

Inputs for the forthcoming Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing on behalf of the International Federation for Family Development. Recently, we organized a side-event during the CPD regarding intergenerational relations in an ageing world.

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Intergenerational Relations in an Aging world.

Context. Intergenerational solidarity is based on mutually supportive intergenerational relationships, valuing and demonstrating equity and reciprocity between generations, creating an intergenerational society. Generations learn from each other by sharing knowledge and experience, while they also need each other in order to meet the care needs of children and the elderly. Today, demographic transition towards an ageing society, changes in family structures and living arrangements along with urbanisation are increasingly influencing intergenerational relationships both on a personal and societal level. With rising longevity and declining fertility, the world is aging rapidly. Moreover, as the double-income family model becomes more and more widespread, parents, and especially women face an increased double responsibility to provide care for their children and older members of the family. And finally, urbanisation, increasingly attracting the young generation into cities, often leads to a disconnect between the youth and the older, rural generation.

Challenges. As a result, intergenerational relations have been under increasing pressure over the last number of years. The number of multigenerational families with intergenerational support and reliance are rapidly declining, especially in urban areas, posing multiple challenges to the elderly and youth at the same time, and threatening with marginalisation. On a societal level, an ageing population puts increased pressure on social protection systems, including pension schemes, health care systems, and employment; while education and care for children formerly provided by the elderly are increasingly becoming the responsibility of the State or the private sector.

The way forward. In order to build strong societies and enhance social cohesion and integration, it is key to promote strong intergenerational relations, with the overall aim to reduce the vulnerability of younger and older generations and making sure that no one is left behind, in line with the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. There is a need to re-discover and recognise the essential contribution that the youth and the elderly can make to the well-being of their families, communities and functioning of their societies. Such a goal can only be tackled effectively through a multi-stakeholder approach where governments, the private sector, civil society and academia work together to design and implement social policies and best practices, foster corporate social responsibility as well as civil and local government initiatives. Partnerships between youth and older persons organizations, community-based active ageing centres, multiservice, cultural and community organizations, community members of all ages should discover opportunities for voluntary, constructive and regular interaction between young people and older generations in the family, the workplace and society at large. From creating community programmes and

promoting intergenerational communication at work, to multigenerational living arrangements and intergenerational care provision, there is a wide array of notable examples in this regard.

The aim is to achieve an intergenerational society, where individuals of all ages are an integral and valued part of the society, reflected in the families, facility structures, services, policies and regulations that children, youth and the elderly encounter in the community as well as in day-to-day interactions and relationships.