



## 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Nations International Day of Older Persons

### Sustainability and Age Inclusiveness in the Urban Environment

ECOSOC Chamber, UNHQ, New York  
15 October 2015 (10 AM – 1 PM)

*Organized by*  
the NGO Committee on Ageing in New York in partnership with  
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Focal Point on Ageing

*Sponsored by*  
The Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations



Permanent Mission of the  
**Argentine Republic**  
**United Nations**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship







@UN4Ageing

**The 2015 Event is co-sponsored by**

 United Nations New York	<p><b>The Group of Friends of Older Persons</b></p> <p>Permanent Missions of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Qatar, Slovenia, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey and Uruguay</p>
	<p>The Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations</p>
	<p>The Permanent Mission of Singapore to the United Nations</p>
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	<b>OLDER PERSONS</b>	Sustainability and Age-Inclusiveness in the Urban Environment

## International Older Persons Day Event 2015

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### Opening Session

Introduction	Ms. Janet Sigal, Chair of the NGO Committee on Ageing in New York
Messages from:	H.E. Mr. Mogens Lykketoft, President of the 70 <sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations
Welcome address:	Ms. Laura E Flores, Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Panama to the United Nations
Remarks by	Ms. Rosemary Lane, Focal Point on Ageing, Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Keynote Video message:	Mr. Joan Clos, Executive Director, UNHABITAT

### Panel Session

Remarks by	Mr. Jorge Bravo, Chief, Population and Development Section, Population Division, DESA <i>Highlights on World Population Ageing 2015 Report</i>
Panel discussion	<b>“Key Components for Age Inclusiveness in Urban Environments”</b>
Moderator	Ms. Jan Peterson, Global Chair, Huairou Commission
Panelists	Ms. Eugenie Birch, Chair, World Urban Campaign Mr. Toshio Obi, Director, e-Government Research Center, Waseda University, Japan Ms. Louissette Fomba, Director, National Development Partners, Cameroon Mr. Hirotaka Koike, UN Major Group for Children and Youth
	Interactive dialogue

## Updates and Recent Developments

Remarks by Mr. Mateo Estrémé, Deputy Permanent Representative of Permanent Mission of Argentina and Chair of the General Assembly's Open-ended Working Group on Ageing

## Closing Session

Video **Change the Way You Think About Age**  
*Centenarians Answer the Right Questions*

# International Older Persons Day Event 2015

## Mission Statement

This year's celebration of the 25th anniversary of International Day of Older Persons (UNIDOP), in anticipation of the third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) to be held in 2016, focuses on the impact of the new urban environment on older persons, as well as the impact of older persons on the new urban environment.

Today, the move of people worldwide to cities is happening at a record pace, with 6 out of every 10 people in the world expected to reside in urban areas by 2030. Consistent with the phenomenon of urbanization, the number of older persons is increasing most rapidly in urban areas of developing countries. The combined effect of both phenomena means that the number of people over 60 living in cities may grow to over 900 million by 2050 – making up a quarter of the total urban population in developing countries.

These trends, in principle, offer older persons prospects for improving their quality of life. Well planned cities are more likely to provide income generating and education opportunities, in addition to housing and urban environments that are more accessible and safe for older persons, including the incorporation of age-friendly features in public facilities. This includes access to affordable, reliable, safe and physically accessible transportation, which is one of the cornerstones of older persons' participation, independence and social inclusion.

The 2015 UNIDOP celebration seeks to demonstrate that an age inclusive agenda is crucial for sustainable urban environments to promote equity, welfare and shared prosperity for all.

