



REPORT

MAINSTREAMING KNOWLEDGE ON AGEING

Bridging paths towards strengthening protection and participation

5 free learning events

From May to December 2022

With the support of:

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I. PARTNERS/ACRONYMS

- UNITAR** The United Nations Institute for Training and Research
- UNDESA** The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
- UNFPA** The United Nations Population Fund
- IOM** The International Organization for Migration
- UNWOMEN** The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
- UNHCR** United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- WHO** World Health Organization
- OHCHR** Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
- ITU** The International Telecommunication Union
- The Group of Friends of Older Persons United Nations New York
- The Group of Friends of the Human Rights of Older Persons UN Geneva
- CIFAL Global Network** International Training Centers for Authorities and Leaders
- INPEA** The International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuses
- ILC Global Alliance** International Longevity Centre
- NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva
- GIA** Global Initiative on Ageing Foundation



II. FOREWORD



Mr Nikhil Seth
UN Assistant Secretary-General
Executive Director, UNITAR

Through this journey, we have had the opportunity to better understand the current scenario on the protection and inclusion of older persons as a basis to take stock on good practices and challenges, including standards, policies, and strategies, towards strengthening further synergies as well as engaging different actors.

If we look back, the human rights of older persons and frontier issues, such as the demographic worldwide scenario, human mobility, digital divide, and climate change, have been the heart of our discussions.

This has been complemented by information on different dynamics in New York and Geneva as the main scenarios for discussions on the topic in the framework of the UN System. Likewise, we have had the opportunity to learn from experiences at local, regional, and national level, as well as the potential of some mechanism and initiatives towards the implementation of effective practices to promote an active, free, and meaningful participation of older persons.

Sharing voices from those who have been directly involved in advocacy and actions, as well as the experiences by UN entities in the field have also been covered during this series.

In this regard, we have considered age, gender, geographic, sector balance, as well as other diversity elements to invite distinguished speakers for enriching the discussions. Their inspiring experiences as well as the participation of attendees from all regions, despite the time zone for holding the events, represent a motivation to keep working together on upcoming initiatives to overcome silos. Thus, we have accomplished our learning objectives settled for this year.

In the whole series, more than 650 persons registered. Those who have joined us at least 75% in each event, received access to certificates of participation by UNITAR. After each virtual roundtable, we prepared and shared the Takeaways material, and the related videos of the events.

For this initiative, the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing has triggered our interest to approach other UN entities as a family, as well as States, academia, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector. All of them with the potential to move forward from theory to practice.

UNITAR celebrates the outcome of this series as a multistakeholder effort together with its CIFAL Global Network, UNDESA, UNFPA, IOM, UNWOMEN, UNHCR, WHO, ITU and OHCHR, together with the Groups of States Friends of Older Persons in New York and Geneva, respectively, the INPEA, ILC; and GIA.

The recognition of this series as one of the achievements, under the pillar of partnerships linked to the Decade of in the framework of the UN Inter-Agency Group on Ageing (IAGA) in 2022, represents a motivation to keep complementing forces towards strengthening capacity building.

We take this opportunity to reiterate our appreciation for this significant partnership, looking forward to continuing.



Fostering cooperation in this regard is a key aspect towards the achievement of the commitments assumed under different international instruments, and those pending tasks in this field.

In addition, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to Mme. Claudia Mahler, the UN Independent Expert on the Human Rights of older persons for her guidance and support in this initiative.

We are grateful for the mention of this initiative by the UN Secretary General in his report to the General Assembly **GA A/77/134**, on the 7th of July 2022.

At UNITAR we strongly believe on the impact of knowledge as a powerful tool for transforming the lives of individuals and societies. It pursues the change of discriminatory social institutions, laws, cultural norms, and community practices. Therefore, the creation of spaces and initiatives to raise awareness, such as this series, represent an opportunity to enhance capabilities towards a culture of learning.

Leaving no one behind implies to address different vulnerabilities, including those coming from ageing. Therefore, strengths and challenges of this process should always be considered, so persons become actors in their own destinies.

Finally, we thank you all once again and warmly invite you to carefully read the TAKEAWAYS of the events and keep joining us during the upcoming learning activities next year.

Stay tuned!



III. OVERVIEW ON THE WHOLE SERIES

Background Information

Throughout the years, different stakeholders have struggled for the effective promotion and protection of the human rights of older persons. As a result, landmark steps have been taken at international level to strengthen the protection of this group, including the UN Principles for older persons (1991), the adoption of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in 2002, the creation of the Open-Ended Working Group for the purpose of strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons (2010), the creation of the mandate for the UN Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons (2013), and the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021-2030), as well as the adoption of specific Resolutions in the framework of the UN General Assembly and the UN Human Rights Council.

While remarkable progresses in particular mechanisms, programs, projects, plans and campaigns have been developed to implement and follow up the commitments undertaken at local, national, regional, and international level, several challenges remain towards the full enjoyment of the rights of older persons.

Problems of ageism, together with gender and other causes of discrimination, as well as the intergenerational gap have increased due to different frontier issues, in particular new technologies, human mobility, and climate change.

In addition, there are still pending tasks to ensure the dignity and human rights of this group, particularly in accessing health and long-term care, life-long learning, the labour market as well as the prevention of abuse and violence.

In this regard, an integral approach is needed to maximize synergies and identify interlinkages across existing and future initiatives. A better understanding of missing elements can be useful to provide the necessary attention, resources, information, options for integration, and services for older persons, including those who are migrants or refugees. The experience coming from ageing place elderly people in a strategic position for supporting this endeavour.

UNITAR and its CIFAL Global Network, UNDESA, UNFPA, IOM, UNWOMEN, UNHCR, WHO, ITU and OHCHR, together with the Groups of States Friends of Older Persons in New York and Geneva, respectively, INPEA, ILC; and GIA, have joined efforts to put together these Virtual Roundtable Series as a contribution to inclusive learning through enriching dialogues with different stakeholders.

Learning Objectives

1. Better understanding the current scenario on the thematic.
2. Learning from some good practices and challenges, including policies and strategies, from different stakeholders.
3. Identifying the linkages between the rights of older persons and frontier issues.
4. Recognizing possible synergies for strengthening the protection as well as promoting the free, active, and meaningful participation of older persons.



Target Audience

The event is open to different actors interested in Ageing and the rights of older persons, including:

- Public sector officials, policy makers and practitioners
- International Organizations
- Civil Society
- National Human Rights Institutions
- Academia
- Private sector

This event as well as the upcoming ones from the virtual roundtable series were open and free to All. Each event presented a specific focus.

Format

Online. Due to the worldwide situation caused by the pandemic, these events will be celebrated online with spirit of inclusion to allow participants from different parts of the world to join us.



IV. TAKEAWAYS

Key focus of each event!

HR of older persons and frontier issues

The work of UN entities in the field

Ongoing efforts at the UNGA and the HRC



1st



5th



2nd

MAINSTREAMING KNOWLEDGE ON AGEING

5 FREE LEARNING EVENTS



4th



3rd

Advocacy and actions from NHRIs, NGOs, academia, and the private sector

Experiences and challenges at local, regional, and national levels by States through mechanism and initiatives in UN processes



FIRST EVENT

“The Human Rights of Older Persons and Frontier Issues: Building capacities for effective protection from multilateral scenarios”

Background

Ageing is a natural process. Sooner or later we will all experience older age by first-hand, or because one of our relatives, friends or colleagues are already or getting closer to this stage of life. Ageing is also a global phenomenon, By 2050, one in six people in the world will be aged 65 and over.

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the gravity and urgency of the situation for older persons, who have been disproportionately impacted by the crisis. The pandemic has also exposed longstanding gaps in the enjoyment of human rights by older persons, amplified by existing structures of inequality and disadvantage that are deeply rooted in ageism against older people.

At the same time, the COVID-19 recovery is an opportunity to set the stage for a more inclusive, equitable and age-friendly society that values contributions of older persons and upholds their dignity.

Strengthening the promotion and protection of the human rights of older persons involve individuals of all ages and societies as a whole. This endeavour should be addressed in a comprehensive manner at local, national, regional, and international levels. The interlinkages between ageing and frontier issues, understood as those matters that are not usually associated to a certain topic but indeed are significantly correlated, should also be understood to move forward from theory to practice.

In this regard, at this first event some UN entities will be sharing some information from their respective fields on existing initiatives and standards on the demographic worldwide scenario, gender data, human mobility, digital divide, and climate change as frontier issues to the rights of older persons. This space is envisaged as an opportunity to learn from ongoing efforts coming from multilateral scenarios, as well as the feasibility of its development.



TAKEAWAYS

MAINSTREAMING KNOWLEDGE ON AGEING

First event out five

“The Human Rights of Older Persons and Frontier Issues: Building Capacities for Effective Protection from Multilateral Scenarios”

 **26** May 2022

 9:00 - 10:40 (NY time)
15:00 - 16:40 (CET)



This document has been prepared by the Division for People and Social Inclusion at UNITAR, Ms. Analucía Jácome, Senior Project Leader and Human Rights Expert, and Ms. Beyzanur Alada, Project Assistant. We hope you enjoy it!

Moderator



Ms. Mónica Ferro

Director of the United Nations Population Fund, UNFPA, Office in Geneva

Keynote Speaker



H.E. Amb. Federico Villegas

President of the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC)
Permanent representative of Argentina to the UN and other International Organizations in Geneva

“We need to continue fostering special international protection for the Rights of Older Persons”

1. The work to enforce the UN system pillars shouldn't be in silos. Mainstreaming Human Rights is essential for peace, security, and development.

2. Older Persons are a Human Rights issue, and they shouldn't be seen as a mere population or development issue. The HRC has a specific role as the hub for the progressive development of Human Rights.

3. Ageing and the situation of older persons have been addressed for many decades, including through the creation of the mandate of the UN Independent Expert on the full enjoyment of the Human Rights by Older Persons in 2013.

4. A group of countries has proposed the elaboration of a specific international instrument for the protection of the Human Rights of Older Persons. The question rising is the necessity, looking at the covenants and the civil and political rights and the social-economical rights and other treaty bodies, we could start saying that every human being is covered by those covenants, why do we need something specific?

5. A substantive resolution on the Human Rights of Older Persons was approved by consensus with over 50 co-sponsors at the Council last year, A/HRC/RES/48/3. The text not only focused on substantive ideas but also about something that even during the negotiation was not easy to explain, which is the discrimination based on age. It was hard at the beginning because the term ageism was not even clear in all languages, was not even translated into some of them; finally, it was clearly recognized that ageism is a Human Rights issue.

HIGHLIGHTS ON THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL AND OLDER PERSONS

It is an inter-governmental body within the United Nations system responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights, where the mandate of the “Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons” was created in 2013, as well as several resolutions, panels, reports, and other initiatives on the rights of this group have been developed.



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL



Speakers

Focus: Human Rights



Mr. Rio Hada

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Focal Point on the Human Rights of Older Persons

“We need to jettison our old-age mindsets and promote new narratives on ageing”

1. Older Persons are a diverse group that significantly contribute to society. We need to embrace their value and support their contributions.
2. There is a pattern of discrimination that is deeply rooted in ageism reflected in inadequate health services for older persons, gaps in social protection, earlier death and intersecting discrimination based on age, gender, disability, and many other grounds.
3. We need wider, active, and more constructive engagement from all stakeholders in efforts to strengthen systems to protect the Human Rights of older persons. An international instrument dedicated to the Human Rights of older persons would offer a comprehensive framework and avoid that fragmented approach that we currently have.
4. International legal frameworks which should protect everybody without discrimination still render older persons invisible and that the root of this is ageism which takes on different forms across the life course devaluing the contributions the present can make to society and eroding solidarity between generations.
5. We have a lot to learn from the experience of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and how the adoption of a specific instrument like this has led to more visibility and impact in terms of changes in policies, and laws at the national level. We need to promote more discussions at the national level and gather more evidence and data that can feed into that debate both nationally and globally.

HIGHLIGHTS ON THE OHCHR & OLDER PERSONS

Over the last two years, OHCHR has undertaken a major initiative to analyze the normative and protection gaps in the enjoyment of all human rights of older persons, and develop options to address such gaps, and produced a working paper in 2021 and a report of the High Commissioner (A/HRC/49/70) presented to the Human Rights Council in March 2022. OHCHR actively collaborates with UN partner agencies to support the implementation of the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing 2021-2030 and the mainstreaming of human rights of older persons in the work of the UN system.



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER





FOOD FOR THOUGHT

There is a serious problem, in the current international framework of Human Rights, there's no explicit guarantee and protection against ageism and no explicit obligation on States to take active measures to eliminate ageism and its discriminatory consequences. This is a significant gap and is at the root of many of the gaps that older people face in the exercise of their rights.

DID YOU KNOW?

Last year under the Decade of Healthy Ageing, the UN launched the new global report on ageism with new evidence is about the prevalence and impact of ageism as well as possible strategies to address them, the report found that ageism is everywhere, half of the world population have ageist attitudes against older people.

Find the report here:

<https://tinyurl.com/mrwawprj>

TO BEAR IN MIND!

Over the last 10 years, the HRC has conducted studies on the normative and protection gaps in the enjoyment of Human Rights of older persons. The latest report of the High Commissioner submitted to the last Human Rights Council session, A/HRC/49/70, concluded that:

1. The existing human rights framework provides only fragmented and inconsistent coverage of the Human Rights of older persons, both in terms of law and practice.
2. The engagement by international Human Rights mechanisms on the rights of older persons consequently has been far from systematic, coherent, or sustained. The lack of dedicated normative instruments and conceptual limitations on existing investments will continue to hinder the effective protection of Human Rights of older persons.

