



United Nations | Department of Economic and Social Affairs



United Nations
Office of the Secretary-General's
Envoy on Technology



NGO Committee on
AGEING
UNITED NATIONS, NY

NGO Committee on Ageing
GENEVA



Digital Equity for All Ages

UN INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PERSONS NEW YORK

October 1, 2021 - 10:00-11:30 EDT




SUPPORT FOR NY'S
EVENT FROM:



United Nations International Day of Older Persons 2021 – New York

Presented virtually via Zoom Webinar and Facebook live!

1 October 2021 - 10:00am to 11:30am ET

Speakers & Panel Members

(by order of programme)

	<p>Cynthia Stuen Chair, NGO Committee on Ageing in New York Chair, NGO Committee on Ageing in New York</p>
	<p>Cynthia Stuen is the Chairperson of the NGO Committee on Ageing in New York, and the United Nations Representative for the International Federation on Ageing. She was elected in June 2015 to be Vice-chair of the NGO Committee on Ageing/NY. In addition, she was recently elected as a vice-chair of the Board of Directors of VISIONS/Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired. She remains active in advocacy for inclusion of older persons in the implementation and monitoring of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. Her 40+ year professional career has been in field of gerontology. She has worked and conducted research in long term care, community-based service delivery, and provided professional and consumer education in the field of vision impairment. Her numerous publications, presentations and research endeavors cover topics of age-related sensory loss, access to environments for older adults with impaired vision and contributions older adults and their family and friends can make to program planning and service delivery. Dr. Stuen received her Bachelor's Degree from Valparaiso University, her Master's Degree from the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration and her doctorate from Columbia University. She is a fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine and The Gerontological Society of America.</p>

	<p>Erica Dhar, Co-Chair, UNIDOP 2021 Programme Sub-committee, NGO Committee on Ageing in New York</p> <p>Erica Dhar is Director of Global Alliances and Advocacy with AARP’s Office of International Affairs and serves as AARP’s Chief Representative to the United Nations. She has expertise working with the United Nations, advocating on issues of global aging, including the human rights of older persons; and on the sustainable development goals 2030 agenda. Erica manages the AARP Office of International Affairs in New York City, where she is responsible for relationships with international nonprofits, UN agencies and organizations dealing with aging, as well as international visitors. Erica is a board member of the UN NGO Committee on Ageing in NY and serves as the co-chair of the UN Stakeholder Group on Ageing. She spent 18 years in the broadcast and financial services industry. Erica received her bachelor’s degree with honors from Delhi University in India, a master’s degree in corporate political communication from Fairfield University in Connecticut, and a master’s degree from the New York University Gallatin School of Individualized Study.</p>
	<p>Magda Kaczmarek-Chair, Co-Chair, UNIDOP 2021 Programme Sub-committee, NGO Committee on Ageing in New York</p> <p>Magda is a dance artist, scholar and creative-aging and brain health advocate. She received her MFA in Dance Performance & Choreography and her BS in Biochemistry & Molecular Biophysics from the University of Arizona. She leverages 10 years of neuropharmacology research and 18 years in intergenerational community-based dance education to build bridges between academic, medical and arts sectors. Magda is an Atlantic Fellow for Equity in Brain Health at the Global Brain Health Institute, where she is working to design and expand access to creative aging programs that support brain health across the life course. She serves as a member at large in the Executive Committee at the NGO Committee on Ageing as a representative of Generations United, supporting expanding the public voice for the human rights of older persons.</p>
	<p>Maria-Francesca Spatolisano, Officer-in-Charge, Office of the Secretary General’s Envoy on Technology, United Nations</p> <p>United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres announced the the appointment of Maria-Francesca Spatolisano as Officer-in-Charge, Office of the Secretary General’s Envoy on Technology. Spatolisano is also the Assistant-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. She has 33 years of experience in public service including extensive senior leadership in multilateral affairs. Spatolisano served as the European Union Ambassador to the OECD and UNESCO, Monaco and Andorra. She was a member of the EU Delegation to the United Nations, serving as the Head of its Economic and Trade Section. She covered all issues related to trade, development and environmental policies in the Second Committee and ECOSOC and was also the EC representative to the Fifth Committee. Since 2017, she has been responsible for International Organizations and Development Dialogue with other Donors in the Commission’s Directorate General for Development Cooperation. In this capacity, she has assured the EU presence and developed EU positions on development policy in a number of international fora including the United Nations, the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, OECD, G-7 and the G-20, where she represented the EU in the G-20 Development Working Group. Ms. Spatolisano holds a Doctorate in Law (cum laude) from Florence University and is fluent in Italian, English and French.</p>



