



Open-ended Working Group on Ageing seventh working session

12 – 15 December 2016
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PANELLISTS' BIO

Item 5

Presentation of the report of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons



Rosa Kornfeld-Matte

Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, OHCHR, Geneva

Rosa's mandate as the United Nations Independent Expert on the Enjoyment of All Human Rights by Older Persons was extended for a period of three years as per resolution 33/5 adopted by the Human Rights Council on 29 September 2016.

Rosa served as the National Director of the Chilean National Service of Ageing where she designed and implemented the National Policy of Ageing. She has a long career as an academic, working for 22 years at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile where she founded the programme on older people.

She is a member of the Chilean Geriatric and Gerontologist Society, and the Latin American Geriatric and Gerontologist Committee (COMLAT), Vice-President of the International Network of Age Citizenship and Socio Economic Inclusion (REIACTIS), as well as member of the Latin American Research Network on Ageing of the Oxford Institute of Population Ageing (LARNA-OIA).

Rosa holds a Master's degree in Social Gerontology at Universidad Autónoma de Madrid.

Panel 1

Recent regional developments and initiatives concerning the human rights of older persons



Adriana Rovira

Director of the Instituto Nacional de las Personas Mayores del Ministerio de Desarrollo Social, Uruguay

Adriana is a professor of the Psychology Service for Ageing and a professor of Social Community Psychology Programme from the Social Psychology Institute at the Faculty of Psychology.

She was an advisor on ageing policies at the Dirección Nacional de Políticas Sociales of the Ministerio de Desarrollo Social (2007-2012). Since 2012, Adriana was the Director of the Instituto Nacional de las Personas Mayores del Ministerio de Desarrollo Social. She was the spokesperson on ageing topics for the South Region of the Red Interamericana Intergubernamental de Cooperación Técnica (RIICOTEC) (2009-2013), and a mentor in Uruguay for the Comisión Permanente de Personas Mayores para la RAADDHH del Mercosur since 2008.

Adriana is a researcher on topics dealing with ageing, public policies and caring policies. She is the author of a number of studies, including: "The Ageing process and public policies. The situation in Argentina, Chile and Uruguay," "The governance policies for the ageing process"(co-author with Adriana Fassio and Mónica Roquè. Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo. Buenos Aires. 2015) and "Older people in Uruguay: an undeniable challenge for knowledge production and for public policies" 2015.

She has participated in several seminars and congresses as speaker on human rights, public policies and caring policies regarding older people.

Adriana holds a Master's degree in Social Psychology from the Universidad de la República in Uruguay.



Johan Lodewyk Strijdom

Head of Social Welfare Division at African Union Commission, Addis Ababa

Johan is the Head of the Social Welfare Division at the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa.

He has followed-up closely on the work of the African Union to adopt the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights of Older Persons in Africa.



Božena Forštnarič Boroje

Head of Human Rights Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia

Božena is a career diplomat in the Slovenian Foreign Ministry.

With 13 years experience in Slovenia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, she has accumulated a skill set in various areas including human rights, international law, and security policy services.

Božena was Head of the International Law Department (2015), Minister-Counsellor at the Secretary-General's Office (2011), at the Director-General's Office for International Law and Protection of Citizens (2010) and at the Department of Europe (2009). She served as Deputy Head of Mission at the Slovenia embassy in Australia and Turkey.

Prior to her foreign affairs experience, Božena served as advisor to the Prime Minister's Office (2003) and to the International Relations and European Affairs Department at the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs.

Božena holds a Masters of Law (LL.M.) in International Law from the University of Ljubljana.



Sung-ho Lee

Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission of Korea and elected Chair of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions Working Group on Ageing

After his inauguration as Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission of Korea (NHRCK), Sung-ho has been actively engaged with the rights of older persons issue and was elected as Chair of Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) Working Group on Ageing.

Before joining the NHRCK, Sung-ho was a professional judge who has devoted his efforts on trials since he was commissioned on 1 September, 1985, until July 2015.

Throughout his legal career, he took charge of major positions, including: Judge at the Seoul High Court, Research Judge at the Supreme Court, Chief at Cheonan Branch of Daejeon District Court, First Chief Judge at the Seoul High Court and the Patent Court of Korea, and President at the Seoul Southern District Court and Seoul Central District Court respectively.

Sung-ho holds a Master's degree in Law at UCLA in the U.S.A. and Bachelor's degree in Law at Seoul National University in Korea.



Alexis Rinckenback

Head of the European and International Affairs Unit of the Social Cohesion General Directorate in the Ministry of Social Affairs, Health and Women's Rights of France

Alexis has been working with international issues in six ministries, in France and in Asia, over the last 20 years.

Alexis's areas of expertise are gender equality, social protection policy-making and inter-governmental cooperation in the fields of social cohesion, human dignity, equality and anti-discrimination.

The Social Cohesion General Directorate in France leads and coordinates government action on ageing and social protection and reinforcement of Older Persons' capacities. It develops and implements vast national programs, fighting poverty and social exclusion and promoting gender equality.

Alexis is currently Vice-Chair of the EU Social Protection Committee; he also has an extended experience of the Council of Europe, where he took part in various committees and experts' groups.

Most recently, he was the Vice-Chairperson of the European Committee for Social Cohesion, Human Dignity and Equality (CD-DECS, 2014-2015). Within the Council, he was a member of the drafting group CD-DH-AGE, which finalised the Recommendation on the Promotion of the Human Rights of Older Persons adopted on 19 February 2014.

Panel 2

Human rights dimensions concerning older persons in recent policy developments and initiatives in multilateral processes



Wataru Kawasaki

Programmer and Planning Officer, Habitat III Secretariat

Wataru holds a Master Degree in Development Studies at London School of Economics and Political Science. In 2004, he joined the UN-Habitat Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, where he provided programme support to field operations in Iraq, Cambodia, Mongolia, Nepal and Vietnam, among others.

In 2008, he moved to the Afghanistan Country Office to lead and coordinate the reporting, monitoring, evaluation, knowledge and information management.

He was also regularly Officer-in-Charge and key in managing donor relations for UN-Habitat Afghanistan programme. In January 2015, he transferred to UN-Habitat headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya under the Advocacy, Outreach and Communications Branch.

At present, he has been assigned to the Habitat III Secretariat, in charge of inter-agency United Nations System coordination and programming and planning of Policy area leading towards the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III).



María Soledad Cisternas Reyes

Chairperson of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, United Nations

María Soledad Cisternas Reyes, Chairperson of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities UN, Law degree with highest distinction, Attorney and Master in Political Science, Professor of Law (undergraduate and graduate) and researcher.

María is director of various legal and interdisciplinary projects, such as training of judges, public officials, and civil society (including indigenous sectors). She is author of several publications and has been invited to national and international conferences.



Werner Obermeyer

Deputy to the Executive Director, World Health Organization at United Nations Headquarters, New York

Werner's portfolio includes the promotion of health priorities in the General Assembly and other inter-governmental processes, the WHO's relations with the UN entities based in NY, as well as non-governmental organizations that focus on public health issues. He was responsible for the negotiations which culminated in adoption of the 2011 Political Declaration on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases, and the focal point for the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

He is also responsible for inter-governmental and inter-agency initiatives related to global health and foreign policy, universal health coverage, social protection, road safety, malaria, climate change and health, disabilities, narcotics and drugs, mental health and tobacco control. Prior to joining the World Health Organization he served as Deputy Director in the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) NY office, responsible for UNEP reform and governance, environment and health, and sustainable development. Before joining the United Nations he served in the South African Foreign Service, including various diplomatic assignments in Africa and South America.