

**Open-ended working group in Ageing for the purpose of  
strengthening the human rights of older persons**

**Second working session  
New York, UNHQ, 1 to 4 August 2011, NLB conf. room 2**

**BIOS**

**Panel 1, Monday 1 August 2011, 15:00 to 18:00  
Discrimination and multiple discrimination**

**Victor E. Abramovich**

**Executive Secretary of the Institute of Human Rights Policies of the Southern  
Common Market (MERCOSUR)**

Mr. Abramovich is a leading Argentinean human rights lawyer and expert in the field of economic and social rights in Latin America. As of May 2010, Victor has been the Executive Secretary of the Institute of Human Rights Policies of the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), a regional trade body comprised of Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Brazil. From 2006 to 2009, Abramovich was a member of the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights. He served as Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women and as Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Prior to his appointment to the Commission, he was Executive Director of the Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS), prominent human rights NGO. In CELS, he litigated numerous cases in domestic courts and in the Inter-American system. Abramovich has written extensively about litigation on economic, social and cultural rights. Abramovich received his Juris Doctor degree with honors from Universidad de Buenos Aires (UBA) and his Masters in Law from American University. He is an adjunct professor of Human Rights Law of the Law Faculty of Universidad de Buenos Aires and teaches at Universidad Nacional de Lanús, Argentina. He has been a visiting professor at the Washington College of Law at American University.

**Roedolf Kay**

**National Coordinator of the South African Older Persons' Forum (SAOPF)**

Mr. Roedolf Kay was born in Pretoria, South Africa and after completing his schooling studied at the Rand Afrikaans University where he completed a BA degree. Prior to joining the SAOPF as National Co-ordinator, Roedolf was a senior Pastor in the AFM church, where for 8 years he focused his ministry on the care of older persons and children. During the two years that he has been with the SAOPF, Roedolf played an essential role in the drafting of the South African Older Persons' Charter and pioneered the present model of integrated forums for older persons. Roedolf was elected as a member of the Section 5 Committee of the South African Human Rights Commission. The SAOPF is the national watchdog for the rights of older persons consisting of an

alliance of forums, organizations to combating age discrimination, elder abuse and ensure that the rights of older persons' are protected, implemented and enforced.

**Ahmad Zia Langari**

**Commissioner - Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission**

Mr. Zia Langari has been working as Commissioner for the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission since 2001. With background studies in Agricultural Science, during the last 20 years Mr. Zia Langari has been working in the areas of rural development, community mobilization, relief operations and human rights protection and promotion. Between the years 1978-2001, he has witnessed very gross violation of international human rights law and international humanitarian law in his country, Afghanistan. Mr. Zia Langari has attended more than 25 international meetings, seminars, conferences and workshops on various issues of human rights and international cooperation for human rights protection and promotion, and also attended the 6<sup>th</sup> UN Ad Hoc Committee Meeting on Drafting the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

**Mr. Craig Mokhiber**

**Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights**

Craig Mokhiber heads the Development and Economic and Social Issues Branch at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Geneva. A lawyer and specialist in international human rights law, policy and methodology, he has served the UN since January of 1992. As chief of the Human Rights and Development Team in the 1990s, Mokhiber developed OHCHR's early work on human rights-based approaches to development and human rights-sensitive definitions of poverty. He then represented OHCHR in mainstreaming efforts at UN Headquarters in New York through most of the 2000's, serving as both Officer-in-Charge and Deputy Director of the New York throughout the UN's human rights reform process, including in the lead up to the World Summit, and in the process leading to the establishment of the Human Rights Council. His fieldwork includes dozens of human rights missions. He was for five years the Chairman of the UN Task Force for Action Two (a global initiative to advance rights-based approaches and the building of national protection systems), and later Chaired the UN Democracy Fund consultative group. Craig Mokhiber has lectured and taught human rights, has authored several publications on human rights themes, and has served on the Secretariats of the World Conference on Human Rights (1993), the Commission on Human Rights (1995), the Working Group on the Right to Development (2001), and the World Summit (2005).

**Panel 2, Tuesday 2 August 2011, 10:00 to 13:00**  
**Right to the highest attainable standard of physical  
and mental health of older persons**

**John Beard**  
**World Health Organization**

John Beard is the Director of the Department of Ageing and Life Course in WHO. Dr. Beard is an Australian physician who initially worked in primary health care, including several years as medical officer for an Aboriginal Medical Service. From 1991 he held a wide range of senior public health and academic roles in Australia, followed by three years as Senior Epidemiologist with the New York Academy of Medicine (NYAM) in the USA. In January 2009 he was appointed Director of the new Department of Ageing and Life Course at the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. Dr Beard's involvement in the health of older adults began during his time as a clinician. Later, the public health group he led was responsible for developing *Stay on Your Feet*, one of Australia's first and largest community based programmes to prevent falls in older adults. Dr Beard has published widely in the international literature. Much of his research has examined the social determinants of health in older adults, although he has also explored the influence of the physical and social environment on health at all ages, particularly on mental health. Much of Dr Beard's work has been built on partnerships with a wide range of stakeholders including research institutions, universities, government decision-makers, multilateral and bilateral agencies, and NGOs and foundations. He is continuing this collaborative approach in his new role with WHO.

