

United Nations Inter-Agency Group on Ageing (IAGA)

Terms of Reference

(Prepared by the United Nations Inter-Agency Group on Ageing)

I. BACKGROUND AND MISSION OF THE UN IAGA

1. Population ageing is a defining global trend that is changing our world in fundamental ways. A gradual and largely irreversible shift towards an older population is already underway in most countries.¹ As the United Nations moves forward with preparing itself and the Member States it serves for the future, the Secretary-General's Executive Committee recognizes the vital role of the United Nations system in addressing the opportunities and challenges related to population ageing and older persons.
2. To mainstream issues related to population ageing, older persons and their human rights across all levels of the United Nations, the Committee decided to “formalize the establishment of a time-bound Inter-Agency Group on Ageing (IAGA)” and “ensure linkages with other relevant interagency bodies and subgroups focused on ageing populations and older persons, including the Inter-Agency Standing Committee.”
3. The General Assembly, in its resolution 78/177², took note with appreciation of the work of the Inter-Agency Group on Ageing, recognizing it as “a network of United Nations entities that exchange information and integrate ageing into their work programmes on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda”.
4. During the 45th session of the High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), and in line with its nature and scope, HLCP welcomed the initiative and provided feedback and guidance on the proposed way forward.³

II. OBJECTIVES AND TASKS OF THE UN IAGA

5. In light of the above, and building on and leveraging existing United Nations led initiatives on population ageing, the objectives of the UN IAGA are to exchange information; address population ageing, older persons and their human rights in the work programmes of all UN Entities; ensure linkages with other relevant United Nations inter-agency bodies; and

¹ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, World Social Report, *Leaving No One Behind In An Ageing World*, 2023

² A/RES/78/177

³ CEB/2023/4

stimulate inter-agency collaboration on ageing-related topics including on the advocacy for better and improved data on social and economic outcomes of ageing populations.

6. The UN IAGA will work collaboratively and in a phased approach to:

a. Exchange information within the UN system

7. The UN IAGA will facilitate increased knowledge-sharing, awareness-raising and will promote collaboration among UN Entities on issues related to population ageing, older persons, and their human rights. The Group will bring together relevant United Nations expertise to help develop coherent approaches on issues related to population ageing, older persons, and their human rights taking into account, inter alia, the life course approach, intergenerational solidarity, the quality of life, extended longevity and human mobility including from an evidence-based perspective. The Group may leverage online platforms to enhance inter-agency access to knowledge, including through sharing data, research, publications, methodologies, tools and good practices.

b. Strengthen internal system-wide capacity

8. The UN IAGA will aim to strengthen internal United Nations system-wide capacity on issues related to population ageing, older persons, and their human rights. This will be carried out through cooperation with UN Entities; development and promotion of relevant common messages; guidance and/or knowledge; and skill development initiatives, as needed and decided upon by the members of the UN IAGA.

c. Contribute to mainstream population ageing, older persons and their human rights in existing United Nations processes and initiatives

9. The UN IAGA will seek to engage closely with existing UN entities, including their processes, mechanisms, groups and initiatives to enable the mainstreaming of population ageing, older persons and their human rights and the adoption of an age-inclusive and human rights-based approach, ensure synergies, collaboration, and alignment, reduce fragmentation and avoid duplication of effort.

III. MEMBERSHIP, STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONING OF THE UN IAGA

10. The UN IAGA is open to all members of the United Nations Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs (ECESA) Plus Members and observers. The Group is also open to other interested UN Entities. The UN IAGA shall be composed of focal points designated by the Heads of the UN Entities. The focal points shall be committed to contributing to the work of the Group and shall draw on relevant expertise within their organizations across all levels, as needed. In addition to the designated focal points, the

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UN IAGA will also facilitate a broader community of practice consisting of working level staff members across the United Nations system.

11. The UN IAGA will have two co-chairs. UN DESA Programme on Ageing⁴ will be a permanent Chair of the Group and, as such, will coordinate administrative functions of the Group and provide support and continuity to the other Co-Chair and the Group as required. The second Co-Chair of the Group will be a United Nations entity agreed upon by the UN IAGA members that will rotate on an annual basis.
12. Following the nomination of focal points, the UN IAGA may adopt working modalities most appropriate to its specific objectives and tasks. The UN IAGA may develop a workplan which can set out, inter alia, concrete deliverables, timelines, roles and responsibilities, as defined by the members of the Group.
13. The UN IAGA will hold regular meetings at UNHQ in New York, with virtual connection to other duty stations and for members who are unable to attend in person. The Group will convene at such regular intervals as decided by its members. It will carry out its duties and functions using electronic means. When deemed necessary and appropriate by its members, in person sessions of the Group may also be held on the side-lines of relevant United Nations meetings, including in other duty stations.
14. Its official members, including the two co-Chairs in consultation with other members of the Group, may invite other relevant stakeholders if and as needed to encourage broader participation and bring technical expertise to the Group, including older persons and their representatives.
15. The establishment and operations of UN IAGA will be conducted without dedicated funding. It will operate within the existing resources of its member entities.
16. The UN IAGA may review and revise this Terms of Reference when deemed necessary and appropriate and as agreed upon by its members.

⁴ The Second World Assembly on Ageing outcome document: the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (para 127) and the General Assembly resolution A/RES/78/177 (para 60)