Find the A/HRC/49/70 report here:

<https://tinyurl.com/28pa9ntm>

Find the Resolution A/HRC/RES/48/3 that requested the report here:

<https://tinyurl.com/4tztnyyw>

You can learn more about the work of the OHCHR on the Human Rights of Older Persons:

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/topic/older-person>



Focus: Migration



Mr. Daniel Silva y Poveda
 Policy Officer, Migration and Sustainable Development Division,
 IOM

“We need to promote and protect the human rights of older migrants, and we need to have more tailored responses and solutions that enable the contributions of all the migrants to societies”

1. Migration has been historically and continues to be analyzed through the lens of demography and it is not a surprise that population aging, which is a real experience in almost every country, would interact with and affect migration in many different ways. There is still a relatively little knowledge on this, therefore it’s important to bring it to light further.
2. Migrants contribute to the welfare systems of the receiving countries where they work through labor which translates into social benefits for the whole population as well as through human capital and they contribute to increasing the birth rate of aging societies. Older migrants have many skills and capacities, they provide leadership and influence decision-making. They can encourage conflict resolution and foster problem-solving
3. When returning to their countries of origin or when retirees migrate to another country, in their own country of origin older migrant investment, savings, and pensions in the local economy, contribute to form networks that lead to the development of businesses and services opportunity.
4. Their sense of history also has preserved the communities, cultural and social identity, especially in cases of displacement where identity can erode. We see the quite broad and diverse set of contributions that migrants can make to aging societies and the contributions of all the migrants throughout the migration cycle.
5. We should embrace migration as a sustainable development strategy, including meeting and addressing some of the challenges that aging brings to our world. We need migration to be well managed; we will not achieve the ambition of the 2030 Agenda by leaving aside older persons and SDGs without consideration of migration.

HIGHLIGHTS ON THE IOM & OLDER PERSONS

The Migration and Sustainable Development Division, at the IOM has the lead institutional role for the implementation of IOM’s Strategy on Migration and Sustainable Development and represents the organization’s direct contribution to the Decade of Action to fast-track progress for reaching the SDGs, which includes older persons.





CURIOUS FACT!

Despite the Covid 19 pandemic, International Migration has been quite resilient. Many of the migration trends that we observed frequently, we likely to accelerate and will also continue to be very much influenced by demographic shifts.

DID YOU KNOW?

Older persons already are overrepresented in the migrant population compared to the general population. Out of the close to 8 billion people that we have in the world, slightly over 9% are above 60 years old, whereas in the international migrant population that percentage is 12%.

TO BEAR IN MIND!

Older migrants are often isolated from the rest of society. Digital exclusion, the distance from support networks, ageist stereotypes, to be sometimes incrimination based on their origin are just some of the factors that undermine their psychological well-being and that actually prevent all the migrants from meaningfully participating in different facets of community life.

Their contributions could be hindered in many ways. When migrant workers lose legal status in their country of destination upon retirement or in the case of job loss may have to return home to their countries. Older migrants often struggle to recoup the social security contributions post-retirement and even struggle to move pensions with them if they choose to retire in a country in their country of birth.



Focus: Digital Inclusion



Ms. Roxana Widmer-Iliescu

Senior Coordinator Digital Inclusion, ITU-D Focal Point for Older Persons - ITU-D Focal Point for ICT/digital accessibility

“In order to achieve digital inclusion for all, the condition is to guarantee the Human Rights to access and use technology by everyone”

1. Equal and equitable access to information and communication technologies (ICTs) is a human right because we live in a digital world. The information and communication technologies are embodied in the way we learn, travel, and interact with each other. In short, ICTs affect how we leave as humans.

2. If we want to be relevant when it comes to the Digital Inclusion of all people the holistic approach is key: we should avoid working in silos, as the young of today are the old of tomorrow and anyone can face disability challenges or be in a vulnerable situation in a moment of life.

3. To successfully achieve the goal of Digital Inclusion, we should ensure that ICTs are available, affordable, and digitally accessible for everyone regardless of our age, gender, location, or ability to use the technology.

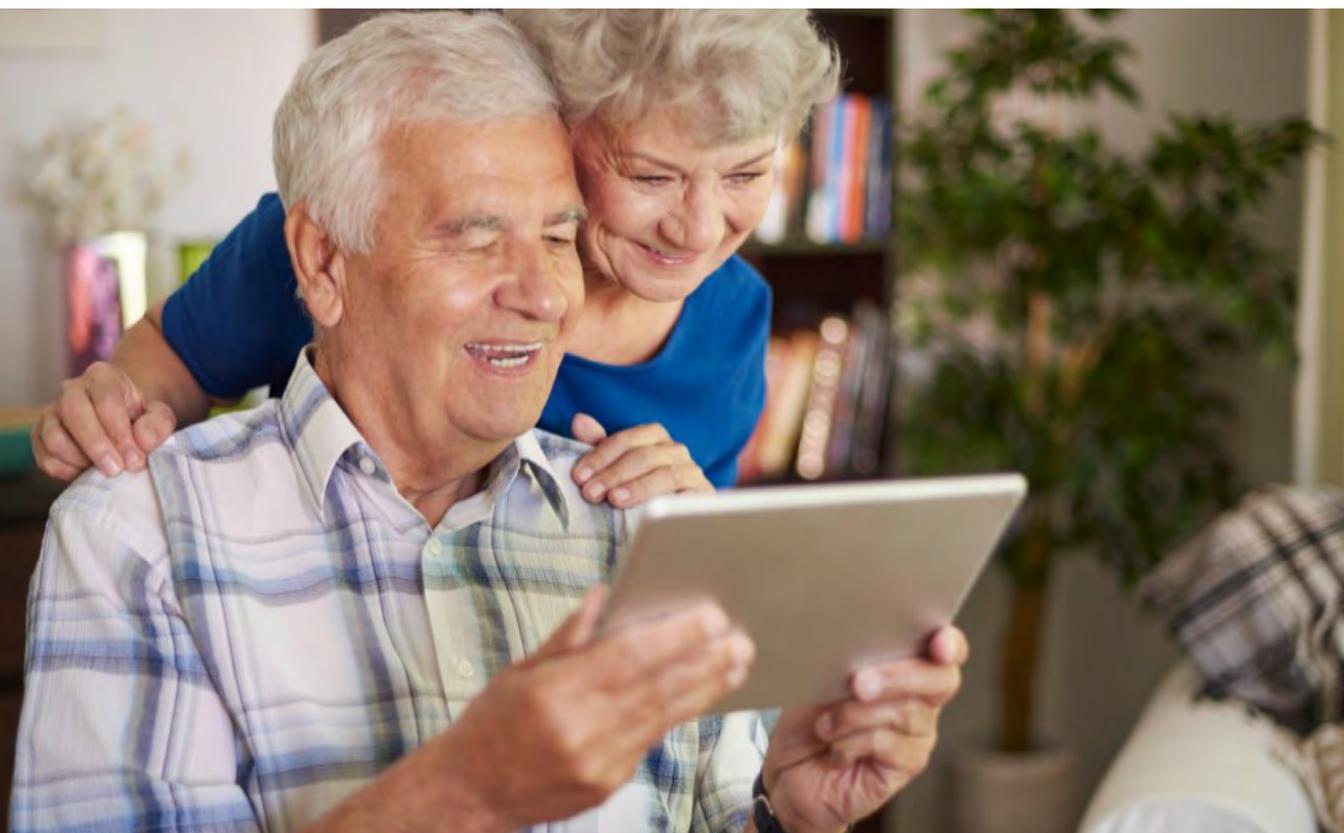
4. Ageing is a privilege, and ageing in a digital world is a chance. By working together to mainstream ICT/digital accessibility and knowledge on ageing cross-sectoral, jointly with all involved stakeholders, we can build opportunities to attain an active, healthy, and happy ageing for present and future generations, as well as economic contributions to societies to leave our lives to the fullest.

5. The availability of access to digital infrastructure fundamental but having a plug or having the Wi-fi doesn't mean digital inclusion. We have to ensure the affordability, to be able to pay for this access. The most important is the accessibility part. To be accessible, in addition to available and affordable technology should ensure that have embedded all the accessibility features from the design stage so that means to be accessible technology, like the smart technology. We have to ensure that everyone is capable to have the necessary skills, and knowledge to use the technology.

HIGHLIGHTS ON THE ITU & OLDER PERSONS

ITU-D has been developing key tools and resources, such as the **Ageing in the Digital World from Vulnerable to Valuable** guideline report and the online self-paced training course **ICT for better ageing and livelihood in the digital landscape**. These resources aim at strengthening capacity on why, what, and how to make technology digitally accessible, universally designed, and people-centered. ITU supports global efforts in ensuring that no one is left behind in the digital age and promotes ICTs for happy and healthy ageing of present and future generations.





CURIOUS FACT!

In the next 30 years, more than 2 billion people will be over the age of 60. Technology advancement has radically changed many of our activities that take place in the digital space. To ensure that everyone, including older people, is fully included in these digital economies and societies, it is vital to ensure that everyone is digitally included.

DID YOU KNOW?

For the very first time in the history of the ITU, this year the World Information and Telecommunications society day, on the 17th of May, was focused on digital technologies for the older person and healthy aging. This was an opportunity to raise awareness on the importance of these global megatrends, arrays of technology and aging of the population, as well as on the impact this creates.

DO YOU WANT TO LEARN MORE ON AGEING IN THE DIGITAL WORLD AND TO ICT/DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY?

You are warmly invited to visit: ITU-D's website on [Ageing in the digital world](#): and ITU-D website on [ICT / digital accessibility](#):

You can also consult, use, and feel free to share all ITU resources (over 65 available), which are free of charge, in multiple languages, and available in digitally accessible formats (can be also used by deaf, blind, or illiterate persons):

- ITU Guideline Report [“Ageing in the digital world: from Vulnerable to Valuable”](#)
- [ICT for better ageing and livelihood in the digital landscape online self-paced training](#) available in English, [French](#) and [Spanish](#) (register in [ITU Academy](#))
- [ICT/Digital Accessibility Resources](#): over 60 resources are at your disposal including Toolkits, Guidelines, Thematic Reports, online self-paced training, video tutorials, etc.)



Focus: Climate Change and Healthy Ageing



Ms. Alana Officer

Unit Head, Demographic Change and Healthy Ageing

“We need to build awareness about the links between climate change and healthy aging as well as climate change and the human rights of older persons”

1. Climate change and rapid population ageing are paired together. Older people are an incredibly diverse group, the reality is that many of them are disproportionately affected by climate change. That is happening because as we age, we have slightly greater physiological susceptibility, for example, to heat and cold. Pre-existing health conditions or disabilities can also increase risks with regard to climate change.

2. Air pollution related to climate change exacerbates poor health in older people, particularly cardiovascular and respiratory diseases. Things like rising sea levels and extreme weather events like storms and typhoons and hurricanes can have serious impacts on older people such as physical and mental health. Those types of events also can be incredibly damaging in terms of influencing the health and social support of older people and leaving them much more vulnerable.

3. The challenge is that older people have been neglected and excluded in all of the studies related to climate change, that needs to change. Policymakers and planners need to better understand and hence respond to the effects of climate change on the health and well-being of older people.

4. We need to protect old people, the current and future generations from climate work-related threats, and that means integrating healthy aging and Human Rights for older people internationally. We need to be doing this around the intergenerational communication, and the collaboration and solidarity that's needed to include all the people in supporting climate action rather than piecing generations in a very ageist way against each other.

5. Things like housing and private and public buildings need to be much more accessible, and much more energy-efficient in cooling and installation. These are opportunities to get synergies, whereby we bring synergies between what needs to happen around climate change and what needs to happen around healthy aging.

HIGHLIGHTS ON THE WHO & OLDER PERSONS

The role of the WHO in the framework of ageing and older persons has been quite active and inspiring. WHO with other UN agencies recently released the UN Global Report on Ageism. Likewise, they have addressed how is the health and wellbeing of older people affected by climate change and what opportunities exist to foster healthy ageing and also adapt to, mitigate, and build resilience for the climate crisis in the UNs work to implement the Decade of healthy Ageing.



World Health Organization





DID YOU KNOW?

We've got the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**, but it doesn't mention older people and or healthy aging, so this is an opportunity for us to get those synergies and to get those efforts to adopt a life-course approach. We need to develop new opportunities for collaboration and multi-stakeholder action to address climate change and foster healthy aging. A great place to start with would be the older people are actually included in assessments that take place on the vulnerability and adaptation to climate change. There are heat mapping surveys, and awareness and prevention programs for heating cold waves, and old people should be needed to be included in those processes.

TO BEAR IN MIND!

Older people aren't just vulnerable to climate change, but they're actually agents of change in terms of taking action around climate change and social transformation that are absolutely necessary to adapt to mitigate and build the sort of resilience. **UN Decade of Healthy Ageing** is intended to improve the lives of older people, their families, and their communities. We are doing that through a range of areas in terms of building physical and social environments and improving integrated health and social care.

All of those actions need to take a Human Rights-based approach. The intent is that we improve the Human Rights of older persons, so the next nine years are going to be absolutely critical from both the agendas on climate change and healthy aging and the Human Rights of older people and migration.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT!

