



Myers-JDC- Brookdale Institute, Israel
Open-ended Working Group on Aging
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Mr. Chairman, I am here as a professional, the Director of JDC-Brookdale Research Center on Aging in Jerusalem, and as part of the Israeli delegation. We are very much hoping to contribute and to be contributed by this important initiative and congratulate you for the leadership.

Population aging is a fact. The pace of aging of the Israeli society is among the fastest in the world. Life expectancy is high: 82.5 years for women and 78.8 for men. Life expectancy among men is one of the highest in the world.

It is necessary to create an appropriate understanding of the opportunities, and not only the problems, that arise in an ageing society, as well as to foster an appreciation of the role of older persons as a resource for society. Social policies must be shaped by the understanding that the older persons have contributed and continue to contribute much to society.

A set of principles guides the development of policy in relation to ageing in Israel:

- A. Promoting Independence and Autonomy
- B. Promoting Opportunities to Maintain Active Roles in Society
- C. Promoting Equality among the Elderly
- D. Assuring an Adequate Standard of Living in Old Age
- E. Maintaining Inter-generational Partnership and Mutual Responsibility
- F. Assuring Appropriate and Effective Delivery of Services
- G. Prevention of and Protection against Age Discrimination

H. Providing Non-discriminatory Health Care

The desire to realize these principles is an ongoing struggle.

Mr Chairman, during the following days, we are hoping to share the successes and the challenges in the implementation of these principles.

We are particularly hoping for a fruitful dialogue among member states to advance the protection of older persons's rights in Israel and worldwide.

Thank you again for the opportunity to engage in this initiative.