



**The 19th Annual Observance of the
International Day of Older Persons**



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

***Ageing Activism: A Global Tool to Create a Society
for All Ages***

**Thursday, 8 October 2009
10:00 am – 5:00 pm**

Economic and Social Council Chamber

**United Nations Headquarters
New York**

Presented by:

The CoNGO Committee on Ageing/NY

Cosponsored by the Member States of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Spain and Uruguay

in collaboration with

The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs
The UN Department of Public Information
and
The UN Population Fund

MISSION STATEMENT

19TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PERSONS
8 October 2009

Ageing Activism: A Global Tool to Create a Society for All Ages

The international community, using the strengths of every generation, has taken up the challenge and task of building a society for all ages – a global environment which fosters stability, justice and the provision of social and economic security for all, while recognizing the unique needs and abilities of older persons. The 2009 International Day of Older Persons focuses on mobilizing the often unrecognized dynamism, intellect and power of older persons to maximize their participation in society and to improve the quality of life for themselves and for all generations.

Issues for Exploration and Debate:

Promoting Activism to Create a Society for All Ages

- Throughout the ages, activism by the world's citizens has been one of the primary reasons that humanity has progressed. Particularly true today, we need the activism of older persons to ensure not only that their unique needs are acknowledged and addressed, but also that the legacy of older persons protects the innumerable ways they have improved this world for current and future generations.
- By *Strengthening Human Rights of Older Persons*, older persons, in partnership, can improve life for the world's fastest growing population demographic cohort. This challenge recognizes that ageing is a process each one of us faces and is essential to persons of every generation.

Strengthening Existing Mechanisms to Ensure a Society for All Ages

- Globally, much has been accomplished to acknowledge the need to move toward an inclusive society for all ages, particularly with regard to older persons. As older persons, and those who are becoming older, we know that the purpose of our continuing work in the international community is to ensure that those people and ideas worthy of protection are protected.
- Understanding how various internationally sanctioned protective measures operate and how they are blueprints for the future is essential in establishing a society for all ages. For example, the *Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing* and the *United Nations Principles on Ageing* deserve particular attention to help educate and motivate policy makers and citizens to create a society for all ages.

Confronting Emerging Challenges for a Society for All Ages

- Challenges not fully recognized even two decades ago are now at the top of the international agenda. Working across the generations to create positive change is critical to humanity's ability to "progress", survive and thrive.
- For example, understanding how *older persons are affected by climate change* as well as how they can positively help rehabilitate the planet is one challenge needing attention and the substantial intellectual resources of an aging world.
- Securing basic Social Services for Older Persons in Developing Nations, acknowledging how all generations benefit from provision of services for older persons.

**INTERNATIONAL DAY of OLDER PERSONS
PROGRAM**

8 October 2009
United Nations
ECOSOC Chamber

MORNING PROGRAM
10:00 am – 12:30 pm

Registration

Welcome remarks from **Kiyotaka Akasaka**, Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information

Message from **Ban Ki Moon**, the U.N. Secretary General, on the International Day of Older Persons

Welcome Message from **Jessica Frank López**, Chair, CoNGO Committee on Ageing, N.Y.

AMBASSADORIAL SYMPOSIUM

Facilitator: **Barbara Crossette**, United Nations Correspondent for *The Nation*

Speakers:

Mr. Jean-Francis Régis Zinsou, Republic of Benin

H. E. Ambassador Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, Brazil

H. E. Ambassador Mr. Mohammed F. Al-Allaf, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

H. E. Ambassador D. Juan Antonio Yáñez-Barnuevo, Spain

Questions and Answers

LUNCHEON to HONOR Dr. Alexandre Sidorenko, Honoree

Opening remarks from **Jessica Frank López**, Chair, CoNGO Committee on Ageing, N.Y.

Message from **Rosemary Lane**, Acting Focal Point on Ageing and Officer-in-Charge, Social Integration Branch,
Division for Social Policy and Development

AFTERNOON SESSIONS
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm
(Sessions Occurring Simultaneously)

Promoting Aging Activism to Assure the Rights of Older Persons

Moderator: **Susanne Paul**, Global Action on Ageing

Keynote Speaker: **Nora Berra**, Secrétaire d'Etat aux Aînés, France

Participants: **Dr. Luciano Di Héctor Cesare**, Director Ejecutivo Nacional de PAMI Argentina

Dr. Alexandre Kalache, Global Ambassador, HelpAge International

Javier Vasquez, Human Rights Law Advisor, Pan American Health Organization

From Rhetoric to Reality: Educating and Empowering for Implementation

Moderator: **Helen R. Hamlin**, Board of Directors, International Federation on Ageing

