

STAKEHOLDER GROUP ON AGEING

STATEMENT AT THE OPENING OF THE HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Strengthening integration, implementation and review – the HLPF after 2015

Friday, 26 June 2015

Mr. President, Excellencies,

The United Nations projects that fifteen years from now, in 2030, the world will look a lot older than today. By 2030, the percentage of the global population aged 60 years or over will increase from the current 12 percent to 16 percent. By 2030, quite a number of participants in this room will be 60 or over.

Right now, we have the twin realities of the largest cohorts of older people and the largest cohorts of young people. The youth bulge will be transforming into the age bulge. In agreeing to leave no one behind, Governments must respond to all people, from cradle to grave, with the right mix of policies, underpinned by appropriate investments and data that are disaggregated by age and other variables.

Excellencies,

Older persons are not a homogenous group for which there is a one-size-fits-all policy. Some earn an income for many years beyond 60 and contribute financially and in other ways to their families. Many live independently, in excellent health. Some are care-givers, mentors, valuable members of their communities and contribute to the economy. They are active agents of change to ensure a better world for their children and grandchildren. Regrettably, some are poor, illiterate and need help. Vulnerabilities associated with illness and disabling conditions as one ages can and must be addressed by policies that support, include and enable.

Population ageing is a development issue. Will programmes to eradicate poverty support all people of all ages? Will everyone have access to appropriate health services and social networks? What types of social protection do we need to put in place? How will both young and old people fare in urban areas, where, by 2030, 6 out of every 10 people will be living?

Excellencies,

The role of the HLPF is a daunting one.

The HLPF must insist on concrete evidence, based on disaggregation of data by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts. All people count and all people should be counted. The HLPF's review of actions and challenges at the national level must be accompanied by a review of the impact of national policies and programmes

on all social groups, with meaningful participation of all people. Only then will the HLPF ensure that no one is left behind.

The HLPF should request the functional commissions of ECOSOC, the United Nations regional commissions and the governing bodies of the organizations of the entire United Nations system, to participate in such review within their areas of expertise and make recommendations for consideration by the HLPF.

Adequate resourcing for the HLPF and the organizations of the United Nations system is indispensable. In December this year, Member States will consider and approve the regular budget of the United Nations for 2016-2017, which must be commensurate with their commitment to the Sustainable Development Agenda.

The task before us is enormous. It is multi-sectoral, multi-lateral and multi-stakeholder. The eyes of the whole world will be watching to see whether we are serious or not.

The Stakeholder Group on Ageing has submitted its proposals on the work of the HLPF and on coordination mechanisms for multi-stakeholder engagement. It stands ready to contribute to its work in ensuring that the Sustainable Development Agenda is for all people of all ages.

Frances Zainoeddin, Gray Panthers



Age and Youth in Action

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Further information: Sylvia Beales: sbeales@helppage.org Erica Dhar: edhar@aar.org