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INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PERSONS

#UNIDOP | 1 October

Stepping into the Future

Tapping the Talents and Participation
of Older Persons



Permanent Mission of the
Argentine Republic
United Nations
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship



27th Anniversary of the United Nations International Day of Older Persons (UNIDOP)

Stepping into the Future Tapping the Talents and Participation of Older Persons

ECOSOC Chamber, UNHQ, New York
5 October 2017 (3 – 6 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

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INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PERSONS

#UNIDOP

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The 2017 Event is co-sponsored by



Group of Friends of Older Persons at the United Nations in New York

Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Qatar, Slovenia, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay



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**UNIDOP Commemoration in New York
ECOSOC Chamber, 5 October 2017, 3:00 to 6:00 pm**

Mission Statement

“**Stepping into the Future: Tapping the Talents and Participation of Older Persons**,” the theme of the 27th United Nations International Day of Older Persons (UNIDOP) in 2017, explores the future of global ageing by examining how technology, entrepreneurship and civic engagement enhance older persons’ contributions to societies throughout the world.

UNIDOP 2017 will also feature the formal launch of **World Population Ageing 2017 – Highlights**, prepared by UNDESA (ST/ESA/SER.A/397).

As the world’s population rapidly ages, we must ensure that older persons have the opportunity to contribute and participate fully in their communities and societies. This year’s UNIDOP will showcase cutting-edge research, age-related technological innovations, and models of civic involvement and entrepreneurship. UNIDOP will show how older and younger generations that work together strengthen their voices and become active forces in their communities and governments.

The 2017 UNIDOP celebration will focus on the following issues:

- **Technology:** Advances in technology have improved our cities and towns, stimulating interconnectivity and interpersonal communications throughout the world. At the same time, the gap is widening between those who have access to emerging technology and those who do not. As innovations accelerate, we must ensure that older persons have input into technological development and that older persons everywhere enjoy full access to the benefits of technology.
- **Civic Involvement:** Older persons play a key role in building the foundation of a promising future for themselves, their children and grandchildren. By listening to the voices of older persons and providing opportunities for them to participate in decision-making, including on resource allocation and the provision of basic services, we can assure a more inclusive and equitable society.
- **Entrepreneurship:** It is essential that we create and promote job training and business opportunities for older people, including through access to microfinance, in order to foster financial security and independence. This will improve the skills and experience of older entrepreneurs, create economic and social resources for their communities, and encourage others to work in business, nonprofit enterprises and other areas.

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OCTOBER
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PERSONS

#UNIDOP | 5 October 2017 | New York

Stepping into the Future

Tapping the Talents and Participation of Older Persons



Permanent Mission of the
Argentine Republic
United Nations
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship



5 October 2017 (3 – 6 PM)
ECOSOC Chamber, UNHQ, New York

Opening Session

- Welcome **Janet Sigal**, Chair of the NGO Committee on Ageing in New York
Sandra Timmermann and **Rebecca Riger Tsurumi**, Co-Chairs, UNIDOP Programme Sub-committee, NGO Committee on Ageing in New York
- Remarks by **František Ružička**, Chef de Cabinet to the President of the 72nd Session of the UN General Assembly
Frederico S. Duque Estrada Meyer, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Mission of Brazil to the United Nations on behalf of the Group of Friends of Older Persons
Thomas Gass, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, UNDESA
Lakshmi Puri, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Deputy Executive Director of UNWOMEN

Formal Launch: World Population Ageing 2017 Highlights

Sara Hertog, Population Affairs Officer, UNDESA Population Division

Keynote Address: A Solution Waiting to Happen

Marc Freedman, Founder and CEO, Encore.org

Panel Discussion: “Stepping into the Future - Tapping the Talents and Participation of Older Persons”

- Moderator **Donna Butts**, Executive Director of Generations United
- Panelists **Frank Leyhausen**, General Manager, MedCom International, Germany
Edward Rogoff, Dean at LIU Brooklyn School of Business, Public Administration, and Information Sciences, USA
Livingstone Bartholomew Byekwaso, Executive Director of the NGO Saidia Wazee Karagwe (SAWAKA), Tanzania
- Interactive dialogue

Closing Session

- Remarks by **Lidija Dravec**, Vice-Chair of the General Assembly’s eighth session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing
Rosemary Lane, Focal Point on Ageing, UNDESA

Biographies



František Ružička

CHEF DE CABINET

Ambassador František Ružička is the Chef de Cabinet to the President of the 72nd Session of the UN General Assembly. He was Permanent Representative of Slovakia to the United Nations from September 2012 to August 2017. From October 2004 until his appointment as Permanent Representative to the UN, he was Director General of the European Affairs Section at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bratislava, except for the periods August 2011 to May 2012, when he was in charge of the United Nations Department, and May 2005 to February 2010, when he served as Ambassador to Poland. Between September 2003 and April 2005, he was Director of the Department for Internal Affairs and Institutions of the European Union. Alternating foreign diplomatic postings with service at headquarters. Prior to these positions, his extensive career spans the period 1989 to 2003 where he served in national and overseas postings.