Participants: **Dr. Patricia Spadafora**, Sheridan Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning, Canada

Shamina de Gonzaga

Confronting Emerging Challenges: Climate Change and Aging; Providing Effective Social Services

Moderator: **Dr. Peter Walker**, UN/NGO Representative for the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI)

Participants: **Peter Grevatt, Ph.D.**, Senior Advisor for Children's Health, Office of the Administrator, United States Environmental Protection Agency

Dr. Jennifer Rouse, Director, Division of Ageing, Ministry of Social Development, Trinidad and Tobago

Mr. José Miguel Guzmán, Director Population and Development Branch, United Nations Population Fund



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

MESSAGE ON THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PERSONS
1 October 2009

*“Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the International Year of Older Persons:
Towards a Society for All Ages”*



This year marks the 10th Anniversary of the International Year of Older Persons.

Over the past decade, we intensified our efforts to build a “society for all ages” and to promote international commitment to the United Nations Principles for Older Persons. The Principles are founded on the need to build an inclusive society that emphasizes participation, self-fulfillment, independence, care and dignity for all. To transform them into deeds, we have campaigned for policies that will enable older persons to live in an environment that enhances their capabilities, fosters their independence, and provides them with adequate support and care as they age.

The motto “towards a society for all ages” was adopted in 1999 and reaffirmed at the Second World Assembly on Ageing, held in Madrid in 2002. It emphasizes the need to treat older persons as both agents and beneficiaries of development.

This emphasis – and the United Nations Principles – take on even greater importance as the world struggles to confront global food, energy, climate, financial and economic crises.

The international community is also devoting increasing attention to the human rights of older persons. We must put an end to age discrimination, abuse, neglect and violence against older persons. I urge states to put the necessary legal protections in place, and I urge all partners to help countries develop the capacity and institutions to achieve this objective.

On this International Day, let us reaffirm our commitment to the vital work of upholding the UN Principles for Older Persons and achieving a society for all ages.

Ban Ki Moon
U.N. Secretary General

SPEAKERS
Morning Program



Kiyotaka Akasaka joined the United Nations in 2007 when he was appointed as Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information. In May 2008, the Secretary-General appointed Mr. Akasaka as Coordinator of questions relating to multilingualism throughout the UN Secretariat. These functions are in addition to his current responsibilities as head of the Department of Public Information (DPI).

Prior to his current post, Mr. Akasaka held the position of Deputy Secretary-General of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) from August 2003 to March 2007. He was Japan's Ambassador to the UN from 2000 to 2001 and served as a bureau member for the preparation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg in 2002.

In 1997, Mr. Akasaka was appointed the Deputy Director-General of the Japanese Foreign Ministry's Multilateral Cooperation Department, in which capacity he served as one of his country's senior negotiators in the Kyoto Conference on Climate Change. From 1993 to 1997, he served as an official with the World Health Organization (WHO) and from 1988 to 1991 he was a member of the Secretariat of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the precursor of the World Trade Organisation.

Mr. Akasaka is the co-author of several books, including *The GATT and the Uruguay Round Negotiations* and *The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety*, and has also written many articles on trade, the environment and sustainable development.

Kiyotaka Akasaka is a national of Japan. In addition to Japanese, he speaks English and French.



Jessica Frank López, Chair, CoNGO Committee on Ageing, joined AARP in 2000 and serves as Director of the AARP Office of International Affairs in New York which is focused on informing domestic policy discussion with international best practices and policies. The Office of International Affairs also works to raise AARP's profile internationally by sponsoring and participating in international social and economic policy debates worldwide. Ms. Frank is the primary liaison to the United Nations and with the Latin American region for AARP, the largest non-profit organization in the United States which has 40 million members and representing people 50 years of age and older. Ms. Frank's portfolio of work includes overseeing AARP's international work on long-term care issues identifying and promoting best practices in long-term care.

At the UN, Ms. Frank manages a team of high-level volunteers to advocate to government delegates on issues pertinent to older populations. On behalf of AARP's International Office, Ms. Frank has organized and participated in several major international conferences including the United Nations Second World Assembly on Ageing and the United Nations International Day of Older Persons.

Ms. Frank is a fellow of the Foreign Policy Association and serves as Chairperson of the United Nations NGO Committee on Aging.

Prior to joining AARP, Ms. Frank received a Masters of Science in Gerontology from Hofstra University in New York. During this time she was also awarded the prestigious AARP Andrus Foundation Graduate Scholarship in Gerontology in 2000, one of 10 graduate students nationwide to receive this honor. Ms. Frank is of El Salvadorian-US background and a citizen of Chile by birth. Chile is where she began her career in the field of Gerontology working with the homeless elderly.