**Mara Bustelo**  
**Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights**

Mara Bustelo is the Chief of the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Section of the Special Procedures Branch. She has been part of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights since 1998. Currently Ms. Bustelo supervises the support provided to nine Special Rapporteurs of the UN Human Rights Council, including some of particular relevance to the human rights of older persons such as the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health, the Right to Food, the Rights to Water and Sanitation, the Right to Adequate Housing and the Right to Education, and on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, among others. Ms. Bustelo has also worked in the Research and Right to Development Division, dealing with economic, social and cultural rights, as well as with business and human rights and with disability issues. She also worked as OHCHR Gender Coordinator and with the Committee on the Rights of the Child. Between 2002 and 2006, she was one of the staff members representing OHCHR in negotiations leading to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Prior to joining the UN, Ms. Bustelo was an academic researcher in the US, Australia and Italy, focusing on UN reform and on international human rights.

**Jan Killeen**  
**Alzheimer's Disease International**

Ms Killeen has taken a leading role in policy development for older people and people with dementia in Scotland over the past 30 years. First with Age Concern Scotland, identifying the needs of older people with depression and dementia, in 1985 she initiated Scotland's first national dementia charity (NGO) 'Scottish Action on Dementia'. Ms Killeen has a long-standing interest in the rights and legal protection of people with dementia and other adults with mental disorder. She co-ordinated a Scotland-wide campaign for the reform of legislation which resulted in 2000 in the first major piece of legislation on "incapacity" to be introduced by the Scottish Parliament. She was seconded in 2004 to the Justice Department of the Scottish Government to lead an action programme designed to improve the implementation of the Adults with Incapacity Act of 2000 (AWI). Ms Killeen has been secretary to the Scottish Parliamentary Cross Party Group on Alzheimer's for the past 4 years and took a lead role in the writing and production of the Charter of Rights for People with Dementia and their Carers. She was recently re-appointed as member of the Board of the Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland, having served as a Commissioner (part-time) from 2007 – 20011. Ms Killeen authored a number of policy and research reports, including a EU funded transnational study into the quality of care in care homes in northern and southern Europe (1999). She has also presented at a number of Alzheimer's Disease International Europe conferences and at the International Congress on Ageing conference in Montreal (2009)

**Panel 3, Tuesday 2 August 2011, 15:00 to 18:00**  
**Violence and abuse against older persons**

**Claudio Grossman**  
**Chair of the United Nations Committee against Torture**

He is also the Dean of American University Washington College of Law, Professor of Law and the Raymond Geraldson Scholar for International and Humanitarian Law. He is a member of the Governing Board of the International Association of Law Schools, member of the Board of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights, and member of the International Objectives Committee of the Association of American Law Schools. Grossman is also serving as a referee in peer review evaluations for the European Research Council *Dedicated Implementation Structure*, under the Ideas Specific Programme, until 2013. He was a member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights from 1993-2001, where he served in numerous capacities including President (1996-97; 2001), the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women (1996-2000), and the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Populations (2000-2001). Dean Grossman is the author of numerous publications regarding international law and human rights and the recipient of numerous awards for his work in those fields including the 2010 Henry W. Edgerton Civil Liberties Award from the American Civil Liberties Union of the National Capital Area.

**Theresa Minja**  
**Tanzania Social Protection Network**

Ms Theresa Minja is aged 71. She has been a teacher, social worker and a banker in the past and has been working with older people since 2005. She has two children and six grandchildren. Theresa works with an NGO known as Care for Vulnerable People (CAVUPE) which focuses on older people, orphans and the disabled. She participated in implementing a health project that was funded by the European Union and it gave her opportunity to experience and understands the health problems faced by older people, especially in rural areas. She is also the Chairperson of Tanzania Social Protection Network, a network of Agecare Organizations, Disabled Organizations and Organizations dealing with Vulnerable Children.

**Kieren Fitzpatrick**  
**Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions**

Director of the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions, the leading regional human rights organization in the Asia Pacific. Established in 1996, the Asia Pacific Forum is a member-based organization that supports the establishment and strengthening of national human rights institutions in the region. The APF is currently comprised of 17 member human rights commissions, that have been established in accordance with the United Nations' 'Paris Principles' from Afghanistan, Australia, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Korea, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Palestine, Philippines, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Timor-Leste. Combined these institutions employ more than 350 Commissioners and 3000 staff. In addition to the existing institutions the following States are in the process of establishing new human rights commissions – Bahrain, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Iraq, Japan, Nauru, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

