



NORMATIVE INPUT

for the 13th session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing
for the purpose of strengthening the protection of the
human rights of older persons

FOCUS AREA:

CONTRIBUTION OF OLDER PERSONS TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, more than 56 million adults ages 65 and older live in the United States, accounting for about 16.9% of the nation's population. The older adult population will also become more ethnically diverse, with the proportion of non-Hispanic white older adults projected to decrease from 77% in 2017 to 55% by 2060. A larger proportion of older adults live in rural areas than urban areas, and the proportion of older adults in non-urban (i.e., suburban and rural) areas is projected to increase in the coming decades.

During the past couple of years, older people living in the US had to suffer a lot of issues related to their health, finance, and social well-being. Many surveys suggest that the unemployment rate among older people has increased remarkably due to the Covid phenomenon and the process of economic slowdown.

In the attempt to realize a sustainable economic recovery, there is an urgent need to utilize an untapped resource in the form of older people. They need more opportunities today, to maintain their life and contribute to the mainstream economy.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development sets out a universal plan of action to achieve sustainable development in a balanced manner and seeks to realize the human rights of all people. It calls for leaving no one behind and for ensuring that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are met for all segments of society, at all ages, with a particular focus on the most vulnerable—including older persons.



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(Accredited with The Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing at United Nations since 2019)

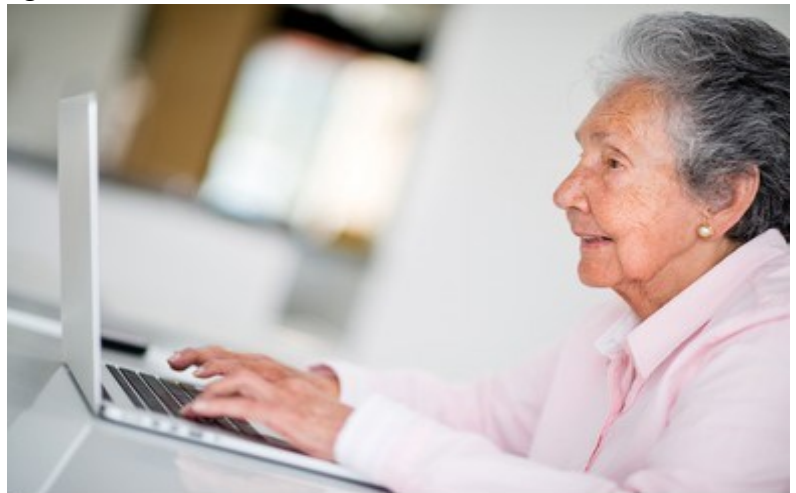
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Preparing for an aging population is vital to the achievement of sustainable development, with aging cutting across the goals of poverty eradication, good health, gender equality, economic growth and decent work, reduced inequalities, and sustainable cities. Therefore, while it is essential to address the exclusion and vulnerability of intersectional discrimination against—many older persons in the implementation of the new agenda, it is even more important to go beyond treating older persons as a vulnerable group. Older persons must be recognized as active agents of societal development to achieve truly transformative, inclusive, and sustainable development outcomes.

Poor social inclusion of older people will have to be overcome for sustainable development to incorporate all age groups. It is recommended that a re-evaluation of older people's traditional knowledge, experience, and skills has the potential for promoting social inclusion and their contribution in sustainable development.

Though older persons with high net-worth play an important role in sustainable development, older people with lesser financial resources but rich in experience, knowledge, and wisdom must be given equal opportunities to be independent in old age and contribute to sustainable development by participating in gainful activities.



Following are a few recommendations for concerned stakeholders;

- Develop, formulate, and implement requisite policy programs for the elderly population
- Study various aspects of old age & initiate social, economic, and health policy debate about aging
- Explore gainful engagement creating opportunities for retired older people
- Create older people friendly environment to enable their participation in sustainable development
- Utilize older people's resources to a greater extent
- Promote self-help groups for retired and older people

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