Barbara Crossette, a writer on foreign affairs and United Nations correspondent for *The Nation* magazine, is the author of several books on Asia. She was *The New York Times* bureau chief at the UN from 1994 to 2001 and earlier a *Times* chief correspondent in Southeast Asia and South Asia. She has also been a diplomatic correspondent in Washington and a reporter in Central America, the Caribbean and Canada. In New York, she was deputy foreign editor and senior editor in charge of the *Times*' weekend news operations. Before joining the *Times*, Ms. Crossette was an editor and writer for *The Birmingham Post* in Birmingham, England.

In 1991, Ms. Crossette won the George Polk Award for foreign reporting for her coverage of the assassination in India of a former prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi. In 1998, she won the 25-year achievement award of *The Silurians*, a society of New York journalists, and the annual prize for international reporting from *InterAction*, a coalition of more than 150 international nonprofit aid and development organizations. In 1999, she received the Business Council of the United Nations' Korn Ferry Award for outstanding reporting on the organization, and in 2003 the United Nations Correspondents' Association's lifetime achievement award. In 2008 she received a Fulbright Award for contributions to international understanding.

Ms. Crossette has been a member of the adjunct faculty of the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, a Fulbright teaching fellow in journalism at Punjab University in Chandigarh, India, the Ferris Visiting Professor on Politics and the Press at Princeton University and a seminar leader in international affairs at Bard College. In 2003, she led a journalism workshop in Phnom Penh for writers and editors from Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Burma. She was a Knight International Press Fellow for 2004-2005 in Brazil, and in 2008 she worked with Cambodian journalists covering the Khmer Rouge war crimes tribunal.

She is a trustee of the Carnegie Council on Ethics and International Affairs, publications board member at the Foreign Policy Association and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Mr. Jean-François Régis Zinsou, Republic of Benin, was born in 1955 in Ouidah (Benin). He is a Career Diplomat in the rank of Minister Plenipotentiary of Foreign Affairs. He studied in the National University of Benin from 1976-1977, in Kiev State University in Ukraine from 1977 to 1983 and in the Diplomatic Academy in Vienna (Austria) from 1985 to 1987. From July -October 1987, he was a Research Fellow at the Institute for International Law and International Relations of the University of Vienna. He holds a post-graduate Diploma of the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna (Austria) (1987); Diploma of Summer Schools of the University of Vienna (Social Forecasting, Theory of International Trade, German Language) (1986); Master of Arts in International Relations of the State University of Kiev (1983); Russian Language Teacher's Certificate of the State University of Kiev (1983). Before becoming Minister Counselor in the Permanent Mission of Benin to the UN, he served as Assistant to four Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Benin, and Deputy Director for Europe Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He was posted in the Embassy of Benin in Germany as First Counselor. He was in 2004 and 2005, Coordinator of the Security Council; Assistant-Chair and Acting Chair of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Security Council on Prevention and Resolution of Conflicts in Africa, in 2005, and in 2004 and 2005 as Vice-Chair of the Committee of the Resolution 1540 (2004) on Non - Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction. In 2004, he was Assistant - Chair of the Informal Working Group of the UNSC on General Issues relating to Sanctions. Since April 2006 he has been Vice Chairman of the United Nations Disarmament Commission. He was Chairman for three years (2006-2008) of the Working Group of the Commission on Nuclear Disarmament and Non Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. From 26 June to 7 July 2006, he served as Vice Chairman of the United Nations Conference to Review Progress made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. Mr. Zinsou is currently the Chargé d'Affaires of the Permanent Mission of Benin to the United Nations and Chairman of the Working Group of the Least Developed Countries on Remittances.



H. E. Ambassador Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti was born in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. She has a Degree in Economics and joined the Brazilian Foreign Service in 1976. Along her career, she has extensively worked in different areas such as trade promotion, economic, social and political affairs. In Brasilia, she served as Executive Coordinator in the cabinet of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Deputy Press Secretary, Director-General of the Department of Human Rights and Social Affairs and Director-General of the Department of International Organizations. Her first destination abroad was the Brazilian Mission to the United Nations, where she later returned as Minister-Counselor and is currently the Permanent Representative. She led the Brazilian Delegation to the negotiations that prepared the Monterey Conference on Financing for Development and also the implementation of the International Action Against Hunger and Poverty initiative. She was Vice-Chairperson in the Preparatory Committee of the Johannesburg Summit on Sustainable Development and a member of the ECOSOC *Ad hoc* Group on Guinea-Bissau.



