



Economic and Social Inclusion for Healthy Ageing

A Call for Global Action

VIRTUAL SIDE EVENT

57th Session of Commission on Population and Development (CPD 57)

Concept Note

Date: 01 May 2024; Time: 08:30 am to 9:45 am (EDT, New York Time)

If projections of rapid growth in the population of older persons in the coming decades are correct, the number of older persons will surpass the number of children by 2050; one in six people in the world will be over age 65. Many developed countries are already facing extremely low old-age support ratios. Owing to longer life expectancy among women than among men at older ages, elderly women outnumber elderly men in most societies. Ageing is a progressive accumulation of changes with time that are associated with or responsible for the even-increasing susceptibility to disease and death, which accompanies advancing age. These time-related changes are attributed to the ageing process. 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, 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.

The main lessons from the experience of the experts @ the Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC) are as follows:

1. Providing broad coverage for healthcare and long-term care has many benefits and contributes to social solidarity.
2. Several different schemes might be necessary to cover all the needs of older people. In these circumstances, it is crucial there is collaboration among the various schemes and that an integrated and holistic approach is used.
3. It is important to respect the wishes of the older people who want to live at home for as long 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 emphasizes that all aspects of an older person's environment need to work together in an integrated way if healthy ageing is to be achieved.

The faculty will suggest these approaches / recommendations:

1. Develop and ensure access to services that provide older-person-centered care;
2. Orient systems around intrinsic capacity;
3. Ensure a sustainable and appropriately trained workforce;
4. Recognizing long-term care as an important public good;
5. Assessing clear responsibility for development of a system of long-term care and planning how this will be achieved;
6. Creating equitable and sustainable mechanisms for financing care;
7. Defining the role of government and developing services that will be necessary to fulfill them;
8. Enacting legislation supporting flexible working arrangements or levels-of-absence for family caregivers;
9. Supporting community initiatives that bring older people together to act as a resource for caregiving and other community-development initiatives;
10. Creating age-friendly environments.

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.

Join our efforts!

Additional Information

Written Statement of Women's Health and Education Center, published by CPD57;

UN Document: E/CN.9/2024/NGO/9

Lifelong education, economic and social participation: *A Framework for Healthy Ageing*
<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/n2402359-2024-Written-Statement.pdf>

Speakers / Expert Opinions / Presentations from:

Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC)

World Health Organization (WHO)

United Nations Educational, Scientific, Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Carnegie Mellon University (USA and Africa)

Children's Hospital, LA, California (USA) & the American Academy of Pediatrics (USA)

Contact person: Rita Luthra; and Correspondence e-mail: Rita@WomensHealthSection.com
<http://www.womenshealthsection.com/content/whc/rita-un.jpg>

