

United National International Day of Older Persons **#UNIDOP2022 #OlderPersonsDay**

New York Commemoration
3 October 2022, 10am to 12pm
ECOSOC Chamber, UNHQ

Mission Statement

The overall umbrella theme for the United Nations International Day of Older Persons in 2022 is “Resilience of Older Persons in a Changing World.” This theme will be celebrated by the NGO Committees on Ageing in New York, Geneva and Vienna – each with a unique and complementary approach to the overall theme.

The New York commemoration of the #OlderPersonsDay will focus on “**The Resilience and Contributions of Older Women**” in successfully navigating today’s myriad of global challenges.

The past three years have brought profound upheaval in the worlds’ health, socioeconomic, and environmental sectors, with pandemic and climate related impacts experienced globally. These effects continue to be deeply significant, particularly for many older women who bear the burden of cumulative disadvantage. The added intersection of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, national or social origin exacerbates this risk of gender inequality and discrimination.¹

The latest projections by the United Nations² show that by 2050, the number of persons aged 65 years or over worldwide is projected to be more than twice the number of children under age 5 and about the same as the number of children under age 12. Because of the female advantage in life expectancy, women outnumber men at older ages in almost all populations. This year, women comprised 55.7 per cent of persons aged 65 or older. It is, therefore, imperative that Member States incorporate gender equality in all aspects of community life, as envisioned in SDG 5 (Gender Equality). Recognition of the vital contributions of older women and inclusion of their voices, perspectives and needs is critical to creating policies responsive to local, national, and global challenges and catastrophes.

UNIDOP 2022 is a call to action and opportunity, with globally representative older women, parliamentarians, and United Nations representatives offering multistakeholders dialogue on the resilience of living through and responding to climate disaster, conflict, or pandemic, experiencing and managing the physical and emotional disruption to losses of family, income, and social connectedness. Panels will highlight relevant actions that include efforts toward inclusion of older persons, in particular older women, the protection of their human rights, and enabling the full and equal participation of older persons, in particular older women, in decision-making at all levels.

¹ AARP (2022) [Our Collective Future: The Economic Impact of Unequal Life Expectancy](#)

² DESA (2022) [World Population Prospects 2022: Summary of Results](#)

The necessity of ongoing data collection and analysis inclusive of older persons and consistently disaggregated by age (in higher age groups) and by sex, disability and other relevant indicators of inequality in support of policy development, will be incorporated throughout.

Objectives of UNIDOP 2022 New York Commemoration:

- To highlight the resilience of older women in the face of socioeconomic, environmental, health and lifelong inequities.
- To raise awareness of the importance of improving world-wide age- and gender-sensitive data collection and analysis in order to provide essential evidence for effective policies.
- To call on Member States, United Nations Funds, Programmes, Specialized Agencies and other United Nations entities, as well as civil society to include older women in the center of all policies, ensuring gender equality, as described in [Our Common Agenda](#); which represents the Secretary-General's vision on the future of global cooperation.