Juan Ramón de la Fuente, Ambassador from the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations

Ambassador Juan Ramón de la Fuente is a distinguished scholar and public intellectual in Mexico. Former Minister of Health and former Rector of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), where he is currently an Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry. A graduate of UNAM Medical Faculty, he trained in psychiatry at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. Since the 1980s, Dr. De la Fuente has worked closely with the United Nations System when first served as a Consultant for the World Health Organization (WHO) on issues regarding addictions and mental health. In 1995, he became Vice-President of the World Health Assembly in Geneva, and in 1998 he was elected to Chair the Board of UNAIDS. He has also been involved with UNESCO since 2004, as a member of the Board of Latin America and the Caribbean on Higher Education, and as of 2008, as President of the International Association of Universities (IAU). In 2009, Dr. De la Fuente was invited by then UN Secretary General to become a member of the United Nations University Council (Tokyo), and the following year he was nominated to Chair it for a new term. He has also served as advisor to UNDP projects on violence in Latin America.



Rajesh Mirchandani, Chief Communications Officer at UN Foundation

Rajesh is Chief Communications Officer at the UN Foundation, where he leads a team of skilled communicators working to advance progress on important global issues. Rajesh has over 20 years of global journalism experience with the British Broadcasting Corporation, including five years based in the U.S. He has covered a wide variety of stories and issues, from two U.S. presidential elections to the Haiti earthquake, global health security in the Horn of Africa to green energy investments in California. More recently, Mirchandani has helped the Center for Global Development navigate a redrawn political map, bringing the substance and relevance of the Center's pioneering economics research to wider audiences. On a wide range of issues, he has helped bring hard evidence to heated political debates at a time when power and influence in the world are shifting, attention spans are shrinking, and the traditional consensus around international cooperation is fraying. In 2012, Mirchandani was awarded a graduate degree in public diplomacy from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. Over the years, he has been a frequent collaborator of the UN as a moderator and commentator.



Alison Bryant, Senior Vice President of Research & Enterprise Lead for Technology & Digital Equity, AARP

Alison leads the Research Center and heads up the Technology impact area for AARP. In these roles, she is focused on helping the organization, consumers, and external stakeholders understand, engage with, and innovate for the 50+ consumer and their families. She is a renowned expert on the impact of media, technology, and play on consumers. She earned her Ph.D. from the Annenberg School of Communication at the University of Southern California.



Majd Alwan, Senior Vice President of Technology & Business Strategy, and Executive Director Center for Aging Services Technologies, Leading Age

Majd, a noted researcher and authority on aging-services technologies, is LeadingAge's senior vice president of technology, and executive director of the LeadingAge Center for Aging Services Technologies (CAST). Dr. Alwan leads a network of technology companies, providers and research institutions focused on technology solutions for an aging society. Prior to joining CAST, Majd served as an Assistant Professor and the Director of the Robotics and Eldercare Technologies Program at the University of Virginia's Medical Automation Research Center. Majd has a Ph.D. in intelligent robotics from Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, University of London; a Master of Science degree in control engineering with distinction from Bradford University; and a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Damascus University.



