



المكتب التنفيذي
EXECUTIVE BUREAU



United Nations
Inter-Agency Group
on Ageing

Global
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on Ageing

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Ageing

Ageing Futures Launchpad: Global Research Agenda Update & GCC Older Persons' Well-being Index

a solution session at the
“World Social Summit” under the title
“the Second World Summit for Social Development”

**Wednesday 5 November 2025
11:30am – 12:45pm
Room 11, Qatar National Convention Centre
Doha, Qatar**

Background

The Second World Summit for Social Development will convene in Doha from 4–6 November 2025, offering an opportunity to accelerate progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As highlighted in the [draft political declaration](#) negotiated at United Nations Headquarters in New York, complex and interrelated demographic shifts, most notably population ageing, are shaping development prospects worldwide.

For the first time in history, by 2030 the number of persons aged 60 years or over will surpass the number of youth. This landmark shift is already under way, with the fastest growth taking place in developing regions. While the numbers of children and youth are projected to remain relatively stable overall, with modest increases in the least developed countries and gradual declines in more developed regions, the proportion of older persons will rise steadily and decisively well into the future.

Longer lives are one of humanity's greatest achievements, but they also carry profound implications for economies, labour markets, social protection systems and public budgets. The question is not whether societies will age, but how they will respond. Ensuring that longer lives are lived with dignity, security and purpose requires forward-looking policies that mitigate risks, seize opportunities and unlock the contributions of older persons across all spheres of life.

Against this backdrop, this Solutions Session will spotlight practical and innovative approaches, in line with the Summit's focus on collaboration and active participation. It will launch a new partnership to update the Global Research Agenda on Ageing, aligned with the forthcoming [fifth review and appraisal](#) of the [Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing](#) (MIPAA) - the global



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policy framework guiding Member States' action on ageing since 2002. Research is indispensable for building the evidence base needed to craft effective policies that address the evolving realities of ageing populations.

Bridging the gap from research to policy requires reliable data generated by national statistical offices. Reflecting the regional context of the Summit, the session will also feature the launch of the Well-being Index for Older Persons by the Executive Bureau of Council Ministers of Labor and Social Affairs at GCC States (GCCLSA) providing a concrete example of how data can inform and guide more inclusive and effective policy responses.

Overall, the Solution Session will provide a platform to explore the diverse perspectives and complementary roles of public institutions, the private sector, non-profit organizations, research community, and the United Nations system in shaping the policies and partnerships needed to build a society for all ages, where the well-being, human rights, and participation of older persons are recognized as drivers of sustainable social and economic progress.

Organizing partners

To ensure a globally relevant and impactful dialogue, this Solutions Session will be convened by a multi-stakeholder coalition.

- **Member States:** select members of the [Gulf Cooperation Council](#) (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates)
- **Inter-governmental body:** the [Executive Bureau](#) representing the Council of Ministers of Labor and Council of Ministers of Social Affairs in the countries of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf
- **National Statistical Offices:** [GCC-STAT](#), the Statistical Centre for the Cooperation Council for the Arab Countries of the Gulf
- **Non-Profit:** [International Federation on Ageing](#) (IFA)
- **Research Community:** [International Association of Geriatrics and Gerontology](#) (IAGG)
- **Private Sector:** the [Global Coalition on Aging](#) comprised of 22 global businesses across all industries and territories.
- **United Nations:** The United Nations [Inter-Agency Group on Ageing](#) (IAGA) comprised of 33 entities.



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Provisional Programme *(as of 24 Sept)*

Welcome remarks (5 mins)	UN Inter-Agency on Ageing member (tbc): setting the scene
Launches (20 mins)	Amal Abou Rafeh , Chief of the Programme on Ageing Section, UN DESA (10 mins) Muhammad bin Hassan Al-Obaidly , General Director of the Executive Bureau, the Council Ministers of Labor and Social Affairs at GCC States (10 min)
Moderator	Intisar Abdullah Al Wahaibi , Director General, GCC Statistical Center
Panel members (5-7 mins each)	High-level representative , GCC State High-level representative , GCC State Michael Hodin , CEO of the Global Coalition on Aging Miguel Acanfora , Vice President of the International Association of Geriatrics and Gerontology
Moderated interactive discussion	Q&A (15-20 mins)
Closing (5 mins)	Gregor Sneddon , Secretary General of the International Federation on Ageing