H. E. Ambassador Mr. Mohammed F. Al-Allaf, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Ambassador Allaf is a former Jordanian general of the Jordanian Armed Forces JAF. Commissioned in 1969 and retired in 2007, his military career mounted up to thirty-eight years in service. On the 5th of June 2007 he was appointed as an ambassador in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. On 12 June, he was posted as Jordan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations. Between 1989 and 1991, he commanded the Jordanian military contingent in the first Jordanian contribution to the United Nations Peacekeeping missions; (United Nation Angola Verification Mission UNAVEM I & II). Upon the termination of his tour of duty in Angola, Ambassador Allaf developed the Jordanian military peacekeeping doctrine and was charged with equipping, training and preparation of Jordanian troops to serve under the UN flag. In his capacity as a former commandant of the Royal Jordanian National Defense College (RJNDC), Ambassador Allaf founded the academic grounds for the theory of

Jordan's National Security. Subsequently, he developed lines of qualification for promising military and civilian policy makers to prepare them assuming medium and high level leadership positions in the Jordanian government and beyond. As the Assistant Chief of Staff, and Chief of Strategic Planning, Ambassador Allaf headed a team of Jordanian generals to carry out the Strategic Defense Review SDR with the intention to develop the Military Strategy of Jordan for the upcoming decade. JAF's Transformation Strategy is now in place and reflects Jordan's adaptation to the evolving security environment and its commitment to peace, security and stability in the Middle East and in the World.

Ambassador Allaf holds the following degrees: M.A in national security strategy, National Defense University NDU, Washington, 2001; M.A in management and military science, Mu'ta University, Jordan, 1997; Diploma in command and general staff functions, Command and General Staff College CGSC, USA, Ft. Leaven Worth, 1984; B.A in military science, Mu'ta University, Jordan, 1983; Diploma in field command and joint staff, Royal Jordanian Joint Command and Staff College RJJCS, 1983; Diploma in tactical operations, U.S Infantry School, Ft. Benning, 1980.

Upon his appointment as PR His Majesty the King awarded Ambassador Allaf the Medal of Independence of the first degree. He is also honored with three UN Medals for his military service in UNAVEM I & II.



H. E. Ambassador D. Juan Antonio Yáñez-Barnuevo, Spain

Born in Coria del Río, Seville (1942). Ambassador Yáñez-Barnuevo has a Master's Degree in Law (Madrid, 1963); Diploma in International Law (Cambridge, 1976). He has been a member of the Spanish Diplomatic Service since 1967 and received Full Ambassadorial rank in 2006. He has been a member of the Spanish Delegation to the UN General Assembly (many sessions, since 1968), the UN Conference on the Law of Treaties, the UN Conference on the Law of the Sea, the UN Conference on the Representation of States in their Relations with International Organizations, the UN Conference on the Succession of States in Respect of Treaties. He was Deputy Permanent Representative of Spain to the Council of Europe (1978-1982); Head of the International Department at the Prime Minister's Office (1982-1991); Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations (1991-1996). Vice-Chair of the GA Working Group on the Agenda for Peace. Member of the Groups of Friends for the peace processes for El Salvador and Guatemala; Head of the Spanish Delegation to the Conference on review and extension of the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty (1995); Ambassador-at-Large, Head of the Spanish Delegation at the negotiations leading to the establishment and operation of the International Criminal Court (1997-2004). He has been Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations (since May 2004) and has represented Spain in the Security Council (1993-1994 and 2004); Co-Chair of the consultations leading to the adoption by the General Assembly of the UN Counter Terrorism Strategy (2006).

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Rosemary Lane, Acting Focal Point on Ageing and Officer-in-Charge, Social Integration Branch, Division for Social Policy and Development

Rosemary has worked at the United Nations since 1984 in a number of capacities in the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development, the United Nations Drug Control Programme in Vienna and most recently in the Department for Economic and Social Affairs, Division for Social Policy and Development as a Social Affairs Officer. She has worked on issues of ageing since 1993 and was a member of the secretariat for the Second World Assembly on Ageing in 2002. She was a main contributor to the drafting of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing that was adopted at the World Assembly. Since the Madrid Assembly she has concentrated her work on promoting the implementation of the Plan of Action at the national level, and in particular focusing on the provision of technical assistance to Member States. She was recently appointed Acting Focal Point on Ageing and Officer-in-Charge of the Social Integration Branch of the Division for Social Policy and Development. Rosemary is from the United Kingdom and has an MA in Social Policy from the State University of New York.