Ursula Wynhoven, International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Representative to the United Nations

Ursula is an international lawyer with 24 years' experience. She joined the ITU in September 2017 as its Representative to the UN, NY. The ITU is the UN's specialized agency for information and communication technologies with the mission to connect the world and bridge digital divides. She works on issues like ICTs for sustainable development and digital inclusion, including EQUALS: the global partnership for gender equality in the digital age. Previously, Ursula spent 14 years with the UN Global Compact, the UN's corporate sustainability initiative, where her last position was Chief, Social Sustainability, Governance & Legal and member of the Executive Committee. Ursula led the UN Global Compact's platforms and work streams on human rights and decent work, gender equality, poverty and inequality, peace, anti-corruption and the rule of law. Ursula also led legal affairs and oversaw policy development and implementation of the UN Global Compact's integrity measures.



Roxanna Widmer-Iliescu, Senior Coordinator for Digital Inclusion at International Telecommunication Union

Roxana WIDMER-ILIESCU has been working in the Development Sector of the International Telecommunication Union for over 23 years. Through her work she contributes to achieving the overarching goal of Digital Inclusion by promoting the empowerment of all people through ICTs regardless of gender, age, ability or location, including persons with disabilities, older persons and indigenous peoples. In her capacity as Senior Coordinator for Digital Inclusion she advises ITU members and stakeholders on developing ICT accessibility policies and on implementing related strategies and leads the development of several ITU-D key resources aiming at raising awareness, strengthening knowledge and providing the necessary tools towards building digitally inclusive societies and universally designed age-friendly environments and thus, ensuring that no one is left behind in the digital age.



Rajendra Partap Gupta, Chair, Dynamic Coalition on 'Internet & Jobs' – Internet Governance Forum, United Nations; Chairman – Drafting Committee for Digital Health Standards, NABH, Delhi, India.

Prof. Rajendra is a leading public policy expert who has been contributing to policy making for over a decade. He is the former advisor to the Health Minister of India and played an important role in drafting the National Education and National Health Policy. He has been involved in global policy formulation at the WHO as a member of the Guidelines Development Group and is a member of the World Economic Forums Expert Network. Rajendra has authored five books and has widely traveled and Chairs the World Intellectual Foundation.



Claudia Mahler, Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons

Claudia is the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons. She has been working for the German Institute for Human Rights as a senior researcher in the field of economic, social and cultural rights since 2010. She is also a visiting professor at the Alice Salomon Hochschule. From 2001 to 2009, Ms. Mahler conducted research at the Human Rights Centre of the University of Potsdam where her main fields were inhuman rights education, minority rights and the law of asylum. In 2000, she was appointed as Vice President of the Human Rights Commission for Tyrol and Vorarlberg. She has also worked as a lecturer in the field of human rights law and as a consultant to OHCHR in Geneva. From 1997-2001, she held the position of an assistant at the Leopold-Franzens-University Innsbruck, Austria in the field of Criminal Law and Criminal Procedures. Ms. Mahler received her doctoral degree in 2000.



Cecilia Morél Montes, First Lady of Chile

Cecilia Morél, First Lady of Chile, holds a long career in public and social service. In 1989, she founded the Mujer Emprende Foundation, with the mission to encourage employment and training for women in vulnerable areas. In her role as First Lady, she chaired the seven non-profit foundations of the Presidency. The project that was closest to her heart was the program "Choose Healthy Living" (Elige Vivir Sano). This was a new policy that aimed to promote healthy living habits for Chileans and in 2013, this program was signed into Law. She continues to work on social policies that improve the quality of life for those in vulnerable situations. Currently, she is working on a program to promote healthy aging and to improve the lifestyle of seniors with the Ministry of Social Development and the National Service of older persons.



Masumi Ono, Chief of Social Inclusion and Participation Branch, United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs

As Chief of the Social Inclusion and Participation Branch in the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs, Masumi leads a dedicated team of specialists on issues related to older persons, youth, persons with disabilities and family. Her 25 years of UN experience include supporting the development of Sustainable Development Goals from the Secretary-General's office, mobilizing high-level advocacy work on education finance, preparing reports for the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on cross-sectoral themes such as gender, poverty eradication and UN system coherence, and managing trade facilitation programmes in the Asia Pacific region. Before joining the UN through the National Competitive Exam (YPP), she worked in Finance having obtained an MBA and BA (Economics) both from Cornell University (USA).