



**The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration of the International Day  
of Older Persons**

***Poverty Reduction Strategies with and for Older Persons:  
Regional Perspectives***

Presented by The UN/NGO Committee on Ageing,  
in collaboration with the UN Department of Public Information, the  
UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and the United  
Nations Population Fund

**Thursday, October 6, 2005**

**10:00 am to 1:00 pm**

**United Nations Headquarters  
New York**

# Poverty Reduction Strategies with and for Older Persons: Regional Perspectives

10:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.

Opening Remarks from **Ramu Damodaran**, Chief of the Civil Society Service in the Outreach Division of the United Nations Department of Public Information

Greeting Message from Secretary-General **Kofi Annan**

Greeting Message from **Florence Denmark**, Chairperson, NGO Committee on Ageing, UN NY

Greeting Message from **H.E. Mr. Jan Eliasson**, President of the sixtieth session of the United Nations General Assembly

## KEYNOTE SPEECH

Moderator: **Ramu Damodaran**

Keynote Speaker: **Jomo Kwame Sundaram** (Jomo K.S.) Assistant Secretary General for Economic Development, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Brief question and answer period

## PANEL DISCUSSION

### REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES ON POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGIES WITH AND FOR OLDER PERSONS

Moderator: **Donald Lee**, Chief, Poverty Eradication and Employment Section, Social Perspective on Development Branch, Division for Social Policy and Development, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Africa: **Prince Bengha Ngochia Martin**, Founder and President of the Regional Centre for the Welfare of Ageing Persons in Cameroon (RECEWAPEC)

Asia: **Win Win Kyi**, Associate Professor, Bergen Community College, New Jersey

Latin America: **Irma Loeban Tobing-Klein**, cofounder and executive of the MDG Global Watch NGO, Former Permanent Representative of the Republic of Suriname to the United Nations

Middle East: **Kamal Khaldi**, Director of the Distribution Center of Arab References, Sociologist, Social Worker

West and the Rest: **Dorothy Rosenberg**, Policy Advisor, MDGs and Civil Society, Poverty Group (MDG Focal Point), United Nations Development Programme

Brief Question and answer period

## CULTURAL EVENTS

### Prelude to program

“**Supercentenarians**”: a continuous loop of photographs from **Jerry Friedman’s** new book, Earth’s Elders: The Wisdom of the World’s Oldest People. The UN Bookstore hosted Mr. Friedman for a book signing in the afternoon following the program. These works are also scheduled to appear next spring as the art exhibit in the United Nations Visitors’ Lobby

Conclusion of program “**Jazzberry Jam**,” a musical delight featuring jazz great **Carline Ray**, accompanied by **Dotti Taylor**

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

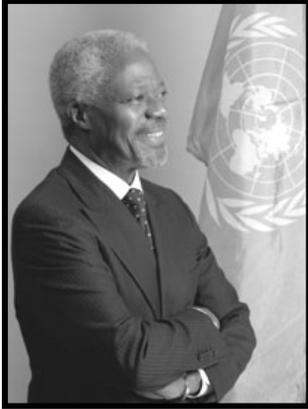
### **INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PERSONS, OCTOBER 6, 2005**

#### **Poverty Reduction Strategies with and for Older Persons: Regional Perspectives**

This year's 15th Annual United Nations International Day of Older Persons builds on significant United Nations targets that acknowledge the growing number of older persons as an increasingly important major group in society. The International Day will bring the vital issue of poverty reduction to the forefront of international dialogue on ageing. The mission of the International Day of Older Persons 2005 is to focus on policies and programs related to poverty reduction that include the participation and decision making of older persons, and realize similar objectives outlined in the 1995 World Conferences on Social Development and Beijing Conference on Women. These policies and programs would have a lasting impact on the lives of people of all ages.

Therefore, the goals of the 2005 UN International Day of Older Persons are to:

1. Emphasize that ageing is included in the first Millennium Development Goal that addresses poverty reduction.
2. Continue to raise awareness of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing 2002 with special attention to the Plan's priority focus on older persons and development, and the eradication of poverty
3. Identify critical ageing and poverty reduction initiatives that are being planned and implemented regionally in developing, transitional and developed countries.
4. Emphasize that older people are part of society and continue to be active participants and resources as part of the development process.



**Kofi Annan** is the seventh Secretary-General of the United Nations. The first Secretary-General to be elected from the ranks of United Nations staff, he began his first term on 1 January 1997. On 29 June 2001, acting on a recommendation by the Security Council, the General Assembly appointed him by acclamation to a second term of office, beginning on 1 January 2002 and ending on 31 December 2006.

Mr. Annan's priorities as Secretary-General have been to revitalize the United Nations through a comprehensive programme of reform; to strengthen the Organization's traditional work in the areas of development and the maintenance of international peace and security; to encourage and advocate human rights, the rule of law and the universal values of equality, tolerance and human dignity found in the United Nations Charter; and to restore public confidence in the Organization by reaching

out to new partners and, in his words, by "bringing the United Nations closer to the people".

The Secretary-General is fluent in English, French and several African languages. He is married to Nane Annan, of Sweden, a lawyer and artist who has a great interest in understanding the work of the United Nations in the field. Two issues of particular concern to her are HIV/AIDS and education for women. She has also written a book for children about the United Nations.

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### **SECRETARY-GENERAL, STRESSES NEED TO INTEGRATE GENDER, AGE PERSPECTIVES INTO POVERTY ERADICATION EFFORTS**

Following is UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan's message on the occasion of the International Day of Older Persons, observed on 1 October:

Women make up a clear majority of the world's older persons. The theme for this year's observance of the International Day of Older Persons, "Ageing in the New Millennium: Focus on poverty, older women and development", underscores the need to recognize the different impact of ageing on women and men, to ensure full equality between them, and to integrate both a gender perspective and an age perspective into legislation, policies, programmes and efforts to eradicate poverty.

At last month's World Summit, world leaders reaffirmed their determination to realize the development goals and objectives agreed in the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Development Goals. An important part of this effort will involve the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, by which Governments pledged not only to work for the security of older persons, but also to empower them, so that they can participate fully in the economic, political and social lives of their societies.

As the number of older persons increases over the next generation, more of the people living in poverty will be older than 60 years of age. But they will also be ever more involved in efforts to eradicate poverty. Older persons have already shown their commitment, their determination and their drive to meet this challenge. Too often, however, they and their potential contributions are overlooked. Yet we will not eradicate poverty, or achieve our other goals, without understanding how older persons -- and women in particular -- experience poverty, and unless we promote the active participation of older people in the design and implementation of appropriate programmes and activities.

On this International Day of Older Persons, I call upon Governments and all concerned actors to promote a society for people of all ages, to redouble efforts to implement the provisions of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, and to work towards changing attitudes, policies and practices so that, in the twenty-first century, the enormous potential of older persons may be fulfilled.



**Ramu Damodaran** is Chief of the Civil Society Service in the Outreach Division of the United Nations Department of Public Information. In this capacity, Mr. Damodaran oversees the Department's outreach to the public, including non-governmental organizations and educational institutions. He is also Editor-in-Chief of the Organization's flagship quarterly, UN Chronicle.

Mr. Damodaran's prior United Nations responsibilities include that of Senior Officer in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, Senior Focal Point Officer in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Political Affairs Officer in the Department for Special Political Questions, Regional Cooperation, Decolonization and Trusteeship. He was Secretary of the United Nations inter-agency mission that visited Kuwait in 1991 to assess damage to the country's infrastructure and

economy from its occupation by Iraq.

As a member of India's national diplomatic service, Mr. Damodaran served on the Indian delegation to the United Nations and was Chairman of the United Nations Council for Namibia Drafting Committee. He has worked in the Indian Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi and in the Indian Embassy in Moscow.

Mr. Damodaran has extensive work experience in media, including television, radio and print journalism, in India and is a recipient of the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union award for best radio feature.

Ramu Damodaran is a national of India.

For more information on the UN Chronicle, please visit: <http://www.un.org/chronicle>

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### **Welcoming Remarks**

Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning and welcome to the first DPI/NGO briefing of the fall 2005 season. I see many familiar faces, and for those whom I have not had the pleasure of meeting, I am Ramu Damodaran, Chief of the Civil Society Service, Outreach Division, Department of Public Information.

In addition to hosting this briefing it is also my pleasant duty to introduce today's keynote speaker, Jomo Kwame Sundaram, Assistant-Secretary-General for Economic Development, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, who has kindly taken time out of his busy schedule to be with us this morning.

I am also very pleased to announce that this briefing is being webcast live, thus enabling a wider, worldwide participation in this event. For future reference, the webcast will be archived on the DPI/NGO Section website at [www.un.org/dpi/ngosection](http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection). Depending on the availability of resources all of our weekly NGO Briefings from now on will be webcast live and archived on the website, similar to the archived proceedings of the 58th annual DPI/NGO Conference, entitled *Our Challenge: Voices for Peace, Partnerships and Renewal*, which concluded in New York almost a month ago.

Let me now move on to the focus of today's event: the International Day of Older Persons, which was officially observed last Saturday. As is customary, Secretary-General Kofi Annan issued a message on the day itself, and I will now read that message to you. (Mr. Damodaran reads Kofi Annan's statement.)

