The 16th Annual Celebration of the
International Day of Older Persons

Improving the Quality of Life for Older Persons:
Advancing United Nations Global Strategies

Thursday, October 5, 2006
10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Presented by:
The UN/NGO Committee on Ageing
in collaboration with
The UN Department of Public Information
The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs
The World Health Organization
And
The UN Population Fund
MISSION STATEMENT

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PERSONS
October 5, 2006

Improving the Quality of Life for Older Persons: Advancing UN Global Strategies

The 16th Annual United Nations International Day of Older Persons (IDOP) recognizes the global population of 600 million people over 60 years of age and the value of this growing population, its contribution to the foundation and future of society, and the potential impact on the community of nations.

The International Day forum will also recognize the vital need for public and private support to provide nourishing and supportive environments and to enable older persons to elevate their concerns to the forefront of international dialogue.

In support of the Millennium Development Goals and the UN Second World Assembly on Ageing, the International Day of Older Persons will raise awareness about policies and programs to enhance quality of life for older persons and to encourage positive images of ageing.

The OBJECTIVES of the 2006 UN International Day of Older Persons are to:

1. Raise awareness of the UN Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002 with special attention to the Plan’s Priority Direction on Ensuring Enabling and Supportive Environments towards promoting positive images of ageing.
2. Emphasize the need for the development and implementation of appropriate ageing policies and programs with consideration given to environmental sustainability and global partnerships.
3. Identify innovative initiatives for enhancing living conditions (e.g., housing, transportation) that are being planned and implemented in developing, transitional, and developed countries.
4. Advocate for older persons to be recognized as valuable resources and to exemplify their contributions to society.
Program Outline

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PERSONS
Improving the Quality of Life for Older Persons: Advancing UN Global Strategies
October 5, 2006
Conference Room 2

9:00 am - Registration

9:45 am - Inner Age: A Portrait Project
A slide presentation created by Annie Levy

10:00 am - 11:30 am. PLENARY
Opening Remarks by Juan Carlos Brandt, Chief, Department of Public Information, NGO Section, UN
Greeting Message from Kofi Annan, Secretary General, UN
Greeting Message from Florence Denmark, Chair, NGO Committee on Ageing, UN NY

KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Moderator: Juan Carlos Brandt, Chief, Department of Public Information, NGO Section, UN
Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund) Executive Director, Under-Secretary-General, UN

11:30 am - 12:45 pm PANEL DISCUSSION
Moderator: Alexandre Sidorenko, Ph.D., UN FocaL Point on Ageing, Department of Economics and Social Affairs, UN
Astrid Stuckelberger, Ph.D., Gerontologist, Institute for Social and Preventive Medicine, University of Geneva, Switzerland
Gilda A. Glasinovich, M.D., UN Representative, Technical Adviser, Gender and Immigrant Populations, Economic and Social Council, New York
Hassan Hammoud, Ph.D., Professor, Education and Sciences Division, Lebanese American University, Beirut, Lebanon
Dr. Tukufu Zuberi, Ph.D., Director, Population Studies Center, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Rajul Mehta, Founder-Director, Project OutrEACH, Bombay, India and New York, New York

Question and Answer Period

12:45 pm - 1:00 pm CULTURAL PERFORMANCE
Music by Mandolin Orchestra (Glen Ridge, New Jersey)
Gabriel Nevola, Conductor
In the tenth and final year of my tenure as Secretary-General, after a full career in the service of the United Nations, I have a personal stake in the fate of older persons and the fulfillment of their aspirations. But I am only one of 600 million persons in the world over the age of 60. As people across the globe come to live increasingly longer lives, our entire human family has a stake in encouraging and easing a productive, active, and healthy aging process. The whole world stands to gain from an empowered older generation, with the potential to make tremendous contributions to the development process and to the work of building more productive, peaceful, and sustainable societies.

That is why the theme of this year’s International Day of Older Persons is “Improving the Quality of Life for Older Persons: Advancing UN Global Strategies”. It is a call to all communities to work for policies and programmes that will enable older persons to live in an environment that enhances their capabilities, fosters their independence, and provides them with adequate support and care as they age.