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**SPEAKERS
Afternoon Sessions**



Susanne Paul, President of Global Action on Aging (GAA), has worked on ageing advocacy at the United Nations since 1988. In May 2009 she urged colleagues on the UN's Expert Working Group to take up a Human Rights Convention on Ageing. At present, Susanne co-chairs the NY NGO Subcommittee to Promote a Human Rights Convention on Aging. Earlier, Susanne chaired the NY NGO Committee on Ageing, 1992-1995, and initiated the annual UN programs that evolved into the International Day of Older Persons. In 1998, GAA organized the first international conference on the "Human Rights of Older Women," that influenced the 2002 Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing. Today, GAA's staff and interns post twice, weekly reports and news items on aging topics for readers in more than 152 countries via www.globalaging.org. She is author of *Humanity Come of Age*, Risk Press, Geneva.



Nora Berra, Secrétaire d'Etat aux Aînés, France, was born in 1963 in Lyon. She began her political career as a town councillor in Neuville sur Saône (Rhône) from 2001 to 2008. In 2004 she continued her political action by becoming a joint candidate in the 2004 European elections. Since 2008 she has been town councillor for Lyon where she was elected in the 8th District. She renewed her commitment to Europe by standing in the June 2009 European Elections and was elected MEP. Nora Berra became Minister for Older People at the end of June 2009 in Prime Minister François Fillon's fourth government. Having completed her pharmacology internship at the *hôpital Edouard Herriot*, in 1992 she went on to practise in the Renal Function Test Department. From 1992 to 1999, she taught in two nursing schools in Lyon and, in parallel, supervised interns and students. For 10 years, between 1999 and 2009, she worked as a doctor in French and international pharmaceutical laboratories in the following fields: HIV, Hepatitis B, and Cervical cancer. In addition, from 1991 to 2009, Nora Berra also practised at the immunology clinic of *l'hôpital Edouard Herriot*, where she was mainly responsible for patients suffering from HIV. She built on this involvement as a member of the network of health professionals *ville-hôpital*, training general practitioners in HIV care. She continued her research as an investigator in clinical trials producing several publications. Finally, her commitment to social issues was marked by the creation in 1996 of a HIV prevention programme and her involvement with French and international associations for cultural diversity. Nora Berra became the French representative of the international association 'Women Without Borders' in 2008.

She has a Doctorate in medicine from the *Université d'Oran*; Doctor in several pharmaceutical laboratories from 1999 to 2009; In practice at the Clinical Immunology Department of *l'hôpital Edouard Herriot* in Lyon, from 1991 to 2009; In practice at the Renal Function Test Department of *l'hôpital Edouard Herriot*, 1992. She is a Member of the European Parliament, since 2009; Town Counsellor for Lyon and elected in Lyon's 8th District, since 2008; Town Counsellor for Neuville-sur-Saône (Rhône), from 2001 to 2008. She also serves as Minister for Older People at the Department for Work, Social Relations, the Family, Solidarity and Urban Issues since June 2009.



Dr. Luciano Di Héctor Cesare, Director Ejecutivo Nacional de PAMI Argentina. He is a Medical Doctor, Graduated from Universidad Nacional de Cuyo, Argentina; Masters Degree in Management of Health Systems and Services, University René Favaloro, Argentina; Masters in Public Health, Universidad; Masters in Business Administration, Universidad del Centro de la Provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina; Ph.D. in Medicine, Universidad del Salvador. Dr. Di Cesare is currently the Head of the Masters Programme in Management and Development of Social Security, University of Buenos Aires (UBA). From 1991 to 1993, he was General Director of Auditing, Caja de Servicios Sociales (Official Health Insurance Provider, Santa Cruz, Argentina); 1995 - 1999 as Manager,

Medical Emergency Unit, Government of Santa Cruz, Argentina; 1999 - 2003 as CEO, Caja de Servicios Sociales (Official Health Insurance Provider, Santa Cruz, Argentina); 2003 - 2004 as Coordinator for Social Policy, Ministry of Social Affairs, Province of Santa Cruz, Argentina; 2004 - 2006 as Executive Coordinator, National Institute for Social Services for Retirees and Pension Holders (I.N.S.S.J.P.); 2006 - 2007 as Deputy Executive Director, I.N.S.S.J.P.; and since 2007 as Executive Director, I.N.S.S.J.P. Dr. Di Cesare coordinates the Advisory Scientific Committee for the Health Ministry.



