

35th United Nations International Day of Older Persons

Older Persons Driving Local and Global Action: Our Aspirations, Our Well-Being, Our Rights

Wednesday, 1 October 2025 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
ECOSOC Chamber, UN Headquarters, New York

The Programme

Opening Session

- Welcome **William Smith**, Chair of the NGO Committee on Ageing in New York
- Arjanita Elezaj**, Chair of the UNIDOP 2025 Programme Sub-Committee of the NGO Committee on Ageing in New York
- Musical Performance **Wendy Gerbier**, Mezzo-Soprano
- Remarks **H.E. Mr. Francisco Fabián Tropepi**, Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations
- H.E. Ms. Paula Narváez Ojeda**, Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations and Chair of the Group of Friends of Older Persons in New York
- H.E. Mr. Abdulaziz M. AlWasil**, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations and Chair of the Group of Friends on Ageing and Sustainable Development

Launch of the UN Inter-Agency Group on Ageing (IAGA) Common Messages

- Remarks Introduction on the launch of the UN IAGA Common Messages
Amal Abou Rafeh, Chief, Programme on Ageing Section DESA
- Video UN IAGA Video Message
- Presentation **Serge Kapto**, Policy Specialist, South-South and Triangular Cooperation, UNDP

Keynote Address

- Remarks **Jeanette Takamura**, Professor and Dean Emerita of the Columbia University School of Social Work

Panel Discussion

Moderator **Edwin Walker**, Former Deputy Assistant Secretary for Aging U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Panel Members **Edilia Camargo**, Former UNESCO Population Education Programme Specialist in Africa, Latin America and the Arab States, and Master Athlete Women 85-89 Category

Gary Officer, Founder and CEO of CWI Labs, President and CEO of CWI Works, and Board Member of the Milken Institute Center for the Future of Aging

Dr. Howard Tucker, Neurologist and Adjunct Professor at Case Western University

Q&A Segment

Launch of Policy Brief: Unlocking the Power of Older Persons as Partners in Localising SDG Delivery

Introduction **Jurgen Gafke**, Senior Programme Management Officer, DSDG/DESA

Presentation **Tanvi Patel**, Global Gender Policy Adviser at HelpAge International

Closing Session

Musical Performance **Wendy Gerbier**, Mezzo-Soprano

Remarks **Masumi Ono**, Chief, Social Inclusion and Participation Branch, DISD/DESA