**Panel 4, Wednesday 3 August 2011, 10:00 to 13:00**  
**Social protection of older persons**

**Wambui Kimathi**  
**Commissioner- Kenya National Commission on Human Rights**

Wambui Kimathi is a Commissioner at the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR). She is a graduate of political science from the University of Nairobi. She has post graduate qualification from the same University's School of Journalism, an ACCA Diploma in Finance for non-Finance Managers and is a 1997-1998 Hubert Humphrey Fellow, American University in Washington DC. At the Commission, Wambui heads the Economic Cultural and Social Rights department and focuses on the Business and Human Rights Program. She also spearheads work done by the Research and Compliance Department of the Commission that is responsible for policy, research

and legislation. It is through this department that the Commission produced the “Growing Old in Kenya” report in 2009. Prior to joining the KNCHR she worked as Deputy Executive Director at the Kenya Human Rights Commission, (KHRC) a leading NGO and as a Senior Program Officer at the Institute for Education in Democracy

**Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona**  
**Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights**

Ms. Sepulveda is the spec Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights since May 2008. Sepulveda is a Chilean lawyer and is currently working as Research Director at the International Council on Human Rights Policy. She holds a Ph.D in International Human Rights Law from Utrecht University in the Netherlands and an LL.M in human rights law from the University of Essex in the United Kingdom. She lectures at several universities in Latin America and has provided technical assistance and training on human rights to NGOs, IGOs and governments. Ms. Sepulveda has worked as a researcher at the Netherlands Institute for Human Rights, as a staff attorney at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, and as the Co-Director of the Department of International Law and Human Rights of the United Nations affiliated University for Peace in San Jose, Costa Rica. She also served as a consultant to the Department of International Protection of UNHCR and more recently to the Norwegian Refugee Council in Colombia. She was appointed Independent Expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty by the Human Rights Council in March 2008 and assumed her functions on 1 May 2008. In June 2011 the Human Rights Council extended the mandate on extreme poverty and human rights, and changed its title to Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights (HRC resolution 17/13)

**Salvacion Basiano**  
**Confederation of Older persons’ Associations of the Philippines**

Salvacion Basiano is the first elected President of the CONFEDERATION OF OLDER PERSONS’ ASSOCIATIONS OF THE PHILIPPINES (COPAP), which is supported by COSE – coalition of Services for he Elderly of the Philippines. Salve is married with 4 children and lives in Caloocan City, Philippines.

With the full support of all COPAP members, COPAP lobbied for the enactment of the R.A. 9994 law to provide a basic social pension for indigent Senior Citizens. Ms Basiano sat in the Senate and Congressional Committee deliberations on various issues concerning older persons and marched with 2,000 Older Persons to urge the President of the Republic to sign the Law. This law came into force in 2010.

Previously, COPAP actively campaigned for the enactment of the Cheaper Medicines Law and joined other Civil Society Organization’s call for the installation of sugar plantation workers in Negros Occidental and the implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law.

Ms Basiano believes that the problems confronting Older Persons anywhere in the world are everyone’s concern.

**Panel 5, Wednesday 3 August 2011, 15:00 to 18:00**  
**Age and social exclusion of older persons**

**Ellen Bortei-Doku Aryeetey**  
**University of Ghana**

**Ellen Bortei-Doku Aryeetey** is a sociologist and the Head of the Centre for Social Policy Studies at the University of Ghana (UG). She is also a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research. She has a Ph.D (1984) in Sociology from Michigan State University, USA. Her research focus is on social policy, community development, gender relations and rural institutions. She teaches in the ISSER M.A. Development Studies programme. She has written extensively, including in relation to women's access to land; resource tenure in west Africa, and community development.

**Oldrick Stanek**  
**Zivot 90**

**Dr. Oldrich Stanek** from the non governmental organization ZIVOT (Life) 90, Prague, the Czech Republic. Dr. Stanek is a lawyer by education and served many years as a public servant in different Czech Ministry (Foreign Affairs, Labour and Social Affairs). From the year 2000 he has been working as an executive secretary in ZIVOT 90 association, last two years as an international secretary. He is involved in European Union matters since 2002 as a ZIVOT's representative to AGE Platform Europe, in present days as a member of Administrative Council and vice-president of Social Inclusion Expert Group.

**Himanshu Rath**  
**Agewell Foundation, India**

Mr. Himanshu Rath is the Founder and Chairman of Agewell Foundation. Mr. Rath set up this organization in 1999 with the objective to work for the welfare of older persons. Under his motivational leadership Agewell Foundation has established a consortium of over 1500 NGOs with 80000+ volunteers spread across 540 districts in India and has extended a helping hand to over 5 million older people so far. His network of volunteers interacts with over 25000 older people on daily basis. While working at grass root level for more than a decade, Mr. Rath realized the need of research and advocacy for Needs and Rights of older persons. Under the banner of Agewell Research & Advocacy Centre, his organization has conducted several studies on issues concerning old age and has been organizing a series of symposiums on Needs & Rights of Older Persons. Mr. Himanshu

Rath has been associated with various Government of India Ministries and authorities including Planning Commission, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Ministry of Power, etc. as a consultant. Over the years, he has participated in various international conferences on old age issues. Agewell Foundation is also with Special Consultative Status with ECOSOC, United Nations.