For this morning's briefing, the theme mirrors one of the main themes of the Secretary-General's message – the need to eradicate poverty among older persons. For this reason, our briefing this morning is titled, *"Poverty Reduction Strategies with and for Older Persons: Regional Perspectives"*.

The first of October has been observed by the United Nations as the International Day of Older Persons since 1990. This year's 15th Annual United Nations International Day of Older Persons builds on significant United Nations targets that acknowledge the growing number of older persons as an increasingly important major group in society.

The International Plan of Action on Ageing, adopted at the First World Assembly on Ageing in Vienna, has guided the course of thinking and action on ageing over the past 20 years. Subsequently, at the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen in 1995, the concept of a “society for all ages” emerged. Such a society would require generations to invest in one another and work together to ensure shared benefits. In 2002, the Second World Assembly on Ageing met and devised the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, a plan with a particular emphasis on older persons and development and the eradication of poverty.

There are four goals of the 2005 UN International Day of Older Persons:

1. To emphasize that ageing is included in the first Millennium Development Goal
2. To continue to raise awareness of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing 2002 with special attention to the Plan’s priority focus on older persons and development, and the eradication of poverty
3. To identify critical ageing and poverty reduction initiatives that are being planned and implemented regionally in developing, transitional and developed countries
4. To emphasize that older people are part of society and continue to be active participants and resources as part of the development process.

The ageing of people and of societies is very different in different areas of the world and with it the challenges that governments face when dealing with their aging populations. The statistics tell us that one out of every ten persons is now 60 years or above and by 2050, one out of every five persons will be over the age of 60. Over the last half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, 20 years have been added to the average life span. However, there exists a divide among older persons living in more and less developed regions. This discrepancy has resulted in the implementation of various regional strategies to reduce poverty among older persons in developing parts of the world.

This morning our guest speakers will offer their insights into how we may better understand the processes by which poverty eradication among older persons is possible. Panelists from around the world will discuss their experience in regards to the reduction of poverty in their particular regions.

This DPI/NGO Briefing will take place in two parts. I will moderate the Plenary Session, which will take us through until 11:00 a.m., and Mr. Donald Lee, Chief of the Poverty Eradication and Employment Section, Social Perspective on Development Branch in the Division for Social Policy and Development for the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, will moderate a Panel Discussion from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.



**Florence L. Denmark**, Chair, NGO Committee on Ageing, UN NY, has represented both the International Council of Psychologists and the American Psychological Association at the United Nations since January 2000. Ms. Denmark received her Ph.D. in Social Psychology from the University of Pennsylvania. She was the Robert Scott Pace Distinguished Professor and Chair of the psychology department at Pace University for 13 years. Prior to that time, Ms. Denmark was the Thomas Hunter Professor of Psychology at Hunter College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. She is currently the Robert Scott Pace Distinguished Research Professor at Pace University.

Dr. Denmark has served as President of the American Psychological Association (APA), the International Council of Psychologists, and other regional and national organizations. At this time, she is a liaison to the APA's Committee on Aging. An internationally recognized scholar, researcher and policy maker, with a particular expertise on the ageing of women, she is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association and has received many national and international awards and four honorary doctorates. Dr. Denmark has authored or edited 15 books and over 100 articles and book chapters. She has presented numerous papers and reports on ageing at local, regional, national, and international meetings. In 2004, Dr. Denmark received the American Psychological Foundation Gold Medal for Lifetime Achievement in the Public Interest. In 2005, she received the Ernest Hilgard Award for Distinguished Sustained Contribution to General Psychology.

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### **Welcoming Remarks**

Good morning. On behalf of the NGO Committee on Ageing, I'd like to welcome you to the 15<sup>th</sup> annual celebration of the International Day of Older Persons. It's wonderful to see all of you here.

In November 2002, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) formulated eight Millennium Development Goals. These goals address poverty, health and well-being, education, and environmental issues around the world. However, unfortunately, they do not specifically address ageing. Mr. Jan Voordemoortele, one of our keynote speakers in 2003 stated that if we don't include ageing in the Millennium Development Goals, then the Millennium Development Goals will fail to achieve their objectives. We must recognize that in the next 50 years, the number of older persons will nearly quadruple and older persons will play a crucial role in achieving the MDGs. Therefore, as the Economic Commission for Europe noted, "...older persons are among the poorest and most vulnerable group." Therefore, to highlight ageing and the MDG's, we have chosen the critical issue of ageing and poverty to focus on as the theme of this year's conference: "Poverty Reduction Strategies with and for Older Persons: Regional Perspectives." As our mission statement for this day notes, ageing should be included in the Millennium Development Goal that addresses poverty reduction. Other issues to be addressed today include, identifying critical ageing and poverty reduction initiatives that are being developed in transitional and developed countries as well as emphasizing the fact that older persons are part of society and continue to be active participants in the development process. As a psychologist, I am aware that the effects of poverty are not limited to only physical concerns, but affect people's emotional and mental health as well. We must mount a global war on poverty.

In keeping with today's theme, there will be a plenary moderated by Mr. Ramu Damodaran, the Chief of the Civil Society Service in the Outreach Division of the United Nations Department of Public Information. This plenary will feature a keynote speaker, Mr. Jomo Kwame Sundaram. Mr. Sundaram is the Assistant Secretary General for the Economic Department of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Following a brief question and answer period, a panel discussion will take place moderated by Mr. Donald Lee, the Chief of the Poverty Eradication and Employment Section, Social Perspective on Development Branch, Division for Social Policy and Development, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The regional panel consists of experts representing various regions of the world. Unfortunately, Mr. John Moses Sama was unable to get a visa and be here today. Instead, Price Bengha Ngochia Martin, Founder and President of the Regional Centre for the Welfare of Ageing Persons in Cameroon will speak. I believe we can look forward to a lively and productive discourse.

Following a second brief question and answer period, the day will close with a musical program by Jazzberry Jam, featuring Ms. Carline Ray and Ms. Dotti Taylor. As you walked in you saw the continuous loop of photographs of Supercentenarians, provided by Jerry Friedman. These are pictures of individuals 110 years old or older from throughout the world. There will also be a book signing in the afternoon following this program, by Jerry Friedman, the author of "Earth's Elders: The Wisdom of the World's Oldest People," which features these pictures and other Supercentenarians.

Today's International Day of Older Persons could not have occurred without the United Nations Department of Public Information, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and the UN Population Fund, who are co-sponsoring this day. The UN Population Fund gave us a generous grant to cover our expenses for the day. Many thanks are also due to this International Day of Older Persons Committee Chair, Patty Day and her committee. A listing of the IDOP committee and the executive committee of the NGO Committee on Ageing can be found in these proceedings. Please add Ivy Pierre's name to the IDOP committee; she was unfortunately, inadvertently omitted from the list. The committee members have worked very hard to organize the excellent program for today.

Once again, welcome to the United Nations, the fifteenth annual commemoration of the International Day of Older Persons, and the first briefing of the season of the Department of Public Information.



**H.E. Mr. Jan Eliasson**, President of the sixtieth session of the United Nations General Assembly

H.E. Mr. Jan Eliasson was elected President of the sixtieth session of the United Nations General Assembly on 13 June 2005. At the time, he was Sweden's Ambassador to the United States, a post he held from September 2000 until July 2005. On 27 March 2006 Mr. Eliasson was appointed Foreign Minister of Sweden.

A veteran in the fields of diplomacy and foreign relations, from 1994 to 2000 Mr. Eliasson served as State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, a key position in formulating and implementing Swedish foreign policy. Earlier, from 1988 to 1992, he was Sweden's Ambassador to the United Nations in New York.

During this period, he also served as the Secretary-General's Personal Representative on Iran/Iraq and was Chairman of the UN General Assembly's working group on emergency relief (1991), Vice President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) (1991 to 1992) and Chairman of the UN Trust Fund for South Africa (1988 to 1992).

In 1992, Mr. Eliasson was appointed as the first United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs. During his tenure, he was involved in operations in Somalia, Sudan, Mozambique and the Balkans and also undertook initiatives concerning landmines, conflict prevention and humanitarian action.

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#### **Remarks**

I am very glad to meet with you on this colorful and rich panel. I'm sorry I couldn't be with you earlier today but I will say just a few things, personal reflections. First there is a growing presence and the growing role of older persons in this world. You have identified the demographics – 1 out of 10 people is over 60 and in fifty years the numbers will grow. That's the projections if we don't run into a huge health crisis. Six hundred million people today, 2 billion people in 2050. It is a fact, that there is a growing presence of older persons.

Secondly, I would like to remind you of the Prime Minister with whom I worked. He said something which has remained with me for life. He said, "Any society should be judged by how it deals and helps the most vulnerable people in their society." It's a pretty good rule –to judge a society on how they deal with the most vulnerable. And if you look to older people in most areas of the world, you will see how vulnerable they are to poverty, diseases, and polluted water. And the words from this Prime Minister reminds us of the importance of the equal value of all human beings and solidarity among all the peoples of the world and solidarity within society. We can no longer divorce how we deal with our own people and what happens in the world. We will always have to work on equality within our own societies in order to develop a strong, sound international cooperation.

The third reflection I'll make is that it's absolutely crucial that we don't develop the syndrome where older people become a problem. To me, they are a fantastic potential, an enormous resource, and a great human potential that we must draw upon - to the good of older people and to the good of the rest of the world and to society, at home and abroad. And with progress on health and if we now fulfill the MDGs, with that progress of development and with that progress of medicine, we will have a very active older population with much to contribute. Older persons will be able to contribute in many sectors of society, not the least of which is education, and training, and not least in community services, and not least when it comes to the crucial issue of family cohesion.

