



NGO Committee on Ageing events **October 2016 – August 2017**

6 October 2016

26th annual celebration of the International Day of Older Persons

Topic:	Take a Stand Against Ageism
Video:	“No Donuts for You: Fake Age Limits Target Ageism” , Disrupt Ageing, AARP
Welcome remarks:	Ms. Janet Sigal, Chair of the NGO Committee on Ageing in New York Ms. Nélica Quintero and Ms. Susanne Bleiberg Seperson, Co-Chairs IDOP Programme Sub-Committee
General remarks:	H.E. Ambassador Martin Garcia Moritán, Permanent Representative of the Mission of Argentina to the United Nations Ms. Daniela Bas, Director, Division for Social Policy and Development, UNDESA
Keynote address:	Ms. Ashton Applewhite, author of “This Chair Rocks: a Manifesto against Ageism” – Confronting Ageism in Different Contexts
Panel theme:	Combating Ageism in Different Contexts
Moderator:	Ms. Edith M. Lederer, Chief Correspondent at the United Nations for the Associated Press
Panelists:	H.E. Ambassador Burhan Gafoor, Permanent representative of the Mission of Singapore to the United Nations Ms. Alana Officer, Senior Health Adviser, Ageing and Life Course, WHO, Geneva Mr. Necodimus Chipfupa, Regional Director, South Africa, HelpAge International
Closing remarks:	H.E. Mr. Peter Thomson, President of the seventy-first session of the General Assembly Mr. Mateo Estrémé, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Mission of Argentina to the United Nations and Chair of the General Assembly’s Open-ended Working Group on Ageing

The event drew attention to and challenged negative stereotypes and misconceptions about older persons. Panelists drew attention to different types of ageism - stereotyping and discrimination against individuals or groups on the basis of their age; prejudicial attitudes; institutional policies and practices that perpetuate stereotypical beliefs. Ms. Applewhite pointed out that when the value of people is based on economic productivity, other important social contributions are often overlooked. She called attention to the fact that longevity is a hallmark of human progress and that human rights do not diminish with age. She urged support for the elaboration of a UN convention to protect and promote the rights of older persons. In 2014, Governments around the world adopted a resolution (E/RES/2014/7) at the Economic and Social Council that recognized ageism as “the common source of, the justification for and the driving force behind age discrimination.” Ageism shapes how older persons are treated and perceived by their societies, including in medical settings and workplaces, public policy, urban settings, and social interactions, creating environments that limit older persons’ potential and impact their health and well-being. The failure to tackle ageism undermines older persons’ rights and hinders their contributions to social, economic, cultural and political life. Tackling ageism will require a new understanding of ageing by all generations. This understanding needs to counter outdated concepts of older people as burdens, and acknowledge the wide diversity of the experience and value of older age.

The event was followed by a **fund-raising luncheon**, whose theme was “**Promoting positive perceptions and representations of older persons**”.

Welcome remarks: Ms. Nélide Quintero and Ms. Susanne Bleiberg Seperson, Co-Chairs of the IDOP Programme Subcommittee

Speakers: Mr. Pol Vandenbroucke, Pfizer
Mr. Josh Collett, AARP
Ms. Becca Levy, Yale School of Public Health.

Attention was drawn to the importance of combating ageism through a global movement to challenge negative stereotypes and attitudes that often have adverse effects on the health of older individuals.

3 November 2016

Topic: **Towards a convention to promote and protect the rights of older persons**

Moderator: Ms. Frances Zainoeddin, Gray Panthers and International Federation on Ageing

Panelists: Ambassador Mateo Estrémé, Permanent Mission of Argentina
Mr. Christian Courtis, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Ms. Rosemary Lane, UN Focal Point on Ageing
Ms. Susan Somers, International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse

The Panelists discussed the status of the Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWGA), the eighth session of which was held 12-15 December 2016. It was pointed out that since the 7th session, the Inter-American Convention on the Rights of Older Persons had entered into force, and the African Union had adopted the African Protocol on the Rights of Older Persons. The format of OEWGA 8 has been changed to ensure better dialogue on key issues that could be included in a convention: (a) equality and non-discrimination and (b) neglect, violence and abuse. NGOs were urged to play a stronger role in contacting those Member States who have not expressed a view on the need for a convention, as there must be a critical mass of support for a convention to be effective.

1 December 2016

Topic: **Use of social media for advocacy on behalf of older persons**

Presenter: Dr. Thomas Kamber, Older Adult Technology Services (OATS)

Dr. Kamber called attention to the Senior Planet Exploration Center in Manhattan which provides free tutoring for anyone over the age of 60. He stressed that social media should *supplement* what is already being used in advocacy work and discussed the different uses of Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, LinkedIn and Instagram. He shared strategies to enhance the work of our committee through social media vehicles.

11 December 2016

The NGO Committee on Ageing co-sponsored a workshop, held prior to the eighth session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWGA), on advancing the campaign to support the elaboration of a United Nations convention on the rights of older persons, organized by the Australian Human Rights Centre. The Workshop took stock of the events leading up to the 8th session of the OEWGA, discussed how to be effective in advocating for a convention; and next steps.

