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### Context

The UN International Day of Older Persons (IDOP), celebrated annually on October 1<sup>st</sup>, is an occasion to highlight the participation of older persons in society and raise awareness of the human rights-based approach required for ageing in today's world IDOP 2025 takes place at a significant moment in the global effort to advance the human rights of older persons. On 3 April 2025, the United Nations Human Rights Council adopted a resolution establishing an intergovernmental working group mandated to elaborate a legally binding international instrument on the human rights of older persons. This development follows over a decade of intergovernmental discussions and sustained advocacy by civil society and UN actors. The 2025 IDOP will highlight the rationale for a legally binding instrument and the roles and responsibilities of each actor in supporting the process to a Convention that reflects the realities of older persons across the world today and generations to come.

## Objectives

Recognizing the significant milestone of resolution 58/13, IDOP 2025 provides an opportunity to reflect on the specific roles that governments, UN bodies, civil society organizations, and national human rights institutions can play in supporting the work of the new intergovernmental group. By promoting coordinated efforts, the Day will contribute to a meaningful engagement by all actors at local, national, regional, and global levels. At its core, the commemoration will reaffirm the status of older persons as human rights holders and active agents in society, while supporting a continuous intergenerational dialogue for a deeper understanding of ageing as a shared human experience.

## Key Messages

The adoption of HRC/RES/58/13 marked the beginning of a formal process and sustained engagement will be essential to ensure that a robust and inclusive text is achieved. Governments, the United Nations system, civil society, and national human rights institutions each have distinct yet complementary responsibilities in this endeavor. Actions are needed at every level—from grassroots mobilization to multilateral negotiations—reinforcing one another. Securing the human rights of older persons today builds a fair and inclusive future for all generations.

IDOP 2025 will mark a shift from awareness to shared responsibility in the advancement of older persons' rights. The Human Rights Council resolution has opened a formal path toward a convention, and the actions taken in the coming months and years will shape its content and impact. Recognizing the contributions of all stakeholders, particularly older persons, and encouraging active engagement in the drafting process will be essential to ensure that the future convention is inclusive, representative, and enforceable.

IDOP 2025 offers a timely space to reaffirm the value of participation, complementarity, and shared vision in building a society where human rights do not diminish with age.

# PROGRAM

## Welcome and introduction

- **Mr. Alejandro BONILLA GARCIA.** *Chair of the NGO Committee on Ageing (Geneva) & IFA Representative to the United Nations*

## 1. Opening Keynote Speeches/Messages

- **Ms. Ilze Brands.** *Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights. United Nations. (Video)*
- **Mr. Tomas LAMANAUSKAS,** *ITU's Deputy Secretary-General.*

## 2. Government Leadership and Accountability

- **Ms. Ursula Cristina BASSET,** *Director of Human Rights, Sub-Secretariat of Foreign Policy, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of Argentina. (Online)*

- **H.E. Mr. Cherno MARENAH.** Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary. Deputy Permanent Representative. The Gambia.

### 3. UN System Engagement.

- **Ms. Chitrlekha Marie MASSEY,** Chief, The Rights of Older Persons, Development and Economic and Social Issues Branch.
- **Mr. Tim DE MEYER,** Senior adviser on labour standards policy. ILO

### 4. Civil Society and National Human Rights Institutions

- **Ms. Ina VOELCKER,** Co-Chair, Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People (GAROP); Head of International Policy, BAGSO (German National Association of Senior Citizens' Organizations)
- **Mr. Gregor SNEDDON,** Secretary General. International Federation on Ageing (Video)
- **Ms. Anna CHABIERA.** Expert, Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights of Poland, Vice-Chair of the GANHRI Working Group on Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons. (Online)

### 5. Academia

- **Mr. Michael STEIN,** Executive Director, Harvard Law School Project on Disability. (Online)
- **Mr. Zvezdan PIRTOŠEK.** Faculty of Medicine, University of Ljubljana

### 6. Intergenerational Solidarity

- **Mr. Mohammad SHEHADAT.** Refugee youth activist. Kofi Annan Changemaker
- **Mr. Maciej KUCHARCZYK,** Secretary General of AGE Platform Europe.

### Closing remarks

- **Mr. Alejandro BONILLA GARCIA.** Chair of the NGO Committee on Ageing (Geneva) & IFA Representative to the United Nations

### Moderator:

- **Ms. Silvia PEREL-LEVIN,** Vice-Chair of the NGO Committee on Ageing (Geneva), representative of the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA) and the International Longevity Centre Global Alliance