So, I would like to say on a personal note that there is a lot of wisdom and experience that gathers through the years. Through the years you rest more into yourself, you don't care that much of what others are thinking, you know who you are, you know where you are, and you should be proud of that. It's a life of experience. We have, I suppose, only one time around, and it's our chance to build on those experiences, the good sides and the bad sides, the valleys and the mountains, that leave traces and you pick up wisdom on the course of this road. Leaning back and being proud of what you've done, looking at your children, looking at your friends, looking at your society, you realize you have much to contribute. I think we should

see this as a tremendous opportunity. I always like to say to the young people that in life you should have both a sense of wings and a sense of roots. Without roots you become rudderless, without roots you don't realize the strength that comes from your family from your friends from your village from your town, from your country. Without wings, you don't have a sense of discovery and adventure and searching your own path, finding your own ways. So I think no matter what age we have, we need the presence of both roots and wings.

The last point is just a little story. There was an American Ambassador in Stockholm. He was 78 years when he was appointed and he was very active, we had a hard time keeping track of him, he was traveling all over the country. He died a few years ago. When we celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, he said with great seriousness, "Now, my friends, I start the third 40-year period of my life." I later became UN Ambassador from 1988-1992 in New York and I came here and I called him and he lived outside New York in Connecticut. He was 90 years old at this point. I called him at 10 o'clock in the morning in his Manhattan office, hoping we could spontaneously have lunch that day. Of course, he said, "Let's have lunch at 11:30." "Eleven-thirty," I said, "Let's have lunch at one o'clock." He said, "I have eat lunch at 11:30 because I start my work in the office at 7 o'clock in the morning." I said, "Frank, you're getting older, you can't start work that early in the morning! What time do you go home?" He said, "I go home from work at 3 o'clock." "Finally," I said, "You're beginning to recognize that you have to slow down." Then he said, "I have to leave at three because I open my Connecticut office at five."

I want to tell you how happy I am to be with you. I feel a sense of vitality within this room that needs to be harnessed and I think the world needs it.



**Jomo Kwame Sundaram (Jomo K. S.)** has been Assistant Secretary General for Economic Development in the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) since January 2005. He was Professor in the Applied Economic Department, Faculty of Economics and Administration, University of Malaya until November 2004, and was on the Board of the United Nations Research Institute on Social Development (UNRISD), Geneva (2002-4). He is the Founder Chair of IDEAs, International Development Economics Associates ([www.ideaswebsite.org](http://www.ideaswebsite.org)).

Born in Penang, Malaysia, in 1952, Jomo studied at the Penang Free School, Royal Military College, Yale and Harvard. He has taught at Science University of Malaysia (USM, 1974), Harvard (1974-5), Yale (1977), National University of Malaysia (UKM, 1977-82), University of Malaya (since 1982), and Cornell (1993). He has also been a Visiting Fellow at Cambridge University and was a Visiting Senior Research Fellow the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore. He has authored over 35 monographs, edited over 50 books and translated 11 volumes besides writing many academic papers and articles for the media. He is on the editorial boards of several learned journals.

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### **Keynote Speech, International Day of Older Persons**

As you know, the World Summit took place a few weeks ago here in New York. One of the major outcomes of that Summit was the recommitment by all Governments to the outcomes of the UN summits and conferences. This included achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, for which governments pledged an additional 50 billion dollars a year by 2010 to fight poverty. The theme of today's event -- Poverty Reduction Strategies with and for Older Persons: Regional Perspectives -- is most timely.

Today, more than 10 percent of those living on less than a dollar a day are over sixty years of age. Eighty percent of older persons in developing countries have no regular source of income. In the UK, two million older persons receiving public pensions live below the national poverty line. While the proportion of older persons in developed countries is continuing to rise, in developing countries, the proportion of older persons is set to quadruple by 2050 at a more rapid pace. The percentage of older persons living in poverty will therefore also continue to rise unless a different approach to older persons and their poverty is taken.

Indeed, paragraph 45 of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, states that, "The struggle against poverty among older persons, aiming towards its eradication, is a fundamental aim of the International Plan of Action on Ageing," and calls for the integration of older persons in policies and programmes to reach poverty reduction targets. This might sound like a straightforward recommendation, but for two major issues that DESA and its partners have been focusing on since the Second World Assembly on Ageing in 2002.

The first is the scarcity of age disaggregated data in developing countries that would provide the basis for poverty analysis among older persons and facilitate the establishment of meaningful indicators for poverty reduction plans. Good data and analysis would also provide the hard evidence needed to bring more attention to poverty among older persons.

The second issue is that, even today, three years after the adoption of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, people still tend to see older persons as welfare recipients and, therefore, non-contributing members of society. Again, most people continue to assume that families still "take care of their old people" without acknowledging that many trends have significantly impacted the nature, role and capacity of families to carry on these functions without supportive policies and programmes.

The reality for older persons is that major economic, cultural and social changes have changed the situation of many older persons in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. For example, in many countries, older persons have traditionally led extended families. This ensured a role for older persons as contributors to and leaders of families in terms of their work, experience and wisdom. But

greater life expectancies or longevity allow people to live well beyond their most productive years, irreversibly changing family relations and, inevitably, social dynamics.

Today, the effects of greater unemployment among younger family members and their migration to find work have also had negative impacts on the intergenerational support mechanisms of their families. It is not unusual now to find older people living alone in the rural areas or dying towns of developing countries – something unheard of, not too long ago. And here, we also have to acknowledge the effects of emerging new global values and norms on traditional cultures. In addition to changes in the physical location of family members, there have sometimes also been negative impacts on the way family members view their rights and obligations to one another.

In addition to changing family structures, other social characteristics seem to exacerbate the negative effects of poverty in old age, including gender, marital status, property (including land) rights, family, community and social networks, access to entitlements such as health services, and increasingly most importantly, public provision of social protection for the elderly.

The generally lower incomes and greater family contributions of younger women leave less for savings and self-provision in later life. Women generally work less outside the home and, even when they do, have fewer rights and entitlements associated with formal employment. Hence, they have far fewer means to provide for themselves when less able to earn incomes.

In some countries, widows are still not able to inherit property from their deceased spouse, putting them at risk of poverty if they are not financially cared for by their male children. And yet, very few policies and programmes for the empowerment of women have provided for older women. At the moment, however, older women, and even men, largely remain “invisible” to policy makers and development agencies.

The devastating effects of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa, cannot be overstated, but one should not forget the victims of a range of other tropical diseases such as malaria which have largely been ignored by medical and pharmaceutical research.

Over 60 per cent of orphans in Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe are living in grandparent-headed households, with over 50 per cent in Botswana, Malawi and Tanzania. More often than not, grandparents are not receiving any financial assistance to support themselves, let alone their orphaned grandchildren. Support for grandparents in their role as caregivers actually translates into support for their grandchildren in these new family environments. This is an example of how thinking about the new nature and context of poverty, the family and ageing are urgently required to address new challenges.

A socially integrated approach to policies and programmes reinforces the linkages between generations that make for a more enabling and stable society. Social protection should be developed on a universal, rather than on a targeted basis, because entitlements only for the poor are very likely to become poor entitlements as they lack the necessary political support for their sustainability.

In line with the commitments made in the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, a major tool for achieving a reduction in poverty among older persons is to promote their inclusion or mainstreaming into development plans and policies at both national and international levels. However, our work in DESA over the last two years in providing assistance to Member States in implementing the Madrid Plan of Action at the national level makes it clear that there is a long way to go in getting both Governments and other development partners to accept this approach.

We know that the majority of older persons can and do want to contribute to society and to development. They want to participate in policy processes and programmes that affect their lives. We see this in many examples of NGO organized self-help groups of older persons -- in Kenya, making mats and baskets to sell in local markets, in Kyrgyzstan, making jam, hats and clothes.

It is not difficult to see that given a small amount of help and advice, older persons from diverse cultures are quite capable of providing for themselves and contributing to their families. For instance, another self help group in Kyrgyzstan has established a sewing workshop to “solve the problems of the village” such as poverty, unemployment and poor nutrition among older persons. The group also opened public telephone boxes for the use of the whole village.

Such examples are, of course, not just limited to income generating activities. It is well known, but rarely acknowledged, that older persons provide a good deal of unpaid labour, especially at the household and community levels. For instance, in the Netherlands, a third of volunteers are over age 55. In France, 40 per cent of volunteers are older persons. Age Concern estimates the monetary value of volunteer work by older persons in the UK at around 24 billion pounds.

Another widespread research finding worth mentioning is that almost without exception, the major portion of money that older persons either earn or receive in the form of small social pensions, goes to support other family members. So a clear message is that investing in older persons is not a waste of resources better directed at the young. These resources support whole family structures which provide critical support to the young. This has been clearly demonstrated in countries like South Africa that provides a non-contributory social pension to all its older persons.

The Division for Social Policy and Development within DESA has provided capacity-building services and training to the Governments of Egypt, Kyrgyzstan, Kenya and Senegal to assist them to mainstream older persons into their sectoral policies and programmes and wider development processes such as national poverty reduction strategies. This programme is set to expand beginning next year on a sub-regional basis.