5 January 2017

Topic: **Sustainability and Age-inclusiveness in the Urban Environment: Update on Habitat III**

Moderator: Dr. Cynthia Stuen, Vice-chair of NGO Committee on Ageing/NY, International Federation on Ageing

Panelists: Dr. Aliye Celik, Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization
Mr. Filiep Decorte, UN-Habitat, New York Liaison Office
Ms. Katherine Kline, Servicios Ecumenicos para Reconciliación y Reconstrucción (SERR)

It was noted that United Nations conferences are important for reaching international consensus. While Habitat I (1976) focused on rate of urban growth, impact on poverty, lack of infrastructure, and Habitat II (1996) focused on making human settlements more equitable and sustainable, Habitat III (2016) focused on rights to the city, sustainable urbanization, partnerships and the sharing of responsibilities. At Habitat III Conference held in Quito, Ecuador, civil society played a strong role and older persons' organizations collaborated within the General

Assembly of Partners (civil society partnership constituent groups) to ensure that concerns of older persons were incorporated in the New Urban Agenda (27 references) adopted at the Conference. The New Urban Agenda was a major achievement, emphasizing strong partnerships and age-sensitive approach to urbanization. This program was co-sponsored with the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development.

13 April 2017

Topic: **World Forum on Data: Are older persons excluded?**
Moderator: Dr. Cynthia Stuen, Vice-Chair of NGO Committee on Ageing/NY, International Federation on Ageing
Panelists: **Ms. Erica Dhar**, Director Global Alliances, ARP Office of International Affairs
Ms. Karoline Schmid, Inter-regional Advisory, Division of Social Policy, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

At the World Data Forum held in Cape Town in January 2017, it was pointed out that in all countries there are data gaps - birth registration, lack of disaggregation by age, health information, access to water, care-giving, violence against women, gender statistics, poverty and so on, making it difficult to measure the indicators agreed for implementation of the sustainable development goals. There is also little data on the age groups 60-80 and 80 plus. It was also noted that gathering data is costly. Care must also be taken with respect to the gathering of data, which needs to be culturally sensitive.

A "City Group" has been established by the Statistical Commission to improve data on older persons.

4 May 2017

Topic: **Bridging the Gap between the Generations: Building Social Integration**
Welcome Remarks: **Ms. Rosa Resnick**, International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, Co-Chair of NGO Committee on Ageing/Subcommittee on Intergenerational Relationships
Moderator: **Ms. Helen Hamlin**, International Federation on Ageing, Co-Chair of NGO Committee on Ageing/Subcommittee on Intergenerational Relationships
Panelists **Mr. Alberto Padova**, Chief, Social Integration Branch, Division for Social Policy and Development, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Ms. Rosemary Lane, United Nations Focal Point on Ageing
Ms. Elizabeth Nyland, United Nations Focal Point on Youth/Co-Chair of UN Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs

The event was organized by the NGO CoA's Subcommittee on Intergenerational Relationships. Mr. Padova discussed the work of the Division for Social Policy and Development with respect to social integration and the goal to create a society for all ages, which leaves no one behind, stressing the Sustainable Development Goals as providing opportunities for advocating mainstreaming ageing issues into development agendas and taking a life course approach on issues. Ms. Lane called attention to the third review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) which will be considered by the Commission for Social Development in January 2018. Ms. Nyland noted that the Focal Point on Youth aims to build an awareness of the global situation of young people, as well as promote their rights and aspirations.

There were four breakout groups which addressed a variety of issues relating to developing increased intergenerational relationships, focusing on commonalities between the age groups, e.g. the use of technology; social events; working for political candidates; holding meetings at local schools to make it easier to engage younger people in shared activities. The highlight of the event was the participation of some young people of the Inuit culture from Canada, who presented aspects of their distinct culture, especially their goals to keep their language and culture alive. They emphasized their culture's deep respect for the elders. The program concluded with two songs by two young women in the Inuit language.

1 August 2017

Intergenerational Dialogues on the Sustainable Development Goals

The NGO Committee on Ageing, represented by Dr. Sandra Timmerman (International Federation on Ageing), participated in the organization of the one-day event by the United Nations Department of Public Information in collaboration with the NGO/DPI Executive Committee. Topics discussed were : breaking the intergenerational cycle of poverty; gender equality – opening the door to full inclusion; access to employment throughout life; sharing responsibility for the planet; intergenerational innovation; health living: physical and mental wellness.

Members of the NGO CoA who participated in the panels were: Mr. Jack Kupferman (New York City Department for the Aging), Ms. Donna Butts (Generations United), Dr. Jane Barratt (International Federation on Ageing). Dr. Timmerman also made closing remarks on behalf of older persons.

Co-sponsorship of events

The NGO Committee on Ageing co-sponsored the following events on the occasion of the Commission for Social Development (1-10 February 2017):

- **2 February 2017: Promoting equal access to mental health resources for all ages**, organized by the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues and Psychology Coalition of NGOs accredited at the United Nations.
- **3 February 2017: Eradicating Poverty as Human Right for All**, organized by the Permanent Mission of Argentina, International Federation on Ageing,.HelpAge International and Stakeholder Group on Ageing

The NGO Committee on Ageing also co-sponsored the following events:

- **1 June 2017: The Global Ageing Population: Impact and Implementation of Agenda 2030** - a meeting organized by the International Federation on Ageing in collaboration with Robert N. Butler Columbia University Aging Center and DESA as part of the United Nations Department of Public Information's briefing series.
- **16 June 2017: Understand and End Financial Abuse of Older People: a human rights issue** – a meeting organized by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse.

* * * * *

The NGO Committee on Ageing usually meets the first Thursday of the month except when special events occur. Join us by checking out our website and calendar of events.

We welcome new members anytime! www.ngocoa-ny.org