We aim to draw attention to:

- **Fundamental principles and rights:** that guide the provision of services in age-inclusive cities, so as to protect the dignity of older persons, as well as prevent their isolation, abuse and neglect
- **Participation:** opportunities for older persons to participate in planning and addressing their needs in an urban environment in order to improve access to resources and services

- **Partnerships:** initiatives that can be undertaken through partnerships between governments and the private sector to provide affordable and appropriate housing and transportation for older persons
- **Innovative Technology:** the role that innovative technology plays in contributing to the creation of more age-inclusive environments
- **Intergenerational Support:** and its importance for the social, economic and cultural arenas of urban environments
- **MIPAA:** the upcoming third review of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, particularly with regard to its “Priority direction III: ensuring enabling and supportive environments”

## Biographies



H.E. Mr. Mogens Lykketoft of Denmark was elected on 15 June 2015 to serve as President of the United Nations General Assembly for the period September 2015 to September 2016. At the time of his election, Mr. Lykketoft was the Speaker (President) of the Danish Parliament, a position he has held since 2011.

Mr. Lykketoft is an economist by training and a veteran parliamentarian and government minister. As chairman of the Social Democratic Party from 2002 to 2005, he was also the opposition leader in Parliament. A Cabinet Minister for a total of 11 years – beginning in 1981, when he was Minister for Taxation – Mr. Lykketoft served most recently as Foreign Minister, from 2000 to 2001. Earlier, as Finance Minister from 1993 to 2000, he spearheaded economic reforms that led to a rise in employment rates and a strengthened economy. During the same period, Denmark, which has traditionally been an active supporter of international development efforts, dramatically exceeded its development assistance targets.

Mr. Lykketoft will turn 70 during the Assembly’s seventieth session, a fact he highlighted during his acceptance speech to the world body upon his election.



Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General, United Nations, is the eighth Secretary-General of the United Nations. His priorities have been to mobilize world leaders around a set of new global challenges, from climate change and economic upheaval to pandemics and increasing pressures involving food, energy and water. He has sought to be a bridge-builder, to give voice to the world’s poorest and most vulnerable people, and to strengthen the Organization itself. The Secretary-General has introduced new measures aimed at making the UN more transparent, effective and efficient.

Mr. Ban took office on 1 January 2007. On 21 June 2011, he was unanimously re-elected by the General Assembly and will continue to serve until 31 December 2016. Highlights of his tenure include promoting sustainable development, empowering women, supporting countries facing crisis or instability, generating momentum on disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation.



H.E. Laura E. Flores H., Permanent Representative of Panama to the United Nations.

Until her appointment, Ms. Flores served as Assistant Representative to the United Nations Population Fund in Panama, beginning in 2006. Prior to that, she was Director of Business and Industry at the World Wildlife Fund in Washington, D.C., from 2005 to 2006. She also served as Director of Corporate Marketing for the World Wildlife Fund, from 2002 to 2005.

From 1999 to 2002, Ms. Flores served as Executive Director of the Business Initiatives Office of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute. Previously, she held posts in the Panamanian Ministry of Trade and Industry, including Vice Minister for Foreign Trade, from 1998 to 1999, and Vice Minister for Trade and Industry, in 1998.

Between 1995 and 1997, Ms. Flores was Promotion Manager at the Interoceanic Region Authority in Panama, and from 1990 to 1993 was Program Associate with the Academy for Educational Development in Washington, D.C.

Ms. Flores holds a Master of Business Administration from the University of California at Berkeley, and a Bachelor of Arts in Economic and International Relations from Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, both in the United States.



Mr. Mateo Estrémé is the Deputy Permanent Representative of Permanent Mission of Argentina and the Chair of the General Assembly's Open-ended Working Group on Ageing.

Mr. Estrémé also served as a cabinet member then after as the Chief of Staff of the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Argentina.

He holds a Masters Degree in Political Science from the University of Belgrano and a Masters Degree in Sociology from the University of Buenos Aires.



Ms. Janet Sigal, is Chairperson of the NGO Committee on Ageing in New York City, and the Main Representative to the United Nations of the American Psychological Association (APA).

For several years she was Vice Chairperson of the Committee on Ageing and was in charge of the Programs Subcommittee. She is also a member of the NGO Committee on the Family, and the NGO Committee on the Status of Women.

