

Issue #74 | DESA Programme on Ageing

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Mark Your Calendars

***Destination Doha:
Be part of the Second World Summit for Social Development***

***Pen to Paper:
the outcome document takes shape***

The Co-Facilitators of the intergovernmental process, H.E. Ms. Sophie Jang De Smedt, Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations, and H.E. Mr. Omar Hilale, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco to the United Nations, have circulated the second revised draft (Rev2) of the outcome document for the “World Social Summit” under the title “the Second World Summit for Social Development.” As informal consultations continue, what’s on paper today will help shape the shared vision for tomorrow.

***Solutions in the Spotlight:
apply now to organize a side event (Deadline: 8 August)***

Stakeholders are invited to apply to organize a side event, referred to as *solutions sessions*, during the Summit, which will take place from 4 to 6 November 2025 in Doha, Qatar.

Solution sessions provide a platform to showcase impactful ideas, share practical experiences, and promote innovative approaches that advance social development. Sessions may be held fully in-person or virtually. The application form is available at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Second-Social-Summit-Events>

Please make sure to review the Guidelines before applying:
https://social.desa.un.org/sites/default/files/2025-07/Draft-Side-Event-Guidelines-WSSD2-3July_1.pdf

The deadline to apply is **8 August 2025**.
Questions? Email us at socialsummitsecretariat@un.org

***Your Seat at the Summit:
accreditation and registration explained***

Participation in the Summit is guided by General Assembly resolution 78/318 and involves a few key steps.

First, organizations must confirm their accreditation status. Those in consultative status with ECOSOC and in good standing are automatically eligible to participate and do not need to apply for special accreditation. Organizations not in consultative status, including NGOs, civil society, academia, and the private sector, may still participate, only if they have already obtained “special accreditation”, as the application period has now closed.

Next, accredited organizations will be invited to register their official representatives through an online portal. Registration is expected to **open on 5 August** and will **close on 29 September 2025**. A link will be provided on the official Summit website <https://social.desa.un.org/world-summit-2025>

Finally, all participants must complete host country registration and obtain a valid “Hayya Entry Permit” to enter Qatar. Detailed information on visa and entry requirements will be shared on the Summit website <https://social.desa.un.org/world-summit-2025> in due course.

Please note that accreditation to other United Nations events does not transfer to the Summit.

1 October: UN Day for Older Persons #OlderPersonsDay

The United Nations International Day of Older Persons (UNIDOP) will be commemorated on 1 October 2025 under the theme **Older Persons Driving Local and Global Action: our aspirations, our well-being, our rights.**

This year’s observance at UNHQ in New York will highlight the leadership and contributions of older persons in shaping community and global initiatives. Details on the mission statement, registration, and programme will be available at: [United Nations International Day of Older Persons – UNIDOP](#)

Older Women in Focus: CSW opens new space for 2026 discussions

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) has adopted its [multi-year programme of work](#), setting the themes for the period 2026 to 2029.

The resolution recalls paragraph 67 of the General Assembly resolution [79/147](#), **Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing**, and invites the Commission to consider placing the issue of achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all older women as a focus area of its seventieth session in 2026.

How this discussion is framed, and whether older women are positioned at the center of it, now lies in the hands of Member States and the [CSW70 \(2026\) Bureau](#).

[In Case You Missed it: Recent Highlights](#)

At UN Headquarters: Intergovernmental Action on Ageing

PGA Convenes a HLM on Ageing

8 May 2025: The President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Philemon Yang (Cameroon) convened a high-level meeting to exchange views and share experiences on the recommendations included in decision 14/1 of the General Assembly Open-ended Working Group on Ageing, in an equitable and non-exclusive manner, and to define next steps on the challenges and opportunities regarding the rights and well-being of older persons, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 78/324. The high-level meeting took place on 8 May 2025, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in Conference Room 4 at the United Nations Headquarters. The meeting consisted of an opening segment followed by a plenary segment for interventions by Member States and observers of the General Assembly. For more information, watch on UN Web TV at <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k11/k11u3rl9xq>

Economic and Social Council Addresses Far-Reaching Global Issues Presented by Subsidiary Bodies, Including Ageing

10 June 2025: The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), one of the six principal organs of the United Nations and a central forum for development policy, adopted nearly two dozen texts covering a wide range of global issues from ageing to gender equality. These texts reflected decisions previously approved and submitted by ECOSOC's subsidiary bodies. Composed of 54 rotating Member States, ECOSOC serves as a vital link across the UN development system, connecting a broad network of institutions working to advance economic and social progress.