The next 9-10 years are going to be absolutely crucial for the agendas of both climate change and for healthy aging, and stakeholders in both agendas need to understand those interconnections and find ways to amplify and reinforce these two agendas such third both current and future generations of older people can benefit, as well as our home now Planet Earth.

EAGER TO KEEP LEARNING ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND AGEING?

Decade of Healthy Ageing. The Platform. Here, all stakeholders can find and share knowledge
<https://www.decadeofhealthyageing.org>
<https://tinyurl.com/3a5xyvx7>

The UN Decade of Healthy Ageing 2021-2030 in a Climate-changing World
<https://tinyurl.com/2nwywru>

Remember! We need to improve our understanding and sharing of knowledge on the science, the policies, on the best practices for healthy aging and climate change, and with a large range of stakeholders.



Wrap Up Message



Ms. Silvia Perel-Levin

INPEA, ILC GA, & Geneva NGO Committee on Ageing

“Aging is natural, ageism is not”

1. Ageism rules our lives, we know that ageism is probably one of the last frontier “isms” not contested by people, we assume it as something natural when we know it’s not.

2. The existing mechanisms, including the covenants, are far from systemic in the way that they approach older persons. We need a dedicated legal instrument. Having an instrument on the older persons’ rights does not mean that older persons are being segregated, on the contrary, they are further included. Older people are not included in so many international law and government topics and that needs to change. We want to mainstream the knowledge of older persons and ageing. We need a specific instrument, a convention specifically on the rights of older persons so that we can focus on what we need and what we want.

3. Some people migrate by choice, others by necessity; we need to be very mindful of especially those who really do it by necessity. Older migrants may be discriminated against because in those places where they go, discriminatory laws regarding employment for all the ages, but he also mentioned the important issue when they go back to their countries that they have to struggle to get their pensions. We tend to forget about the older persons who stay behind when we talk about migration.

4. Older persons are not the majority, however, their contributions to society and work on the economy are much more than what we talk about. The aging of the society is not a problem, it is probably one of the biggest achievements of the humanity of development, and also the fact that there are fewer babies being born also is not a problem. It is a result of women having more choice on their own, in deciding how many children they want to have. The whole issue of the rights of migrants is so interlinked with the rights of having children, the right to grow older, wherever you are, whatever your age, your gender, or your state’s economic status.

5. What connects us all together is technology. Half of the population of the older people in the world don’t have access to technology, and many who have access may not have the literacy on how to use it. We need access, we need the right to the information, and we need the right to be able to connect with our families. This is what we have to ensure, we are not talking about technology only as a means for healthcare or services or industry, we want technology to everyone to maintain their autonomy and independence.

REMEMBER! “We fight together alongside to the young, we fight for the young we fight for ourselves and we fight for everybody. We need to see each other as peers, as friends and partners in everything that happens in the world. We want to be partners in all policymaking, on everything, because everything affects us just like it affects everybody else. We need the attention that serving as full and subjects of Human Rights in equal with everybody else throughout our lives until our last breath.”

HIGHLIGHTS ON INPEA/ ILC GA & OLDER PERSONS

The NGOs International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA) and the International Longevity Centre Global Alliance (ILC GA) have been actively advocating for the inclusion of ageing and older persons across the UN and promoting a UN Convention on the rights of older persons.



Extra Bonus!



Older persons and COVID19

- Older persons have suffered the most from the Covid 19 pandemic which is also a reflection of the long-standing systemic inequalities and a lack of sufficient attention to Human Rights challenges faced this group.
- As the Covid 19 pandemic is shown, migrants, particularly, migrant women have been at the front line to deliver services and care, notably elderly care, in economic sectors where there's no sufficient availability of national workers.
- During the pandemic, we all testified to the critical situation of those who didn't have access to digital technologies, people could not access the information by medicine or connect with the doctors or be able to subscribe to be vaccinated. Most of these basic needs were almost done exclusively through the digital space and the acceleration of Internet was just absolutely impressive. Therefore, ensuring digital inclusion for all is ensuring that this right is respected for all people, including older persons without any discrimination.

Human Rights

Everything what we do has to be in a partnership, for example, OHCHR has learned a lot from the WHO and IOM on how international standards and principles can be implemented on the ground.

It is important to establish standards and principles informed by data evidence and practices. It is necessary to have more dialogues, discussions, and disagreements. Likewise, education is need; in this regard, the global report on ageism. has many suggestions for possible strategies, including education. Finally, we need the bridge between the old and young generations.



Migration

There are ways to maximize the benefits of migration, the benefits for the migrants, also for the communities where they come from, where they transit, and where they're going. How?

1. Ensuring that migration is a choice.
2. Those who choose to migrate should be empowered as actors for development.
3. Migration should be well-governed. Most of the migrants, 60% of the migrants in the world migrate for the purpose of work. This is an important group of migrants in itself, and one in every four of those migrants is in a country that has a mechanism of access and portability of social security contributions. That means the rest of every migrant doesn't have full and quality.

Digital Inclusion

Digital inclusion should be implemented in a holistic vision. It should be holistic, regardless of gender, age, or disabilities. It is not possible to achieve this goal otherwise. Each of us has to concretely contribute. In addition to raising awareness for everybody can have access to the digital world and through our respective works and activities try to contribute on a personal level. Intergenerational support is critical, in particular for this part of the aging, by trying the young generation to be a little bit closer to the older generation to share abilities and skills. Also, if technology, industry, the private sector, and governments work and want to have accessible technology for all, this will facilitate a lot of access to information and communications technology.

Climate change

The UN Decade for Healthy Ageing is intended to improve the lives of older people, their families, and their communities and all 193 countries, in terms of low- and middle-income countries. One of the key strategies for doing that is around building communities that can foster the abilities of older people. Creating opportunities for employment and volunteering, improving access to social protection, and improving lifelong learning are key determinants of healthy aging, all of those factors enable people to live well. The Decade intends to create more age-friendly cities and communities as an opportunity to try and bridge that gap for people who are in a position to continue to work and for those who can't; what can be done around improving social protections.

You can get more information on our Common Agenda here:

<https://www.un.org/en/un75/common-agenda>

Last year the Human Rights Council had a discussion about the impact of climate change on older persons. They are likely to face negative impacts on their health, access to food, land, water, sanitation, housing, livelihoods, and fundamental wellbeing. Against all these global challenges, we now have our common agenda, a unique and historic opportunity to forge a world, built upon a foundation of universal Human Rights, where every person's dignity shall be respected throughout the lifecycle.

Learn more about the impact of climate change on the Human Rights of Older Persons:

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/climate-change/impact-climate-change-rights-older-person>



Find here the video of the whole event!:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ypzpbGiJPKk>



SECOND EVENT

“Two worlds, same goal: Efforts at the UN General Assembly and the UN Human Rights Council for the rights of older persons”

Background

Ageing and the Human Rights Older Persons have been addressed for many decades in the international arena, mainly at the United Nations General Assembly and its Third Committee, together with the Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing in NY. Likewise, it is part of the topics covered by the United Nations Human Rights Council and its Universal Periodic Review.

In these scenarios, some core achievements have been made, such as the UN Principles for older persons (1991), the adoption of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (2002), the creation of the Open-Ended Working Group for the purpose of strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons (2010), the creation of the mandate for the UN Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons (2013), and the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021-2030). Moreover, several Resolutions, panels, reports, and other initiatives on the rights of this group have been developed.

Many different stakeholders have been involved in this endeavour, in particular States, UN agencies, National Human Rights Institutions and Non-Governmental Organizations. In addition, the Group of Friends of Older Persons in NY and the Group of Friends of the Human Rights of Older Persons in Geneva were conformed as the result of the commitment by groups of States in advancing on this topic.

In this regard, this second event will be the opportunity to exchange information from NY and Geneva on the status, developments, and possibilities to complement and align further efforts.



TAKEAWAYS

MAINSTREAMING KNOWLEDGE ON AGEING

Second event out five

“Two worlds, same goal: Ongoing efforts at the UN General Assembly and the UN Human Rights Council for the rights of older persons”

 **30** June 2022

 9:30 - 11:10 (NY time)
15:30 - 17:10 (CET)



A special acknowledgement to Ms. Julia Ferre, Social Affairs Officer, Programme on Ageing Unit, Division for Inclusive Social Development, UNDESA, for her notes on the 2nd. event of the series, that served as the basis for preparing these takeaways. The document has been putting together by Ms. Analucía Jácome, Senior Project Leader and Human Rights Expert, and Mr. Israel Ledesma, Graphic Designer, Division for People and Social Inclusion at UNITAR. We hope you enjoy it!

Moderator



Mr. Alex Mejía

Director, Division for People and Social Inclusion,
UNITAR

Welcome Remarks



H.E. Ambassador Luis Gallegos (Video-message)

UNITAR's Chair of the Board of Trustees,
President of the Global Initiative on Ageing Foundation (GIA)

*“People should age healthy, active,
free of anguish and with dignity.”*

1. Raising awareness on ageing as well as on the strengths and challenges of older persons pursues the elimination or at least mitigation of discriminatory social institutions, laws, cultural norms, and community practices, such as those limiting the promotion and protection of Human Rights and sustainable development.

2. Fostering equal and adequate conditions for the development of their autonomous and independent life, as needed, represents an essential step forward towards their integral protection and participation.

3. It is quite relevant the inclusion of older persons, not only as beneficiaries of capacity building activities but also as speakers or trainers from their experience on a wide range of topics addressed to different profiles.

4. The UN Decade of Healthy Ageing as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development represent an important motivation to keep reinforcing capacities as a powerful resource towards transforming lives of individuals and societies.

HIGHLIGHTS ON UNITAR, GIA, AND OLDER PERSONS

UNITAR has been working on capacity building initiatives focused on ageing and older persons, as an autonomous UN body with the mission of developing capacities of different stakeholders. The Institute envisions these initiatives as an opportunity to learn from some good practices and challenges towards the effective protection and participation of older persons from a comprehensive perspective.

GIA is focused on 4 pillars: Multilateral Affairs, Public Policies, Capacity Building as well as Advocacy and Action. It works on an articulated strategy to address ageing issues from different perspectives, including human rights, labor, health, education, and science, towards the adoption of an International Convention on the rights of older persons as an ulterior objective.



Keynote Speaker

Focus: General Overview**Mme. Claudia Mahler**

UN Independent Expert on the full enjoyment of the Human Rights by Older Persons

“Yet, older persons are often not mentioned in many Human Rights resolutions and such gaps need to be addressed.”

Efforts to promote and advance the agenda of the human rights of older persons are taking place in New York and Geneva:

1. In New York, the Open-ended Working Group for the purpose of strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons (OEWG-A) was established by the General Assembly in 2010, and its twelve sessions have produced ample material on a broad range of topics that should be used.
2. The OEWG-A has brought awareness to the topic of older persons and in the last session a proposal was made to establish a cross-regional core group to bring even a stronger voice to the General Assembly and the UN at large regarding older persons.
3. In Geneva, which brings a human rights perspective, relevant reports have been produced, including specific reports from the mandate of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, as well as reports of the Human Rights Council.
4. In 2021, an important substantive resolution on ageism and age discrimination that counted with general agreement among Member States was adopted at the Human Rights Council.

HIGHLIGHTS ON THE MANDATE OF THE INDEPENDENT EXPERT

Since the establishment of the mandate by the HRC in 2013, the IE has assessed the implementation of national, regional, and international standards relevant to the rights of older persons and identified, exchanged, and promoted best practices relating to the promotion and protection of these rights, including through 13 official country visits. The mandate has also prepared and presented several thematic reports and recommendations to the HRC and to the GA.



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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

While the dynamics are different in New York and Geneva, there are possibilities to complement and align efforts for the human rights of older persons, including by bringing human rights experts in Geneva to the OEWG-A. The Group of Friends of Older Persons in New York and Geneva should also work more closely to ensure they align their agendas, for instance by holding joint meetings.

TO BEAR IN MIND!

Beyond the OEWG-A and Human Rights Council, efforts need to be devoted to reaching other constituencies and to better include older persons in other processes and agendas, such as the High-Level Political Forum and the Secretary General’s Common Agenda.

Find Resolution A/HRC/RES/24/20 here: [Human Rights Documents \(ohchr.org\)](https://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/hrc/resolutions/resolutions2019)

Find the IE’s latest thematic reports here: [OHCHR | Documents Listing](https://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/iaeg/iaeg-reports)



Speakers

Focus: The work of the Friends of Older Persons in New York



H.E. Ambassador Paula Narvaez Ojeda
Permanent Representative of Chile to the UN
and other International Organizations in New York,
Chair of the Working Group of Older Persons in New York

An International Convention for the Rights of Older Persons would be the greatest advance that can be achieved for this group

H.E. shared her insights on behalf of Chile as President of the Group of Friends of Older Persons in NY.

1. The Group recognizes that there is a need to build on the work of the OEWGA in order to further bolsters the International Human Rights protection and the well-being of older persons in concrete ways. It has been working towards streamlining the rights of this group in the framework of the UN General Assembly in New York, particularly through the different issues handled by the Third Committee, and the Commissions of the ECOSOC.

2. The Group has been fostering coordination among different stakeholders; including, like-minded member states around the work of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing, the SDGs, and the outcomes of the consultative agenda of the Secretary General's Common Agenda. The Group has strived to ensure that the rights of older persons remain relevant to the UN in the future of the organization.

3. Chile, in its national capacity and as chair of the Group of Friends of Older Persons in NY, stresses the importance of the work of the OEWG-A and supports Argentina's efforts to establish a cross-regional core group to provide the space to explore the possibility of developing an International Convention for the Rights of Older Persons.