In addition, the Division for Social Policy and Development held a regional meeting in Tanzania in 2004 that brought together officials from national Finance and Social Development ministries to discuss integrating ageing issues into World Bank-led Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRSs). Not long after that meeting, Tanzania became the first Government to include ageing as a cross-cutting issue in its revised PRS Paper issued this year.

Governments, especially finance ministries, must be encouraged and persuaded to develop and fund truly inclusive social policies, reversing the trend in recent decades to roll back the role and responsibility of the state, especially in the realm of social policy. And official development assistance or aid must directly provide budget support, and not be limited to high profile show projects often favored by donors.

Clearly, thinking on ageing issues has, at times, seemed slow, but change is coming about, and civil society advocacy efforts by people like your selves can only help. We must find new ways and means to move ageing issues forward with the cooperation of new partners and stakeholders.



**Donald Lee** is Chief of the Poverty Eradication and Employment Section of the Division for Social Policy and Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Mr. Lee is an economist and received his PhD and Msc. in Economics from University College London, University of London. His work in the Division for Social Policy and Development is primarily related to the follow-up to the World Summit on Social Development, the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty and the Millennium Declaration, with specific responsibilities for poverty eradication and employment issues. He is a member of the Coordinating Committee for the International Year of Microcredit, 2005.

Prior to taking up this position, he was Acting Chief of the Finance, Industry and Trade Unit in the Division for Sustainable Development.

Before his move to United Nations Headquarters in New York, he served as an economist with the United Nations regional commission for Asia and the Pacific, where he dealt with macroeconomic issues. He also served with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Bangkok, Thailand, where the focus of his work was on foreign direct investment, including investment promotion.

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### **Introduction of the Panelists**

The topic of the panel to day is *Poverty Reduction Strategies with and for Older Persons: Regional Perspectives*. There three things in this topic which are very important. (1) Clearly we want to have poverty reduction strategies which take into account older persons. (2) But we also want those poverty reduction strategies to involve older persons because they are best placed to inform policy-makers just what they themselves need. Without the participation of older persons within the decision-making process the most desirable outcomes will not emerge. (3) And the third aspect which is key in this topic is the regional perspectives. There is no “one size that fits all” model. There are different problems and different issues in different parts of the world, with different rates of aging, and different socioeconomic stages development. You really need to have an insight into how each of the various regions are coping with older persons, creating employment for older persons, and integrating older persons more closely into economic and social development.



**Prince Bengha Ngochia Martin** is a traditional ruler residing in Mejang, Cameroon. He has extensive expertise in ageing issues affecting his country. The Prince is the Founder and President of the Regional Centre for the Welfare of Ageing Persons in Cameroon (RECEWAPEC), established in 1990, and Sub-Section President of C.P.D.M., in Mejang. He is also the HelpAge International affiliate contact person in Cameroon for RECEWAPEC as well as Mejang's Special Civil Statute Registrar.

In 1999, he attended the 54th United Nations General Assembly session on ageing as a member of the Cameroon Government's delegation. He contributed to the 2001 preparations in Africa for the 2nd World Assembly on Ageing, organized by Africa Unity/HelpAge International in Uganda, and attended the World Assembly in Madrid in 2002. He has been a participant in HelpAge's Regional Workshops in Zimbabwe (2000), Sudan (2001), Ethiopia (2002), and Ghana (2004). He also took part in a HelpAge sponsored Regional Nutrition Assessment organized in partnership with Cameroon's Ministry of Public Health. He is also the recipient of HelpAge International certificates for Advocacy on Ageing Issues (2001) and for Training in Ageing Issues (2004). Prince Martin's home is in Village Belo Subdivision in Mejang.

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### **AGEING AND POVERTY IN THE AFRICA REGION**

In a society where ethnical, cultural values are upheld by the ageing population, and whose view of the real world is nothing more than their physical experiences, it becomes more of national and international responsibility to adopt strategies limiting the experience that seems to resist reduction in terms of behavior. In this region and in Cameroon in particular, poverty is in constant compromise with old age. Disadvantaged old persons are the poorest citizens. The living conditions of the elderly are characterized by the extreme state of poverty in which they live and which is transmitted to subsequent generations. Affected by situations of social exclusion, they lack the opportunity to participate in developmental activities. They have extremely limited access to essential health care. With their expertise and skills, they have extremely limited access to social, financial and contemporary educational services, thereby enduring housing that fails to meet minimum conditions of dignity. These situations affect the changing attitudes about the way older people are viewed in this region - useless, worthless, spent-forces, ugly and evil. As such the elderly persons become victims of abandonment and relegation by their younger offspring and relations. Those who contribute immensely to the society, in which they live, are now looked upon as disease. The abuse that older people in this region are suffering at the hands of those people and communities they toiled and suffered for is unimaginable.

#### **ISSUES CONTRIBUTING TO POVERTY AMONG OLDER PERSONS: THE RIGHTS OF THE OLD PEOPLE**

In Africa region, and Cameroon in particular, elderly persons are not accorded their absolute rights as human beings -as per Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and right. They are endorsed with reason and conscience, and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood". Article 2 of the same declaration says: "Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedom set forth in this declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or any other status, furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of political, jurisdictional or international status of the country, or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, on-self governing or other limitations of sovereignty".

In Africa and particularly Cameroon my country, when people become old, they are relegated to some status, which is sub-human, not deserving required care and attention. Previously, it was children and young people who rightfully rendered assistance and care for their elder relatives. In recent times, with the advent of modernism, with the failure of society to recognize and address their rights and needs, with the changing attitude about the way older people are viewed, even children and young people are forced to abandon elderly persons in search of earning a living. Old people now become less involved in developmental social activities. I make reference to Article 6 of the U.N Declaration on the right to developed states, very clearly as follows:

“All human rights and fundamental freedoms are indivisible and interdependent: equal attention and urgent consideration should be given to implementation, promotion and protection of the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. States should take steps to eliminate obstacles to development resulting from failure to observe civil and political rights, as well as economic, social and cultural rights”.

### **GENDER AND AGEING**

Poverty among older people in the African region is increased by the indirect expression of gender bias, such as cultural intellectual virtues that are typically manly or culturally masculine. The elderly women have no protection in order to defend their rights. They have less access to education, culture, and leisure. They have less participation in decision-making processes. They live a more solitary life, limited to the task of caring for members of their families, even at an advanced age, thus constituting the sole source of care provision in situations of illness or disability in most of the world countries.

### **HIV/AIDS**

Practically, ageing is becoming synonymous with deteriorating health. In Africa and particularly in Cameroon where I come from, the AIDS epidemic affects the ageing population more and more. The burden that older people have in caring for the sick, in the case of HIV positive carriers, makes them in risk of easily being infected by the disease because they lack the education and awareness.

### **POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGIES (Which have been used) PARTICIPATION INCENTIVES**

NGOs with the assistance of HELPAGE International have encouraged elderly people to look upon themselves as active members of the society by currently creating social branches with and for the elderly to promote awareness on Ageing Issues. In Africa and in Cameroon in particular, the expertise of the elderly can be shared with younger generations, thus allowing them to act as the link between the past and the present. They therefore constitute a key resource for giving continuity to cultural values and for preserving the diversity of cultural identities. In Cameroon, NGO's are creating clubs of Older Persons with plans to set up a canteen, a dispensary and recreational halls or centers in each of the branches.

### **SELF EMPLOYMENT**

In a bid to implement awareness of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing 2002 with special attention to the plan's priority focus on older persons and development, and the eradication of poverty, NGO's in the Africa region and Cameroon in particular, with the much assistance of HELPAGE International have adopted strategies enabling old people to becoming self-employed. In Cameroon, NGO's distributed to the elderly people, pigs for piggery, mushroom spores for mushroom cultivation, beehives for bee farming –in a bid for self-sustainability of themselves and their clubs or groups.

### **ENHANCING GENDER AWARENESS**

In Africa and particularly in Cameroon, NGOs are currently informing and educating elderly gatherings of both sexes on the approach to social life, philosophy and ethics that commit itself to correcting biases leading to the subordination of women, or the disparagement of women's particular experience. One of the reasons being their differences in approach to practical reasoning, NGO's promote awareness in the essential nature of men and women. The consequences of broken families and diseases have led to the existence of thousands of grandmothers in the African region acting as careers and surrogate mothers.

### **POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGIES WITH AND FOR OLD PEOPLE**

In developing countries and countries with economic instability, most people are now old, and whose work are engaged in the informal economy, which often deprives them of the adequate working conditions and social protection provided by the formal sector economy.

The life expectancy in many developed countries and countries with economies in transition exceeds the established retirement or pension age. In these countries, moreover, fewer persons are entering the labour market because of the decrease on the birth rate; this trend is often accompanied by age discrimination. Labour shortages are likely to occur resulting from the decline in the pool of young persons entering the labour market, the ageing work force and tendency towards retirement. In this context, policies to extend employability such as flexible retirement, new network arrangements, adaptive work environments and vocational rehabilitation for older persons with disabilities, are essential and allow older persons to combine paid employment with other activities.

In the less developed or under developed countries in Africa, the situation is even worst because most old persons live from hand to mouth activities. A good number survive rarely from the poor health conditions they find themselves in. Even their families and communities stand helpless to their conditions. The same old persons who cared for their family members maintained productive activities in their community are as rejected.

