



## Cercle des Seniors Actifs Europe

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### 12th Session of the Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWGA) Submission of Endorsed Written Statement re: Contributions of Older Persons to Sustainable Development from 2Young2Retire (Pass It On Network)

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## **Sustaining the 100-Year-Life in the Midst of Climate Change**

The global Pass It On Network (PION) was created in 2013 by the Paris-based NGO, 2Young2Retire. Our digital network of Active Ageing advocates now includes liaisons in 55 countries who collaborate with partner organizations, regional networks, and website subscribers. They are focused on sustaining positive ageing throughout the years that have been added to our longevity.

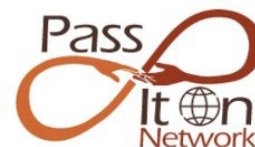
Rapid ageing is increasingly global in its impacts. For example, rapid growth of population aged 80 and older is now occurring in both India and China. Now is the time for us, as society's elders, to advocate policies and practices that will promote and sustain the wellbeing of the generations that follow us.

In the Pass It On Network's OEWGA statement regarding Economic Security, we have spoken about policies needed to sustain the productivity of older persons so they can continue to earn income and care for themselves and others in this rapidly ageing world. But we did not speak about the second major trend that is transforming all aspects of society -- climate change. To sustain productive longevity, we must engage civic leaders and older adults themselves to address the causes and impacts of climate change.

We recommend two approaches – both addressed through Sustainable Development:

- 1) Incorporate Sustainable Development within the goals and criteria developed by the World Health Organization for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities;
- 2) Engage older adults as individuals and citizens in the daily process of limiting carbon waste and as visible elders contributing to Sustainable Development. A UN Convention should guarantee and celebrate the right of older persons to participate in Sustainable Development.

These two objectives recognize that sustainable development is both a condition and a responsibility that is necessary for sustaining the 100-year-life.



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## Sustainable Age-Friendly Communities

The Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities now includes 1114 cities and communities in 44 countries. The eight domains of livability that are assessed by the civic leaders and older people in communities pursuing network membership include: Transportation, Housing, Outdoor Spaces and Buildings, Social Participation, Respect and Social Inclusion, Civic Participation and Employment, Community and Health Services, and Communication and Information. Although the conditions and innovations that are recommended in each of the domains foster access and participation that are essential for both quality of life and longevity, there is no mention of any connection with Sustainable Development.

The Pass It On Network recommends that the World Health Organization should advocate for Sustainable Development as a criterion within each of its eight domains – and give it visible emphasis in the introduction. As one example, preparation for the emergencies generated by climate change is particularly important for older adults and should be considered in a number of the domains. Perhaps organizations such as AARP that promote membership in the Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities could work with WHO and organize a process for embracing sustainable as an objective for Age-Friendly Communities. An open process could go a long way toward educating both older persons and civic leaders about the importance of this step.

## Visible Engagement of Older Persons in Sustainable Development

As a standard procedure, Governing Boards in Age-Friendly Communities formally approve their designation by the World Health Organization. Older adults are already engaged in developing and managing implementation of their Age-Friendly Community Plans. OEWGA's interest in expanding the rights of older persons to be actively engaged in Sustainable Development could be fulfilled through the rapidly growing Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities.

The Pass It On Network recommends that the membership specifications for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities should emphasize the engagement of older persons in Sustainable Development. This would include the engagement of older persons in the daily individual and community processes of limiting carbon waste. It should also include continuous education about sustainability issues, including the status of climate change and climate action as it affects each community, region, country, and planet. Diversity, equity, and inclusion measures as well as contributions to sustainable development should also be part of regular reports from each Age-Friendly Community Management Team.