That means ensuring housing, transportation, and other living conditions that allow people to maintain their independence for as long as possible, and “age in place” -- yet remain active -- within their own communities. Equally important, it means recognizing and respecting the dignity, authority, wisdom, and productivity of older persons in all societies, particularly in their roles as volunteers and multi-generational caregivers. And that, in turn, means promoting a more positive image of ageing.

On this International Day of Older Persons, I call on Governments, the private sector, civil society organizations, and people everywhere to focus on building a society for all ages -- as envisioned in the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, and in line with the Millennium Development Goals and wider global development agenda. Together, we can and must ensure that people live not only longer lives, but better, more enriching, rewarding, and fulfilling lives.

Secretary-General Kofi Annan
Mr. **Juan Carlos Brandt**, a national of Venezuela, is the Chief of the Non Governmental Organizations’ Section (NGOs) in the Department of Public Information. In this capacity, since April 2006, Mr. Brandt oversees the relationship between approximately 1500 representatives of Civil Society and the Organization’s information Department.

Prior to this, Mr. Brandt was the Director of the United Nations Information Centre in Australia and the South Pacific. Based in Sydney, Mr Brandt was appointed in early 1998 by Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the UN, and assumed his duties in October of the same year. UNIC Australia is also responsible for Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

Mr. Brandt joined the United Nations in 1984 as Information Officer in the United Nations Information Centre in Washington, D.C. In 1988, he became Associate Spokesman in the Office of the Spokesman for then Secretary-General of the United Nations, Javier Pérez de Cuéllar. In January 1992 and for the next five years, he served in the same capacity under former Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali and, most recently, since January 1997, under the current Secretary-General Kofi Annan as Senior Associate Spokesman and Deputy Spokesman.

In 1989, Mr. Brandt was appointed spokesman for the President of the forty-third session of the General Assembly, Dante Caputo (Argentina).

Before joining the United Nations, Mr. Brandt worked for five years as Director of the New York-based Venezuelan Government Tourist and Information Centre for the United States and Canada, and as Press Counsellor for the Permanent Mission of Venezuela to the United Nations. Prior to that position he worked in his country’s communications and advertising industry, both in the private and public sectors.

Mr. Brandt attended the La Salle School, in Caracas, and the San Jose Salesian Institute in Los Teques, also in Venezuela. He graduated from the Catholic University in Caracas, where he earned a degree in Mass Communications and Journalism.

Born in England on 26 November 1952, Mr. Brandt is married and has six children.

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**Florence L. Denmark**, Chair, NGO Committee on Ageing, UN NY, has represented both the International Council of Psychologists and the American Psychological Association at the United Nations since January 2000. Dr. Denmark received her Ph.D. in Social Psychology from the University of Pennsylvania. She was the Robert Scott Pace Distinguished Professor and Chair of the psychology department at Pace University for 13 years. Prior to that time, Dr. Denmark was the Thomas Hunter Professor of Psychology at Hunter College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. She is currently the Robert Scott Pace Distinguished Professor at Pace University.

Dr. Denmark has served as President of the American Psychological Association (APA), the International Council of Psychologists, and other regional and national organizations. At this time, she is a liaison to the APA’s Committee on Ageing. An internationally recognized scholar, researcher and policy-maker, with a particular expertise on the aging of women, she is a Fellow of the APA and has received many national and international awards and four honorary doctorates. Dr. Denmark has authored or edited 15 books and over 100 articles and book chapters. She has presented numerous papers and reports on ageing at local, regional, national and international meetings. In 2004, Dr. Denmark received the American Psychological Foundation’s Gold Medal for Lifetime Achievement in the Public Interest. In 2005, she received the Ernest Hilgard Award for Distinguished Sustained Contribution to General Psychology.

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**Thoraya Ahmed Obaid**, Executive Director of United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Population Fund, the world’s largest multilateral source of population assistance. Ms. Obaid was appointed head of UNFPA, effective 1 January 2001, with the rank of Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations. She is the first Saudi Arabian to head a United Nations agency.

