

International Federation on Ageing (IFA)
James Gregor Sneddon, Secretary General

The International Federation on Ageing commends Member States on the inclusion of older persons and population ageing in the draft Political Declaration of this Summit. With seven references to older persons and three to ageing, this document marks an important step toward recognizing the demographic reality shaping our shared future.

Recognition must be matched with action. As the global population aged 60 and over is set to double to over 2 billion by 2050, particularly in developing countries, we face a defining test of our collective readiness. Across regions, our members report persistent gaps between high-level commitments and lived realities. Policies must not only be adopted—they must be implemented in ways that reflect the diverse needs, contributions, and rights of older persons in all contexts.

This demographic change is not a burden. It is a signal to act. Healthy ageing is not an issue confined to older persons. It is a universal and lifelong process that calls for coordinated action. The IFA strongly supports the call to embed ageing across development strategies and to fully uphold the rights and dignity of older persons in all contexts. This includes ensuring access to universal health coverage, integrated long-term care, social protection, age-friendly environment, economic and employment opportunities, and meaningful digital inclusion.

We urge Member States to implement the Declaration in ways that go beyond symbolic inclusion—through concrete, funded national strategies that mainstream

ageing, combat ageism, and enable full participation in social, economic, political and cultural life.

The IFA stands ready to support Member States in this work. As a trusted convener and global voice on healthy ageing, we connect multisectoral actors and agendas with global policy. Through regional networks, technical partnerships, and multilateral advocacy, we help build the knowledge, tools and collaboration needed for inclusive development.

To ensure no one is left behind, ageing must be integrated not only in vertical policy streams but across gender, climate, urban development, and capacity-building agendas. We invite Member States to work alongside civil society, and with older persons themselves, to create a world where ageing is recognized not only as a challenge, but as a driver of resilience, opportunity, and progress for all. Thank you.