4. While much remains to be done in promoting the rights of older persons, the substantive resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on ageism and age discrimination and the efforts of the OEWG-A constitute important advancements.

HIGHLIGHTS ON THE GROUP OF FRIENDS OF OLDER PERSONS IN NEW YORK

The Group of Friends of Older Persons in NY was created in August 2013. Since then, it has been proactively participating in activities related to Older Persons in the context of the General Assembly; specifically, in the negotiations of the Third Committee that take place on a yearly basis for the resolution "Follow up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing"; as well as in the Open-ended Working Group for the purpose of strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons.





FOOD FOR THOUGHT!

During the OEWG-A considerable gaps to protect the rights of older persons in existing international standards have been clearly identified.

DID YOU KNOW?

The establishment in 2010 of a UN Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWGA) set a milestone at the United Nations towards the objective of strengthening the protection of the Human Rights of older persons and their empowerment and participation in all aspects of society.

Learn more about the Group of Friends here:
<https://www.un.org/development/desa/newsletter/trends/2013/09/8133.html>



Focus: Snapshot on the efforts and challenges to the effective promotion and protection of the rights of Older Persons from NY



Mme. Amal Abou Rafeh

Chief of the Programme on Ageing Section Social Inclusion and Participation Branch Division for Inclusive Social Development, UNDESA

“Both, Development and Human Rights approaches are required to adequately address the needs of older persons.”

1. The demographic realities of population ageing are often not understood at the society and global level. The pace of population ageing in the coming years is unprecedented, with virtually every country in the world experiencing growth. In 8 years – when the world reaches the milestone of the SDGs: 2030- older persons will globally outnumber youth, with the most rapid growth experienced in low- and middle-income countries.

2. Despite this context, one of the main challenges that efforts both in New York and Geneva face is the fact that ageing as an issue is not on the political radar of Member States, with many Governments around the world focused on young people and youth.

3. Another challenge lies in disagreements on how to approach ageing issues within the United Nations, with stakeholders often disagreeing on whether issues of ageing are best approached from a development or a human rights perspective. This is a false dichotomy, as both development and human rights approaches are required to adequately address the needs of older persons. Indeed, the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, MIPAA, -considered a development framework- recognizes the importance of human rights and, conversely, an international human rights standard would advance the implementation and the accountability of this Plan.

4. The OEWG-A is characterized a unique format that allows a truly interactive discussion, with National Human Rights Institutions allowed to actively participate in the discussions, contrary to format of other OEWGs of the General Assembly. The working sessions of the OEWG-A aim to strengthen the protection of the human rights of older persons. In 2010, the General Assembly requested this working group to consider and present proposals for an international legal instrument, yet after years of working sessions, no concrete proposal has been made.

HIGHLIGHTS ON THE WORK OF UNDESA AND OLDER PERSONS

In accordance with the Madrid International Plan of Action, UNDESA, based in NY, is the focal point on ageing in the United Nations system; likewise, together with OHCHR, serve as the Secretariat of the UN General Assembly open-ended working group on ageing. UNDESA provides technical support to the negotiations of the annual UN General Assembly resolution on ageing.



United Nations

Department of Economic and Social Affairs





DID YOU KNOW?

“During the discussion on the way forward, a delegation announced that a group of Member States would create a cross-regional informal core group to work during the intersessional period with the main objective of preparing a draft decision to be submitted for the consideration of the Working Group at its thirteenth session in 2023. The draft decision could contain a proposal for the establishment of an intersessional Working Group with the objective of preparing and presenting a draft text determining the main gaps in the international human rights system for older persons, which would be the basis for the further negotiations of instruments and measures to close these gaps by Member States and Observers in the Working Group.” Source: A/AC.278/2022/2.

TO BEAR IN MIND

The above-mentioned initiative, supported by thirty Member States, could increase negotiations that could advance the conversation.

Learn more about the Programme on Ageing from UNDESA here:
[United Nations For Ageing | Ageing](#)

Lear more on the UN Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing here:
[United Nations Open-ended Working Group on Ageing](#)

Find the last report of the 12 Session of the OEWG-A, A/AC.278/2022/2, hold from the 11th to the 14th April 2022 here:
[Twelfth Session of the United Nations Open-ended Working Group on strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons](#)



Focus: The work of the Group of Friends of the Rights of Older Persons in Geneva



Mme. Sabina Carli

Permanent Mission of Slovenia to the UN and other International Organizations in Geneva Co-chair of the Group of Friends of Human Rights of Older Persons in Geneva, at experts' level

The topic, as such, ageing and the additional layer of the Human Rights of older persons is a multi-sectorial matter that may be addressed by a number of Ministries...and stakeholders.

The Group has as main tasks:

1. To support the mandate of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, which is expected to be extended in the upcoming session of the HRC in September-October 2022.
2. To act as an amplifier of the human rights of older persons and attempts to mainstream such concerns in different documents and resolutions across the work of the Human Rights Council, emphasizing the role and participation of Older Persons in different contexts, and seeking engagement with the Universal Periodic Review from the 4th cycle of the UPR.
3. It serves as a space for discussion and collaboration, including on advancing and complementing efforts in both New York and Geneva. How? inter alia, through public events, joint statements, champions, informal conversations to raise awareness, advocating and mainstreaming the topic, and connecting dots in capitals, New York, and Geneva.

HIGHLIGHTS ON THE GROUP OF FRIENDS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS IN GENEVA

The composition of this Group is different than the one in NY. This group was launched in 2016; they promote and support initiatives on the Human Rights of older persons, including through resolutions and the UPR process and look even further into possibilities to complement efforts that the international community is making at the UN in New York and Geneva.





CURIOUS FACT!

The Group of Friends of Older Persons in Geneva is a multistakeholder group; while its nature is intergovernmental, it also welcomes and counts with the participation of International Organizations, Civil Society, National Human Rights Institutions, representatives from OHCHR and Special Procedures and other mandates.

DID YOU KNOW?

The language used for Resolutions on the topic is quite important to land on specific issues, including labour, the impact of covid on older persons, etc.

Here you can find one of the last statements of the Group of Friends on the Human Rights of Older persons in Geneva, in the framework of the Multi-stakeholder meeting on the human rights of older persons:

[multi-stakeholder-meeting-Joint Statement States.docx](#)



Focus: Snapshot on the efforts and challenges to the effective promotion and protection of the rights of Older Persons from Geneva



Mr. Rio Hada

Focal Point on the Human Rights of Older Persons
of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights,
OHCHR

“A dedicated International Convention would be the best way to achieve the respect, protection, and promotion of the Human Rights of older persons.”

1. In Geneva, OHCHR prepared a paper in 2012 as a contribution to the Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing of the General Assembly on the gaps in the international human rights system, as a way to inform discussions among Member States. Several years later, OHCHR saw the need and demand to update this study and to look deeper into different issues. With support from Austria and Germany, OHCHR has produced an updated study that brings some findings:
2. While there has been progress in some areas, for instance in the establishment of human rights mechanisms at the regional levels and the establishment of the mandate of the Intendent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, the progress does not measure up to existing challenges in the field of population ageing and older persons, challenges that have been amplified by the pandemic.
3. Policy frameworks such as the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing has progressed on some areas but has not delivered on its promise to raise accountability and to achieve progress in many areas.
4. Therefore, it is clear from OHCHR analysis that existing mechanisms have limitations, and that a significantly different approach is needed.

HIGHLIGHTS ON THE WORK OF OHCHR AND OLDER PERSONS

In the *Takeaways* of the first event of these series we have already learned something about the work of the OHCHR; now, let's learn a little bit more of their important role. The Office aims to ensure a voice for all, especially for those whose voices are seldom heard, such as those of older persons. It works to ensure that governments take all measures required to protect and promote the human rights of older persons, and to support their autonomy and independence. It supports the work of Special Procedures and other mechanisms working to protect and promote the rights of older persons.



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TO BEAR IN MIND!

Besides of an International Convention, there is an opportunity to improve existing human rights frameworks, despite their limitations, such as the Universal Period Review process. Age discrimination account for less than 1% of all the recommendations of Treaty Bodies.

DID YOU KNOW?

In its resolution 48/3, the Human Rights Council requested the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human to convene a multi-stakeholder meeting to discuss the report of the High Commissioner on the normative standards and obligations under international law in relation to the promotion and protection of the human rights of older persons. It was held on 29-30 August 2022.

Find information on the work of OHCHR and older persons here:

[OHCHR | OHCHR and older persons](#)

Find the information related to the above-mentioned multi-stakeholder meeting, including its videos on the 4 sessions here:

[Multi-stakeholder meeting on the human rights of older persons | OHCHR](#)



Focus: The work of the National Human Rights Institutions on Older Persons



Mme. Anna Chabiera
National Human Rights Institution
of Poland

At national and international level NHRIs advocate for the need to establish a binding treaty for the effective promotion and protection of the Human Rights of older persons.

1. National Human Rights Institutions, NHRIs, are state bodies with a constitutional and/or legislative mandate to protect and promote Human Rights. At international level, they are associated in four regional networks as well as in one alliance at global level: The Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, GANHRI.

2. GANHRI devotes a working group to issues of population ageing and human rights of older persons. It focuses its activities mainly at the OEWG-A and the Human Rights Council in order to influence these processes.

3. In the context of the OEWG-A, NHRIs regularly submit written statements on the topics under consideration in each session, provide oral statements during sessions and call for a new International Convention on the Rights of Older Persons.

4. These efforts attempt to bridge the gap between the international and national level, by posing questions to Member States that specifically address what progress Governments foresee in the OEWG process and how the outcomes of its session concretely contribute to advances in the drafting of a binding treaty.

HIGHLIGHTS ON THE WORK OF OHCHR AND OLDER PERSONS

NHRIs are associated in regional networks as well as in a Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI). As of April 2022, GANHRI is composed of 120 members: 90 “A” status accredited NHRIs (fully compliant with Paris Principles) and 30 “B” status accredited NHRIs (partially compliant with Paris Principles). One of GANHRI Working Groups focuses and acts on the field of ageing and human rights of older persons. They exchange their knowledge based on their work on national level and co-ordinate their interventions on international level.



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DID YOU KNOW?

NHRIs have the potential to speak with a unified voice and influence the global policy agenda; and can contribute towards a world where everyone everywhere fully enjoys their human rights. They also foster collaboration with civil society and brings international debate to the public debate at the national level.

TO BEAR IN MIND!

NHRIs were granted a status of monitoring bodies of Convention of the rights of persons with disabilities. This allows to presume that if a new convention of the rights of older persons will be adopted, that there will be NHRIs responsible for monitoring of its implementation as well. Therefore, it's crucial that NHRIs are aware of the ongoing process and involved in works of OEWGA. One of GANHRI Working Groups focuses and acts on the field of ageing and human rights of older persons. They exchange their knowledge based on their work on national level and co-ordinate their interventions on international level.

Learn more about GANHRI here:

<https://ganhri.org/nhri/>

Find here the submissions by A-status NHRIs for the 12th Open-ended Working Group for the purpose of strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons:

[Twelfth Session of the United Nations Open-ended Working Group on strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons](#)



Focus: The work of the NGOs on Older Persons in New York and Geneva



Mme. Silvia Perel-Levin

INPEA, ILC GA, & Geneva NGO Committee on Ageing

“We must address the need to bridge the gaps across silos while adequately including and engaging older persons in such processes.”

1. Civil society working on older persons, through the NGO Committees on Ageing advocate for a Human Rights approach with the full and meaningful participation of older persons themselves in the different processes. Often, intergovernmental and/or United Nations processes around older persons do not ensure their meaningful participation.

2. Successful examples of an adequate inclusion of organizations that represent the needs of older persons in international and intergovernmental processes include efforts in the context of the 2030 Agenda where the Stakeholder Group on Ageing (SGA) serves as an interface between civil society and the United Nations System. In the high-level political forum and related processes, civil society submit papers, deliver oral statements, and organizes relevant side events to bring awareness among member states and other stakeholders.

3. Regional fora, such as mechanisms of UN Regional Commissions, also have specific groups on older persons in which civil society actively participate. GAROP, the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People, is an umbrella network of over 300 local, national, regional, and global NGOs promoting an International Convention on the Rights of Older Persons.

4. While procedures for the participation of civil society in the Human Rights Council (Geneva) differ from those in the Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing (NY), civil society is eager and strives to participate to the greater extent possible in all processes and networks. The formalization of the active participation of Civil Society should be mainstreamed in all processes.

HIGHLIGHTS ON THE WORK OF OHCHR AND OLDER PERSONS

An NGO Committee on Ageing, which encompasses civil society organizations with an interest on older persons and population ageing, exists in each of the Headquarters of the United Nations (Geneva, New York, and Vienna) and while each Committee specializes in the processes that are based in its respective location, there is interaction and collaboration among them on many topics and initiatives across the United Nations.



ILC GLOBAL ALLIANCE
INTERNATIONAL LONGEVITY CENTRE
Designing the Future of Ageing

NGO Committee on Ageing
GENEVA





DID YOU KNOW?

For the International Day of Older Persons (UNIDOP), on October 1st, this year it will address the resilience of older persons in a changing world, with Geneva focusing on older persons as agents in a changing climate, while New York will zoom in the resilience and participation of older women.

TO BEAR IN MIND!

