

KEY MESSAGES AND SAMPLE QUESTIONS

(prepared for the occasion of the High Level Political Forum 2018)

- We advocate for a person centered – Human Rights based – life-course approach – from cradle to grave. No one should be left behind.
- We welcome the linkage between the New Urban Agenda, Age Friendly Cities & Communities and the 2030 Agenda.

BASIC DATA

AGEING: (UNDESA 2017)

- There are 901 million older persons (over 60) globally, 12% of the world population
- Older persons are the fastest growing population group globally, reaching 22% by 2050.
- Currently, children represent 26% of the world population
- Older persons currently represent 12% of the world population.
By 2050, the percentage of children under 15 will drop to 21% - that of older persons will almost double, to 22%.

The majority of older persons are women

- 54 percent of those aged 60 and over are women
- 62 percent of those aged 80 and above are women

URBANISATION:

- In 2015, 58% of the world's people aged 60 and over lived in urban areas, up from 50% in 2000.
- Over half the ageing population, 289 million, lives in low- and middle-income countries, and is increasingly concentrated in urban areas.

CHALLENGES FACING OLDER PEOPLE

1. Older people experience complex forms of exclusion and marginalisation based on a range of intersecting inequalities that reinforce discriminations based on age, gender and disability.
2. Socially engrained ageism can be compounded by gender bias and discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, disability, marital and socio-economic status.
3. In urban environments these identities and characteristics interact with spatial and physical determinants such as housing type, accessibility, and air pollution, which can marginalise older people, prevent equal access to public services and constitute violation of their human rights.

Overcoming challenges

4. Risk factors of ageing can be ameliorated by policies and attitudes that support the contributions of older persons to civic life by enhancing their participation and recognising their roles as voters, workers, farmers, taxpayers, citizens, immigrants, caregivers and volunteers.
5. Older persons are actively involved in their communities and can be supported to promote the social cohesion of families and neighbourhoods.
6. Older women and men are breadwinners, employees, caregivers, and volunteers, bearers of historical memory who transmit wisdom, traditions and culture to future generations.

7/7/2018

7. Older women especially provide vital (unpaid) care and support for spouses, children, grandchildren and other, often older, relatives, especially those with disabilities and dementia.
8. Life course oriented public health and education policies for all can offset the cumulative impact of structural disadvantages that otherwise manifest as (preventable) health challenges facing millions of older people. These include vision and hearing problems, depression, and mental health issues (including Alzheimer's and other dementias) that increase social exclusion and chronic loneliness of older persons, negatively influencing overall public health.

DATA GAPS

Inadequate age- and gender-disaggregated data is a significant challenge to the implementation of all the SDGs, including Goal 11. The recently created Titchfield Group on ageing-related statistics and age-disaggregated data has an important role in addressing the need for data that reflect the diversity and inequality among older persons and the contexts in which they live. It is not acceptable that data on women, for example, often has an age cap of 49, and that data is often not collected, analysed or reported across the life course.

- The first task of the recently created Titchfield Group on ageing-related statistics and age-disaggregated data is the development of a conceptual framework to ensure that data and analysis are directed towards addressing the policy challenges associated with an ageing population. One such policy challenge must be addressing the rights and needs of increasing numbers of older urban residents. More data is needed on their situation to inform inclusive urban planning.
- In developing the conceptual framework for ageing-related statistics, the NSOs engaged with the Titchfield Group must take account of multiple dimensions of the lives of older persons, including environmental factors which have a significant impact on the enjoyment of rights and on wellbeing.

Question: *What are some practical ways to **address data gaps** that hinder suitable policy actions?*

i.e., Community mapping by older residents as part of Age-friendly cities. Slum Dwellers International has mapped many informal settlements providing for the first time, visibility of the residents.

SCALING UP

1. Principles of inclusion, accessibility, safety, resilience, transparency and sustainability together with attention to **rights violations** are central to **people-centred, human=rights based and life-course approaches** to development. These principles apply to policy planning for all citizens, irrespective of age, gender, race, religion, income level, disability, origin, or any other characteristics. Upholding them entails building and maintaining social and physical infrastructure and economic arrangements that enhance social interaction, including across generations, and respect and promotion of the rights of all persons to live in dignity from the cradle to the grave.
2. The Age-Friendly Cities movement, which today has over 600 members worldwide, was launched by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2007. It began as a practical application of the Active Ageing Policy Framework (WHO 2002) and has been reinforced as a strategic objective in the more recent Global Plan and Strategy on Health and Ageing (WHO 2017). The movement's aims are **to promote a society in which all citizens have equal opportunities** to health, participation and security **in order to enhance quality of life as people age**. It is based on the social determinants of health and the notion of health being created in the context of everyday life.
3. The same approach, which has a strong bottom-up participatory component, **can be applied to other contexts**, such as health care facilities, work environments and businesses.

OLDER PERSONS AND DISABILITY

More than 46 per cent of **older persons** – those aged 60 years and over—have **disabilities** and more than 250 million **older** people experience moderate to severe **disability**. ([UN DESA Ageing and Disabilities](#))

Older women tend to outlive men, (4+ years) and the number of older women with disabilities is greater, leaving older women at heightened risk of institutionalization which increases with age.

Older persons with disabilities face multiple barriers in exercising autonomy and independence.

Discriminatory practices expose older persons with disabilities to higher levels of violence, abuse and neglect.

Older persons with disabilities have the right to community-based support services; however there is a lack of appropriate support services and assistive technologies.

Leaving no one behind requires States to support a person-centered, human-rights based, life-course approach to ensure older persons full and effective participation and inclusion in society.

- Question: What are governments doing to promote the rights of older persons with disabilities?

END ELDER ABUSE - Investments in age- and gender-specific infrastructure, social protection programs and care services are required. We call for investments to end elder abuse, particularly gender based elder abuse, recognised by the World Health Organization as an important public health problem. Estimations by the WHO show that, during the last year, 1 in 6 people aged 60 and over experienced some form of abuse in community settings. In institutional settings these figures are even higher and both, in institutional and community settings expected to grow given population ageing. Make sure that the DHS, the common survey used by member states has no age cap.

- Question: What are governments doing to end elder abuse in both public and private spaces?

HUMAN RIGHTS - Leaving no one behind in the SDG's requires addressing the needs of older people and empowering them and engaging them in decisions that impact their lives. Older people are regularly subjected to ageism and need the protection of a UN Convention on the Human Rights of Older Persons to be treated fairly. In particular, women, indigenous people, racial and religious minorities, those with disabilities, widows, migrants and LGBTQ face double or triple stigmatization. A UN Convention would provide a strong legislative basis for ensuring the implementation of the SDGs for older persons and would lead to the full realization of their human rights and fundamental freedoms.

- Question: What are governments doing to advance the human rights of older persons? Some are doing quite a bit with laws specifically addressing older persons while most do not address this issue. Without a binding legal instrument, it is unlikely that this situation will change for many older persons.