Ms. Sigal is a Professor Emeritus of Psychology at Fairleigh Dickinson University, and the Past President of APA's Division 1, the Society of General Psychology. She received her Ph.D. from Northwestern University, and her major area of research focuses on women's issues. Ms. Sigal was the Co-Editor of "Violence against Girls and Women: International Perspectives", a recent two volume set of books which included a chapter on Elder Abuse.



Ms. Rosemary Lane is a Senior Social Affairs Officer and the United Nations Focal Point on Ageing. She has worked at the United Nations since 1984 in a number of capacities in the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development, the United Nations Drug Control Program in Vienna and most recently in the Department for Economic and Social Affairs.

Ms. Lane has worked on issues of ageing since 1993 and was a member of the secretariat for the Second World Assembly on Ageing in 2002. She was a main contributor to the drafting of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing that was adopted at the Second World Assembly on Ageing in 2002. Following the Madrid Assembly her work concentrated on promoting the implementation of the Plan of Action at the national level, and in particular focusing on the provision of technical assistance to Member States.



Mr. Joan Clos, has been Executive Director of UN-HABITAT since October 2010.. He is a medical doctor with a distinguished career in public service and diplomacy. He was twice elected Mayor of Barcelona, serving two terms from 1997 until 2006. He was Minister of Industry, Tourism, and Trade of Spain between 2006 and 2008. Prior to joining the United Nations, he served as the Spanish Ambassador to Turkey and Azerbaijan.

At the international level, in 1998 Mr. Clos was elected President of Metropolis, the international network of cities. Two years later, he was elected President of the World Association of Cities and Local Authorities (WACLAC). Between 2000 and 2007, he served as the Chairman of the United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities (UNACLA). And between 1997 and 2003, he was member of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR).

Mr. Clos received a number of awards, including a gold medal from the Royal Institute of British Architects in 1999 for transforming Barcelona. In 2002, he won the UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour Award for encouraging global cooperation between local authorities and the United Nations



Mr. Jorge Bravo is Chief of the Population and Development Section of the Population Division, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Before taking on this position, he worked at the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank and other international organizations.

His areas of expertise include socio-economic aspects of mortality, demographic responses to economic change, population ageing, social security systems and fiscal implications of demographic change. His current work focuses on the interrelations between global demographic trends and socio-economic development, urbanization, population and environment, and the socio-economic aspects of ageing and intergenerational transfers.

Mr. Bravo is an economist, University of Chile, and Ph.D. in Demography, University of California, Berkeley. He served a member of the Panel on Socioeconomic Implications of Ageing of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP) during 2010-2013.



Ms. Jan Peterson is the Chair of the Coordinating Council of the Huairou Commission. She was awarded the UN-HABITAT Scroll of Honor in September 2009 for her work that spans four decades of commitment to improving grassroots women's lives globally.

Ms. Peterson has supported pioneering initiatives such as the Local to Local Dialogue Process and the Grassroots Academies held at each World Urban Forum. In the United States, Ms. Peterson founded the National Congress of Neighborhood Women and developed a Leadership Support Process to help grassroots women. She also managed the Institute for Women and Community Development and the Neighborhood Women College Program and has taught in the faculty of Adelphi University School of Social Work, the Pratt Institute LaGuardia Community College and the New School Graduate Program in International Affairs.

Under the Carter Administration, Ms. Peterson worked as the Associate Director in the Office of Public Liaison in the White House, as well as in the Office of Policy and Planning and Action (Peace Corps and Vista).



Ms. Eugenie L. Birch is an American scholar and city planner specializing in international and domestic, planning history, and urban revitalization. Dr. Birch is the Lawrence C. Nussdorf Professor of Urban Research and Education and the Chair of the Graduate Group in City and Regional Planning at the University of Pennsylvania.

Ms. Birch is the Co-Director of the Penn Institute for Urban Research and co-editor, University of Pennsylvania's City in the 21st Century series. She is currently also the Chair of UN-HABITAT's World Urban Campaign.