From 1998 to 2001, Ms. Obaid was Director, Division for Arab States and Europe, UNFPA. Before joining UNFPA, Ms. Obaid was Deputy Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) from 1993 to 1998. She was the Chief of the Social Development and Population Division, ESCWA, from 1992 to 1993, and Social Affairs Officer, responsible for the advancement of women, from 1975 to 1992. A central focus of Ms. Obaid’s work at ESCWA and UNFPA has been to cooperate with governments to establish programmes to empower women and develop their capacities as citizens with rights and responsibilities. She has also worked with women’s non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to advocate for women’s equality.

In 1975, Ms. Obaid established the first women’s development programme in Western Asia. The programme helped build partnerships on women’s issues between the United Nations and regional NGOs. Ms. Obaid chaired the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Gender in Amman, Jordan, in 1996. In November 1997, she was a member of the United Nations Inter-Agency Gender Mission to Afghanistan. Between 1984 and 1985, she was a member of the League of Arab States Working Group for Formulating the Arab Strategy for Social Development.

In 1963, Ms. Obaid became the first Saudi Arabian woman to receive a government scholarship to study at a university in the United States. She has a doctorate degree in English Literature and Cultural Anthropology from Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan. She is a member of the Middle East Studies Association and of Al-Nahdha Women’s Philanthropic Association, a Saudi NGO.

Throughout her career, Ms. Obaid has emphasized the importance of development that emerges from the context of each society, taking into consideration the cultural values and religious beliefs that shape people and affect their actions. As UNFPA Executive Director, she has introduced a special focus on culture and religion in the Fund’s development work, thereby linking universal values of human rights to values of the human worth promoted by all religions and found in all cultures.

Ms. Obaid has received many awards and honours. She is married and has two daughters.

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16th Annual Observance of the International Day of Older Persons
Dr. **Astrid Stuckelberger** is a gerontologist and internationally recognized expert in aging. She is currently a lecturer and researcher at Geneva School of Public Health of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Geneva. She holds a doctorate in psychology from the University of Geneva and has published more than 100 articles, reports and several books.

As a representative to the UN in Geneva of both, the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics (IAGG) and the Society for Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI), she was nominated as a chair of the NGO Committee on Aging where she advocates in particular for a human rights framework for older persons. She conducted several scientific expertises and reports for the Swiss government, the European Commission and several United Nations specialized agencies and programmes. She is a permanent member of the WHO Ethical Review Committee (ERC).

During the last decade, as Deputy-Director of the Swiss National Research Programme on Aging, she created with WHO and AARP, the Geneva International Network on Ageing (GINA). After organising numerous events for the 1999 UN International Year of Older Persons for the UN in Geneva and the Swiss authorities (i.e. the UN Open House Day), she received an Award from the UN Secretary-General. She also contributed to the UN ‘Research Agenda on Aging for the XXIst Century’, the Plan of Action and the NGO Forum declaration at the 2nd UN Assembly on Aging in Madrid in 2002.

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Dr. **Gilda A. Glasinovich** has extensive education and training in epidemiology, demography, psychology and public health. She is a graduate from Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos (Peru), London University (Great Britain) and Columbia University (United States) among other academic institutions.

For near two decades, Dr. Glasinovich has focused her work on immigrant women’s health and advancing women’s agendas. At the core of her social involvement is her continuous effort to bring awareness to gender-based violence among this at-risk population. She works closely with government, private and non-governmental organizations to operationalise and implement effective public health actions and to foster effective partnerships at community levels.

Dr. Glasinovich’s is a United Nations Representative with the Economic and Social Council, and her expertise on women’s health and immigrant populations makes her a valuable contributor. As a Technical Adviser on Gender and Immigrant Populations, she works closely with UN Permanent State Member Missions and partakes on special assignments. Her contributions range from technical assistance to project design and implementation to being a world speaker on behalf of various organisations.

