

STAKEHOLDER GROUP ON AGEING

Input of older persons to the Post 2015 Declaration

13 February 2015

- People must be at the center of sustainable development
- The post-2015 development agenda must be universal in order to leave no one behind
- No target will be considered met unless met for all – this means people of all ages
- Everywhere fundamental perspectives on development will be changed by ageing populations. Despite this, the cross-cutting issues of older people have not yet been fully explored, understood and incorporated in the sustainable development framework
- We live in an ageing world. Today's youth are tomorrow's older persons. In 2014, there were 868 million women and men aged 60 and over worldwide – 12 per cent of the global population. This figure will reach 1.375 billion by 2030, or about 16 per cent of the global population. Today two thirds of older people live in developing countries; this will increase to three quarters by 2030.
- Demographic trends along with climate change are already having an impact and will have still greater impacts in the future. Both the opportunities and challenges of population ageing must be addressed now
- Only by including older people can the vision of achieving a sustainable planet for all be realized

The Post 2015 Declaration should:

1. Explicitly affirm that human rights for all are at its core and affirm the accountability of Member States to all their citizens, including older persons.
2. Make explicit reference to 'all persons of all ages' to underscore the universality of the post 2015 agenda.
3. Clearly reference the Plans of Action for marginalized and vulnerable groups, including the 2002 Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing. This instrument is a vital tool for post 2015 implementation. It recognizes the valuable contributions made by older people to social and economic development and their catalytic role in helping to build stronger and resilient societies. Sustainable development will not be achieved by 2030 without the conscious and intentional inclusion of older persons who are already experiencing and witnessing the negative impacts of climate change, and who, as workers, entrepreneurs, unpaid carers, educators, and farmers, are often the backbone of their communities.
4. Emphasize the importance of reliable disaggregated data for older ages, segmented by age bands beyond the age of 60 up to and beyond 100. Millions of older people in low-and middle-income countries are denied basic services and protection of their rights because, despite crucial differences, people over 60 years of age are currently lumped together as a single homogeneous group, if they are counted at all. Older people have the right to be visible and must not be excluded from data sets. Women over the age of 49 - some 20% of the world's women - are still not included in major household surveys. A pledge must be made to fill data gaps on older age and to develop new data to ensure the sustainable development agenda ends poverty and promotes equality, equity, dignity and inclusion for all.

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