Ambassador Ružička graduated from Charles University in Prague in 1991, and from the Moscow Institute for International Relations in 1989. He speaks English, Russian, Polish, passive Spanish and French.

He is author of several publications on Slovak foreign policy, EU integration and author of the book "European Diplomacy" (2012) on the role, work and policies of the European External Action Service.



Frederico Duque Estrada Meyer

DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

Ambassador Frederico Estrada Meyer is the Deputy Permanent Representative of the Mission of Brazil to the United Nations. He is a career diplomat in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 1978 serving in various postings in Iraq, Russia, Switzerland, Guyana and Cuba.

In 2003, he served as Ambassador to Kazakhstan and later in 2011 to Morocco. He was appointed Spokesperson in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2015.



Thomas Gass

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL

Thomas Gass is the Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs in UNDESA. Prior to this position, he served as Head of the Mission of Switzerland to Nepal and chaired the Donors of the Nepal Peace Trust Fund, the main instrument for international support to Nepal's peace process. From 2004 to 2009, he was Head of the Economic and Development Section at the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the UN in New York. During this time, he Chaired the Donor Group of the UN Global Compact. His experience included postings with UNDP, UNFPA, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, and the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute in Rome.

Born in 1963, Thomas Gass holds a PhD in natural sciences from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich and a MSc and engineering diploma in agricultural sciences from the same Institute.



Lakshmi Puri

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Lakshmi Puri is the Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Deputy Executive Director of UN Women. She has multifaceted experience in bilateral and multilateral diplomacy, negotiations and advocacy spanning a wide range of issues, including peace and security, human rights, sustainable development, climate change, gender equality, trade and development and humanitarian action. She has been responsible for the organization of major global conferences and provided the vision for many of UN Women's public campaigns, including UNiTE to End Violence against Women and Planet 50-50 by 2030. She was previously Director of the UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, and Director and Acting Deputy Secretary-General at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

Prior to joining the United Nations, she was an Ambassador, held the rank of Permanent Secretary to the government of India and had a distinguished 28-year career with the Indian Foreign Service.



Sara Hertog

POPULATION AFFAIRS OFFICER

Sara Hertog is a Population Affairs Officer in the Population and Development Section of the United Nations Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. She is an author of dozens of reports and technical papers on a diverse array of topics, including population ageing and the living arrangements of older persons, youth population trends, urbanization, adult and maternal mortality, global disparities in life expectancy, the demography of HIV/AIDS, and population and sustainable development. Ms. Hertog received her Ph.D. in Sociology (Demography) and M.S. in Population Health Sciences from the University of Wisconsin – Madison.



Marc Freedman

FOUNDER AND CEO

Marc Freedman is the founder and CEO of [Encore.org](https://www.encore.org). He is a member of the Wall Street Journal's "Experts" panel, a frequent commentator in the media and the author of four books, including "The Big Shift: Navigating the New Stage Beyond Midlife", and his upcoming book "How to Live Forever". He co-founded Experience Corps to mobilize people over 50 to improve the school performance and prospects of low-income elementary school students in 22 U.S. cities. He also spearheaded the creation of the Encore Fellowships program, helping individuals translate their midlife skills into second acts focused on social impact, and the Purpose Prize, an annual \$100,000 prize for social entrepreneurs in the second half of life. He was named Social Entrepreneur of the Year by the World Economic Forum and has been honored with the Skoll Award for Social Entrepreneurship. He has been a visiting scholar at Stanford University, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, and King's College, University of London. He serves on the boards and advisory councils of numerous groups, including The George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis, the Stanford University Distinguished Careers Institute, the Milken Institute's Center for the Future of Aging, and the EnCorps STEM Teachers Program. A high honors graduate of Swarthmore College, Freedman holds an M.B.A. from the Yale School of Management.



