

Background Note

International Day of Older Persons, 1 October 2013

THE FUTURE WE WANT - WHAT OLDER PERSONS ARE SAYING

Longevity and Development: Opportunities and Challenges

Our Theme

This year, in commemoration of the International Day of Older Persons (1 October), the theme “**The future we want: what older persons are saying**” has been chosen to draw attention to the efforts of older persons, civil society organisations, United Nations organizations and Member States to place the issue of ageing on the international development agenda.

As the Secretary-General noted in his message for the International Day in 2012,

“Rapid population ageing and a steady increase in human longevity worldwide represent one of the greatest social, economic and political transformations of our time. These demographic changes will affect every community, family and person. They demand that we rethink how individuals live, work, plan and learn throughout their lifetimes, and that we re-invent how societies manage themselves.

As we embark on shaping the post-2015 United Nations development agenda, we must envision a new paradigm that aligns demographic ageing with economic and social growth and protects the human rights of older persons.”

Why?

This year’s celebration provides a unique occasion to highlight the opportunities and challenges of longevity for development: global consultations are now taking place to shape the post-2015 United Nations development agenda as the target date for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) approaches.

The Future Older Persons Want

A worldwide participatory process is underway to outline a new vision to building upon the achievements of the MDGs. New global realities and trends have emerged in the economic, social and demographic landscape over the past 15 years, and on-line and in person consultations at all levels are generating various options and scenarios for consideration.

Get involved ...

Contribute to the www.worldwewant2015.org online space that is dedicated to global consultations on the post-2015 United Nations development agenda, and voice your opinions to ensure that the concerns of older persons are adequately addressed in discussions on inequality, poverty eradication, health, food security, and population dynamics, among others.

Join the Global Survey for a Better World!

Take the opportunity of celebrating this International Day of Older Persons by voting on what is most important for you and your family. Join the global vote and register your priorities.

To learn more go to: www.myworld2015.org

Share with us!

Celebrating the international day of older persons? Planning a special activity? We want to know! Email your activities, stories and recommendations to the United Nations Focal Point on Ageing at the Email dspd-ageing@un.org