

# Commission for Social Development

## Sixty-first session

### High-level panel discussion on the Fourth Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing

Wednesday, 8 February 2023, 10:00am –  
1:00pm United Nations Headquarters, New  
York Conference Room 4

### Bios



#### **Alexandre Sidorenko**

**Senior Advisor, European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research and former Chair of DESA Programme on Ageing**

Alexandre is an international expert on policy and programmes on ageing, including advisory services and training in Eastern European countries and countries of the former Soviet Union. Previously, he was the Head of the United Nations Programme on Ageing. His major responsibilities during his 21 years of work for the United Nations had involved the coordination of the United Nations activities in the area of ageing, including promoting and monitoring the international policy and programmes on ageing. Sidorenko was leading the substantive preparations for the Second World Assembly on Ageing in Madrid, Spain in 2002 and its follow up activities.



#### **Emem Omokaro**

**Director General, National Senior Citizens Centre, Nigeria**

Emem is the Director General of the National Senior Citizens Centre in Nigeria. Prior to this position, Emem was a policy analyst who had worked extensively in Nigeria to establish strategic participatory platforms and mechanisms that have advanced national action on ageing in the field of policy, education and research. Her pro-active stakeholders' engagements have built alliances, enhanced multi-sectoral institutional capacity and fueled momentum in advocacy, legislation and ageing mainstreaming. She holds a Ph.D. in Development Sociology from the University of Calabar, Nigeria, with an award-winning dissertation that interrogated the quality of care of Nigeria's older persons.



### **Alfredo Ferrante**

#### **Chair of the ECE Standing Working Group on Ageing**

Alfredo is the Chair of Standing Working Group on Ageing (SWGA), an intergovernmental body, which is subsidiary to the Executive Committee of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. Alfredo has worked in the Italian Government since 2002 as Head of Unit. He is interested in several issues at national and international level such as public policies in social affairs such as policies for persons with disabilities, sustainability and social responsibility as well as the reform of public sector. Alfredo was the former Chair of the Committee of the rights of persons with disabilities (CAHDPH) at the Council of Europe.



### **Paula Narváez Ojeda**

#### **Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations and Vice President of ECOSOC**

Paula is the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations and the Vice president of ECOSOC. She presented her credentials to UN Secretary-General António Guterres on 8 June 2022. Before this latest appointment, Paula was the Officer-in-Charge at the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in Guatemala, from February to May 2022. She also served as Socio-Political Adviser at the UN-Women Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, from October 2021 to February 2022, and Regional Adviser for Governance and Political Participation in the same office, from 2018 to 2020. Between 2016 and 2018, Paula was Minister Secretary General of Government, and she served as a Presidential Adviser from 2014 to 2016. From 2012 until 2014, she was a Latin America and Caribbean Section Program Specialist at UN-Women, based in New York. Following the eruption of the Chaitén Volcano in Chile in May 2008, Paula served as the delegate of then-President Michelle Bachelet to the Chaitén Volcano Emergency, from 2008 to 2009. She has also held a number of other Government positions. Paula earned a master's degree in Latin American Studies from Georgetown University in the United States; a master's degree in economics and regional management from the Universidad Austral de Chile.



### **Mohammad Meqdady**

**Secretary-General, Council of Family Affairs, Jordan**

Mohamed is the Secretary-General of the National Council for Family Affairs in Jordan. In his work, Mohamed focuses on women and their economic empowerments as well as on early childhood issues. The Council, under Mohammed's leadership, was the public authority that led the development of the Older Persons Strategy in Jordan.



### **Aishath Mohamed Didi**

**Minister of Gender and Social Affairs, Maldives and  
Chair of the Intergovernmental Meeting for the Asia-Pacific Review and Appraisal**

Aishath is the Minister of Gender and Social Affairs in the Maldives. She served in various positions as the Ambassador/High Commissioner of Maldives in India, as well as Minister of Gender and Family between 2005 and 2008, in addition to several other civil and public affairs positions throughout her career. Aishath's experience includes positions as Chair of Gender Equality Council, Chair of Children's Home Governing Board, Chair of the Council for the Rights of the Child, Member of the United Nations Task Force on Youth and Adolescents and as Member of the United Nations Task Force on Gender. Aishath served as the Chair of the Intergovernmental Meeting for the Asia-Pacific fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.



### **Carole Osero-Ageng'o**

**Representative of a Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People (GAROP) Member Organization, HelpAge International**

Carole is a representative of HelpAge International, a member organization of the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People (GAROP). The Global Alliance is a network of over 400 organisations from across the world who have come together to strengthen and promote the rights of older persons. The mission of the Global Alliance is to support and enhance civil society's engagement at national, regional and international levels on the need for a new international instrument on the rights of older persons. GAROP seeks a world in which older persons live free from discrimination and are able to fully enjoy their rights. GAROP's core values are partnership with, inclusion of, and the promotion of participation by older people in decisions that affect their lives. The Global Alliance respects the rights of all persons regardless of age, race, color, disability, gender, language, religion, sexual orientation, political views, national or social origin, class and birth or property status. Carole is a multilingual human rights lawyer and gender expert. In her current role of Lead, Global Initiatives & Africa Regional Representative at HelpAge International, she continues to lead in policy advocacy for the rights of older persons in Africa and linking this to strategic initiatives at global level for greater impact.



### **Heidrun Mollenkopf**

**Sociologist and Gerontologist, Germany**

Heidrun is a sociologist and a gerontologist. She was one of the first sociologists to focus scientific research on the use of technology to improve the quality of life in old age. She is a board member of the German National Association of Senior Citizens' Organisations (BAGSO). At the age of 82 years, Heidrun co-lead the organizing committee of the first Joint Forum of Civil Society and Scientific Research, entitled "A fulfilling life throughout the life-course: a joint effort of civil society and research in policy making."