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**THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

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**VIDEO MESSAGE FOR THE  
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PERSONS**

**1 October 2022**

*DESA requested to embargo this video message until 01 October 2022.*

On this International Day of Older Persons, we focus attention on the resilience of the more than one billion older women and men in a changing world.

The past years have witnessed dramatic upheavals – and older people often found themselves at the epicenter of crises.

They are particularly vulnerable to a range of challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, the worsening climate crisis, proliferating conflicts, and growing poverty.

Yet in the face of these threats, older people have inspired us with their remarkable resilience.

By 2030, 1.4 billion people will be at least 60 years old.

Our task as societies and as the global community is to address the challenges of longevity – and unleash its potential.

We must promote the social, economic, and political inclusion of all people at all ages.

This pledge is enshrined in the Sustainable Development Goals.

Lifelong learning, strong social protection, accessible quality long-term health care, bridging the digital divide, intergenerational support, dignity and respect are essential.

Older persons are a tremendous source of knowledge and experience.

We must strive to ensure their active engagement, full participation, and essential contributions.

Together, let us build more inclusive and age-friendly societies and a more resilient world.

Thank you.

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