



AARP and the United Nations

Overview

AARP is the United States largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering people 50 and older to choose how they live as they age.

With a nationwide presence and nearly 38 million members, AARP strengthens communities and advocates for what matters most to families: health security, financial stability and personal fulfillment.

From its founding in the 1950s, AARP has maintained an international perspective. The realities of today's demography have made that focus even more important. Older people across the world are living longer and more productive lives and their contributions are making them a recognized and significant resource to their societies and economies.

AARP International works to strengthen that trend by identifying and sharing best ideas and practices on key policy issues that would help people live longer, healthier, more

financially secure and productive lives. The program convenes a wide range of experts from around the world, including policy makers, to share their knowledge on health and long-term care, livable communities, older workers, financial security, and retirement income.

AARP International fosters this global collaboration and, to that end, acts as a partner and catalyst to governments and decision-makers in all sectors to help address and favorably shape the social and economic implications of aging worldwide. AARP has developed relationships with a number of international government bodies such as the United Nations (UN) to help bring a cohesive voice among nations to the dialogue on global aging.



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At the United Nations, AARP works in partnership with non-governmental organizations, UN Agencies, and government representatives. AARP joined the NGO Committee on Ageing in New York in 1985 to promote consideration of aging issues in the UN, and appointed its first representative at UN headquarters in New York that year. The following year, a conference on The Future of Aging in the UN System was organized. In 1987, AARP obtained Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the UN, permitting it to participate more actively in UN affairs related to aging, an activity that continues to this day.

AARP staff and volunteers have participated in the major world conferences sponsored by the UN which have had relevance for aging – i.e., the first World Assembly on Ageing, Vienna (1982); World Conference on the Advancement of Women, Nairobi (1985); the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen (1995); the World Conference on Population and Development, Cairo (1995); the World Conference on Women, Beijing (1995); the Conference on Human Settlements, Istanbul (1996); the UN Millennium Assembly (2000); and the 2nd World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid (2002). AARP has submitted and delivered formal statements to plenary bodies and governments at such events and produced policy-relevant materials for use

by delegates, other NGOs, and the general public to help positively influence the rights of older persons, including older women, persons with disabilities and older workers.

Our work at the UN includes milestones for example in 2010 in collaborations with our partners we obtained CEDAW (Convention on elimination of discrimination against women) recommendation 27 for the protection of older women. In 2011 we became a founding member of the Global Alliance on the Rights of Older Persons (GAROP), 2015 we joined the intergovernmental negotiations on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, and succeeded in getting mention of older

persons in 15 of the 17 goals through language such as "of all ages, lifelong, lifecycle." In 2016 AARP becomes co-chair of the Stakeholder Group on Ageing to report to the oversight body of the UN the High Level Political forum on the implementation of the SDGs. 2017 AARP participates in the first UN World Data Forum in Capetown South Africa advocating for age-disaggregated data. In 2018 AARP joins the Titchfield City Group on Ageing working with National Statistical Offices, UN agencies and civil society to ensure data are disaggregated by age and gender in 2019 AARP joins the UN's Global Compact and is selected as the World's most ethical organization.

...to help positively influence
**the rights of older
persons, including
older women, persons
with disabilities and
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AARP Founder *Ethel Percy Andus* presents AARP's philosophy on aging at World's Fair in New York in 1964.

TIMELINE

AARP at the UN

A roadmap of our collaboration
over the decades.

1970s

1973
Serves as catalyst for the founding of IFA to represent NGOs at UN

1975–1981
Active lobbying for the 1st World Assembly on Ageing (WAA)

1974
Start of *Ageing Everywhere* periodical

1978–1981
Actively lobbies for 1st World Assembly on Ageing
Provides international input to the White House Conference on Aging

1980s

1982
Executive Director Cyril Brickfield serves on US Delegation to the 1st World Assembly on Ageing (Vienna)
Participation in the 1st World Assembly on Ageing

1985
Begins representation on UN NGO Committee on Ageing (New York)
Participates in the World Conference on the Advancement of Women (Nairobi)

1986
Obtains consultative status with WHO, ILO and UNESCO

1987
Obtains basic Consultative Status with ECOSOC
Starts submitting formal statements to the UN

1988
Consulted by UN on international fundraising opportunities for aging
International Network on Older Workers and EAGLE launched