Donna Butts

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Donna Butts has been the Executive Director of Generations United since 1997. Generations United's mission is to improve the lives of children, youth and older adults through intergenerational collaboration, public policies and programs for the enduring benefit of all. Previously she served in leadership positions at several youth serving organizations including the YWCA, National 4-H Council, and Covenant House. An internationally known speaker, author and advocate, Butts frequently addresses intergenerational connections, grandparents raising grandchildren and policies effective across the lifespan. She has served on four United Nations expert panels on intergenerational and family issues. She served as an at large delegate to the 2005 White House Conference on Aging and attended the 2015 conference. She is a graduate of Stanford University's Executive Program for Nonprofit Leaders. She was recognized three years in a row by *The Nonprofit Times* as one of the Top 50 most powerful and influential nonprofit executives in the US. In 2015 she was named one of the Top 50 Influencers in Aging by *Next Avenue*. She serves on several boards including the Journal of Intergenerational Relations. Under her leadership, Generations United received the 2015 Eisner Prize for Excellence in Intergenerational Advocacy. Recently she was honored with one of the 2017 International Federation for Family Development Awards.



Frank Leyhausen

GENERAL MANAGER

Frank Leyhausen is General Manager of MedCom International; based in Bonn, Germany. MedCom is the think tank of German NGO "German Seniors League" which was founded more than 20 years ago to "protect the future of the elderly". Medcom creates various campaigns and initiatives, always based on prior research data culled by own senior panels. These panels aim to empower elderly people, allowing them to employ new product developments and services as well as to comprehend changing issues in health, care, social insurance and other relevant matters. Medcom joined German Seniors League and the RWTH Aachen University (which is part of Germany Excellence Initiative to promote top-level research) to explore "silver innovation". Regarding the far-reaching demographic change in Germany, open innovation can

significantly contribute to systematically involving older people in the process of developing and designing user-friendly services and products

Leyhausen joined MedCom International in 2001 after working in marketing of the financial industries for more than 10 years. During this time, he was already involved in leading age related projects. He became general manager in 2005. He received his degree in insurance business, marketing and direct marketing.



Edward Rogoff

DEAN

Edward Rogoff is the Dean of the LIU Brooklyn School of Business, Public Administration and Information Sciences. He received a B.A., M.B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. from Columbia University where he wrote his thesis under the supervision of Nobel Laureate William Vickrey. He teaches and conducts research in entrepreneurship, particularly relative to minority and later-life issues. He was named the 2010 Outstanding Entrepreneurship Educator of the Year by the United States Association of Small Business and Entrepreneurship. He is the author of *Bankable Business Plans* and co-author of *The Entrepreneurial Conversation*. His most recent book is *The Second Chance Revolution: Working for Yourself after 50*, co-authored with David Carroll. Since 2007, he has been a member of the research team of *Global Entrepreneurship Monitor*, the largest, longest continuing, and most respected international study of entrepreneurship in the world. He recently was a co-authored of a special topics global report on later life entrepreneurship.



Livingston Bartholomew Byekwaso

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Livingstone Bartholomew Byekwaso is the Executive Director of the non-governmental organisation "Saidia Wazee Karagwe" (SAWAKA) based in Tanzania. Prior to this position, he has accumulated over 20 years of experience in social work, both at the national and international levels.

SAWAKA is an affiliate member to HelpAge International network advocating for the rights of older people. It also works on the regional level (Kagera Region, south of Lake Victoria) in the areas of HIV/AIDS education, health and sanitation, advocacy and lobbying for the rights and entitlements of older men and women, household economic strengthening (Income generation activities), as well as psychosocial support to orphans and vulnerable children.

Livingstone holds a post graduate diploma in social work.



Lidija Dravec

VICE CHAIR

Lidija Dravec is the Vice-Chair of the General Assembly's eighth session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWG).

She assumed her position as Human Rights Expert at the Slovenian Mission to the United Nations in June 2015. Before coming to New York her portfolio at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia also included humanitarian assistance and international development cooperation issues.

She is a graduate of University of Ljubljana Faculty for Social sciences, where she specialized in international affairs.



Rosemary Lane

SENIOR OFFICER FOCAL POINT ON AGEING

Rosemary Lane is a Senior Social Affairs Officer at UNDESA and the United Nations Focal Point on Ageing.

Prior to this position, she has worked at the United Nations in a number of capacities, in the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development, and the United Nations Drug Control Programme in Vienna. She has worked on issues of ageing for a number of years 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 on the provision of technical assistance to Member States. She works across the UN system to promote the inclusion of an age perspective into relevant policy areas. Her current work also includes the support of the open-ended working group on ageing for the purpose of strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons. She has an MA in Social Policy from the State University of New York.



Janet Sigal

CHAIRPERSON

Janet Sigal is the Chairperson of the NGO Committee on Ageing in New York, 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 Sub-committee. She is also a member of the NGO Committee on the Family, and the NGO Committee on the Status of Women. She 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. She is 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.



