



<http://ngocoa-ny.org/>

NGO Committee on Ageing-NY events

October 2019 – September 2020

10 October 2019 **Celebration of International Day of Older Persons**

Topic: **The Journey to Age Equality**

Welcome remarks: Dr. Cynthia Stuen, Chair of the NGO Committee on Ageing, New York
Ms. Maud Bruce-About, Chair, UNIDOP Programme Sub-Committee

General remarks: H.E. Ambassador Martin Garcia Moritán, Permanent Representative of
the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations
Ms. Nasly Isabel Bernal Prado, Permanent Mission of Chile to the United
Nations, Chair of the Group of Friends of Older Persons

Video message: Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations

Keynote speakers: Mr. Paul Ladd, Director, UN Research Institute for Social Development
Mr. Andrew Scott, Professor of Economics, London Business School

Panel Discussion: “Pathways of coping with existing and preventing future old age
inequalities”

Moderator: Dr. Jane Barratt, Secretary-General, International Federation on Ageing

Panelists: Mr. Vinicius Pinheiro, Special Representative to the United Nations and
Director, International Labour Organization (ILO)
Ms. Elizabeth Isele, Founder/CEO, Global Institute for Experienced
Entrepreneurship (GIEE)
Ms. Alana Officer, Senior Health Adviser of the Ageing and Life Course
Department, World Health Organization
Mr. Krishna Gautem, Director, Ageing Nepal

Closing remarks: H.E. Mr. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, President of the 74th session of the
General Assembly

The key messages were:

- population ageing is a global phenomenon; virtually every country in the world is experiencing growth in the size and proportion of older persons in the population.
- Between 2019 and 2050, the share of older persons aged 65 and above is projected to at least double in several regions.
- Throughout the world, survival beyond age 65 is improving. Globally, the number of persons aged 80 years and over is projected to triple, from 143 million in 2019 to 426 million in 2050.
- Population ageing does not lead inevitably to macroeconomic decline. To maximize the benefits and manage the risks associated with population ageing, governments should support continuing and lifelong education and health care for all; encourage savings behavior and healthy lifestyles throughout the life-course; promote employment among women, older persons and others traditionally excluded from the labor force, including through a gradual increase in the official retirement age; and support family-friendly policies to facilitate work-life balance and increased gender equality in both public and private life.

Video and report can be accessed on the NGOCOA-NY website:

<http://ngocoa-ny.org/events/international-day-of-older-/2019--international-day-of.html>

11 October 2019

The NGOCOA-NY co-sponsored a side event organized by the International Federation on Ageing – “End immunization inequality toward healthy ageing”.

7 November 2019

Topic: “Impact of social media and how to use it effectively to advocate for our cause”

Speakers: Mr. Amine Lamrabat, Social Affairs Officer, Division for Inclusive Social Development, UN/DESA, who spoke about social media at the UN and how we can take advantage to help us advance our goals.
Mr. Andre Hidalgo, AARP, who gave best tips and practices about opening and using a Twitter account.

9 December 2019

The program was organized in collaboration with the NGO Committee on Human Rights to celebrate the 71st Anniversary of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights)

Topic: Older persons and their human rights

Speakers: Dr. Cynthia Stuen, Chair, NGO Committee on Ageing-NY
Ms. Susan Somers, President, International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse
Ms. Amal Abou Rafeh, Chief, Programme on Ageing Unit, UN/DESA
Ms. Denise Hauser, Equality, Non-discrimination and Rule of Law Section, OHCHR

An update was given on the work being undertaken on the human rights of older persons, including the deliberations of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing, which meets annual to discuss the feasibility of an international legal instrument to protect the rights of older persons.

6 February 2020

TOPIC: Preparations for 2020 and role of NGOs at UN meetings

Speakers: Moderator, Ms. Frances Zainoeddin, Vice-Chair, NGO Committee on Ageing-NY
Ms. Amal Abou Rafeh, Chief, Programme on Ageing Unit, UN/DESA
Ms. Susan Somers, President, International Network for the Prevention of Elder

Abuse

Ms. Bette Levy, Soroptimist International
Ms. Erica Dhar, Director of Global Alliances, AARP International
Ms. Sandra Timmermann, International Federation on Ageing

The interactive event discussed the role of NGOs at the UN, the opportunities for participation at the many intergovernmental bodies that discuss ageing, rights of older persons, economic and social issues, sustainable development, gender, persons with disabilities, etc.

10-19 February 2020, Commission for Social Development

The NGOCOA-NY prepared talking points on homelessness for members who would be attending side events during the session, in order to advocate for the concerns of older persons.

The NGOCOA-NY co-sponsored side events organized by:

- (a) Soroptimist International on “Rise of Homelessness in Ageing Women”, 12 February 2020.
- (b) Waseda University, Tokyo on “Smart Home to Smart City in Super Ageing Japan and China”, 14 February 2020.
- (c) International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics on “Homelessness among Older Persons: Facts, Causes, Consequences”, 17 February 2020.

6-9 April 2020, Open-ended Working Group on Ageing

The eleventh session was postponed, because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The NGOCOA-NY co-sponsored a side event organized virtually by the Pass It On Network on “Lifelong Learning and Earning”, 7 April 2020.

7 May 2020

Topic: “Healthy Brains”.