1989
Joins the UN's International Network on Aging

1990s

1991
UN General Assembly approves *Principles for Older Persons* based on IFA Declaration

1994
Opens office in New York to better represent AARP at the UN



AARP Chief Public Policy Office Debra Whitman delivers opening remarks at the 2019 AARP-UN Briefing Luncheon on “Why it Matters: Social Protection for Older Women” March 11, 2019



Why IT Matters - Artificial Intelligence for Older Persons, April 18, 2019

2000s

1995

Upgrades its Consultative Status with the UN Economic and Social Council
Plays active role in the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen) World Conference on Population (Cairo) and the World Conference on Women (Beijing)

1997

Starts serving as an advisor to the US government delegation to the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

2000

Conducts Human Rights Postcard Campaign; dedicates book to UN with postcards containing messages from older people around the world about the meaning of human rights
Participates in the UN Millennium Assembly

1996

Helps found Geneva International Network on Ageing (GINA)
Participates in United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Istanbul)

1999

Serves as US Focal Point for the International Year of Older Persons (IYOP) and creates Coalition '99 network
Convenes an international conference at the UN on Images of Older Women
NRTA partners with UNESCO to sponsor symposium on lifelong learning
Participates in UN's 50th anniversary and organizes an AARP member-wide intergenerational art content “Picture a Perfect World”

2001

Co-sponsors meeting on Population Aging and Development in Malta to guide policy recommendation for the 2nd World Assembly on Ageing (Madrid)



2002

Participates in the 2nd World Assembly on Ageing (Madrid) by organizing/hosting six workshops

2003

Interview with UN Secretary General Kfi Annan published in AARP's magazine *Modern Maturity*



2007

Starts annual briefing series on Developments and trends in global aging, together with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, as part of the UN Commission for Social Development
Participates in the 5-year review of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and participates in 3 regional review conferences
Interviews UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon for opening video address for the AARP Reinventing Retirement Asia Conference



2006

Interview with Shashi Tharoor, UN Under-Secretary General for Public Information published on AARP website



Distinguished speakers and participants at the 2018 AARP-UN Briefing Luncheon on January 30, 2018



2016 AARP-UN Briefing Series Keynote Speaker Baroness Verma, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for International Development; Member, House of Lords, Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.



2010s

2010

AARP advocates and succeeds with partners in obtaining CEDAW general recommendation 27 for the protection of older women



2012

AARP advocates and succeeds in UN World Elder Abuse Awareness Day



2014

AARP participates in Human Rights Civil Society Social Forum in Geneva



2016

Formalization of the Stakeholder Group on Ageing AARP serves as co-chair



2017

UN First world data forum in South Africa and participates in the UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing in Lisbon



2019

AARP is a signatory of the UN Global Compact for Sustainable Development



2011

AARP founding member of the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older persons first session of the open ended working group on ageing



2013

AARP chairs UN NGO subcommittee on Older persons in the SDGs



2015

Joins intergovernmental negotiations on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, succeeds in getting older persons mentioned in 15 of the 17 goals through language of "all ages, lifecourse, life long."
25th anniversary of IDOP HQ Nobel Prize Winner Mohammed Yunus comes to HQ



2018

Joins Titchfield City Group on Ageing advocating for age disaggregated data



THANK YOU TO:

Our Partners

AARP Partners include:

UN Departments and Agencies

UN DESA

UN Women

UNDP

*UN Office of the Human Rights
Commissioner*

UN ECE

*UN Women Trust Fund to End Violence
Against Women*

WHO

ILO

UN Global Compact

*Global Alliance for the Rights of Older
Persons*

Stakeholder Group on Ageing

UN NGO Committee on Ageing, NY

UN NGO Committee on Ageing, Geneva

UN NGO Committee on Ageing, Vienna

HelpAge International

HelpAge USA

International Federation on Ageing

*International Association of Gerontology
and Geriatrics*

Age International

ILC Canada

UK

ILC Global Coalition

*International Network for the Prevention
of Elder Abuse*

Global Aging Network



(l-r) 2019 AARP-UN Briefing Series panelists Justin Derbyshire, CEO, HelpAge International and Christine Berhrendt, Head of Policy, Social Protection, ILO



Participants at the 2013 Commemoration of the International Day of Older Persons. October 9, 2013



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