Krzysztof Szczerski (Poland), Chair of the Commission for Social Development's sixty-third session, presented the highlights of the Commission's report (document [E/2025/26](#)), which contained four draft resolutions and two decisions, all adopted without the vote. The resolutions included **Modalities for the fifth review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002**.

The resolution endorses a three-stage timeline for the fifth review and appraisal of progress in the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA): national reviews in 2026, regional reviews in 2027, and a global review

in 2028. Demonstrating Member States' continued commitment to MIPAA, the resolution introduces seven new elements to enhance the fifth review and appraisal cycle. In addition to the high-level panel scheduled for the 2028 global review, the resolution calls for an interactive multistakeholder meeting featuring the Executive Secretaries of all UN regional commissions; the participation of a representative of older persons during the opening segment of the Commission; expanded engagement of NGOs; a call for voluntary contributions to support the process; and recognition of the 25th anniversary of the Second World Assembly on Ageing in 2027, to be reflected in regional review meetings.

Where We Were:
events, dialogues, and engagements

***DESA participates in a meeting of the
WEF Longevity Economy initiative***

17 July 2025: The DESA Programme on Ageing participated in the virtual annual community meeting of the World Economic Forum's Longevity Economy initiative. At the invitation of Ms. Haleh Nazeri, Lead for the Longevity Economy within the Shaping the Future of Financial and Monetary Systems platform, the Programme on Ageing joined discussions alongside Steering Committee members and, for the first time, the newly launched Global Shapers Taskforce on the Longevity Economy. The taskforce, composed of 25 young leaders from 20 countries, is focused on promoting intergenerational dialogue and equity as core elements of the longevity agenda.

***Power in Partnerships:
UN entities unite for older women***

17 July 2025: At this year's HLPF, the UN system took an important step toward stronger inter-agency collaboration with the first-ever joint side event co-hosted by the Inter-Agency Group on Ageing (IAGA) and the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE). The event explored why centering the well-being, rights, and leadership of older women is essential to building inclusive societies. Opening remarks were delivered by UN Women Deputy Executive Director Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda, with speakers including H.E. Ambassador Egriselda López of El Salvador, H.E. Ambassador Umetsu Shigeru of Japan, DESA as the Permanent Chair of IAGA, OHCHR as a member of IANWGE, and representatives from HelpAge International and a youth representative from the Women's Major Group.

Dignity Across Generations: ageism and sexism in focus

16 July 2025: H.E. Ambassador Bob Rae, President of ECOSOC, hosted a HLPF side event at the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations on the intersection of ageism and sexism. Organized in partnership with ILC Canada and HelpAge Canada, and co-sponsored by DESA, the event brought together Member States, UN entities, and civil society to examine how overlapping forms of discrimination impact the visibility and inclusion of older women in policy and practice. Ambassador Rae emphasized dignity as a foundational principle and underscored the need to challenge structural assumptions that diminish people's value as they age. Watch event here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bqmA7UU6Wf4>

Spotlight Back on Elder Abuse Awareness: WEAAD 2025 address elder abuse in care facilities

16 June 2025: World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) is observed on 15 June. To mark the occasion, a virtual expert panel titled **Addressing Abuse of Older Persons in Long-Term Care Facilities: Through Data and Action** was held on 16 June, as part of the commemoration of WEAAD 2025 at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The discussion focused on abuse and neglect in care settings, exploring data-driven solutions, regulatory oversight, staff training, and the protection of the human rights of older persons. The event was moderated by Sara Salman of ESCWA, Co-Chair of the Inter-Agency Group on Ageing (IAGA), and co-organized by the DESA Programme on Ageing and the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA). As global attention to long-term care continues to grow, the event served as a timely reminder that preventing elder abuse is fundamental to protecting the dignity, well-being and human rights of older persons everywhere.

