



**Alzheimer's Disease
International**

The global voice on dementia

Open-ended Working Group on Ageing 2020 11th session Alzheimer's Disease International substantive inputs

1. Right to Work and Access to the Labour Market

The right to work and to have access to the labour market requires that there is a balance between: (1) the **demand** for skilled and semi-skilled labour from a labour market perspective on the one hand, and (2) the **supply** of what older people in general and persons with early stages of dementia, and family caregivers with home-based responsibilities in particular can offer, from a person-centred perspective. Adjusted tasks at work and adjusted time schedules on the work floor, that take into consideration the person-specific circumstances, are required.

Retaining the skills and contributions, in the workforce, of people living with dementia and their carers through flexibility, adaptation and legal protection not only maintains a positive economic impact, through tax, pension contributions etc., but also reduces the strain on social security, and from the employer perspective, offers continuity and reflects their investment in training and development.

The “**care economy**”, or care-service sector, should recognise as productive employment the contributions of all expressions of “care-partnering”, from family carers and informal unpaid caregivers, to professional carers. Different levels of care skills training should be offered for different caregiver requirements, leading to particular levels of gainful employment.

2. Social Protection and Social Security

The right to social protection has to recognise not just the older person, but also his or her care partner. With regards to long-term care, attention should be paid to the importance of dementia as a common underlying condition and very often the root cause of older person's need for care. **Long-term care for older people is in large part care for people with dementia.**

Social protection measures for older people and for persons living with dementia should include provisions for their carers, **of whom most are women**. The annual global number of informal care hours provided for people with dementia living at home in 2018 was the equivalent of over 40 million full time workers, a figure that will increase to 65 million full time workers by 2030. **Women contribute 71% of the global hours of informal – and mostly unpaid - care, with the highest proportion in low income countries.**