Dr. Glasinovich is the recipient of Congressional Recognitions for her work to forward immigrant women’s agenda, and the State and City of New York have honoured her with “Outstanding Public Service” recognitions. The Women’s Media Consortium recognized her efforts in changing the stereotypical portrayal of Latin women with the “New Voices, New Vision Prize” and the Women’s Federation for World Peace named her “Remarkable Woman of the Year”, being the first Latin American to receive this prestigious award. Her dedication to community-capacity building, cultural understanding, and social empowerment for all women and their families along with a pleasant and warm personality, and strong spiritual values, makes Dr. Gilda Glasinovich a truly inspiring and fascinating woman of our times.

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Dr. Hassan R. Hammoud holds a Ph.D. in Social Welfare from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio-USA, 1980. He is currently a professor of Social Welfare and Social Work at the Lebanese American University in Beirut, Lebanon, which he joined in 1995. Prior to this date, he had taught Social Policy and Social Work at the Kuwait University for 16 years.


His research and consultancy work for several local and international firms and organizations, such as the UNESCO, the UNESCWA, the World Bank, and the Lebanese Government produced the following professional reports: The National Plan for the Eradication of Illiteracy in Lebanon, 2002-2004; The Poverty Alleviation Strategy Paper for Lebanon, February 2005; Non-Formal Education in the Arab World, UNESCO, November 2004; Illiteracy in the Arab World February 2005 (background paper for the EFA Global Monitoring Report 2006); The Plan of Action on Ageing to the Year 2012, UNESCWA, 2002; Globalization and Social Protection in the Arab Region, UNESCWA, December 2005; The Arab Illiteracy Strategy, UNESCO, December 2005.

Dr. Hammoud participated in several international Social Welfare/Social Work conferences, in Egypt, Morocco, Kuwait, Finland, Indonesia, Canada and Japan.

His areas of interest include illiteracy and poverty eradication, health, education, social protection, social security, and other welfare areas as well as social work education and research, social development, social policy and international comparative social welfare.

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"Born Antonio McDaniel and raised in the housing projects of Oakland, CA, in the 1970s he embraced the name Tukufu Zuberi, Swahili for “beyond praise” and “strength,” he said. “I took the name because of a desire to make and have a connection with an important period where people were challenging what it means to be a human being,” Zuberi said.

Dr. Tukufu Zuberi is a Professor of Sociology and the Director of the Center for Africana Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. He received his B.A. from San Jose State in 1981, his M.A. from Cal State Sacramento in 1985, and his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in 1989. At the University of Pennsylvania since 1988, he has served as chair of the Graduate Group in Demography (1995-1998), and as Director of African Studies (1999-2000). He has also been a visiting professor at Mekerere University in Kampala, Uganda and the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania.

African Census Analysis Project (ACAP), an international collaboration with 30 African nations. And, he is the director of the Center for Africana Studies.

As an internationally-known social scientist, Professor Zuberi has made important contributions in the study of sociology, population studies, and Africana studies. He has received awards for his academic work from the National Institutes of Health, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Andrew Mellon Foundation, and William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

Professor Zuberi is a host of the hit PBS series History Detectives (currently airing for its fourth season). He has appeared in several documentaries on Africa and African American issues, and on ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN and FOX, WHYY, MSNBC, and on syndicated programs such as Donahue, and America’s Black Forum. He is a guest lecturer at colleges and universities across the country and internationally. <www.tukufuzuberi.com>

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Rajul Mehta is the Founder-Director of Bombay-based NGO, outrEACH (Outreach Trust), and its main representative at the United Nations.

Ms. Mehta is a visual communications professional who started her career with advertising and graphic design followed by a stint in filmmaking. Her documentary “Kumbharwada, Bombay (Potters’ Colony)” celebrates the spirit of life in the largest slums in Asia, and has won 13 awards at 35 international film festivals.

In order to put these skills to purposeful use, Ms. Mehta founded outrEACH in 1999, with a mission to communicate and impact positive social change. Her first major cause and project was to raise awareness about Elder Abuse. This concept was executed in partnership with the Times of India, in the form of a participatory press campaign in 2000. Since then, Ms. Mehta has presented the outcome of this initiative at various UN conferences, including the Second World Assembly on Ageing in Madrid in 2002.