Human Rights do not expire with age, older persons have the right to participate in all spheres of life. Older persons wish to be equal partners, to have a say and be heard, to have a platform for redress from the human rights violations and discrimination they

are subject to. To this end, civil society mainstreams knowledge on ageing, and also mainstream human rights in all activities at the United Nations and at the national level. An international convention can guide governments to design and implement human rights-based policies.

Find here the submissions by Accredited NGOs for the 12th Open-ended Working Group for the purpose of strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons:

[Twelfth Session of the United Nations Open-ended Working Group on strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons](#)



Find here the video of the whole event!:

[**https://youtube.com/watch?v=-Q7qn_W1vw4&feature=share**](https://youtube.com/watch?v=-Q7qn_W1vw4&feature=share)



THIRD EVENT

“From engagement to action for the protection and participation of older persons: Good practices and challenges in the implementation of the recommendations accepted by States in revision mechanisms”

Background

The due implementation of the obligations and commitments assumed by States from national and international instruments as well as from a wide variety of documents is the cornerstone for impactful changes in lives of individuals and societies. Ageing and the rights of older persons are not excepted issues.

Although the primary responsibility lies with States at local and national level, different stakeholders are involved, including older persons as the main actors of their own destinies. Likewise, different mechanisms have an important role to take stock and move forward regarding assistance, promotion of cooperation, and follow up in different arenas, including human rights, migration, refugee, and health.

In this regard, this event will be the opportunity to learn from some good practices at local national level, as well as the potential of some mechanism and initiatives towards effective practices to promote an active, free, and meaningful participation of older persons as well as their protection.



TAKEAWAYS

MAINSTREAMING KNOWLEDGE ON AGEING

Third event out five

“From engagement to action for the protection and participation of older persons: Good practices and challenges in the implementation of the recommendations accepted by States in revision mechanisms”

 **13** October 2022

 9:30 - 11:10 (NY time)
15:30 - 17:10 (CET)



This document has been prepared by the Division for People and Social Inclusion at UNITAR, Ms. Analucía Jácome, Senior Project Leader and Human Rights Expert, and Mr. Israel Ledesma, Graphic Designer. We hope you enjoy it!

Moderator



Mr. Alex Mejía

Director, Division for People and Social Inclusion,
UNITAR

Speakers

Focus: Good practices from a local government



H.E. Mr. Francisco de la Torre (Video-message)

Mayor of Malaga,
Spain

Malaga has shown good practices and leadership throughout the years, in line with the province of Andalusia considered as an example in Europe.

1. The city has made several efforts to support active ageing, including in digital equity, temporary and fixed housing, subsidies, physical and mental wellbeing, accompaniment and quality of life, leisure, and free time activities. Likewise, the municipality has been working on prevention and rehabilitation, as well as on other political, social, cultural, and economic challenges present in the city.

2. There are 24 centers in the city of Malaga for the exclusive use of older persons and 421 entities in which activities are shared with other citizens and senior associations which are 107, part of it are social centers.

3. Participation, protection, and promotion of the quality of life of older persons is one of the priorities of the city, therefore, it works on a wide variety of events organized by and for older persons. Cultural activities to preserve traditions are always present, same as memory and cognitive stimulation workshops, leisure, and free time workshops.

4. Regarding education and general culture matters, the University of Malaga offers university study programs for seniors, it also hosts some of the most significant scientific research on active aging in Europe.

5. The Senior Citizens Section of the City Council of Malaga has as assigned functions the provision of information and advice on resources and prevention services, aimed at older persons, through the management of programs to promote active aging, cognitive health, support to the associative network and promotion of personal autonomy.

HIGHLIGHTS ON THE APPROACH OF MALAGA

The municipality pursues to promote healthy aging through cognitive health for avoiding social isolation.



Ayuntamiento de Málaga





DID YOU KNOW?

Malaga hosts the European Observatory of Geronto-migrations, where a scientific team studies and proposes solutions to the most remote and less studied problems of older persons.

CURIOUS FACT!

The City Council focused on older person’s issues has a consultative nature to promote the participation and approach of the community so matters of local public interest are effectively done.

Find more information on the effort of the city of the Municipality of Malaga here. Kindly note that the information is only available in Spanish:

Ayuntamiento de Málaga. Personas Mayores:
<https://derechossociales.malaga.eu/es/mayores/>

Find here the video message from the Mayor of Málaga:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S1xiqKxqYn8>



Focus: Good practices from a national government



H.E. Ambassador Shara Duncan Villalobos
 Chargée d'affaires a.i. Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva

“We really need to act fast towards adopting a coherent, comprehensive, and integrated human rights framework on older persons. While further integrating other persons concerns into the work of existing mechanism.”

1. For Costa Rica older persons has been a top priority policy for decades. They permanently strive to advocate and work for those who most need attention, protection, and respect.

2. In 1999, the country enacted by law the National Council of Older Persons, CONAPAM, subscribe to the Presidency of the Republic in charge of matters of ageing and older persons at the public and private entities. It ensures the proper functioning of the programs and services for this group.

3. Costa Rica was the first country in ratifying the Interamerican Convention on the Protection of the Human Rights of Older Persons. This allowed for the recognition and implementation of a catalog of fundamental rights for the effective protection of the human rights of this population. This regional progress has opened the doors to a more precise understanding of what old age is.

4. The country has consolidated a network for the integral and progressive care of older persons in the framework of access to justice, with an emphasis of letting other people stay with their families and in their normal environment and having opened opportunities to share their knowledge and competences or developing and providing them with digital inclusion. For example, training on social media, such programs on digital inclusion are conducted by public universities.

5. For CR coordinated approach must also include the intersectionality and specificity of the contributions and needs of different vulnerable groups, including women, indigenous people, persons with disabilities, refugees, suffering descendants. Meaningful participation of civil society.

HIGHLIGHTS ON THE APPROACH OF COSTA RICA ON AGEING

Costa Rica has a progressive and more holistic approach to ageing and the different stages of life, which although correlated with biological processes, are much more determined by social, economic, environmental, and cultural factors.



COSTA RICA - PERMANENT MISSION (UN)





TO BEAR IN MIND!

The meaningful participation of civil society, with older persons at the forefront, must also be a cornerstone of any multilateral human rights process. This is a key aspect. Without direct, significant and inclusive participation by older persons, in all their diversity, the negotiating process of an international instrument to protect and promote the human rights of this group is doomed to fail.

INTERESTING FACT!

If we are to truly honour and address the true and specific needs and rights of older persons, we must include them fully in this process. It will also be a recognition of them as key and active players of society and of the international system.

Find the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons here:

<https://www.oas.org/en/sla/dil/inter-american-treaties-a-70-human-rights-older-persons.asp>

Find more information on CONAPAM here.

Kindly note that the information is only available in Spanish:

Consejo Nacional de la Persona Adulta Mayor, CONAPAM:

<https://www.presidencia.go.cr/comunicados/tag/consejo-nacional-de-la-persona-adulta-mayor-conapam/>



Focus: The potential of the Universal Periodic Review Mechanism towards the active, free, and meaningful participation of older persons as well as their protection



Mr. Gianni Magazzeni

Chief of the Universal Periodic Review Branch, Human Rights Council and Treaty Mechanisms Division at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

The UPR is a unique mechanism because the 193 States parties of the UN System pass through it. Recommendations on a wide variety of human rights issues, including on older persons, are presented by States to the concerned State, and these pass by a process of internal consultations to identify which can be accepted and implemented.

1. In the framework of the 3 cycles of the UPR, there has been a significant increase in the number of recommendations that specifically refers to the human rights of older persons: from 40 in the first cycle to 140 in the third one.
2. The recommendations presented have been related to the settlement of national strategies or action to improve social benefits, including health, access to locations and buildings, as well as supporting those persons affected by disabilities.
3. It is always better to continuously monitoring through the availability of information as a way to clearly track the due implementation of the accepted commitments.
4. Make sure that once a state has received a recommendation and accepted them, 95% of the recommendations are accepted. States should include in the implementation and follow up to the involved stakeholders, including parliaments, judiciary, civil society, and National Human Rights Institutions.
5. The Secretary General has endorsed this mechanism and its process due to its great value as part of his call for action towards the effective promotion and protection of Human Rights.

HIGHLIGHTS ON THE UPR AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS

Through the UPR's process States can canalize their concerns through comments and recommendations on the effective promotion and protection of human rights of other States.

Civil society and National Human Rights Institutions can advocate on a given topic and during the adoption of the final report, they can present statement by referring to it. The ultimate goal of this mechanism is to promote the engagement of States to move forward from theory to practice.



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER





DID YOU KNOW?

As part of the support provided by the OHCHR, as the Secretariat of the mechanism, it writes a letter to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the concerned country with advice on the way to move forward to implement the recommendations that have been sovereignly accepted, including on those areas that require special attention. Furthermore, the Office prepares a matrix, with information on who made a given recommendation, the position of the concerned State, and its link with the Sustainable Development Goals, by including information on national action plans and implementation modalities.

You can learn here more about the UPR mechanism here:

OHCHR, Universal Periodic Review:

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/upr-main#:~:text=The%20UPR%20is%20a%20State,fulfil%20their%20human%20rights%20obligations>

You can find here recommendations on the Human Rights of Older Persons presented in the framework of the UPR:

<https://upr-info-database.uwazi.io/en/>



Focus: Older Persons in the framework of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), including the Age, Gender, and Diversity Inclusive Pledges initiative



Mr. Ricardo Pla Cordero

Protection Officer in the Division of International Protection at United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Hosting and protecting refugees -including older persons- is a shared responsibility. States, civil society, and other stakeholders should come together and work towards proactive outcomes.

1. As part of UNHCR’s mandate, there has been settled a system of policies and mechanisms to ensure appropriate response is effectively done, including for older persons. The Policy on Older Refugees and Age, Gender and Diversity Policy are good examples in this regard.

2. In the framework of the Global Refugee Forum different stakeholders presented around 1400 pledges by the end of 2020. From those, only 1 pledge was specifically focused on older persons; it was a commitment by a member State to advance situations of statelessness. Besides that, there were 11 pledges with sensitive information related, inter alia the lack of opportunities to access employment had a particular mention on older persons.

3. UNHCR is monitoring and supporting the involved actors to share more commitments and to implement them as well as encouraging for sharing more to give an opportunity for older persons who are refugees, and those stateless to access the same rights as other citizens. Most of the pledges are shared by States while the NGO sector is second but still with very few and just asking for that need on or your support on, expanding those practices.

3 Among other identified challenges for this vulnerable group, the High Commissioner has been requested for guidance on the existence of global organizations through which older persons can come together and advocate about their rights, as happens in other fields such as the international disability alliance focused on helping to raise those voices and giving opportunities for ideas, projects, etc. It has been very challenging to find an equivalent stakeholder for unifying voices on ageing issues.

HIGHLIGHTS ON THE WORK OF UNHCR AND OLDER PERSONS

UNHCR is committed to the inclusion and protection of displaced and stateless older persons, as highlighted in its Policy on Older Refugees and Age, Gender and Diversity Policy, and in line with the UN Principles for Older Persons. UNHCR works to support and protect older persons on the move, enabling access to basic services as they recover and rebuild after a crisis. UNHCR encourages participants to this learning event to consider the rights of displaced and stateless older persons in their respective work.



4. Likewise, data disaggregated is missing by causing invisibility. Also, the lack of documentation is a pending challenge; over half of the population of this group don't have those documents. This fact prevents access to protection and assistance for older persons on the move, so they have limited access to pension systems, internet services, and financial services. In the same vein, evidence such as separation of their families and community support networks, heightened risk of violence and abuse; usually older persons tend to be either left behind, so not having an opportunity to flee from conflict, persecution, violence etc. or once they have reached a safest space, they feel isolated.

5. A claim to ageing with dignity is on the move. When we think about refugees, we usually think of different context, mainly in humanitarian crisis during conflicts and that its impacts are ahead of us from what we are working on, or that these are only related to those who are working in developed settings or in development agencies, but not, these issues can be covered anywhere by anyone.



DID YOU KNOW?

The Global Compact for refugees is considered a participatory process to share ideas and pledges. Its Digital Platform brings together a growing community of Member States, refugees, NGOs, UN organizations, businesses, faith groups, academics, charities and community groups, all of whom are working together to find practical, long-term solutions that will allow refugees, internally displaced people, stateless people, and their generous host communities, to thrive.

IMPORTANT FACT!

From 100'000.000 people forcibly displaced until mid-2022, 4% of them are older persons. This group is one of the most at-risk populations, considering there are additional barriers this population may be facing when the seek for assistance.

TO BEAR IN MIND

The work of persons who have been fighting for their rights and supporting others should be acknowledged. We can better succeed by working as a community in a protective environment.

Here you can learn more about:

The work of the UNHCR and Older Persons:
<https://www.unhcr.org/older-persons>

The Digital Platform: Global Compact on Refugees:
<https://globalcompactrefugees.org/about-digital-platform>

The Policy on Older Refugees by UNHCR:
<https://www.unhcr.org/uk/excom/standcom/4e857c279/unhcrs-policy-older-refugees-19-april-2000-annex-ii-draft-report-seventeenth.html>

The Age, Gender and Diversity Policy:
<https://www.unhcr.org/protection/women/5aa13c0c7/policy-age-gender-diversity-accountability-2018.html>

Working with Older Persons in Forced Displacement:
<https://www.refworld.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/>

Global Compact for Refugees:
<https://globalcompactrefugees.org/about-global-compact-refugees>

Age, Gender, and Diversity, Inclusive Pledges:
<https://globalcompactrefugees.org/pledges-contributions/age-gender-and-diversity-inclusive-pledges>



Focus: The Age Friendly Environments initiative and how it has been helpful to move forward from theory to practice



Mr. Thiago Herick de Sa

Lead of the initiative Age-friendly environments, including the Global Network for Age-friendly cities and Communities, at the Department of Social Determinants of Health, WHO

“We are living longer but not necessarily living better.”