Dr. Alexandre Kalache, Global Ambassador, HelpAge International

Alexandre Kalache, MD (Rio de Janeiro); MSc (London University); PhD (University of Oxford). He is the Senior advisor to the President on Global Ageing, NYAM and director International Centre for Policies on Aging, Rio de Janeiro; Global Ambassador on Ageing, HelpAge International; Senior Policy Advisor, International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics; Directed the WHO Global Program on Ageing from 1995 – 2008; Founded Epidemiology of Ageing unit at London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (1984-95); Senior lecturer at Oxford University (1977 – 1984)



Javier Vasquez, Human Rights Law Advisor, Pan American Health Organization

He is a graduate of *Washington College of Law, The American University*, Washington, D.C.; Master's Degree (LL.M) in International Legal Studies, 1996. His main areas of study included: International Human Rights Law, the Inter-American System of Human Rights and critical issues pertaining to the right to health and other related human rights of vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities. He is *Human Rights Advisor* (1999-to date), for the PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION (PAHO) /REGIONAL OFFICE OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO) AND SPECIALIZED AGENCY OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS); Area of Technology and Health Services Delivery (THS)/Department of Legal Affairs (LEG), Washington D.C. He advises PAHO's Member States in collaboration with its Representation offices on international human rights issues and strategies to improve the right to the highest attainable

standard of health and other related human rights; on the formulation/review of national public health laws, polices, practices; and to structure public health services consistent with international human rights treaties and standards. Serve as the WHO focal point for human rights initiatives in the Americas in collaboration with WHO Headquarters (Geneva). He has officially conducted activities of technical collaboration and officially visited up to date 21 countries of PAHO/WHO. He is *Staff Attorney*, for the ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS), INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS (IACHR), Washington D.C. May 1997-May 1998 in which he is the recipient of the *Romulo Gallegos Fellowship*. He handled the first decision issued by the Inter-American System regarding violations to the human rights and fundamental freedoms of a person with a mental disability known as "the case of Victor Congo" which interpreted the American Convention on Human Rights in a manner consistent with international/regional health standards and European Human Rights Jurisprudence in the field of psychiatry and disability rights; He is a Visiting professor at *American University (Washington College of Law)*; *Georgetown University (Law Center)*; *University of Maryland (Law School)* and *Yale University (Public Health School)* where conducts seminars on the application of human rights law in the context of public health, the right to health and disability.



Helen R. Hamlin has represented the International Federation on Ageing at the United Nations as its main representative since December 1991 and is currently a Board Member of the Federation. She served as Chair of the Non-Governmental Committee on Ageing at the UN from September 1997 to September 2003 and continues on the Executive Committee. During this period, she was instrumental in the Committee's involvement with the Division for Social Policy of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs in the development of the conceptual framework for the 1999 International Year of Older Persons. During preparations for the Second World Assembly on Ageing, she was a member of the International Planning Committee for the parallel NGO World Forum and represented the NGO community in addressing an Assembly plenary session. Ms. Hamlin was an observer during the preparations for the Berlin Regional Implementation Strategy (RIS) and participated in planning the NGO response to that

meeting held in Berlin, September 2002. She currently is a member of the Economic Commission for Europe International Task Force to implement the Berlin document. Ms. Hamlin holds a Baccalaureate degree from Hunter College of the City University of New York. She has been a social worker for over sixty years, receiving her Master's degree from the Columbia University School of Social Work. She has worked in the field as a family social worker, specializing in gerontology for the past forty years. She has been an adjunct lecturer in social work at York College of the City University of New York and a field supervisor for graduate students in social work for several area schools. She frequently lectures about her current activities at various schools of social work. Ms. Hamlin has planned and participated in numerous conferences locally, nationally and internationally. She presented educational programs for agency staff and community groups in home care services, care giving, and program and advocacy development. Ms. Hamlin has published articles on a variety of topics related to gerontology in national and international journals. Ms. Hamlin is a member of the Advisory Council of the Brookdale Center on Healthy Aging and Longevity of Hunter College of the City University of New York.



Patricia Spadafora is the Director of the Sheridan Elder Research Centre (SERC), located on the campus of the Sheridan Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning in Oakville, Ontario. Pat has an M.S.W. from Wilfrid Laurier University and over thirty years of experience in the social work and education fields. SERC is an interdisciplinary applied research facility that focuses on healthy aging and improving the quality of life of older persons and their families. SERC enables researchers to go from “lab to life” with its focus on the perspectives of older persons themselves and its emphasis on knowledge translation and knowledge exchange. Ms. Spadafora’s research interests include, among others, global population aging, aging in place, accessible technology, civic engagement and retirement, learning through the creative and performing arts, program evaluation and building community capacity. In addition to her role at SERC, Ms. Spadafora is a member of a number of organizations, including her role as a

Director with the International Federation on Ageing and as a member of the NGO Committee on Ageing in New York.



Shamina de Gonzaga is an experienced group leader, having worked in many countries with a variety of groups. In 2005, she was selected to be the NGO Liaison for the President of the General Assembly, serving until 2008.



