

## 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual International Day of Older Persons

### SUMMARY – IDOP 2013

On Wednesday, 9 October 2013, the NGO Committee on Ageing/NY in collaboration with UNDESA, UNFPA and the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations, celebrated the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual International Day of Older Persons with two events at the United Nations. This year's theme was "The Future We Want: What Older Persons Are Saying".

The morning program, held in the UN ECOSOC Chamber, focused on what older persons are saying around the world and identified what specific issues they want to see addressed in the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda (the planned successor to the Millennium Development Goals).

To watch the morning event [go to our recap page](#).

Proclamations from both New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo and from New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg were presented.

Messages from Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and from H.E. John Ashe, President of the 68<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly were delivered.

Mr. Mateo Estrémé, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Mission of Argentina to the United Nations, welcomed the group and spoke on behalf of Argentina's sponsorship of resolutions supporting a legal instrument to promote and protect the rights of older persons. In his wrap-up speech, Mr. Estrémé called on civil society to join with the member states that have formed a Friends of Ageing to promote this idea and to encourage countries to include ageing concerns in appropriate Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals.

Shireen Said, Policy Advisor, Human Rights of UN Development Programme, and Paul Ladd, Head of Team & Lead Advisor for UNDP on Post-2015, provided background on the complex processes that the UN is undertaking to provide millions of people the opportunity to voice their opinions on what the next 15 years of development goals should encompass. Particular attention was paid to what the 60+ respondents have said.

Ambassador Kingsley Mambolo of the Republic of South Africa reported on his country's response to the needs of its older citizens that has led to a national law and the creation of countrywide Older Persons Forums. Mary Turok, Vice Chair of Western Cape Older Persons Forum and an influential activist for older persons

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rights, could not be with us in person but wrote a letter outlining her and her colleagues' efforts to increase the enjoyment of their rights by older persons in South Africa while reminding us of how far they still have to go.

Mr. M. Mahbub Kamal, a member of Bangladesh's National Federation of Older People spoke about his work with HelpAge International on multi-generational projects at the village level.

An afternoon luncheon held in the newly renovated Delegates South Dining Room included brief speeches by Rob Romasco, AARP's Board President, Dr. Jack Watters, Vice President, Pfizer, Ann Pawliczko, Senior Technical Advisor, UNFPA and Shafiq Bhiyan who introduced HelpAge International's new Global Agewatch Index ([www.globalagewach.org](http://www.globalagewach.org)).

Pfizer, Inc and UNFPA provided funds for the two events. The Mission of Argentina to the United Nations was the official member state sponsor.