1. The world continues to urbanize rapidly, not necessarily in the best way. This triggers implications for urban and rural areas; in particular, to older persons, whether they migrate to urban areas or are left behind, in some cases, without their families and their communities.

In 2020 the UNGA has declared 2021-2030, the decade of healthy ageing. One of its action areas precisely is to ensure that communities post the abilities of older persons. Therefore, creating age-friendly environments is one of the top priority areas to address population ageing for improving the lives of all the people and ensuring that their rights are respected and protected.

2. Age friendly communities are those in which people can grow older well by enabling to meet their basic needs and learn how to grow, make decisions, continue being active, build and maintain relationships, as well as continuing being able to contribute to society. The 8 domains of age friendly cities are housing, social participation, respect and social inclusion, civic participation and employment, communication and information, community support and health services, outdoor spaces and buildings, and transportation.

3. In 2007, WHO developed and published a seminal document called “Age friendly cities guide.” This tool has already been successfully applied through the world, including through a course addressed to a global network, which is now fast approaching 1500 members.

HIGHLIGHTS ON THE AGE FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENTS INITIATIVE

WHO’s has been proactively working for years on the Age friendly-environments initiative by including governments, civil society, professionals, media, academia, private sector, and international agencies. Better understanding different contexts may be beneficial to enable healthy ageing as a guidance to remove barriers and develop policies, systems, products, and services, adapted to the capacities and circumstances of older persons. It has developed extensive guidance material on how to do it, measure it and implement it.

The Organization encourages to use the existing guidance plus other material -interalia- from many other sources on age friendly citizen communities and the case studies encourages national level networks. Likewise, it stresses on the need of supporting capacity building for improving the urban space.

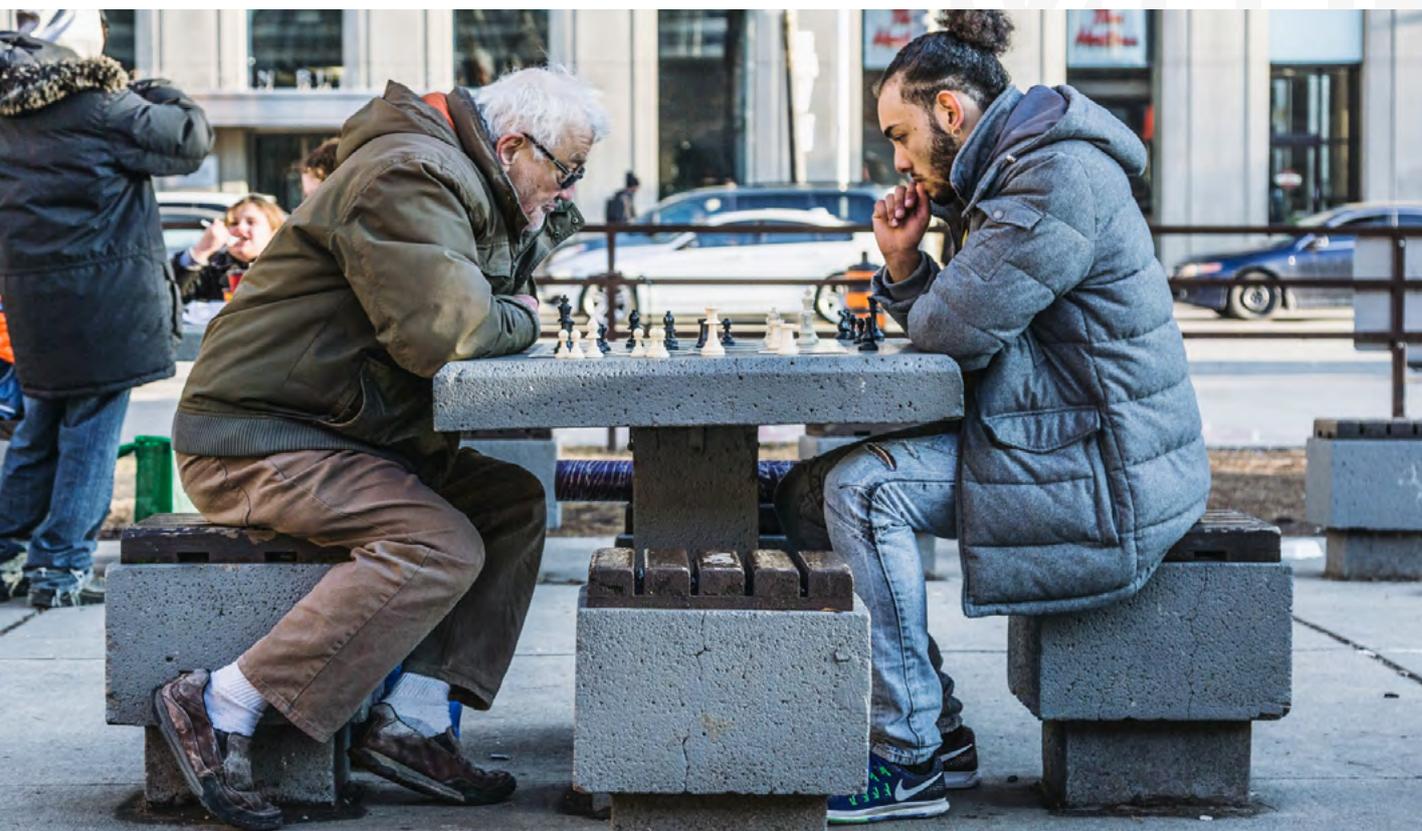


The organization managed to advance a global community that is working to make citizen communities throughout the world more age friendly, including with the establishment of the global network for age friendly citizen communities. All of them share the vision that every city and community strive to become more age friendly, as a platform to help protect them and through which older persons can exercise their rights.

4. The global network has affiliated programs; these are usually run by member States or sub-national governments focused on age/friendly citizen communities, with successful experiences. WHO now is working to develop guidance on how national programs can be created and sustained, the plan is to launch guidance material by the end of this year and start the pilot tasting.

5. WHO has been collecting all these innovative practices through their global database of age friendly practices. If we want people to be inspired and inspire, we need them to exchange this type of knowledge. The database has now over 600 age friendly practices covering a wide range of topics. The mentoring programme for newcomers was recently completed; 340 participants from 55 countries enrolled; it is planned to expand it to other languages and formats by focusing on the steps of the age friendly cycle.

“We need to build capacities for everyone to embark in this journey from national to international, local, all people themselves.”



REMEMBER!

National, international, local levels, whomever is around the table centre to every step is the close engagement and the meaningful participation of older persons themselves because we need to make sure that they are at the centre and they are at the core of whatever we do. They are agents of transformation and would like to see improvements in the environments where they live.

DID YOU KNOW?

Urbanization and population ageing together with many other major global trends such as climate change are radically changing how we age and shaping the environments we live in.

TO BEAR IN MIND!

WHO has been training people to engage and understand, plan, act, measure. The organization is expanding and consolidating the activities to create age-friendly environments including in response to the UN Decade of healthy ageing with the collaboration of many people from grassroots movements to friends in our UN family, national authorities. The idea is to continue advancing on the development of strategies to determine effective action to foster age-friendly environments to encourage citizen communities to join the global network.

Learn more about the “Age Friendly Environments Initiative: Developing communities to foster the abilities of older people”

<https://www.who.int/teams/social-determinants-of-health/demographic-change-and-healthy-ageing/age-friendly-environments>



Wrap-up



Mme. Silvia Neira
Vice President of The Global Initiative on Ageing (GIA)

Quoted:
“It always seems impossible until it is done.”
Nelson Mandela

1. The experience of Malaga has shown us how to include at local level the voice of seniors and their needs, in line with age friendly cities.
2. Costa Rica is an example of what a country can do to reinforce human rights of older persons and how civil society can be included. Other countries can be inspired by this example.
3. Regarding the UPR, this mechanism has shown us how it envisages to promote national strategies for social benefits, locations, building for disabilities, etc. The fact that 95% of the countries accept the recommendations received is inspiring for using this mean to promote and protect the human rights of older persons.
4. Bearing in mind the refugee movements and crisis, UNHCR is a strategic partner to support States for solving the lack of documentation challenge so this vulnerable group can have access to the labor market, education, among other fields, and be fully integrated in societies.
5. It is important to remember that 70% of all the population will be living in cities by 2050. This means that we need to adapt to the upcoming reality, by supporting the services that are needed for older persons and realize how we are ageing in different ways.

HIGHLIGHTS ON THE WORK OF THE GLOBAL INITIATIVE ON AGEING (GIA) AND OLDER PERSONS

Foundation GIA, it has an articulated strategy to address the issues of Ageing and older persons from different perspectives, including human rights, labor issues, economy, health, education, and science. It aims to improve the standard of living, participation and inclusion of the world's ageing population, through collaboration with national and local governments, international organizations, civil society, academia and the private sector.





DON'T FORGET!

We all have the responsibility to address and bring solutions to the different issues on ageing and older persons. We should educate and inspire, as appropriate, all sectors, so there are significant actions.

Find information on the Global Initiative on Ageing (GIA):
<https://ageing-foundation.org/en/>



Find here the video of the whole event!:
<https://youtu.be/yJBQwA3IfYU>



FORTH EVENT

“Voices from the ground: Advocacy and action for the protection and participation of older persons”

Background

Although the primary responsibility to promote and protect the human rights of people relies on the States, the proactive role of different actors throughout the years has triggered significant changes to improve the lives of individuals and foster inclusive societies for all.

In this regard, National Human Rights Institutions, Non-Governmental Organizations, academia, social leaders, and the private sector have been advocating, supporting, implementing, and following up initiatives, including those for or related to older persons.

Working from different or same fields, they have shown that moving forward from theory to practice is possible and is needed. In some cases, they have joined efforts as a contribution to advance faster in a topic that no-one shall be excluded due to its nature.

In this regard, this event will be the opportunity to learn from the experience of different profiles who will be sharing some of their good practices and challenges for the protection and participation of older persons.



TAKEAWAYS

MAINSTREAMING KNOWLEDGE ON AGEING

Forth event out five

**“Voices from the ground:
Advocacy and action for protection
and participation of older persons”**



18 November
2022



9:30 - 11:10 (NY time)
15:30 - 17:10 (CET)



This document has been prepared by the Division for People and Social Inclusion at UNITAR, Ms. Analucía Jácome, Senior Project Leader and Human Rights Expert, and Mr. Israel Ledesma, Graphic Designer. We hope you enjoy it!

Moderator



Mr. Alex Mejía

Director, Division for People and Social Inclusion,
UNITAR

Speakers

Focus: Good practices on the ground by the Korean National Human Rights Commission to protect the human rights of older persons



Mrs. Heisoo Shin

Vice-Chair, UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
Member, Advisory Committee on the Human Rights of Older Persons, NHRCK
(South Korea)

The potential of older persons to care of other older persons.

1. In 2021 the proportion of older persons is 16.5 of the whole population estimated to grow fast by 2060 will be little less than a half of the whole population. In this framework, in 2014 during the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit, it was approved the Korea's project in promoting the rights of older persons. After that there have been many activities and efforts of the Commission, including, the 1st. ASEM international conference on the human rights of older persons and from 2016 on international expert's meetings and annual conferences continue.

2. The most important thing for the Commission is policy recommendations to the Government and opinions. There have been policy recommendations and announcement of options, older persons living in rural areas, suicide, care of older persons by other older persons, national management plan for dementia, protection from traffic accidents, etc. Furthermore, the President of the Commission has presented statements on various issues concerning older persons.



3. The Commission places special attention to: Fact finding researches and surveys to find out the real situation of older persons, interalia on poverty, unstable jobs and precarious working conditions -how they are still working after retirements-, care for the older persons by other older persons, etc.; Translation and publication of reference materials on older persons, all major documents published by the UN, such as the reports of the Secretary-General, the UN Independent Expert on the topic, and those reports from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. And the documents from the Inter-American Convention on the protection of older persons as reference.

4. There are also efforts to organize older persons themselves to monitor the situation of other older persons, under the name “Human Rights Defenders for Older Persons” (2009-2015.) In 2016, ASEM Summit approved the establishment of the AEM Global Ageing Center in Korea, it started with its operations in 2018 with 4 areas of work: Policy research, exchange and cooperation, raising-awareness and education, plus information service, besides of organizing a Forum on the human rights of older persons and other activities.

5. The current work of the Commission is the preparation of the Draft Convention on the Human Rights of Older Persons. It has already prepared a zero draft, finished some weeks ago. This document will be discussed during an international conference on the 23th of November, with the participation of the UN independent Expert and other international experts on the topic. Then, this document will be shared with GANRHI, if agreed it would be presented to the Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing early next year.

HIGHLIGHTS ON THE KOREAN NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

The Commission was established in 2001 as a national advocacy institution for human rights protection. It is committed to the fulfillment of human rights in a broader sense, including dignity, value, and freedom of every human being, as signified in international human rights conventions and treaties to which Korea is a signatory. Its main purposes are: To establish the democratic basic order; to protect and enhance the human rights of all individuals, with special attention to older persons; and to realize human dignity and values.



