



MIPAA+20

A Sustainable World For All Ages

Joining forces for solidarity
and equal opportunities throughout life

— Rome 15-17 June 2022

UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing

Side events

Thursday, 16 June 2022

11:10 – 11:25 **Opening of Poster exhibition (for the duration of the Conference)**

Opened by Ms. Elena Bonetti, Minister for Equal Opportunities and Family of Italy

13:15 – 14:15 **Towards age-responsive crisis management: what we have learned from the COVID pandemic**

Organised by Austria

Location: POLA room (floor -1)

Over the past two years, older persons have been put into the public spotlight due to their higher risk of developing serious illness from COVID-19. Most countries across the world introduced containment strategies that affected all groups of society but especially older persons who were often stigmatized as a highly vulnerable risk group.

This side event will:

- Look into the broad range of impacts of COVID-19 on older persons such as ageism, impacts on their physical and mental health, well-being, social participation, loneliness, anxiety, isolation, personal relationships, physical activity, or solidarity among generations;
- Offer space for discussion on recommendations and lessons learned towards age-responsive crisis management in different UNECE Member States.

Welcome address:

Mr. Johannes Rauch, Federal Minister of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, Austria

Moderator:

Ms. Juliet Relihan, UNECE National Focal Point on Ageing, Ireland

Panellists:

Ms. Annette Gibbons, Associate Deputy Minister at Employment and Social Development Canada

Dr. Hans Dubois, European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions

Dr. Sabine Pleschberger, Austrian Public Health Institute, Austria



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13:15 – 14:15

Rights, health and dignity: Strengthening demographic resilience by harnessing the opportunities that come with population ageing

Organised by Bulgaria, Georgia and UNFPA

Location: ORANGE room (floor -1)

In follow-up to the Ministerial Conference on Demographic Resilience held in Sofia in December 2021, this side event will discuss the shifts that are necessary to allow societies to thrive amid rapid demographic change. Speakers will focus on the importance of rights, health and dignity in responses to population ageing, and will explore how harnessing the opportunities that come with population ageing can strengthen societies' demographic resilience.

Moderator:

Ms. Marta Dialova, Deputy Regional Director a.i., UNFPA Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia

Opening remarks:

Mr. Zurab Azarashvili, Minister of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs, Georgia

Dr. Velislava Petrova, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bulgaria

Dr. Diene Keita, Deputy Executive Director (Programme), United Nations Population Fund

Panellists:

Mr. Narek Mkrтчhyan, Minister of Labor and Social Affairs, Armenia

Ms. Jovanka Trenchevska, Minister of Labour and Social Policy, North Macedonia

Mr. Marcel Spatari, Minister of Labor and Social Protection, Republic of Moldova

Mr. Stuart Gietel-Basten, Professor of Social Science and Public Policy, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

13:15 – 14:15

Preventing the loss of autonomy: for a better cooperation on the issue of falls of senior citizens

Organised by France, Italy and Switzerland

Location: SPALATO room (floor -1)

Early prevention of the onset of frailty is a key variable in promoting the autonomy and improving the quality of life of older people. Preventing an early decline in physical and mental capacities as well as the risk of social isolation and encouraging the shift towards homecare make it possible to overcome the risks of loss of autonomy and accidents, such as falls, and their consequences on the health and dependency of the elderly.



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The side event will explore:

- The risk factors for falls and how they contribute to or result from the loss of autonomy;
- The role of research for a better understanding and response to loss of autonomy;
- The means of action and actors to be involved in public policies aiming at preventing the loss of autonomy and associated risks, such as falls, in particular: support for age-friendly environment adaptations; improved access to assistive technologies; and awareness-raising for carers and caregivers.

Moderator:

Mr. Alfredo FERRANTE, Head of Unit, Family national policies and international relations, Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Italy (*tbc*)

Panellists:

Ms. Yuka Sumi, Responsible for Integrated Care for Older People (ICOPE), Medical officer– Ageing and Health (AAH), Department of Maternal, Newborn, Child & Adolescent Health & Ageing (MCA), WHO

Mr. Christian Leorin, Adjunct Professor, University of Padua, Italy

Mr. Alexis Rinckenbach, Head of European and International Affairs Office, General Directorate for Social Cohesion, Ministry for Solidarity and Health, France

Mr. Lorenzo Chiari, Professor of Ageing and Rehabilitation Engineering, University of Bologna, Italy

Mr. Thomas Vollmer, Head of the Sector for Ageing, Generations and Society, Federal Social Insurance Office, Switzerland

15:50 – 16:10

Implementation of the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing

Organised by WHO

Location: POLA room (floor -1); livestream available on: <https://bit.ly/dha-yt>

The United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021-2030) is a global collaboration, aligned with the last ten years of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Decade brings together governments, civil society, international agencies, professionals, academia, the media, and the private sector for ten years of concerted, catalytic, and collaborative action to improve the lives of older people, their families, and the communities in which they live.

This side event will:

- Give a rapid overview of major achievements since the United Nations General Assembly declared 2021-2030 the Decade of Healthy Ageing;
- Briefly introduce some of the main tools of the Decade, such as the online knowledge exchange Platform;
- Discuss synergies with the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) Regional Implementation Strategy;
- Engage all participants in identifying key opportunities going forward; and
- Listen to some key leaders on what global and regional actions are planned for 2022-2023.