

## **The 2013 Brazilian Longevity Forums: Developing a Culture of Care in response to the Longevity Revolution**

Within the current century (1950-2050) there will be a 26-fold worldwide increase in the number of people aged 80 and above (from 14 million to 379 million) making them the fastest growing population sub group. Despite the fact that ever-increasing numbers of them will continue to live active lives, significant numbers will experience disabling conditions and frailty that require ongoing care. Smaller, more complex and geographically dispersed family networks are becoming less capable of providing that care without additional support. Health care systems are still largely focused on cure and are not sufficiently orientated to provide care for all those who need it. However much is achieved in terms of prevention and treatment, the longevity revolution is accompanied by an added imperative: to develop a ***culture of care*** that is sustainable, affordable, compassionate and universal.

With the view to contribute to a fresh debate on a global ***culture of care***, two inter-connected events took place in Brazil in October- the Sao Paulo Longevity Forum (Oct. 15) and the Rio de Janeiro Longevity Forum (Oct. 16-17). The annual Sao Paulo Forum is part of an ongoing series of one day events on longevity. Content is overseen by Alexandre Kalache, President of ILC-Brazil. This year's keynote speaker was Linda Fried of ILC-USA and Columbia University. The Rio de Janeiro Forum was organized by the team at **ILC-Brazil** (ILC-BR) in partnership with the World Demographic Association (WDA). Generous funding from one of Brazil's largest financial services corporations (Bradesco Seguros) meant that a large body of international experts could participate. In all there were 35 presentations and around 600 participants. Contributions were made by five ILCs (Argentina, Brazil, Dominican Republic, France, and South Africa) along with the representatives of UN agencies, international and national NGOs and academic institutions. Presentations considered international social security reform, training, and models of care in ten countries. Discussions highlighted the need for inclusive, person-focused care firmly grounded in human rights; the importance of age-friendly environments; the value within the international development landscape of the cultural context of care; and the multiple dimensions of care, including care in the context of emergency situations and at end of life.

The outcome, approved unanimously, is the ***Rio Declaration "Beyond Prevention and Treatment: Developing a Culture of Care in response to the Longevity Revolution"***. Launched in English and in Portuguese, the Rio Declaration will be disseminated by all partner organizations of ILC Brazil present at the Forum.

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