



Written Submission
for the twelfth session of the
General Assembly open-ended working group
for the purpose of strengthening the protection of the
human rights of older persons

FOCUS AREA:
CONTRIBUTION OF OLDER PERSONS TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

By the year 2030, global population of older people (60 and above) will exceed that of younger people (age groups of 15 to 24). The number of Americans age 60 and older has increased by 34% from 55.7 million to 74.6 million during the past decade alone and it is expected to continue to grow significantly in the future.

The findings of several research studies are indicative of the fact that many people from across the regions of the globe are, today, in a position to live longer. There are projections (based on data published by the WHO) that the world's population of people over the age of 65, by the year 2050, will double. Demographic change and/or indicator of this type has implications for sustainable development.

In the US older people are most common amongst the poorest sections of society. Older people are frequently excluded from the benefits of development and progress. In the US majority of customary and traditional means of support are replaced by market mechanisms. Gender and rural-urban migration play a significant part in this social exclusion.



There are problems with constant dependence on family support due to fast changing demographic and socio-economic scenarios.

During the past two years, older people living in the US had to suffer a lot of issues pertaining to their health, finance and social wellbeing. Many surveys suggest that the unemployment rate among older people have increased remarkably due to the Covid phenomenon

While gender has become a central factor in the development, age and older people are seldom considered, and many organizations assume a top-down, non-participatory model of care-even when these organizations are otherwise engaged in sustainable and participatory development.

Submitted by

Agewell Foundation USA, Inc.

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

62 W 47th ST STE 707, New York, NY 10036, agewellfoundationusa@gmail.com www.agewellfoundationusa.org



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. Preparing for an aging population is vital to the achievement of sustainable development, with ageing cutting across the goals on 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—and 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 the active agents of societal development in order to achieve truly transformative, inclusive and sustainable development outcomes.



In the attempt to realize a sustainable economic recovery from COVID-19, there is an urgent need to utilize an untapped resource in the form of older people. They need more opportunities today, in order to maintain their life and contribute in the mainstream economy.

Ageism and cultural devaluation 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 the 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 in 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
- Utilize older people's resources to a greater extent
- Promote self-help groups of retired and older people
- Create older people friendly environment in order to enable their participation in sustainable development

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