Speakers: Dr. Jane Barratt, Secretary-General, International Federation on Ageing
Ms. Evelyn Greenberg, Representative to the United Nations, Association
Montesorri Internationale

This event was the first program organized by the NGOCOA virtually – thanks to IFA for hosting the event. Dr. Barratt discussed the prevention of dementia and the risk data, in the context of healthy ageing. Ms. Greenberg drew attention to the Montesorri approach to engaging older adults who are suffering from memory loss and sensory impairment, in order to keep people with dementia functioning at their optimal capability.

16 June 2020, World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

The NGOCOA-NY co-sponsored the event organized by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, a recording of which can be accessed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=azDF0Df0R08>.

Topic: The impact of COVID-19 on violence, abuse and neglect of older persons

Speakers: Ambassador Milenko Skoknic, Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations in New York, Chair of the Group of Friends of Older Persons, New York
Ambassador Robert Mueller, Deputy Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations, Geneva, Member of the Group of Friends of the Human Rights of Older Persons, Geneva
Ms. Claudia Mahler, Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons
Mr. Etienne Kryg, Director of the Department of Social Determinants of Health, WHO
Ms. Jillenne Gunther, AARP BankSafe
Ms. Kikelomo Lanionu Edwards, Dementia Care Society of Nigeria
Mr. Michael S. Mulvey, University of Ottawa

Moderators: Ms. Amal Abou Rafeh, Chief Program on Ageing Unit, United Nations/DESA
Ms. Monica Ferro, Director, UNFPA Geneva Office

The event drew attention to COVID-19’s spotlight on older persons, including distressing reports of instances of abuse and neglect in long-term care institutions and stigmatization through abusive language in both the conventional and social media. It was pointed out that much violence and abuse occur behind closed doors. There is also significant financial abuse, with little opportunity for older persons to call attention or have access to justice. Some financial institutions have become more aware of the problem and are beginning to pay more attention to unusual financial transactions in accounts of older persons. Social isolation has become a breeding ground for abuse, not only from scams but from families and other caregivers. In some parts of Africa and India, older women are accused of witchcraft, and older persons with dementia are treated with much cruelty, including being stoned to death. Many speakers

agreed that an international legally binding convention would help provide international standards and codification of specific rights of older persons.

7-16 July 2020, High Level-Political Forum (HLPF)

The NGOCOA-NY is a member of the Stakeholder Group on Ageing (SGA) which was established to address issues related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

On 7 July 2020, the SGA , together with the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities (SGPWD), organized a side event on “**SDG delivery for older persons and persons with disabilities post COVID-19**”, which exposed the inequalities, discrimination and ageism that older persons and persons with disabilities experience every day.

Moderator: Mr. Antonio Cisneros De Alencar, Senior Human Rights and Normative Advisor, United Nations Development Coordination Office

Speakers: Ms. Claudia Mahler, Independent expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons
Mr. Alex Kalache, President of the International Longevity Centre-Brazil
Mrs. Loveness Imaan, Trustee for MANEPO, Dean of Social Science at the Catholic University of Malawi, and leading Mwayi Foundation for the Elderly
Ms. Rosario Galarza, representing RIADIS and the International Disability Alliance, Peru

Respondents: Ms. Anna Cunniffe, First Secretary at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Government of Ireland and Irish Aid disability lead
Mr. Elham Youssefian, Inclusive Humanitarian Action and Disaster Risk Reduction Advisor, International Disability Alliance and SGPWD.

It was pointed out that the pandemic clearly exposed the inequities and discrimination that older persons, particularly those with disabilities, suffer each day. Lack of healthcare, insufficient food, inadequate information, isolation, stigmatization, exclusion, abandonment were all exacerbated by the COVID-19. All speakers stressed the need to respect the human rights of older persons and persons with disabilities. Older persons and persons with disabilities are not disposable. It is necessary for Governments to take a life-course approach and respect the dignity of all. The important role of civil society in advocating for the rights of older persons and persons with disabilities was also acknowledged.

11 September 2020

Topic: COVID-19 and impact on older persons and the road ahead for the NGOCOA-NY

Speakers: Dr. Cynthia Stuen, Chair, NGOCOA-NY
Ms. Amal Abou Rafeh, Chief Programme on Ageing Unit, UN/DESA
Ms. Martha Bial, Chair, UNIDOP
Ms. Bette Levy, Co-Chair, UNIDOP
Ms. Susan Somers, Executive Committee, NGOCOA-NY
Ms. Frances Zainoeddin, Vice-Chair, NGOCOA-NY

Attention was drawn to activities undertaken by the NGOCOA-NY over the past 12 months and upcoming activities for the year ahead were highlighted for NGO action. Ms. Abou Rafeh gave a briefing on the status of work with respect to ageing issues at the United Nations.

NGOCOA members were encouraged to attend meetings at the United Nations, to advocate for the conversion of global policy into actions at the national and local levels, and for the work of their own organizations to ensure that older persons enjoy a life of dignity.

* * * * *

NGO Committee on Ageing/NY Executive Committee (2019-2021)

Chair:	Dr. Cynthia Stuen
Vice Chair	Ms. Frances Zainoeddin
Treasurer	Ms. Katie Weiss
Recording Secretary	Ms. Sandra Timmermann
Corresponding Secretary	Ms. Maud Bruce-About
Members at Large	Ms. Erica Dhar, Ms. Ranjit Jayanti, Ms. Nelida Quintero, Mr. William Smith, Ms. Susan Somers

**Regular events of the NGO Committee on Ageing are usually held on the first Thursday of the month. Join us by checking our website and listing of events (<http://ngocoa-ny.org/>)
We welcome new members anytime!**

* * * * *