The social and economic contribution of the older persons reaches beyond their economic activities. They often play crucial roles in families and in their community. They make many valuable contributions that are not measures in economic terms: care for the family, productive subsistence work, household maintenance and voluntary activities in the community. Moreover, these roles contribute to the preparation of the future labour force. All these contributions, including those made through unpaid work in all sectors by persons of all ages, particularly women, should be recognized.

Participation in social, economic, cultural, sporting, recreational and volunteer activities also contribute to the growth and maintenance of personal well-being. Organizations of older persons are important means of enabling participation through advocacy and promotion of muted generation interactions.

### **THE WORK AND AGE LABOUR FORCE**

Older people should be enabled to continue with income-generating work for as long as they want and able to do so productively. Unemployment, underemployment and labour market rigidities often prevent this, thus restricting opportunities for individuals and depriving society of their energies and skills. There is a need to increase awareness in the work place of the benefits of maintaining an ageing work force.

### **RECOMMENDATION FOR ACTION BY GOVERNMENT AND CIVIL SOCIETY**

#### **PARTICIPATION OF OLD PEOPLE IN DECISION-MAKING**

The concerns and needs of older persons should be taken into account in decision making at all levels. If they do not already exist, the establishment of organizations of older persons at all levels should be encouraged and represent old people in decision-making. Measures should also be taken to enable full and equal participation of older people, in particular older women, in decision making at all levels.

#### **SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PRECOGNITION OF OLDER PERSONS**

- Governments should ensure full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by promoting the implementation of human rights conventions and other human rights instruments.
- Governments should also consider and encourage the contribution of older persons, to families, communities and the economy.
- The productive capacities of older persons should be promoted as well as the awareness of their worth, including their self awareness in the labour market.
- The civic, cultural and potential participation of old people should be encouraged and promoted to combat social isolation and support empowerment.
- Governments should involve older persons in decision-making and should accept as one of their basic responsibilities, that they guarantee old people access to public health services permitting the appropriate prevention, diagnosis, rehabilitation and treatment.
- Governments should make policies that protect the integral rights of elderly persons. Such as the rights to be catered by their offspring.

- Governments should support and encourage NGO's that are working with and for elderly persons materially, financially and otherwise. Government should make more policies in favor of old persons.
- International NGO's, donors; organizations, local NGO's, diplomatic representatives and embassies should include ageing issues into their assisting programmes.
- Governments and the civil society should acknowledge the ability of older people to make a contribution to social development. Such acknowledgement should be based on respect for the diversity of cultures, ethnic roots and life experiences of older men and women.
- NGO's should combine their qualification, mobility and an increase in their influence on social policies.
- The associations of older people have to adapt to a changing environment and so must define plural and supportive action plans, with proposals expressing their commitment with different generations and the learning shared between elderly people from around the world; they also have to inter-relate with other social movements and organizations with a view to reinforce transversal approach to ageing.
- Finally, policies like the liberalization of trade should be encouraged and maintained. As such, incentives for manufacturing enterprises will help expand employment opportunities for semi-skilled and unskilled labor (especially old women) leading to greater poverty reduction.



**Win Win Kyi** is an Associate Professor at Bergen Community College, New Jersey and a Summer Teaching Faculty at Yale University, Connecticut. She has been in the field of lower and higher education for over three decades. Ms. Win Kyi has demonstrated expertise in international communications through a substantial record of publications, media appearances, formal and information presentations and successful liaisons and negotiations with international academic, business, cultural and political leaders.

For nearly two decades, she has been an active volunteer sharing her experiences with the senior citizens with programs such as Reading for Pleasure and Leisure, Plays from Around the World, Moments in History and International Short Stories. Some of the

recognitions that she has received are Women of Peace, Powerful Women and Powerful Voices, Asian/Pacific Women Fellowship, Mid-Career Fellowship at Princeton University, Ambassador of Peace and Ambassador of Hope. She grew up as a child of a UN official. Her philosophy in life is love people, use things. Not use people and love things.

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### Remarks

The world today stands witness to a fast changing demography, particularly in the developing countries of Asia. This demographic transition has evolved from a “mature society” to that of an “ageing one”. Thus, economic, social, mental and health status of the fast-growing elderly of Asia poses unprecedented challenges to many sectors and factors of the region. One of the greatest challenges of this century is to improve the quality and quantity of life of all ages from the “sunrise to sunset” years. That is, if “it takes a village to raise a child”, it will take a “global village” of stature, status and commitment to care for the elderly of Asia and beyond.

The Asia-Pacific region contains about 62% of the world’s total population. This region also includes the world’s two most populous nations namely China and India. It is projected that by 2020, this region will have the highest concentration of the world’s elderly as well. Thus, the nations in this region must explore and examine multifaceted solutions to the problems encountered and experienced by the elderly. “The graying of Asia” is not a postulated theory but this century’s reality.

Most human history has centered on the three “pillars of socializing institutions” namely family, place of worship and school. However, due to the depth and breath of challenges, these “pillars” must be expanded into seven such as the family, place of worship, school, community, institutions, government and non-governmental organizations to care for the “long-living citizens”. These “pillars” would be in accordance with the Vienna International Plan of Action on the Ageing which clearly states that “The ageing should be active participants in the formulation and implementation including those especially affecting them”. This aspiring statement is empowering for the elderly as they become more involved participants in agendas and programs that affect them. They benefit more as they become their own voice and advocates of an improved and meaningful life.

In most of Asia, the responsibility and care of the elderly have historically rested with the families, and the government’s role has been, in most cases, that of passive assistance. However, there are emerging signs of stress and strain due to the replacement of traditional joint family by the nuclear one, one child policy, two-career families, migration of younger family members in search of work, the rising cost of living, erosion of human values and the increasing dominance of individuality. This is the emerging trend although an average of 73.8% of elders surveyed in China, Indonesia, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, and Thailand lived with the family. The surveys were done in 1980’s and 1990’s. The family support and governmental policy must merge such as in Malaysia where a tax break is available for the care of the elders. When many nations provide tax deductions for the care of minor children, should they not provide equal deduction for the care of the elders? Many of the elders especially the women have less income potential while living longer than men.

Another “pillar” of support has been places of worship such as the church, synagogue, mosque, temple etc. In addition to regular worship, these corridors of spirituality must involve older adults inter- generationally and find ways to empower and encourage them to use their skills, talents, knowledge, experience and expertise. The diversity of learning from and with each other is profound and possible. Imagine a weekly dialogue sessions discussing current events and progresses.

The third “pillar” is re-directing education from kindergarten to college to embrace and enhance the elders through interaction, theory and practice. The school becomes the breeding and common ground for all generations to learn with and from each other. A highly successful program in the United States of America is called the Institute for Learning in Retirement. It is affiliated with Elderhostel, established to meet the needs and interests of adults over 55 years who share a love of learning. Asian schools and campuses of higher education would benefit much from such an institute. Asian college and university campuses must become more inclusive in creating and promoting cross-generational courses and pursuit of study.

The fourth “pillar” is the ever important component and connection of community. In some developing countries, older persons attract love, respect and reverence because of their knowledge, wisdom, profoundness and patience. Therefore, it is crucial that the community has projects and programs which address to the needs of the elders such as volunteers to help them with their daily needs such as reading, shopping, grooming, cooking, etc. Additionally, the elders need mental, intellectual, cultural and recreational programs which are meaningful and informative.

The fifth “pillar” is to create institutions which exist for the welfare and well being of the elders. For instance, in China, there is a Ministry of Gender. Won't it be a grand feat to have a Ministry of the Elders in all countries of Asia? A proposed Ministry of the Elders will deal with the challenges and opportunities of the elders as they engage in profiting and rewarding work whether it is paid or volunteer. It is often false to assume that the elders are well off and well taken care off by either the family or government. Many elders suffer not only from lack of preventive medicine but “defensive” medicine too. Additionally, they not only need medicine for their bodies but counseling and “talk-therapy” as many of them may be living with their family, but they are often isolated due to lack of mobility and hearing.

The sixth “pillar” is no other than the government for the elders as they have contributed to the nation in various capacities. They are the founding “fathers and mothers” who have not always been dutifully recognized. Lack of this acknowledgement has led to Singapore's government establishment of the Maintenance of Parents Act, which makes it difficult for children to abandon improvident parents. Some might say that such laws are alienating and divisive to the core and nature of a family. On the other hand, such a law is necessary to protect the elders in their time of need. Furthermore, the Asian governments must provide financial security and medical care for all elders who are often living in poverty and distress. It is time to channel money for the arms into the arms of the elders. Governments must provide a national policy on ageing, providing social security benefits, mandating industry to provide retirement benefits, provisions for health and mental care, housing and welfare services.

The fast growing and promising seventh “pillar” is that of the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). The role and importance of the NGOs in providing care for the elderly are expanding because they are flexible and accountable in their operations. They function as watchdogs in monitoring the governmental and institutional use of resources, manpower and funds. They identify gaps and fill them with workable and working programs. Thailand is a nation with strong NGOs which have contributed much to the care of the elders from feeding programs for the elders to that of dispensing timely and affordable medication. Additionally, other services include care for the terminally ill, community-watch and special medical counseling.