National
Human Rights
Commission of Korea





TO BEAR IN MIND!

There is not a clear division between developed and developing countries to support a UN Convention on the Human Rights of older persons. For example, there is already an Inter-American Convention on the topic supported by countries with different level of development. It depends on the understanding and portion of the population as a motivation for social awareness and understanding.

CURIOUS FACT

When the Korean National Human Rights Commission created the “Human Rights Defenders for Older Persons,” through its 6 regional offices, there were recruited engaged people for training on the human rights of older persons to older persons. It was a positive mean to raise awareness on their own rights and those of others around them.

Find more information on the effort of the Korean National Human Rights Commission here:

[Purpose | National Human Rights Commission of Korea](#)



Focus: Good practices on the ground from the private sector - The experience of La Caixa Bank



Mr. Gerardo Cuartero
Commercial Director of La CaixaBank
in South-Oriental Andalusia

“The Caixa team has realized that the relationship between older persons and banks has changed in recent years due to the dynamics related to the growing speed of the digital era.”

1. La CaixaBank was founded 118 years ago, guided by a social perspective for offering banking services while improving peoples’ lives and contributing the wellbeing of the societies where the bank operates. In Spain there are almost 9 million of people who are older than 65 years old. From those, La CaixaBank have more than 4 million clients +65 out of 20,2 million clients, with +4600 branches, in +22000 municipalities. In this context, the Bank has decided to focus on a new Senior Generation, coming from an extension of life expectancy and better quality of life. Its main shareholder is the La Caixa Foundation programme, created in 1990 to continuously support active ageing, specially, the effective participation and protection of older persons.

2. The Caixa team has identified that many older persons have difficulties to adapt to it because of the rapid changes. Nowadays, most of the transactions are done through banking apps. People who used to visit the bank branches have found difficulties to adapt to it; many of them feel uncomfortable while interacting with their banks and they have also found the relationship very difficult and sometimes impossible.

3. As part of a needs assessment, the bank’s team asked to senior clients what they need from them, and the answer received, as follows: Quick and personal attention, confidence, help and assistance for adapting to change, special services which facilitates their lives, as well transparency and simplicity.

HIGHLIGHTS ON CAIXA

La CaixaBank have designed a set of services specially for older persons which is focused on personal attention to attend different requirements, including simplicity, assistance, specific products, and adapted services.

The bank created specific products for senior clients, including:

- “MYBOX Senior Protection” as well as providing personal advice on how to use its digital equipment, the creation of preferential areas for them, adaptation of its cash points to them “Caixafácil menu.”
- Facial recognition system to avoid the need of a pin number; personal attention by telephone and whatsapp (no bots.)
- Special telephone line for our Senior Clients; extension of the time in which they can have access to a personal cashier.



4. In 2022, the bank launched a new set of services focused on covering all needs of senior citizens “CaixaBankSeniors.” as a special programme for older persons. It was developed bearing in mind different challenges, including those from the digital era that is changing the world as we knew it and is bringing problems of adaptation, specially to senior citizens. Its mainstreaming objectives are focused on quality, business, and engagement.

5. The bank reinforced their commitment to care for senior clients with the most extensive measures in the Spanish banking sector, under 3 pillars:

a) To give older persons the best support: Availability of 2000 senior advisors specialized with exclusive dedication to them; extra support of 1350 people to provide personal attention; personal assistance in cash points, if needed.

b) To adapt the bank to this groups needs and way to relating to each other: Cash points easy to use; personal attention by telephone and whatsapp; cash attention timetable with no restrictions; advancing the payment of pensions with no cost (24th of each month)

c) To work together to avoid financial exclusion: Organization of more than 3000 informative sessions; availability of the widest network of branches and cash points in Spain; presence in any village where the bank has a branch.



CURIOUS NOTE

La CaixaBank works to avoid financial exclusion in rural areas with more than 3000 face to face training sessions on financial autonomy as the first financial entity in 426 rural villages where the 80% of clients are older than 65.

Find information on La Caixa Bank Services for Senior Clients

https://www.caixabank.es/aplnr/holabank/buscador/index_en.html?q=senior

Find information on Programme for the Elderly of the “la Caixa” Foundation

<https://fundacionlacaixa.org/en/the-elderly>



Focus: Views on the international legal gaps for the protection of older persons, and the feasibility of an international binding treaty



Dr. Michael Ashley Stein

Co-founder and Executive Director of the Harvard Law School Project on Disability, Visiting Professor at Harvard Law School

The same rationale that moved forward the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) also represents a motivation for a Convention on the Human Rights of older persons.

1. During the COVID pandemic older persons were not considered part of the priorities by some States; their situation and the one of persons with disabilities were even worse than for other marginalized groups. They were invisible and this has been reflected in mortality rates, injuries, and mortal harms.
2. In the existing international instruments, there is a lack of standards to protect and include this group. Their exclusion has been evident on a daily basis; for example: Food insecurity, lack of access to health care and social inclusion across the board, as well as inadequate standard of living. These elements were part of the notions that precipitated the drafting of the CRPD and represent a motivation for preparing a specific instrument on the rights of older persons.
3. Despite the fact a person lives long enough, everyone can be facing different kind of disabilities; it could be a mild one such as loss of vision and hearing, or if it is a dramatic one related to other kind of conditions.
4. It can be easily noticed the justification of including the following elements in an international instrument for the promotion and protection of older persons: Employment, lifetime education, access to society, freedom of bodily and integrity, etc.
5. Likewise, the following elements require special attention.

Legal capacity: As we age much like as we become disable. Older persons have lost the opportunity to express their will while also their presence is limited; this is also related to social disabilities. For example, dementia, what used to be call senility, has triggered discrimination cases and lack of action when it comes to decision making.

Independent living as a core element: This group should have the possibility to choose to live with the community and decide where and with who they want to live.

HIGHLIGHTS ON THE WORK OF HARVARD LAW SCHOOL AND LIFELONG LEARNING

Harvard has envisaged professional and lifelong learning from senior law firm leaders to working professionals in the legal field to high school students interested in the law. The school believes in the importance of education about law and the various ways it intersects with and impacts our daily lives. Its programs offer the opportunity to simply explore how law shapes the world or to prepare for and excel in a career in law.



**HARVARD
LAW SCHOOL**





DID YOU KNOW?

Dr. Michael Ashley Stein participated in the negotiations of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Now that the UN is considering to move towards a similar Convention on the Human Rights of Older Persons, from his experience he considers that this new treaty can also empower this group.

You can learn here more about the Harvard Law School Project on Disability

<https://hpod.law.harvard.edu/>

Recommended book: Combating Isolation: The Idea of a Right to Belong, What Kim Samuel's New Book "On Belonging" Means for Persons with Disabilities and Older Persons

<https://hpod.law.harvard.edu/events/event/combating-isolation>



Focus: The role of technology for supporting the inclusion and protection of older persons



Mrs. Frances West
 Founder of FrancesWest&Co

Technologies affect how we live, work, play, and socialize. They came to stay, especially since the pandemic hit us 3 years ago and pushed us to find ways to be connected.

1. Leaving technologies unattended can cause barriers and even unintentional harms because of their speed inefficiencies; for example, the lack of inadequate tools adapted to blind persons or with low vision can be an obstacle for their use. Likewise, Artificial Intelligence (AI) potentially can create a harm; in some places it can be used to recruit people, and older persons can be excluded from its filters because their wisdom is not recognized for a job.

2. As we envision a world which includes a new marketplace, workplace, and homeplace, we need to consider the evident shift in a world with more older adults than young people, thus we need to switch our way of thinking on what technologies can do for us.

3. We don't usually build technologies for older persons. It is assumed that they don't use or like them, but they can be developed to cover all populations and coming across to all generations -"human first design"- . There is a huge opportunity to young, entrepreneurs, and start-ups to design first to older adults to bridge the existing marketplace.

4. A lot of technologies have been designed for health and care, but their innovation has a huge marketplace to invent, including through virtual reality and gamification to address leisure issues or topics as good opportunities to improve the quality of lives of older persons.

5. Technology innovators are beginning to work together with advocacy groups to better understand the user requirements and behaviors. This coordination across all industries, Technologies, financial surveys, and retails, among others, can be fruitful to innovate.

HIGHLIGHTS ON THE WORK OF FRANCES WEST&CO

The FrancesWest&Co team considers a new way of thinking that embraces a holistic ecosystem approach. They move away from a medically focused to a societally focused model that understands the changing life cycle needs of the individual and the necessity of building technology into strategic framework from the start. With the concurrent integration of policy, strategy and technology, people can uphold the promise of technology in a positive way and create the desired outcome of good health, wealth, and happiness for all, especially for people with disabilities or older persons.

The company promotes understanding of technology's impact and the business innovation opportunities associated with ageing and disabilities. It is working with global policy makers, NGOs, technology associations, academia, startups, and the investor community to create not only a broad base of awareness but a new way of thinking.





DID YOU KNOW?

16 years ago, Madame West was invited to speak on the topic of technology in the framework of the CRPD. Bearing in mind her experience, she has also been supporting with guidance on how to improve the lives of older persons.

REMEMBER

The development of an International Instrument on the rights of Older Persons can be a catalyst to accelerate this innovation wave and the momentum to consider this group as a marketplace.

TO BEAR IN MIND!

We can use a policy drive and growth initiative focused on older persons to uphold the promise of technologies in a very positive way and create the desired outcome of good health, wealth, and happiness for all people.

Here you can learn more about FrancesWest&Co:

<https://franceswest.co/>



Find here the video of the whole event!
<https://youtu.be/07jBPibHuHQ>



FIFTH EVENT

“UN in the field: Empowerment and alignment in the work to strengthen protection and participation of older persons”

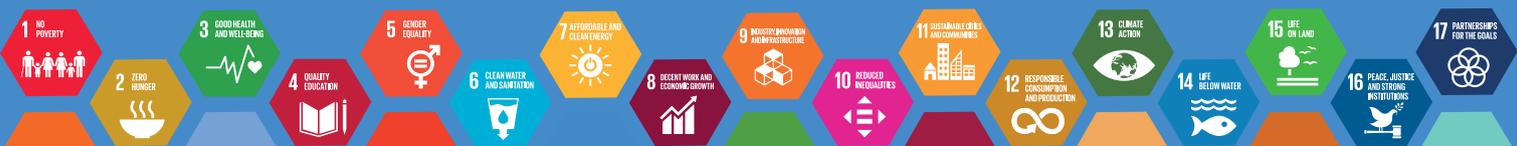
Background

Guided by the mandate of the UN, its entities have been working from a wide spectrum of their specific duties on crosscutting issues, including vulnerable groups.

Moving forward from theory to practice from the UN headquarters to action on the ground through its funds, programmes, specialized agencies, and other UN organizations has been one of the priorities of the System.

Among several efforts to strengthen the protection and participation of older persons, the UN Decade for Healthy Ageing has been one significant meeting points to share good practices and challenges among UN entities on different initiatives as well as to assess possible synergies.

In this regard, this space will be the opportunity to bring together the experience from UN entities in the field from different perspectives, including humanitarian efforts, to support the implementation of the commitments assumed by States related to older persons, as well as to different stakeholders working towards the same goal.



TAKEAWAYS

MAINSTREAMING KNOWLEDGE ON AGEING

Fifth event out five

“UN in the field: Empowerment and alignment in the work to strengthen the protection and participation of older persons”



6 December 2022



9:30 - 11:10 (NY time)
15:30 - 17:10 (CET)



This document has been prepared by the Division for People and Social Inclusion at UNITAR, Ms. Analucía Jácome, Senior Project Leader and Human Rights Expert, Mme. Beyzanur Alada, Project Assistant, and Mr. Israel Ledesma, Graphic Designer. We hope you enjoy it!

Moderator



Mr. Alex Mejía

Director, Division for People and Social Inclusion,
UNITAR

Welcome Remarks



Mr. Jonas Haertle

Chief, Office of the Executive Director, The United Nations Institute
for Training and Research,
UNITAR

“This series represented an opportunity to enhance capabilities towards a culture of learning.”

1. The Virtual Roundtable Series on Mainstreaming Knowledge on Ageing celebrated this year were an opportunity to better understand the current scenario on the protection and inclusion of older people as a basis for good practices and challenges, standards, policies, and strategies.

2. It has been a pleasure to learn from experiences at the local, regional, and national levels and the potential of some mechanisms and initiatives to protect and include this group.

3. The age, gender, geographic, sector balance, and diversity elements were considered while inviting distinguished speakers to enrich the discussions. Their inspiring experiences, and the participation of attendees from all over the world, represent motivation to continue collaborating on upcoming initiatives and overcoming these challenges.

4. Fostering cooperation is critical to achieving the commitments made under various international instruments. In this regard, UNITAR reiterates its gratitude for this significant partnership and look forward to continuing this collaboration.

HIGHLIGHTS

UNITAR is a United Nations autonomous body with the mission of developing the individual, institutional and organizational capacities of countries and other UN stakeholders through high quality learning solutions and related knowledge products and services to enhance decision-making and to support country-level action for overcoming global challenges. In this regard, the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing has triggered UNITAR's interest in approaching other UN entities, as well as States, academia, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector for organizing this Virtual Roundtable Series.