Bradley Cooper brings "Caregiving" documentary to the UN

12 June 2025: DESA Programme on Ageing co-hosted a flagship UN screening of the PBS documentary "Caregiving", executive produced by Bradley Cooper, in collaboration with WETA, Otsuka, the National Partnership for Healthcare and Hospice Innovation, and the Global Coalition on Aging. The event brought global attention to caregiving as a critical social and economic issue. A high-level panel moderated by 20/20's Deborah Roberts and featuring Bradley Cooper, Ai-jen Poo, filmmaker Chris Durrance, and caregiver Matt Cauli, highlighted the urgent need to invest in care systems, support unpaid caregivers, and center care in ageing and social development agendas. Attended by advocates and public figures including Uzo Aduba, Emma Heming Willis, and Josh Carter, the event reflected growing recognition of caregiving as central to dignity, equity, and social protection; issues that DESA is helping to elevate within international development and social policy discourse.

From Demographics to Development Finance: 18th AARP - UN DESA briefing luncheon

28 May 2025: The AARP and the DESA Programme on Ageing co-hosted the 18th Annual Briefing Series on Global Ageing, under the theme **Population Ageing, Older Women, and Development Financing**. Held as a luncheon event, the briefing explored how development finance can support prosperity and security in ageing societies, with a particular emphasis on the needs and contributions of older women. Discussions took place in the context of the upcoming Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development and the Second World Summit on Social Development, highlighting the urgency of aligning financial strategies with demographic realities. For more information, click here: <https://social.desa.un.org/issues/ageing/events/18th-undes-aarp-briefing-series-population-ageing-older-women-and-development>

In Memory of Pope Francis: Global Leaders Reflect on Ageing at the Vatican

9-10 May 2025: A diverse group of faith leaders, multilateral institutions, policymakers, and civil society organizations gathered at the Vatican for **The Memory: A Symposium Addressing the Opportunities and Challenges of an Ageing Global Population**. Held in memory of Pope Francis, the symposium explored how demographic change intersects with questions of dignity, justice, and global solidarity.

Co-organized by the Holy See and AARP, the symposium provided a unique platform for dialogue across sectors and traditions. The DESA Programme on Ageing delivered remarks and moderated a panel discussion on the role of multilateral institutions in shaping inclusive responses to population ageing, highlighting the Political Declaration and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) as key global frameworks. Panel participants included representatives from UN ESCAP, as well as regional development banks, including the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Inter-American Development Bank's innovation arm, IDB Lab, who shared perspectives on investment, adaptation, and innovation in ageing societies.

The symposium emphasized the need for stronger cooperation, ethical leadership, and multisectoral engagement to ensure older persons can age with dignity, well-being and rights.

Academia Engages with DESA on Healthy Ageing, Retirement, and Pension Futures

1-2 May 2025: The DESA Programme on Ageing delivered keynote opening remarks at the **2025 Future of Healthy Ageing and Successful Retirement** symposium, organized by the Pension Research Council at The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania. Speaking at the midpoint of the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing, the Programme underscored the need for coordinated global action to promote health, equity, and economic security in later life. The symposium convened leading

experts from academia, finance, philanthropy, and international institutions, including TIAA, AARP, BlackRock, the Pew Charitable Trust, the International Monetary Fund, Stanford University, and the Asian Development Bank, to explore longevity, cognitive health, and policy innovation for ageing societies.