Peter R. Walker, Ph.D. is a Fellow of American Psychological Association and has been a Non-governmental Organization (NGO) Representative for the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI) at UN Headquarters in New York for a number of years, serving as the Main Representative for SPSSI to the United Nation on several occasions. Dr. Walker participated in the UN HABITAT II World Conference in Istanbul in 1995; the Second World Assemblé on Ageing in Madrid in 2002, the UN World Urban Forum III in Vancouver in 2006, and has served on the executive boards of several committees of the Council of Non-governmental Organizations (CONGO). He received his Ph.D., from the Graduate Center of City University in New York. An Environmental Psychologist, his academic affiliations include serving as Adjunct Associate Professor at the New College of Hofstra University for a number of years, and Visiting Professor at the Department of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of

Washington.



Peter Grevatt, Ph.D., Senior Advisor for Children’s Health, Office of the Administrator, United States Environmental Protection Agency

Peter C. Grevatt is the Director of the Office of Children’s Health Protection and Environmental Education. This office is responsible for work on children’s health protection, environmental education, and the Aging Initiative. Peter brings extensive Agency experience in multiple programs to this task. As the Senior Science Advisor in EPA’s Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, Peter was responsible for ensuring that science, public health, risk assessment, and environmental justice were fully considered for a range of critical issues such as asbestos, PCBs, lead and arsenic. As the senior health scientist in EPA’s Region 2 office in New York, Peter co-authored the Region 2 policy on environmental justice and worked with communities to address health risk concerns associated with contaminated sites throughout New

York, New Jersey and Puerto Rico. Peter led the national water quality monitoring program in EPA’s Office of Water, and more recently, as Director of the Economics, Methods and Risk Analysis Division in EPA’s Office of Solid Waste, he provided leadership to the Regions and States on RCRA implementation, and provided health risk assessments and economic cost-benefit analyses on major rulemakings. Peter has extensive experience working with Congress, state and local governments, stakeholders, and the public on a wide range of environmental health risk issues. Peter received his B.A. degree in Biology from Earlham College, and his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Basic Medical Sciences from New York University Medical Center.



Dr. Jennifer Rouse, Director, Division of Ageing, Ministry of Social Development, Trinidad and Tobago

Dr. Jennifer Rouse was born and grew up in Trinidad. She took Voluntary Separation (VSEP) in June 1995 from BWIA where she served 20 years in the field of Accounts, and decided to go to college for the first time, at the age of 43. She was accepted in 1996 at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), where she completed a double major in Social Work and Africana Studies, and graduated with a Bachelor’s degree (cum laude) in May 1998. In August 1998, Dr. Rouse began her Masters programme in Policy Sciences at UMBC, with the area of concentration in Ageing Issues; and in 2000, she was accepted into the doctoral programme in Public Policy in Ageing. Her doctoral thesis was entitled: *A Case Study in Ageing Policy in*

Trinidad and Tobago: the Role of Interest Groups in Defining New policy Initiatives. In August 2003, Dr. Rouse relocated to Trinidad to assume duties as the country’s first Director of the Division of Ageing, in the Ministry of Social Development, and was able to complete her thesis and successfully defend it in November 2003 at UMBC. Since then, Dr. Rouse has represented the Government at regional and global conferences in Chile, Puerto Rico, Barbados, Tortola, Brazil, Thailand, Switzerland and Canada, at which she presented Trinidad and Tobago’s country report to position ageing on the national agenda. Dr. Rouse also coordinates the implementation of the National Policy on Ageing through the Division’s many new projects and programmes, to promote a positive imaging of ageing, while fostering an enabling environment for a “society for all ages.”



Mr. José Miguel Guzmán, Director Population and Development Branch, United Nations Population Fund

Jose Miguel Guzman, Chief, Population and Development Branch holds a Ph.D. in Demography from the University of Montreal and has worked for many years at UNFPA CST (Santiago and Mexico) and at CELADE/ECLAC. He has a long and distinguished career, working in research, technical assistance and training, in the population and development field, covering such topics as population and poverty linkages, censuses, migration, population ageing and more. He is a member of various committees that focuses on population issues (i.e. IUSSP, CEPED and others) and serves as a member of the editorial committee for several journals that address population issues in Latin America.

