age of 65. In St. Lucia we have fewer older people than the world average, but it is still a big problem because we are a developing country and don't have enough money to pay for pensions. Many children have to stay home to care for their grandparents and can't go to school. By the year 2050 12% of our population will be over 65, which will be difficult for us. We also receive 2 million dollars a year from the United States. If the US has to spend more money on their aging population, they will not be able to help us which will cause problems for our economy.

To deal with this problem on a national level, the St. Lucian Department of Health and Human Services has created the Administration on Aging. The president of the AOA said, "We need to develop a comprehensive, coordinated and cost-effective system of home and community-based services that help elderly individuals maintain their health and independence in their homes and communities." AOA wants to help the younger population to take care of the aging population and help the elderly to be more independent.

St. Lucia has also attended many international conferences about the issue of an aging population. In 2005 we attended the Caribbean Aging Population Conference. This conference allowed different Caribbean nations to talk about the best ways to help elderly people. Additionally, in 2002 we attended the World Assembly on Aging. This meeting was to talk about pensions and healthcare. We are also part of the international organization, Global Aging. This organization works with countries all over the world to find solutions to an aging population.

An aging population is an important issue and St. Lucia recommends that all countries agree to raise their retirement age to at least 70 years old. This is a good idea because it would save money which we could spend on education and healthcare. We also recommend that all of the developed countries agree to start a fund to help developing countries pay for the healthcare of their elderly. This is necessary because many countries can't afford to pay for pensions and their elderly live in poverty.

In conclusion, we would like to work with other countries of the UN to find a solution to this serious problem.

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