Ms. Birch has received a number of awards, including the Distinguished Educator Award, the Jay Chatterjee Award for Distinguished Service, the Margarita McCoy Award in recognition of furthering the advancement of women in the planning academy, as well as the Lawrence C. Gerckens Prize in recognition of her contributions to planning history.



Mr. Toshio Obi, is the Director of the e-Government Research Center and Professor at the Waseda University in Tokyo, Japan. He has worked as a program officer with UNDP and has held many positions including, Special Envoy of ITU Secretary General for Academia; Deputy Chair, Japan Minister's Committee on Grand design for Ageing society; Chair, APEC on ICT for the people with special needs (e-AGEING); Co-chair, Silver Economy project, OECD; Member, e-participation Expert Advisory Committee, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs; President, International Academy of CIO.

Mr. Obi's publications include "ICT and Ageing" and "Challenge for Silver ICT Society". He has been presented with the Japan Minister Distinguished Award on International Cooperation and the Emperor Medal with Blue Ribbon.



Ms. Louissette Fomba is currently a 3rd year doctorate student of Health Economics, Policy and Management at the Catholic University of Cameroon, Bamenda, Cameroon.

Her doctorate research focuses on the determinants and challenges of Healthy and Active Ageing. In 2007 she co-founded an organization called the National Development Partners (NADEP), a non-profit organization carrying out action-oriented, people-centered research and direct intervention projects geared towards improving the lives of under privileged people.

She is the current Director of NADEP.





Mr. Hiroataka Koike is a chair of the Children and Youth Partner Constituent Group for the General Assembly of Partners and a Deputy Organizing Partner for the HABITAT III Working Group of the UNMajor Group for Children and Youth, associated with the Japan Youth Platform for Post-2015, which was established after the Sendai World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in March 2015.

Mr. Koike is focusing on the governance structure which allows stakeholders to be in the decision-making process at all levels. He has worked in the areas affected by the tsunami 2011 through volunteering, community development, and disaster risk reduction, collaborating especially with elder persons and children.



Ms. Cynthia Stuen, Co-Chair, International Day of Older Persons 2015 Planning Committee, NGO Committee on Ageing/NY, is a social worker whose entire career has been in the field of ageing. Her numerous publications, presentations and research endeavors covered topics of age-related sensory loss, evidence-based electronic records and practice, access to environments for older adults with impaired vision and contributions older adults and their family and friends can make to program planning and service delivery.

Currently, Ms. Stuen is Vice-Chair of the NGO Committee on Ageing/NY. She serves as a UN Representative for the International Federation on Ageing. She is also a member of the Committee on Status of Women/NY. Dr. Stuen is a past Chair of the American Society on Aging and State Society on Aging of NY and a Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America and New York Academy of Medicine. She received her AM from the University of Chicago and her PhD from Columbia University School of Social Work.



Ms. Frances Zainoeddin, Co-Chair, International Day of Older Persons 2015 Planning Committee of the NGO Committee on Ageing, left Australia in 1970 to work at the United Nations, initially in the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and ended her career, 31 years later, as Deputy Budget Director of the Programme Planning and Budget Division, United Nations. Upon retirement, she decided to join the NGO community in order to further promote the ideals of the United Nations, with specific interest in gender and ageing issues.

Ms. Zainoeddin became a UN Representative of Gray Panthers to the United Nations in 2013, and is also a member the NGO Committee on the Status of Women. She has actively participated in the newly established Stakeholder Group on Ageing to promote the inclusion of concerns of older persons in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and is currently involved in ensuring that it continues to play a role in deliberations on sustainable development, particularly in the context of the High Level Political Forum when it oversees the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

## NGO COMMITTEE ON AGEING, NEW YORK

### Executive Committee

Chairperson:	<b>Janet Sigal</b> , American Psychological Association
Vice-Chairperson:	<b>Cynthia Stuen</b> , International Federation on Aging
Treasurer:	<b>Katharine Weiss</b> , International Association of Homes and Services for the Aged
Corresponding Secretary:	<b>Martha Bial</b> , International Association of Gerontology & Geriatrics
Recording Secretary:	<b>Katherine Kline</b> , AARP
Past Chairperson:	<b>James Collins</b> , International Council on Social Welfare

