



Summary Virtual Side Event 57th Session of Commission on Population and Development (CPD 57)

Economic and Social Inclusion for Healthy Ageing:

A call for Global Action

01 May 2024; 8:00 am to 9:45 am (New York Time)

Societies that adapt to this changing demographic and invest in *Healthy Ageing* can enable individuals to live both longer and healthier lives, and for societies to reap the dividends. The aim of this Side Event was to understand the potential social and economic impacts of improved life expectancy are fully appreciated and acted upon today. For policy-makers and individuals alike, this means planning for the future. The world is learning how to grow old successfully. Primary prevention strategies will be most effective when started as early as possible. Current public-health approaches to population ageing have been ineffective. A new framework for global actions is required. The development of age-friendly cities and communities has become an important area of work in the fields of public health, ageing and public policy. Age-friendly cities still hold potential for both researchers and policymakers. This Side Event emphasized that all aspects of an older person's environment need to work together in an integrated way if healthy ageing is to be achieved.

Concept Note:

https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/sites/www.un.org.development.desa.pd/files/undesd_2024_cpd57_side_event_whec_cn.pdf

Although these actions will inevitably require resources, they are likely to be a sound investment in society's future: a future that gives older people the freedom to live lives that previous generations could never have imagined. Because women's life expectancy is longer than men's at older ages, elderly women outnumber elderly men in most societies. Integrating gender into policies and support for older persons is therefore critical, including in health, other types of care, family support and employment. Population ageing demands attention to the physical infrastructure to ensure safe housing, mobility, and the means of meaningful participation of older persons. Our advocacy program guides and helps policymakers modify legislation, design and planning guidelines, and infrastructure to ensure that the increasing number of older, single persons have access to the needed and appropriate housing, transportation, recreation, and amenities of communal life.

It is time to realize that ageing and health is a global issue. It should be considered as an essential component of the continuing globalization process that is reshaping our world. It should be included in the growing current interaction between countries in terms of world trade, services, foreign investment, and capital markets. Program Video: <https://youtu.be/3P7pgHSvki0>