NGO COMMITTEE ON AGEING
U.N. NEW YORK
(A Committee of the Conference of NGO's)
Website: <http://ngocoa-ny.org/>

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International Day of Older Persons Planning Committee, 2009

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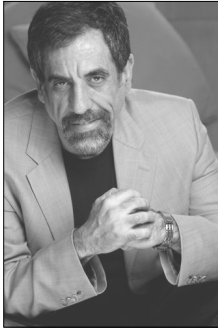
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Human Settlements
Multigenerational Committee
Nominations /Bylaws
Program
Subcommittee to Promote a Human Rights Convention on Ageing
Website*

The Committee on Ageing acknowledges the valuable help of the following individuals in the various missions:

Luz Melon, Mission of Argentina
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Dianela Pi, Mission of Uruguay
Julio Peralta, Mission of Paraguay

* * * * *

Co-chairs of the International Day of Older Persons



Jack Kupferman, J. D., an accomplished elder care professional, trained as an attorney, has a proven record of creating and implementing innovative strategies to assist programs and individuals in crisis. Mr. Kupferman brings 50 years of experience working with seniors from his family's adult home upbringing to grassroots and in-depth government administrative and policy experience, at both the Federal and local levels. Mr. Kupferman received academic degrees from Colgate University and Brooklyn Law School. His long career in government and gerontology includes service as Director of Administrative Appeals for NYC's rent subsidy program for elderly renters at the NYC Department for the Aging – the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption Program. In addition to developing and participating in various panels and training programs concerning aging professionals and issues, he has been a community leader, leading in one of the NYC's grassroots organizations serving the friendly visiting needs of seniors in lower Manhattan – Visiting Neighbors. Mr. Kupferman brings his broad perspective on aging issues to a global scale through service as the Representative to the United Nations on Aging Issues for Gray Panthers, active membership in the CoNGO Committee on Ageing, and currently serves as Chair of the 2009 International Day of Older Persons. He has led the development of the Gray and Green initiative for Gray Panthers, an innovative program examining the relationship between Global Climate Change and the Aging population. Mr. Kupferman is also developing an exciting and unique concept of delivering essential information to seniors and their families through a multimedia approach – print, online, and individual consultations.



Valerie Lowe Levy is a Co-Chair of IDOP 2009. She represents the International Federation on Ageing (IFA) at the United Nations in New York City as a member of the Committees on Ageing and Human Rights. At the UN, she works with other NGO's to influence UN policies and programs to be cognizant and responsive to issues affecting older persons globally. She is retired from the Executive staff of the New York City Department for the Aging (DFTA), the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) for that city in NY State. While at DFTA, as director of Affirmative Employment and Diversity Programs, she developed a nationally-recognized expertise in cultural competence and diversity in aging research, training and service delivery, which fits well with her responsibilities at the UN. She has travelled extensively to assist in the UN and IFA in their efforts to improve the lives of older persons around the globe. She obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree from New York University and completed her graduate work in Gerontological Services Administration at the New School for Social Research. She is a native New Yorker.

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LIST OF ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATIONS

NGO COMMITTEE ON AGEING NEW YORK

(As of September 2009)

AARP
Aging in America/IAHSA
Albert Einstein College of Medicine
All India Women's Conference
American Association of Family & Consumer Services
American Ethical Union/National Service Conference
American Psychological Association
Armenian International Women's Association
AFICS/FAFICS (NY)
Brookdale Foundation
Cancer Care
Case Western Reserve University/Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences
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Fordham University Graduate School of Social Services
Global Action on Aging
Gray Panthers
Help Old People (HOPE) Africa
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Instituto Qualivida (Brazil)
International Association of Applied Psychologists
International Association of Gerontology & Geriatrics
International Association of Housing and Services for the Aging
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International Council of Jewish Women
International Council of Psychologists
International Council of Women/NOW/USA
International Federation on Ageing
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International Federation of Social Workers
International Immigrants Foundation
International Longevity Center
International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse
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World Union for Progressive Judaism
YAD SARAH

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The NGO Committee on Ageing thanks the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for their generous support for the 2009 commemoration of the International Day of Older Persons. Additionally, we greatly appreciate the co-sponsorship of the Members States of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Spain and Uruguay, and our partnerships with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the UN Department of Public Information.

The 2009 commemoration marks the 10th Anniversary of the 1999 International Year of Older Persons and on this occasion celebrations by governments and civil society organizations are taking place simultaneously around the globe.

Civil society organizations play a important and positive role in advocating for policies and programs to ensure the needs and interests of older persons are fully recognized. The NGO Committee on Ageing encourages partnerships of all stakeholders to achieve the United Nations goal of "A Society for All Ages". Therefore it is critical that civil society be engaged together with decision makers to ensure that we create societies where older persons are welcome, protected, engaged and active.

We commend the United Nations for supporting the rights of older people in a time of unprecedented social and economic change.

We encourage you and your organization or institution to become engaged in the UN goal of achieving a society for all ages, and welcome your partnership with the NGO Committee on Ageing.

Sincerely,

Jessica Frank Lopez, Chairperson
NGO Committee on Ageing
<http://ngocoa-ny.org/>