Ms. Mehta’s future projects include documentaries and training modules on Elder Abuse. Another ambitious project Ms. Mehta is excited about is Product Design for the Elderly and the Disabled, to help improve the quality of life. This would stimulate design thinking to integrate and include older persons more fully, as productive members of the community.

Ms. Mehta has also represented International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA) at the UN, and is closely associated with the NGO Committee on Ageing.

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NGO Executive Committee on Ageing, New York

Chair: Florence Denmark, American Psychological Association & International Council of Psychologists
Vice-Chair: Jessica Frank, AARP
Secretary: Patricia Day, League of Women Voters
Treasurer: Peter R. Walker, Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues
Immediate Past Chair: Helen R. Hamlin, International Federation on Ageing
Members-at-Large: James Collins, International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics
Dianne Davis, International Council for Caring Communities
Vernie B. Ellis, Iota Phi Lambda Sorority
Judy Lear, Gray Panthers
William T. Smith, International Association of Homes and Services for the Ageing

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New York, NY 10017
E-mail: ageingassembly@yahoo.com

International Day of Older Persons Committee, 2006

Co-chair: Edward Ryan, AARP Office of International Affairs
Co-chair: Richard Velayo, International Council of Psychologists
Associate Chair: Phyllis Gottdiener, International Council of Jewish Women

Members: Erika Baron (Intern), Pace University
Ruth Begun, National Women's Conference Center
Elaine Bow, International Council of Psychologists
Pat Brownell, International Network for Prevention of Elder Abuse
James Collins, International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics
Mary Covington, International Federation for Home Economics
Denise Cummings, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority International
Florence Denmark, American Psychological Association & International Council of Psychologists
Jessica Frank, AARP
Natalie Gordon, International Federation on Ageing
Helen Hamlin, International Federation on Ageing
Virginia Hazzard, AARP
Maria Klara (Intern), Pace University
Jack Kupferman, NYC Department for the Aging
Judy Lear, Gray Panthers
Annie Levy, The Portrait Project
Mary Mayer, International Federation on Ageing
Margot Nadien, International Council of Psychologists
Ivy Pierre, Volunteer
Nancy Ross, United Health Network
Janet Sigal, American Psychological Association
Norma Simon, American Psychological Association
Douglas Stockwell, United Health Network
Mary Toumayan, Armenian International Women's Association
Bob Wesner, International Council of Psychologists
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Acknowledgements

The presentation you viewed as you entered today’s conference is the beginning of

**Inner Age: A Portrait Project**

by Annie Levy

The project will be expanded to ask/answer questions about aging from a variety of perspectives, cultures and segments of society through the lives of different people.

“How old would you be if you didn’t know how old you were?”

This is the question posed to those depicted in this portion of the project – a visual celebration of older people.

About Annie Levy:
Annie Levy documents and brings to life, the experience and stories of ordinary people through the art of portraiture in its variety of forms – image/text, exhibit/installation, presentation/performance. With a special focus on the lives of older adults, she is committed to creating works for both innovative and traditional venues that inspire, educate and influence public opinion and perception.

Her current projects include working with Strategic Communications & Planning of Wayne, PA to develop an image bank related to older adults and health, as well as associated training, for the grantees of the John A. Hartford Foundation in New York City. Additionally, she is working on the development of an intergenerational photo workshop curriculum.

Examples of Ms. Levy’s work include her exhibit, AGELESS which was the featured show at the United Nations for the 2003 International Celebration of Aging as well as work commissioned by The Frick Collection for their “Art of Observation” program. With an additional interest in enlivening non-traditional settings with exhibits, her projects of this nature include a permanent installation at Roosevelt Hospital, a 100-portrait project for the Hebrew Home for the Aged, and an installation for the 30th anniversary of Covenant House.

Contact Information: Annie Levy, 917-623-9445; Email: ALevy82544@aol.com

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**Mandolin Orchestra**

*Glen Ridge, New Jersey*

Gabriel Nevola, *Conductor*
Arthur Coppola
John Elliot
Olympia Fiedler
Carol Franz
Russ Kelner
Peter Longo
Annamaria Menconi
Jay Posipanko
Amiable Ross Ybasco