



HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM, 2017

Leveraging interlinkages for effective implementation of SDGs

Q & A segment
July 14, 2017

My name is Masako Osako, representing International Longevity Centers, Global Alliance, member of the Stakeholder Group on Ageing.

Being counted means being seen! Good policy is based on good data and participation of affected groups. Those overlooked in statistical and data initiatives – older persons, people with disabilities and some cohorts of women — **MUST** be counted if countries are to achieve the SDGs.

The one number that IS staring all of us in the face is that by 2030, almost one-quarter of the world's population will be over 60! We must get ahead of this demographic trend by designing good policies for older persons, based on reliable disaggregated data. With proper data sets, we can more easily achieve the SDGs, through the lens of aging, paying particular attention to the health needs of older adults and emphasizing the importance of Universal Health Coverage and pensions to achieve Goals 1 and 3.

We urge each member state to examine their current and planned data collection efforts to assure that data is fully disaggregated by age, disability and gender. **Eliminate invisibility!**

Some examples of promising practices and initiatives include:

- A joint initiative among UN agencies to develop a standard methodology to deliver a database of indicators of older persons in Africa. National workshops in Malawi, Kenya and Uganda are on the vanguard of this project.
- The principles and outcomes of the Washington Group regarding data on disability can be used and adapted by national statistical commissions.
- A new "City Group" on statistics of older age is under discussion by the UN's Statistical Commission, being championed by a number of countries, particularly the United Kingdom.
- UN Women is exploring ways to highlight issues of age as well as women and girls with disabilities.
- In the Asia Pacific region, consultations with civil society and marginalised groups have resulted in some positive outcomes, particularly for persons with disabilities, older persons and indigenous peoples.

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