



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



Leaving No One Behind at the Regional Level:

Adopting an Age-Sensitive Lens to Policy Making

Concept Note for Side Event at CSocD 61 – February 13, 2023, 8:30-9:45am, EST

1. Background

The share of older persons (65 years and above) in the world's population is expected to rise from 10 per cent in 2022 to 16 per cent in 2050. This reflects the significant achievements of human development, such as improved health, greater longevity, and lower mortality. Rapid population ageing which gives countries little time to address it, makes ageing a policy priority for countries across the world's regions. COVID-19 has exacerbated global economic and social inequalities and exposed existing inequalities that affect older persons, especially older women and older persons with disabilities. Yet most countries continue to face difficulties with fragmented policies or policies that are limited in scope, without fully taking into consideration older persons' needs and priorities.

Older persons have often been overlooked by development policies. Countries need to take steps to ensure that public programmes and policies are age-sensitive and responsive. Developing specific ageing policies and programmes that address the needs, and capitalize on the specific strengths, of older persons is a critical first step. They can help ensure that older persons benefit from development gains and activate their role as agents of change, which is crucial for achieving transformative sustainable development outcomes. Civil society, including older persons themselves, plays a crucial role in the design as well as implementation of and follow-up to policies on ageing.

However, adopting inclusive public policies for older persons, is only the first step in ensuring responsive and comprehensive policies directed at building societies for all ages. Mainstreaming ageing in policies on health, poverty eradication, education, labour, risk reduction and disaster management, transportation, among others would contribute to the achievement of active and healthy ageing. This coherent approach to policymaking reflects the interlinkages of the various dimensions of development as embodied in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and offers a means to ensure that no one is left behind.

In 2021 and 2022, Regional Commissions supported member States in reviewing national policies and programmes on population ageing, and they organized regional reviews and appraisals, bringing together member States and non-government stakeholders to discuss achievements, lessons learned, emerging issues and gaps in policy implementation. Despite differences in the level and pace of population ageing across regions, the regional reviews demonstrated that population ageing is a regional and global megatrend that affects sustainable development of all countries. The reviews allowed member States, non-government stakeholders and UN entities to discuss challenges and opportunities in developing policies and programmes and showcase some of the tools developed to support policymaking at the national and regional levels.

2. Session Objective:

The session will aim to:

- Identify challenges and achievements in developing and revising age-sensitive policies across world regions.
- Highlight opportunities for cross-regional learning.
- Showcase some of the tools developed at the regional level to support member States in developing and revising policies on ageing.

Session Details:

a. Participants

The session will bring together government representatives, civil society, academia, and international organizations in an inclusive discussion.

b. Format

The event will be fully virtual and conducted through the Zoom Platform in English.

The connection link will be sent to the participants registered through the below link:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_IUPQprnsTBqG9FrrMG8XAg

c. Provisional Programme of Work

Monday February 13, 2023, 8:30-9:45am (EST)

| | |
|-----------|---|
| 8:30-8:35 | Opening remarks (TBD) |
| 8:35-9:15 | <p>Davos style panel discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Moderator: Dr. Srinivas Tata, Director of Social Development Division, ESCAP• Panelist 1: Professor Shereen Hussein, Professor of Health and Social Care Policy, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine• Panelist 2: Dr. MaryAnn Tsao, Chairperson, Tsao Foundation, Singapore• Panelist 3: Ms. Veronica Montes de Oca, Researcher of the Social Research Institute, National Autonomous University of Mexico• Panelist 4: Mr. Martin Amberger, Deputy Head of Division “International Policy on Ageing, Inclusion”, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, Germany, Vice-Chair of the UNECE Standing Working Group on Ageing <p>Guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are the challenges faced in developing ageing policies and mainstreaming ageing into other policies?• What are some promising policy solutions and good practices?• What support do member States and stakeholders need to make ageing a policy priority?• What are some opportunities for cross-regional learning? |
| 9:15-9:30 | <p>Presentation of the Regional Commissions on tools and support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sara Salman, Population Affairs Officer, ESCWA• Pamela Villalobos, Senior Social Affairs Officer, ECLAC• Lisa Warth, Senior Social Affairs Officer, ECE• Sabine Henning, Chief, Sustainable Demographic Transition Section, ESCAP |
| 9:30-9:40 | Interactive Q & A with audience |
| 9:40-9:45 | Key messages and looking forward (TBD) |