Members-at-Large

**Bethany Brown**, HelpAge USA, an affiliate of HelpAge International  
**Erica Dhar**, AARP  
**Jack Kupferman**, Gray Panthers  
**Peter Walker**, International Council of Psychologists  
**Frances Zainoeddin**, Gray Panthers

### **International Day of Older Persons Planning Committee, 2015**

**Cynthia Stuen** (International Federation on Aging) and **Frances Zainoeddin** (Gray Panthers), Co-Chairs

**Martha Bial**, International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics  
**Susan Bleiberg-Seperson**, Generations United  
**Mary Covington**, International Federation for Home Economics  
**Florence Denmark**, International Council of Psychologists  
**Erica Dhar**, AARP  
**Helen R. Hamlin**, International Federation on Aging  
**Kathy Kline**, AARP  
**Valerie Levy**, International Federation on Aging  
**Dominick Martino**, AFSCME, District Council 37  
**Elizabeth Nolasco**, Instituto Qualivida  
**Laurie Norris**, Gray Panthers  
**Nelida Quintero**, American Psychological Association  
**Rosa P. Resnick**, International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse  
**John Seidler**, 2Morrow Inc.  
**Janet Sigal**, American Psychological Association  
**Norma Simon**, International Council of Psychologists  
**Arlene Tuff**, AFSCME, District Council 37  
**Peter Walker**, International Council of Psychologists

## NGO COMMITTEE ON AGEING – NEW YORK

### Organizational affiliations

AARP	Jewish Association for Services for the Aged (JASA)
AFSCME-DC37 Retirees	KAIST Graduate School of Science and Technology Policy
Ageing, Work and Health Research Unit, University of Sydney	League of Women Voters
Alzheimer's Disease International	MedCom Int. GmbH, German Seniors League
American Psychological Association	NYC Housing Authority; Aging in America
Armenian International Women's Association	Sanctuary for Longevity Project
Care Rights	South Beach Psychiatric Center
Center for Advanced Study in Education (CASE)	The Global Aging Forum, Inc.
Dobroe Delo Civic Foundation	Uniao Geral dos Trabalhadores, UGT
ElderCare Buddy	VA Boston Healthcare System
Elders Share the Arts	World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations
European Federation of Older Persons (EURAG)	Yilaga, India
Fordham University – Graduate School of Social Service	
Fordham University – Global Healthcare Innovation Management Center	
Generations United	
Global Action on Ageing	
Global Alliance on Women's Health	
Gray Panthers	
Guild of Service	
HelpAge USA, affiliate of HelpAge International	
Instituto Qualivida	
International Association of Homes and Services for the Ageing	
International Alliance of Women	
International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics	
International Association of Schools of Social Work	
International Council of Psychologists	
International Council on Social Welfare	
International Federation on Ageing	
International Federation for Home Economics	
International Longevity Center	
International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse	



# 2015 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PERSONS

**15 October, 2015**

**Luncheon, 1.30 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.  
CIBO Restaurant, Second Avenue and 41<sup>st</sup> Street**

## **Welcoming Remarks**

Dr. Cynthia Stuen, Co-Chair

## **In Honor of**

Ms. Mary Mayer (1925-2015)

**Ms. Helen Hamlin and Mr. Greg Shaw**

International Federation on Ageing

## **“CHANGING HOW WE VIEW OLDER PERSONS”**

**Mr. Josh Collett**, Vice-President, Office of International Affairs, AARP

**Mr. Michael Hodin**, Chief Executive Officer, Global Coalition on Aging

**Dr. Juby Jacob-Nara**, Vice President of Global Medicine, Pfizer

## **Concluding Remarks**

Ms. Frances Zainoeddin

## **Thank you to our Supporters**



and  
Laurie Norris, in memory of Clarence Pearson