As one closely examines this century's reality with the growing elderly population, one must realize the challenges but also opportunities to work towards making the “sunset” days shine with the “sunrise” aspirations. The elders of the East will benefit greatly from some of the established programs from the West such the Social Security System, Medicaid, Senior discounts, and extended retirement.. Someone once stated that” the East and West , never the twain shall meet”. I am not in total agreement with it as I have seen the merging of the two to benefit the elders of East from the tested programs of the West.



**Irma Loemban Tobing – Klein** is Co-founder and Executive Team Leader of MDG Global Watch. She has followed an employment track that started in 1958, with Suriname's Ministry of Justice, where she headed two divisions for the legal protection of children, also served as barrister and eventually became Chief of the Legal Department (1981). From 1982 to 1988 she served as a Chief of the Department of Juridical Affairs and Treaties of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Her diplomatic career started in September 1988, with her appointment as Counselor (Deputy Ambassador) at the Embassy of the Republic of Suriname in the Netherlands, followed by her first assignment as Minister Plenipotentiary in June 1994, where she headed the Permanent Mission of Suriname to the United Nations.

In 2001, she became Ambassador at large and served until 15 January 2003 as Permanent Representative of the Republic of Suriname to the United Nations; from September 2003 – September 2004, she served as advisor social, humanitarian and cultural affairs in the Cabinet of the President of the 58th Session of the General Assembly. Since August 2003, she has been advisor to the Minister responsible for Gender Affairs in Suriname on issues relating to the membership of Suriname to the Commission on the Status of Women. In December 2001, she received the "Woman Who Make a Difference Award" from the UN NGO CSW, N.Y.; in August 2005, in the Netherlands, the prestigious "Jagernath Lachmon, Kwkoe Award;" and just recently the (3rd of September 2005) the "Kankantrie Award."

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### **Remarks**

What do we older persons need most to enable us to live our lives in dignity, peace and harmony with our environment? RESPECT and once more, respect. Total acceptance, acknowledgment, that a Society for All Ages must include Older Persons, the mid olds, the old olds, the older olds, the oldest olds, older women, as well as older men. We need therefore concrete provisions and measures adapted to the real needs, the specific situation of Older Persons, in regard to amongst others education, information technology, housing, health, nutrition, employment, security etc. We need implementation of commitments and implementation of promises made by responsible world leaders all around the Globe at so many Summits and Conferences on the basis of the five precious principles of older persons of 16 December 1991 and also the leading principles of 1999, the International Year of Older Persons:

#### Independence, Participation, Care, Self-Fulfilment, and Dignity

We have to hold our Governments accountable; we older persons, the entire civil society has the utmost duty to urge and at the same time to assist our Governments in realizing, implementing the Millennium Development Goals. Even if those Goals do not mention older persons specifically, their existence can not be denied, they can not be left out, because they, we older persons are an integral part of Society and we too have the right to exist in dignity

The 2002 Madrid Declaration and Plan of Action reminds us in various articles of:

- The rights of older persons to a descent life, their right to development
- The recognition that persons, as they age, should enjoy a life of fulfilment, health, security and active participation in the economic, social, cultural and political life of their societies
- The recognition of the dignity of older persons and elimination of all forms of neglect, abuse and violence
- The necessity to eliminate the institutional biases in social protection systems towards women, and to realize special social protection measures to address feminization of poverty, in particular among older women

- The reality, that Older persons with disabilities are also at greater risk of poverty than the non- disabled older persons partly because of workplace discrimination
- The sad reality, that older persons in many countries still tend to be excluded from poverty eradication targets, policies and programmes.

At the Caribbean Sub regional Review of WSSD+5/the Status of the Older Persons on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September 1999, organized by the ECLAC on the theme: “*The Critical Concerns of Ageing Persons in the Caribbean*”, I had the privilege to deliver the feature speech.

On that occasion I mentioned the ongoing demographic revolution, which urges us to acknowledge:

- That people are living longer
- That older persons are playing a vital role in the development of the world
- That older persons do belong to the most vulnerable groups and are the first victims of the increasing poverty in our societies
- That concrete actions should be taken to eliminate the myths that: (1) Older people are all the same; (2) Men and women age the same way; (3) Older people are frail; (4) Older people have nothing to contribute; and (5) Older people are an economic burden on society

The Final Declaration of the World NGO Conference from 5-9 April 2002 in Madrid concluded, that: “older persons suffer from critical situations of poverty and social exclusion and do not enjoy appropriate living conditions

#### Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean Region

The ageing population in the 20 Latin America and 14 Caribbean Countries is growing with 2.8 % a year (globally 2.1 %) Life expectancy in LAC countries: for women 72, men 65; by 2050 we will have the situation: men 77 and women 84. The Region has approximately 45 million older people, 44 % of whom are living below the poverty line, below the subsistence level. This situation affects in particular women, unskilled workers, small scale farmers and the disabled. The Caribbean has one of the oldest senior citizens populations in the developing world; in some countries in the Caribbean older persons constitute more than 10% of the population.

Information from UNFPA, Help Age International, and Global Action on Ageing shows us that at present many countries have adopted special policies on ageing and older persons and have established national councils on ageing or a national advisory board on population ageing (as is the case in Suriname) Important in this regard is the “Regional Strategy plan for implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (outcome of the LAC Conference in Chile 19-21 November 2003). It is still a reality that many persons across the Caribbean age into poverty. A lecture “poverty and its alleviation in the Caribbean by Professor Dr. Compton Bourne, President of the Caribbean Development Bank on last march 4, shows us, that Caribbean Countries are also typically inadequate providers of post-retirements incomes, as a consequence of which a substantial proportion of older persons are poor.

In Latin America and the Caribbean areas only one in three people of 60 years and older are covered by a pension, most older persons without pension are women. In many Caribbean Countries formal Government pension systems were created in the 60s and 70s. Some Latin American Countries are introducing the so called “system of individual retirement savings plans”, private pension plans to replace State run plans, whereby workers pay a fixed amount into a savings account with a private institution, which administers the funds until the holders reach retirement age). Examples of this reform can be found in Costa Rica (1998-2000), Dominican Republic 2003 – 2006), Nicaragua (2005), Ecuador (2004) (This system seems to work against women – especially women in rural areas, with a higher level of unemployment, lower income, they live longer)

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), which reports on “Economic participation of Older Persons”, concludes that “a negative image predominates in some LAC societies, which associates old age with passivity, illness, a burden, social breakdown”, whereas many older people in Latin America and the Caribbean would like to continue working or pursuing projects that would enable them to generate income or to remain active or to seek personal fulfilment. Unfortunately discrimination in

the workplace (the view that older people are non productive), prevents them from overcoming poverty and marginalisation.

#### Family and Social support // Gender

According to the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) and a survey on health and ageing in the Region, 40 -65 percent of older persons in LAC live with their children; Only 5 -16 % of older persons live completely alone. In the Caribbean women bear the major responsibility for the care of children and the sick. Some 80,000 orphans of HIV/AIDS received care from Older Women, their grandmothers. Since women in general live longer than men, older women are dependent on their family members for care and support, so that the conclusion is correct, that poverty is gendered in old age in LAC Countries.

Some examples of special programs to improve the situation of older persons:

Dominica: promotion of job creation // a social safety net

St Lucia: private sector involvement in poverty reduction strategies

Antigua and Barbuda: social security act, financial assistance to older persons below poverty line

Belize: national policy for older persons and non contributory pension for women over 65

Jamaica: special drug program for older persons (covering medication for diabetes, hypertension, etc.)

St. Kitts: non-contributory Social Security pension system

Suriname: General Older Persons Act; every senior citizen in Suriname of 60 and older, has a fixed older persons pension, besides the contributory pension system of the Government and the private sector.

The Platform on older Persons organisations, the Older Persons Solidarity Fund, the Foundation of Older Civil Servants, are promoting projects for older persons.

Help Age International is promoting Social Pensions as part of a package of social protection measures in the LAC Countries (s.a. Grenada, St Lucia, Peru, St. Vincent and the Grenadines). The "Social Pension" system is already known in some 15 Countries around the World, the Pan American Health Organization and the Merx Institute of Ageing and Health (MIAH), has promoted a six point Action plan in January 2004, consisting of a framework to protect the rights of older persons in long term services in each community.

The Millennium Development Goals are also most important for older people. Help Age International is therefore promoting as a sound human rights development agenda for equitable development for all, development interventions to achieve the MDGs, which :

- Acknowledge older women and men as effective agents of change and contributors to the aims and aspirations of the Millennium Development Goals
- Ensure that poverty analysis is disaggregated by gender and age as well as ethnicity and disability
- Make gender equality a reality for woman and men of all ages and throughout the life cycle, through lifelong education and employment right for women
- Ensure an equitable and rights-based approach to HIV-Aids which gives the over -50s equal access to testing, counselling and treatment and alleviates the burden of care on women of all ages
- Encompass the principles of equity, participation, intergovernmental development and effective aid
- Incorporate social protection measures, including social pensions into poverty education strategies.

MDG Global Watch the global non for profit organisation in which I have the privilege to serve, together with many dear brothers and sisters also here present has the right slogan: MAKING IT HAPPEN

I count on all of you that you will be with us, with MDG Global Watch to achieve the MDGs.