Ageing Across Borders: Rethinking Consular Services for a Mobile World

17 March 2025: Organized by the Consulate General of Canada in New York, the event **Adapting to an Ageing World: Consular Services in the 21st Century** brought together a diverse group of experts and consular officials to examine the evolving needs of older travelers in an era of increasing global mobility. The DESA Programme on Ageing participated in the discussion, joining a panel alongside the NYC Department for the Aging, the Alzheimer's Association, and the New York State Office for New Americans to share insights on how consular services can better support older persons abroad. The conversation explored solutions related to safety, accessibility, and well-being for ageing populations on the move. The event drew representatives from consular offices of over a dozen countries, including Australia, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Mexico, Poland, Singapore, and the United Kingdom, highlighting a growing global dialogue on adapting public services to demographic change.

DESA Programme on Ageing Section also partnered with UN Tourism to contribute to the report, [Leveraging Travel as a Catalyst for Healthy Longevity](#). The report draws on insights from an expert roundtable conducted in Fall 2024, by the Global Coalition on Aging and Transamerica Institute. Travel and tourism can be powerful tools for healthy ageing by fostering social connections, lifelong learning, economic participation, and physical and mental well-being.

Making Space for Ageing: Highlights from CSocD, CPD & WHA Side Events

At the 2025 sessions of both the Commission for Social Development (CSocD) and the Commission on Population and Development (CPD), the DESA Programme on Ageing co-organized several side events that reinforced the growing visibility of ageing issues across the UN system. At CSocD, two side events addressed intergenerational equity and long-term care. In **Bridging the Intergenerational Equity Gap: AI Access and Benefits**, co-sponsored by the Permanent Missions of Chile and Portugal, DESA Programme on Ageing joined DESA Programme on Youth, in partnership with ITU and the Global Coalition on Aging to examine how artificial intelligence can support inclusion across generations. In **Social Development in Ageing Societies: Deinstitutionalization of Care**, co-sponsored by Spain and the Spanish Institute of Older Persons, the focus was on advancing community-based, person-centred long-term care models.

At CPD, the event **Ensuring Healthy Ageing for All: A Critical Dialogue** co-sponsored by Canada and Spain, and organized by DESA Programme on Ageing together with ESCWA, UNFPA, WHO and civil society partners to explore equitable access to health services for older persons. A second event, **Health, Well-being, and Inclusion Through Assistive Technology**, organized by WHO and co-sponsored by DESA, Ireland and the United Kingdom, emphasized tech-enabled support and accessibility, in collaboration with the NGO Committee on Ageing.

Building on this momentum, DESA also co-sponsored a WHO side event at the World Health Assembly on 19 May in Geneva on **Accelerating Impact of the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing 2021–2030: Investing in a Continuum of Care and Age-Friendly Environments**. Organized and hosted by Qatar, co-hosted by the Republic of Korea, and co-sponsored by Finland, Japan, Kenya, Spain, and Thailand, the event brought together Member States, UN entities, and civil society.

Together, these events reflect the expanding commitment across the UN system, and beyond, embedding ageing into policy conversations on health, innovation, and social development.

[Stay Informed: latest reports and resources](#)

The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2025

The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2025 is the only official UN report that monitors global progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Using the latest available data and estimates, the report provides a comprehensive assessment of the 2030 Agenda. It aims to serve as a foundational resource with the latest data and evidence for developing recommendations and solutions to advance progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. This annual SDG Report is prepared by UN DESA, in collaboration with the entire UN Statistical System, consisting of more than 50 international and regional agencies, based on data from over 200 countries and territories.

Access report here: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2025/>

World Social Report 2025: A New Policy Consensus to Accelerate Social Progress

Economic insecurity, staggering levels of inequality, declining social trust and social fragmentation are destabilizing societies worldwide. The World Social Report 2025, reveals trends that are threatening communities and demand immediate, decisive policy action. The report calls for a new policy consensus anchored in three principles, equity,

economic security for all, and solidarity, that are essential to strengthen the three dimensions of sustainable development. The report is the first to be co-produced by DESA with the United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER). This collaboration brings new research insights into the report, particularly on the far-reaching impacts of inequality and declining trust.

Access the report here: <https://desapublications.un.org/publications/world-social-report-2025-new-policy-consensus-accelerate-social-progress>

Programme on Ageing Section

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