Sandra Timmermann

CO-CHAIR

Sandra Timmermann is the Co-Chair of the 2017 UNIDOP Programme Sub-committee at the NGO Committee on Ageing in New York. She is a Representative to the United Nations for the International Federation on Ageing and an Executive Committee member of the NGO Committee on Ageing/NY. She has held senior positions in field of ageing for over 35 years and is nationally recognized for her work in ageing, retirement and the application to business.

Currently, she is Visiting Professor of Gerontology at the American College of Financial Services and consultant to business and non-profits. From 1997-2013 she was a Vice President at MetLife and the Founder and Director of the MetLife Mature Market Institute. Prior to that, she held senior positions at the American Society on Aging, AARP and SeniorNet. Her numerous volunteer leadership roles have included serving as board chair of the National Alliance for Caregiving and the Business Forum on Aging and on the Boards of the American Society on Aging, the American Foundation for the Blind, the National Aging in Place Council and others.

She is a Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America and holds ASA's Cavanaugh Award for Excellence in Education. She received a BA from the University of Colorado and MA and EdD degrees from Columbia University.



Rebecca Riger Tsurumi

CO-CHAIR

Rebecca Riger Tsurumi is the Co-Chair of the 2017 UNIDOP Programme Sub-committee at the NGO Committee on Ageing in New York. She is a writer, editor and linguist, and serves as a United Nations Representative for AARP International, advocating for the rights of older persons. A member of the NGO Committee on Ageing, New York, she is on the human rights subcommittee making UN mission visits. She is also Vice President, Board Member and Website Editor for CCCUN. A fluent Spanish speaker with a background in international business, banking and energy, her work as a journalist has taken her to Asia and Latin America. Her book *The Closed Hand: Images of the Japanese in Modern Peruvian Literature* (Purdue UP, 2012) was the first to analyze how Asians and Hispanics view each other. She edited *Sogoshosha: Engines of Export-led Growth*, a reference for the Export Trading Act of 1982. For her master's project in journalism "The U.S. Energy Crisis and Venezuelan Oil," she worked as a general assignment reporter for the Daily Journal in Caracas, Venezuela, interviewing OPEC's co-founder, Pérez Alfonzo and Venezuela's Minister of Mines. Tsurumi received her Ph.D in Hispanic Literature from the CUNY Graduate Center, an M.B.A. in finance/international business from Columbia University and an M.A. in journalism from the University of Missouri.

NGO COMMITTEE ON AGEING, NEW YORK

Chairperson	Janet Sigal , American Psychological Association
Vice-Chairperson	Cynthia Stuen , International Federation on Ageing
Treasurer	Katharine Weiss , International Association of Homes and Services for the Aged
Corresponding Secretary	Martha Bial , International Association of Gerontology & Geriatrics
Recording Secretary	Sandra Timmermann , International Federation on Ageing
Past Chairperson	James Collins , International Council on Social Welfare
Members-at Large	Erica Dhar , AARP
	Rebecca Riger Tsurumi , AARP
	Nélida Quintero , American Psychological Association
	Ranjit Jayanti , The Guild of Service
	Frances Zainoeddin , International Federation on Ageing and Gray Panthers

United Nations International Day of Older Persons Planning Committee, 2017

Sandra Timmermann (International Federation on Ageing) and **Rebecca Riger Tsurumi** (AARP) Co-Chairs

Janet Sigal, American Psychological Association
Erica Dhar, AARP
Cynthia Stuen, International Federation on Ageing
Frances Zainoeddin, Gray Panthers
Nélida Quintero, American Psychological Association
Valerie Levy, International Federation on Aging
Kathy Kline, AARP

NGO COMMITTEE ON AGEING, NEW YORK

Organizational affiliations

AARP
AFSCME-DC37 Retirees

Ageing, Work and Health Research Unit,
University of Sydney
Alzheimer's Disease International
American Psychological Association
Armenian International Women's Association
Care Rights
Center for Advanced Study in Education (CASE)
Dobroe Delo Civic Foundation
ElderCare Buddy
Elders Share the Arts
European Federation of Older Persons (EURAG)
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

Jewish Association for Services for the Aged (JASA)
KAIST Graduate School of Science and Technology
Policy
League of Women Voters

MedCom Int. GmbH, German Seniors League
NYC Housing Authority; Aging in America
Sanctuary for Longevity Project
South Beach Psychiatric Center
The Global Aging Forum, Inc.
Uniao Geral dos Trabalhadores, UGT
VA Boston Healthcare System
World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations
Yilaga, India