**Dr. Kamal Khaldi** is Director of the Distribution Center of Arab References in McLean, Virginia. He is a sociologist and social worker and has undertaken several studies focusing on modern socio-cultural changes in the Middle East and the concept of an Israeli-Palestinian Bi-National State. Prior to his current position, Dr. Khaldi was affiliated with the General Union of Palestinian Writers and Journalists Syrian Chapter, from 1987 to 1995, as a social worker and as Chapter Chairman in Damascus.

From 1980 to 1987, he was a Social Researcher with the General Union of Palestinian Writers in Syria. He also served as Deputy Director General, Social Sector, for the development of the Euphrates Basin in Rakka, Syria from 1972 to 1980, and was a Lecturer in Social Work at the High Institute of Social Work at Damascus University between 1966 and 1972. Dr. Khaldi holds degrees in sociology from Damascus University and in social work

from the High Institute of Social Work in Cairo, Egypt.

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### Remarks

Poverty is spread where there are the worst housing, nutrition and health situations in the Middle East in all categories of age, but especially among the older persons. The number of poor families is growing continuously. A comprehensive strategy to eradicate poverty from the life of the society is essential. Thus, hard efforts are needed to treat the whole problem of reducing poverty from young age to old age.

Owing to the reality that most populations of the region are living in the rural areas, and scattered villages as well as in the underdeveloped and slum spots of the cities, the population is living in low economic levels with insufficient services. The older persons are enduring the worst conditions, which impact their health. Besides, there is a very minimum coverage of social security protection dealing with the basic medical care and human services.

Taking into consideration that most of the labor force is self employed, and working in the rural areas, therefore,, most of the people are unprotected by social security, public or private, without any opportunity for job training or job creation. The social problems resulting from the movement of great numbers of the rural population into the cities leads to an unskilled labor force in the urban areas which create slum spots in the cities and demand more social and economic services.

In addition, there is roughly 10 - 15 % of the population, who are older persons and who are unemployed. They will need to have financial support. Nuclear families do not take on the responsibilities of providing support for their parents. It is known that older persons could sue their children in court to oblige their children to support them. Such claims are widely accepted in the legal system in most countries of The Middle East.

Those complicated situations are taking place when there is a lack of an insurance system to meet the vital needs of the older persons, such as providing and disability care. In addition, discrimination against older women affects their poverty level. In the foreseeable future, the reduction of poverty requires short term and long term plans to alleviate it.

Practical steps might be necessary to face the problem, which could be as follows:

- 1- The issues of the older persons will get worse, unless social security agencies exist and take the responsibility of securing the needs of older persons. Thus, a long term financing program must be established to provide a fund, which might have the goal of development process among the older persons.
- 2- It is difficult to image that such a system will exist in the near future. It is recommended to provide an emergency relief programmed to face the most urgent needs in cooperation with the governments of the region, and to decide a transitional approach to solve the most urgent sides of the problem in the short term.

- 3- It is advisable, at the same time, to obtain data through statistical information covering the situations of older persons and their needs, and establish a comprehensive program for the social welfare of older persons.
- 4- According to the statistical survey of all age categories, an estimate cost could be the basis to define the required assistance for older persons. Most of the governments of the Middle East region have limited sources to finance such programs. Consequently, aid from international bodies are needed to finance such programs
- 5- It is the time to identify the poverty reduction initiatives and programs that are being planned and implemented in the developed countries. It is the time to consider all people as a part of society, so, the older persons; the poor in particular, have to take active part in the development process.
- 6- According to this view, more governmental organizations for older persons are needed to represent them in the efforts of poverty reduction. The target of the work of these organizations is to build an independent system able to undertake social security of the older persons, including their health care and the basic requirements of living through a continuous and a stable process. This should begin with persons while they are young.
- 7- Governmental organizations should consider it a social responsibility to support older persons, which is a right of older persons. At this point, the work for the older persons becomes a concept built on a basis of practical realities.
- 8- Ageing organizations should be established in every country in the region. These units might be established in both cities and rural centers to form an organizational network concerning older persons' affairs, including the target of poverty reduction in urban and rural areas of each country.
- 9- On the regional level, it is necessary to establish a geographical structure of all the countries' organizations on aging and form a regional board interested in the affairs of older persons. They should exchange their experience in poverty reduction.
- 10- On the international level, it is important to establish an older persons' fund, similar to other UN funds.

The above main points of poverty reduction among the older persons, have viewed the strategy as a part of the development process. Those points have to be discussed in detail, as far as there are local factors among each country. Through discussions and exchange of views and experiences of those who have initiatives in the developed countries, a comparative program might be formed. The aim of these discussions is to achieve a comprehensive program of poverty reduction with and for older persons in The Middle East Region.

Photo not available



**Dorothy Rosenberg** is the Policy Advisor for MDGs and Civil Society in the Poverty Reduction Group of the Bureau of Development Policy, United Nations Development Program. From 2001 to 2004, she was the Senior Poverty Reduction Advisor, Poverty Group, BDP/UNDP, Regional Center for Europe and the CIS, Bratislava, Slovakia, following her activities as a Fulbright Exchange Professor and Senior Researcher, Russian Academy of Sciences, Institute for International Economic and Political Studies, Moscow, Russian Federation.

Her areas of expertise include: Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union; gender and social policy (education, health care, family, labor market, pension, social welfare systems) in pre- and post-transition economies; poverty data and analysis; and ethnicity and conflict. With over 25 years of professional experience, she is the recipient of multiple grants for research in Central and Eastern Europe. Her professional travel from 1980 to the present has included Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, former German Democratic Republic, Georgia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovak Republic, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, and the former Yugoslavia.

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### **The West and the Rest: Poverty Reduction Strategies with and for Older Persons in Europe and the CIS**

Prior to transition, all countries in the region had comprehensive health, education and labor-based social insurance systems, supplemented by social protection schemes, which consisted mostly of in-kind benefits and privileges such as reduced rent and utility payments, reduced or free public transportation for the elderly and disabled, free or very inexpensive medications and medical devices, etc. Guaranteed employment ensured virtually universal coverage for working age adults and their dependents and near universal pension coverage. While most of these countries had moderate standards of living, all had low or very low levels of poverty, low levels of relative poverty (with a an estimated high of 10-12 % in Central Asia) and very low levels or absence of absolute poverty.

Since transition in 1989 in Central Europe and 1991 in the former Soviet Union, the situation has changed dramatically. The region has seen a rapid and significant increase in poverty, as well as the appearance of absolute poverty, usually in post-conflict areas, but not limited to them and in both urban and rural areas. The region has also seen rapid and extreme increases in inequality in the countries former Soviet Union, with significant, if less radical changes in equity in Central and Eastern Europe.

The reason for these changes has been a negative cycle in which the collapse of the economy has led to the collapse of the social protection system, which in turn reinforced the negative spiral of economic decline with massive job losses due to disappearing domestic, as well as foreign demand for goods and services. Systems of guaranteed employment and labor-based social insurance either ended or were radically cut as enterprises were privatized. At the same time, dwindling tax revenues led to full or partial privatization of pension systems, health insurance and education. In addition to outright unemployment or hidden unemployment in the form of wage arrears, the value of real wages was sharply reduced by inflation.

While most countries in the region are characterized by the “working poor”, i.e. individuals engaged in economic activity but unable to earn sufficient income to stay out of poverty, those most likely to be poor are the elderly, the young, the disabled and those who have care responsibilities for them, including households with more than one member in any of these categories. Those most likely to be poor are the single elderly or orphans. Those most likely to be old and poor are women, although the smaller number of single elderly men is often the least capable of coping. Societies fall back on family and inter-generational redistribution in time of difficulty, meaning that those without family or a multi-generational household find themselves least able to cope with adversity in the absence of public support.

#### The Role of pension benefits, subsidies and privileges

Even where benefits are inadequate to support a single pensioner, income transfers to older members of households in the form of a stable small cash income constitute a major contribution to a family budget. Subsidized rent and utilities privileges reduce pressures on the family budget, as well as payment arrears to

public utilities and housing authorities, while free transportation privileges allow older household members to take on an important role in the family. These payments contribute to improving the welfare of all household members through intra-household transfers such as the payment of school fees and other vital cash payments in largely in-kind economies.

While there are numerous experiments currently under way with non-contributory “social pensions” and cash transfers, experience thus far has shown that state-backed systems are far more effective. Private and employer-backed schemes tend to be unstable, while micro-credit schemes may contribute to improving incomes, but are insufficient to lift their participants out of poverty.

In a prevailing situation of oversupply of labor, age discrimination becomes very intense. Throughout the region, those of 45 who lose employment are most likely to become the long-term unemployed or shift to the informal economy where they work without any form of social protection, minimum wage or maximum hours regulation or even the assurance that they will receive payment for their work. There has also been a division into the “young old” or those who are still able to participate in the subsistence or informal economy, frequently under very difficult conditions and low return, and the “old old” who are able at best to take on a larger share of household and child care work to free younger women for wage or field work.

#### Poverty Reduction Strategies

Poverty reduction strategies must be designed to address the factor outlined above, if they are to have any chance of succeeding. Strategies must be based on a comprehensive poverty analysis using and mapping data disaggregated by gender, age, urban/rural residency, geographical location and, if possible and relevant, ethnic minority status. In conditions of mass unemployment, job creation for the able bodied is unlikely to be sufficient, as market-based wages will not rise to a level capable of supporting dependents. Comprehensive and universal social protection for all members of society, introduced in a step-by-step fashion categorically targeted to the most vulnerable social groups in tandem with job creation and reviving economic growth is the only way to ensure stable recovery and social inclusion. “Social safety nets” which offer only exception, temporary help do not address the root causes of poverty and exclusion and are insufficient to alleviate the effects.