Speakers

*Focus: A life-cycle approach
“Addressing population ageing in Asia
and the Pacific Region”*



Mr. Rintaro Mori

Regional Adviser for Population Ageing and Sustainable Development in the Asia, and the Pacific Regional Office, at the UN Population Fund, UNFPA

***A life-cycle approach to ageing paves the way
for healthy, prosperous, and happy lives.***

1. Within the scope of the life cycle approach addressing population ageing in Asia and the Pacific Region, UNFPA classified the determinants of healthy ageing under five main domains: demographic (demographic characteristics); biological (physical characteristics, physical conditions, biological markers, other biological factors); behavioral (modifiable risk factors); psychological (psychological characteristics); and social (personal background, social engagement).

2. Most of the Asia-Pacific countries are ageing. In this regard, it is crucial to carry out work on population ageing issues together with developing policies and strategies at the governmental level. There are high-income countries with initiatives on ageing, such as South Korea, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, and Singapore; they have developed policies for supporting older persons while recognizing the importance of investing early in this regard.

3. In the life-cycle approach, the Fund focused on healthy ageing; for example, hypertension and diabetes are affected by lifestyle.

4. In the case of women, policies on health care, financial security, education, activeness, and happiness have a special impact on their lives; therefore, it should be envisaged to strengthen skills and knowledge about this thematic.

5. Regardless of the age, every woman should have access to rights-based family planning so that they can choose her lifelong pathway; they should be able to decide whether they want to have children or not, and when. They also need to be able to safely deliver their babies, by improving their long-term health as well as ensuring help for them without violence. They need to have access to equal opportunities for actively contributing to society and ageing with dignity.

HIGHLIGHTS

The global population is ageing at an unprecedented rate. Furthermore, while the twentieth century was largely an era of rapid ageing for richer countries, in the current century it is increasingly an experience for middle- and lower-income countries. Some of the most rapidly ageing territories in the world can be found in the Asia Pacific Region. Responding to some of the challenges of ageing, as well as mitigating such impacts, may be challenging in settings characterized by poor infrastructure, weak governance, high levels of informal labor and so on.

As part of its core commitment to empowering women and girls within a life cycle approach, in recent years, UNFPA has adopted a model which demonstrates the trajectories by which new-born babies and then girls move through their lives into adulthood and older age. This model shows the points at which decisions and interventions can be made to shape such trajectories.





CURIOUS FACT

China, South Korea, and Japan from Asia-Pacific Region are struggling with population ageing. While China has the highest number of older persons in the world, South Korea is the fastest ageing country and Japan is the most aged country in the world.

DID YOU KNOW?

By 2050, 25% of the whole population will be above the age of 60, most of them will be women. You can find here interesting information on the work of UNPFA:

Publication: Addressing Population Ageing in Asia and the Pacific Region: A Life-Cycle Approach.

<https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/publications/addressing-population-ageing-asia-and-pacific-region-life-cycle-approach>



Focus: The work of ESCWA on Ageing Issues in the Arab Region



Mrs. Sara Salman

Regional Advisor on Population Affairs,
UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,
ESCWA

It is important to consider what is required to provide adequate infrastructures to enable population to age with dignity.

1. In the Arab Region, young persons used to constitute around 34% of the population while older persons only 5%; this context was one of the reasons why governments were not keen to prioritize ageing amongst other competing priorities considering the necessary amount of money and efforts to focus on this group. The rhetoric in this region is changing because there is very fast-paced ageing transition, from 21 million in 2020 to 72 expected in 2050; therefore, governments and other partners are becoming more aware of the importance of this issue.

2. Income insecurity for older persons represent a significant concern, among other issues. According to a study prepared by ESCWA in 10 countries, the 70% of this group do not receive pensions; one of its causes is the large informal labor market that place a lot of people outside the contributory social protection platforms. The minimum contribution of women to the labor market makes them more vulnerable to receive future income and security.

3. Poor health coverage and access to health services for older persons are significant issues in this Region. Another crucial issue is high illiteracy. In some parts, there is more than 90% illiteracy among older persons. In addition, although culturally older persons are respected and honored, there is still discrimination and negative stereotypes because some people do not consider they active enough to contribute to society; therefore, although this group can receive sympathy, they are not necessarily considered as actors of change.

4. This scenario represents a challenge to ESCWA's work focused on build knowledge, build capacity and national dialogue as their pillars of intervention around the development of policies. Their support to member countries: Iraq, Syria, Sudan, Somalia, Egypt, Lebanon, and Jordan, has included the preparation of reports, briefs, and toolkits, as well as a regional dialogue through the MIPAA-ICPD-AFSD, Annual Parliamentary and Meetings, respectively, while building knowledge on older persons, developing strategies and action plans besides of long-term care economies.

5. Five years ago, agendas on ageing and older persons were almost non-existent; now, there is a shift because more countries and UN Agencies put on the agenda policies of older persons and strategies to ensure dignified and active ageing.

HIGHLIGHTS

ESCWA built capacities of governments and other actors by focusing on national and regional dialogues to develop policy frameworks on older persons and ageing issues. Within the scope of their work, the Commission builds knowledge to support member States for regional dialogues towards developing long-term care economies.





TO BEAR IN MIND

The Arab region has one of the fastest growing populations in the world, which has more than tripled over the past four decades. To date, the Arab region has been characterized by its youthful population; however, recent demographic shifts are resulting in a persisting youth bulge and a significant increase in the numbers and proportions of older persons, forcing Governments to address often competing priorities for their different age groups.

INTERESTING FACT

Population ageing, which is projected for the near future in most Arab countries, will happen at a much faster rate in the region compared to other regions.

Find here information on the work of ESCWA for Older Persons -Ageing with dignity in the Arab Region- from 2015 on.

<https://www.unescwa.org/seniors>

Find here ESCWA’s online aging toolkit:

<https://oat.unescwa.org/>



Focus: UNHCR Response on Ageing Issues in the Americas region



Mrs. Christina Sousa

Protection Associate-Community based protection,
UN High Commissioner for Refugees,
UNHCR

Displacement affects each individual differently, depending on a variety of factors. Through its age, gender, and diversity (AGD) policy, UNCTAD mainstreams its work considering those factors.

1. The 60% of displaced persons, -1 of 6 globally, are in America. This scenario has no similar precedents. Likewise, there are internally displaced persons; only in Colombia, the first half of this year there were reported 84,000.

2. UNHCR works with Help Age International on regional assessments to understand the impact of this situation to older persons, towards improving their approach with this group according to their needs.

3. They have focused on regional assessments conducted in 5 countries: El Salvador, Honduras, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, where the results have shown:

- 11% of the older persons in move are living alone.
- 58% have not receive humanitarian aid.
- 79% reported that they have informal jobs.
- 10% of them received social pension.

4. More than half of the older persons who live alone need daily support. In terms of humanitarian aid, this group is having difficulties to receive information in this regard. In some cases, they don't know the process to request asylum. During displacement situations, older persons face challenges with documentation requests. The lack of the necessary information can make them invisible to the respective authorities or public employees in charge of a given procedure in States; therefore, they cannot receive benefits that many people have.

5. In the Americas region, it is necessary to implement mechanisms for participation, consultation, and feedback for the design, planning and implementation of humanitarian responses, so that the voices of older persons in situations of human mobility are heard and their experiences and resilience are recognized as added value to these responses.

HIGHLIGHTS

The report “A Call for Dignity: Ageing on the move”, jointly produced by HelpAge and the UNHCR Americas Regional Office, highlights the need to strengthen communication mechanisms on access to their rights and the possibility of accessing international protection mechanisms, including asylum procedures, as well as challenges related to access to documentation, health, food, housing, livelihoods, as well as the lack of intersectorality in policies and response plans.

UNHCR will continue its work next year with the aim of replicating this process to create different cycles of training in a way that they can mainstream their response.





REMEMBER!

The situation is critical because people in displacement don't have the possibility to create real incomes due to the lack of documentation and information exacerbating the potential risks.

DID YOU KNOW?

7.1 million persons in displacement come from Venezuela and represent 80% of Latin America and the Caribbean. There are more than 7 million internally displaced persons from El Salvador, Honduras, and Colombia, and 7.1 million persons that have left Venezuela since 2015.

You can find the report “A Call for Dignity: Ageing on the move” by UNHCR and HelpAge here:

<https://ageingonthemove.org/>



Focus: The Role of UNHCR on Ageing Issues in Greece



Mrs. Aneta Ostasz
Protection Officer,
UNHCR

Meaningful engagement of displaced older persons, among other groups, in decision-making and policies that affect them should be a pillar of all humanitarian interventions.

1. Older persons often have specific needs in general, and may have different degrees of vulnerability depending on individual profiles. Displaced older persons are at a greater disadvantage as they may have lost their homes, savings, social networks, and need to rebuild their lives in a new environment.
2. Displaced older persons have the potential to continue to contribute to society in the host country in a meaningful way. While learning a new language may be a key barrier, many persons strive to integrate and contribute to the host society. Older persons may seek employment, but may face age discrimination, even in informal work.
3. Access to employment, pension, or social allowances is a priority for displaced older persons to meet their basic needs. Pensions in their country of origin are usually much lower and inaccessible following displacement, making survival difficult in the host country. Displaced persons often lose everything, and need to rebuild their lives from scratch which is even more difficult as health issues appear in old age.

HIGHLIGHTS

Within the UNHCR response in Greece, older persons were prioritized to access the accommodation for asylum seekers through a housing scheme that was then handed over to the State. In its annual participatory assessment, the team consulted with older persons, refugees with different profiles, using the age, gender, and diversity (AGD) approach, who shared their experience. In 2022, UNHCR only targeted older refugees to understand their experiences on displacement in Greece.

The UNHCR's supports the authorities in the refugee response by advocating for refugee access to rights and services and to consult with refugees on their priorities and recommendations within the framework of accountability to affected persons.

Face to gaps in access to social and other allowances for displaced older persons in Greece, the UNHCR developed a safety net to cover basic needs, but also support older persons to link them to integration where possible, and also include older persons in refugee outreach teams in community-based protection interventions.

Many older refugees in Greece are actively looking for work to survive and maintain their lives. The biggest challenges for even finding informal jobs are language and age. They face age discrimination when trying to find work thus misrepresenting their age, saying they're younger than they are to find even informal work to survive to meet their basic needs. Yet other challenges for older displaced persons in Greece are the long waiting times in the asylum procedures, lack of information on the social allowance available to them, or how to access them.



4. Older persons prefer to receive information in-person, while some nationalities are more digitally literate and stay updated through group chats or social media. Often older persons are not aware of their rights and available services in the host country. Targeted messaging and mediums of communication need to be developed for specific groups based on their preferences.

5. Displaced older persons may meet their basic needs, depending on the social and support network in the host country. Those who have previous family links in the host country, are more likely to access services and meet basic needs easily. Others are fully reliant on displaced friends, family members, and community-based organizations or NGOs for support. Targeted support to this group by the state or humanitarian actors is recommended.

6. Greece is a country with a high number of transits of displaced persons moving onwards to other European countries. There are over 50 different nationalities that have crossed through Greece and continue to transit through Greece.



TO BEAR IN MIND

Most older persons are heavily reliant on family, friends, community-based organizations, or non-governmental organizations to cover basic needs to receive food or not non-food items.

DID YOU KNOW?

There are older refugees in Greece trying to learn Greek while also learning to write in their own language for the first time. It has been seen that they are actively learning to be include in the society.

You can find here the Europe AGD 2021 report:

<https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/94181>



Focus: Ageing in Nigeria



Mrs. Adwoa Kufour-Owusa
Senior Human Rights Advisor in Nigeria,
OHCHR

Older persons are nations' assets, and as such we must always unleash their potential.

1. Nigeria has conflicts and crises in the north and across the country, as well as internal displacements different parts. The OHCHR team in this country has been supporting entrepreneurship activities of older persons; they harness their skills through sharing knowledge and highlighting their personal skills.

2. OHCHR has been working in particular with older women, by trying to engage them through their active contributions based on their history and experiences in peacebuilding and conflict resolution, not only as carriers of pre-conflict narratives.

3. The Office, in the context of displacement, monitors the Human Rights of older persons at a micro level but it is equally important to consider how displacement impacts this group.

4. The Government has established the National Senior Citizen Center to identify the needs of older persons and is also collaborating with the UN. The Office's team has been working with the National Senior Citizen Center to find out, especially in communities where there is no access to information on older persons and information on their needs, with the aim of identifying ways to support them and ensuring their rights are respected.

5. The Office considers that older persons are the best advocates of their own needs because they can claim and exercise their rights by their own.

HIGHLIGHTS

The ageing population of Nigeria will be increasing beyond 60 years old. In this regard, the OHCHR has developed a new cooperation framework to guide the work of the UN and the government of Nigeria.

From 2023 to 2027, significant components of that include the groups they have identified as being left behind, along with older persons. They have also been supporting the Nigerian government to strategically address some issues faced by older persons while focusing on their diversity.



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER





IMPORTANT FACT

Displacement among older persons in Nigeria is not only from conflict and insecurity but also from climate change and environmentally related matters.

DID YOU KNOW?

Nigeria had a series of flooding over the last 2 months where most of the southern parts of the country were flooded, and most of those affected, and whose needs were not reflected immediately in the response were older persons.



Find here the video of the whole event!:
<https://youtu.be/TDK4zhvyka8>



You can find all the videos of the series **HERE:**

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQR8YH-YtQS9wxqOw4udFejL5q5SMMowD>

Mainstreaming Knowledge on Ageing
UNITAR Division for People and Social Inclusion
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Decade of healthy ageing

*Thank you for joining us
in this learning experience!*



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