It is a fundamental error to view pension and social protection payments as pure expenditure. In fact, cash pension benefits to the elderly as well as other forms of social transfers tend to recycle directly into domestic economic demand for locally produced goods and services. As such they tend to stabilize the local economy, providing counter-cyclical support to small businesses, which is in turn recaptured through taxation. As bi-lateral donors and multi-lateral development organization expand and systematize their practical and analytical work in this area, we can expect to see more and better evidence of both the economic and social utility of comprehensive, universal social protection.

## “Supercentenarians”

**Jerry Friedman** is one of the leading professional photographers in the world of television and print advertising. Soon after opening his own studio on lower Fifth Avenue in 1972, he became one of the nation’s top still photographers, working with such high-profile and innovative advertising agencies as Young and Rubicam, Ogilvy & Mather, J.Walter Thompson, Della Femina, and Saatchi & Saatchi New York. In the early 1980s, Mr. Friedman became a television director and opened Paradise Films in New York City. He produced highly lauded commercials for numerous brands, from Amex to Huggies and Hanes. In addition, he wrote and directed the short film “The Waiter,” for which he received the silver award from the International Film Festival held in New York.

In December 2000, he conceived of a project that became the focus and passion of his life: to photograph the world’s oldest people, traveling across the United States and to remote and far-flung regions of the world to capture the images and life stories of this “hidden minority.” That remarkable journey – and the people he met along the way – is profiled in *Earth’s Elders: The Wisdom of the Oldest People on Earth*, scheduled for publication in October. The project had such a great impact on Mr. Friedman that he founded the Earth’s Elders Foundation to stimulate people’s thinking about the realities of being an older person in this country. Earth’s Elders Foundation owns all rights to the author’s work on the supercentenarian project, and all “author proceeds” from *Earth Elders* will be donated to the Foundation.

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### **Earth Elders: The Wisdom of the World’s Oldest People**

by Jerry Friedman

With essays by Dr. Robert Coles, Dr. M. Joycelyn Elders, Lama Surya Das, and Arvol Looking Horse,



Earth’s Elders is an unprecedented look at the hearts, minds, and spirits of fifty of our planet’s “supercentenarians”—those who have lived to be 110 years old and older. From the steppes of Mongolia to Manchester-by-the-Sea in Massachusetts, Jerry Friedman encountered members of the “hidden tribe” of supercentenarians—ordinary people who have achieved extraordinary ages. In his remarkable portraits, Friedman celebrates their lives, illuminating the rarely glimpsed worlds of men and women who have lived in three different centuries. Their rich and colorful stories touch the heart, and provide us with intriguing clues into the mysteries of longevity.

Contributing personal reflections to this book are four of today’s most distinguished thinkers: Dr. Robert Coles, professor of psychiatry at Harvard, researcher, and Pulitzer Prize-winning author; Dr. M. Joycelyn Elders, former Surgeon General of the United States and committed advocate for health care and education; Chief Arvol Looking Horse, spiritual leader of the Lakota, Dakota, and Nakota Nation and 19<sup>th</sup> Generation Keeper of the Sacred White Buffalo Calf Pipe; and Lama Surya Das, colleague of the Dalai Lama, best-selling author, and the most highly trained American lama of the Tibetan tradition of Buddhism.

## *“Jazzberry Jam”*



**Carline Ray** is a native of New York, a singer, bass player, and teacher. She is a graduate of the Juilliard School of Music with a BS in composition and the Manhattan School of Music with a MM in voice. She received her early musical training from her father, also a Juilliard graduate. Carline’s professional experience covers more than 60 years in the classics, jazz, latin, calypso, and blues. As a bass player she has played with the Duke Ellington Orchestra and with big bands led by names like Skitch Henderson and Peter Duchin. Some of the small groups she performed with were led by Mary Lou Williams, Marian McPartland, and Benny Powell, to name but a few. She has traveled extensively in Brazil, Europe, and the Far East, doing concerts, festivals, State Department tours, etc.

As a singer, she has been a concert chorister with such groups as the Schola Cantorum, Camarata Singers, and the American Opera Society. In the recording studios she has sung back-up for such favorites as Patti Page, Brook Benton, Della Reese, Bobby Darin, and the McGuire Sisters. As an educator, she has taught at Medgar Evers, Hunter, William Patterson and New School University. Carline has been honored with several awards for her contributions to jazz and received two grants from the NEA. Her most recent honor was an award received as one of the original members of JAZZBERRY JAM at the Mary Lou Williams Jazz Festival at the Kennedy Performing Arts Center in Washington.

**Dotti Anita Taylor**, a pianist, flutist, producer, composer and arranger, who has written over 150 compositions, will accompany Carline. Dotti is the recipient of several NEFA Meet the Composer grants and has been honored for her contributions to the world of jazz. She studied at the Caputo Conservatory of Musical Arts and at the Juilliard School of Music. She received a BA in math and an MA in Music from Queens College, and is retired from a thirty-year career as a math teacher in NYC. She is actively performing with various groups and has her own quartet as well as a seven-piece women’s ensemble, Moment of Truth. Dottie is currently president of International Women of Jazz. She can be reached at [DATNOTES@aol.com](mailto:DATNOTES@aol.com)

**NGO Committee on Ageing, New York**

**Elected Officers and Members-at-Large**

Chairperson:	Florence Denmark, American Psychological Association, International Council of Psychologists
Vice-Chairperson:	Jessica Frank International, AARP
Recording Secretary:	Patricia Day, League of Women Voters
Corresponding Secretary:	Anne O'Sullivan, RSVP International
Immediate Past Chair:	Helen Hamlin, International Federation on Ageing
Treasurer:	Peter Walker, Society for the Psychological Study of Issues
Members-at-Large:	James Collins, International Association of Gerontology Dianne Davis, International Council for Caring Communities Vernie Ellis, Iota Phi Lambda Society Judy Lear, Gray Panthers William Smith, International Association of Homes and Services for the Ageing

**International Day of Older Persons Committee, 2005**

**Chair:** Patricia Day

**Members:**

Ruth Begun	Annie Levy
Pat Brownell	Mary Mayer
Jim Collins	Elizabeth Nolasco
Mary Covington	Suzanne Paul
Diane Davis	Ivy Pierre
Florence Denmark	Nancy Ross
Vernie Ellis	Edward Ryan
Jessica Frank	Rick Sanford
Shirley Gaszi	Yumi Shindo, Intern
Phyllis Gottdiener	Susan Somers
Helen Hamlin	Douglas Stockwell
Virginia Hazzard	Peter Walker
Maria Klara, Intern	Robert Wesner
Judy Lear	

**LIST OF ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATIONS/ NGO COA**

(As of September 1, 2005)

AARP  
Aging in America  
All India Women's Conference  
Altrusa International  
American Association of Family and Consumer Services  
American Psychological Association (APA)  
Armenian International Women's Association  
Association of Former International Civil Servants & Federation of Associations of  
Former International Civil Servants  
Baha'i International Community  
Catholic Charities/ Diocese of Brooklyn & Queens  
Catholic International Education Office  
Church Women United  
Columbia University School of Social Work  
The Congregations of St. Joseph

Council of Senior Centers & Services  
 Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.  
 Economists Allied for Arms Reduction  
 FIAPA  
 Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service - Japanese & American Institute  
     on Gerontology  
 Global Action on Aging  
 Global Education Association  
 Gray Panthers  
 Hadassah USA  
 HelpAge International  
 Institute of Peacemaking Elders, Nova-Southeastern University  
 Instituto Qualivida  
 International Association of Gerontology  
 International Association of Homes and Services for the Ageing  
 International Association for Religious Freedom  
 International Association of Schools of Social Work  
 International Council for Caring Communities (ICCC)  
 International Council of Jewish Women  
 International Council of Psychologists  
 International Council on Social Welfare  
 International Federation on Ageing  
 International Federation of Home Economics  
 International Federation of Settlements and Neighborhood Centres  
 International Federation of Social Workers  
 International Immigrants Foundation  
 International Longevity Center – USA  
 International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse  
 Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc.  
 League of Women Voters  
 The Links, Incorporated  
 Loretto Community  
 National Silver Haired Congress  
 National Women’s Conference Center  
 New York Citizens’ Committee on Aging  
 New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA)  
 Northwestern University School of Medicine  
 The Penn State Intergenerational Program  
 Philadelphia Corporation for Aging  
 Ravazzin Center – Fordham University Graduate School of Social Welfare  
 The Religious Orders Partnership  
 Rotary International  
 Sheridan Elder Research Center  
 Society for International Development  
 Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues  
 Soroptimist International  
 South County Senior Services, Inc., Southern California  
 United Health Network  
 United Nations Association of the USA  
 University of Maine Center of Aging  
 University of Michigan Institute for Social Research  
 University of Texas Institute for Medical Humanities  
 Women’s Association for Better-Aging Society NY  
 World Council of Conservative Synagogues  
 World Federation of Ukrainian Women’s Organizations  
 World Union of Catholic Women’s Organizations  
 The World Union for Progressive Judaism  
 Zonta International