The 18th Annual Celebration of the International Day of Older Persons

http://ngocoa-ny.org/

A Call for a Convention on the Rights of Older Persons

Thursday, October 2, 2008
10:00 am – 4:30 pm

Presented by:
The CONGO Committee on Ageing
in collaboration with
The UN Department of Public Information
The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs
and
The UN Population Fund
MISSION STATEMENT

18TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PERSONS
October 2, 2008

In this 60th Anniversary Year of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, it is the aim of 18th International Day of Older Persons (IDOP) 2008 observance by the NGO Committee on Ageing, in New York, to begin a process that will lead to the development and acceptance of a Convention on the Rights of Older Persons. Despite the fact that older persons comprise 11 percent of the global population, they remain largely marginalized and invisible in society. Thus, we have taken as our theme,

“A Call for a Convention on the Rights of Older Persons”.

Such a document should incorporate the United Nations Principles for Older Persons (General Assembly Res 46/91, 1991). This “platform” for protecting and empowering older persons will lead the way for nations to initiate and promote the issues and needs of older persons in their respective societies. The envisioned Convention would protect older persons from abuse and neglect and assure their rights to enjoy, more fully, all social protections within existing universal humanitarian laws and principles. The Convention would assure the implementation of directives in the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, (MIPAA) as set forth at the Second World Assembly on Ageing, (Madrid 2002), making “A Society for All Ages” a reality.

The OBJECTIVES of this 2008 UN IDOP:

1. To draw attention to the need for an international Convention to specifically ensure the Human Rights of Older Persons.

2. To recognize governments, private enterprises, non-government organizations and members of civil society and international forums which have helped to construct a foundation for enhancing the Human Rights of Older Persons.

3. To create a blueprint for potential legislation, policies and viable practices applicable to global regions, economies and cultures.

4. To facilitate partnerships of global populations and organizations for recognition and empowerment of older persons to remain independent, interactive, productive, healthy and financially secure, and mainstream the 1991 UN Principles for Older Persons: Independence, Participation, Care, Self fulfillment, and Dignity, toward promoting a positive image of ageing.
INTERNATIONAL DAY of OLDER PERSONS

PROGRAM
October 2, 2008
United Nations
Conference Room 2

MORNING PROGRAM

Registration

Opening Montage

Message from the U.N. Secretary General, Ban Ki Moon, on the International Day of Older Persons.


Message from Jose Miguel Guzman, Chief, Population and Development Branch of UNFPA.

Welcome Message from Florence Denmark, Chair, Congo Committee on Ageing, N.Y.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Kaori Kato: Oboe Selections.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Moderator, Mr. Eric Falt, in the Department of Public Information.

Keynote Speakers:
Mr. Sergei Zelenev, Chief, Social Integration Branch, Division for Social Policy and Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

Mr. Eric Falt.

H.E. Minister Paulo de Tarso Vannuchi, Secretario Especial dos Direitos Humanos in Brazil.

Questions and Answers.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Terri
(Accompanied by Dennis)
REGIONAL SPEAKERS

Moderator: Dr. Alexandre Sidorenko, Chief, Unit on Ageing, United Nations.

Regional Speakers:
  Professor Nana Apt, Ghana.
  Dr. Lia Daichman, Argentina.
  Dr. Nabil Kronfol, Lebanon.
  H.E. Minister Dzamila Stehlikova, the Czech Republic.
  Manohar Upreti, Nepal.

Questions and Answers.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Terri
(Accompanied by Dennis)

LUNCH BREAK

AFTERNOON PROGRAM

Introduction: Janet Sigal and Susan Somers, IDOP Co-Chairs.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS WITH THE GLOBAL REGIONAL SPEAKERS

  Moderator: Jack Kupferman, IDOP Associate Co-Chair.
  Professor Nana Apt, Ghana.
  Moderator: Norma Simon, IDOP Associate Co-Chair.
  Dr. Lia Daichman, Argentina.
  Moderator: Janet Sigal, IDOP Co-Chair.
  Dr. Nabil Kronfol, Lebanon.
  Susan Somers, IDOP Co-Chair.
  H.E. Minister Dzamila Stehlikova, the Czech Republic.
  Mr. Manohar Upreti, Nepal.

STRATEGIES MOVING TOWARDS A CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS

  Introduction: Jack Kupferman, IDOP Associate Co-Chair.
  Nana Apt, Professor of Gerontology, Ashesi University College, Ghana
  Bridget Slean, HelpAge International

Closing Remarks: Rosa Perla Resnick, International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics, and International Immigrants Foundation
MESSAGE ON THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PERSONS
1 October 2008

The theme of this year’s International Day of Older Persons, “Rights of Older Persons”, is especially apt in this year in which we mark the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Promoting the independence, participation and dignity of older persons has long been on the agenda of the United Nations and is central to implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing. In adopting that Plan six years ago at the Second World Assembly on Ageing, UN Member States committed “to eliminating all forms of discrimination, including age discrimination”. They recognized “that persons, as they age, should enjoy a life of fulfillment, health, security and active participation in the economic, social, cultural and political life of their societies”. And they determined “to enhance the recognition of the dignity of older persons and to eliminate all forms of neglect, abuse and violence”.

Despite this commitment, in many parts of the world, the rights of older persons are violated every day. Older persons often face age discrimination at a workplace. In social environments, they may experience a lack of recognition and respect. They may be deprived of full inclusion and participation in social, economic, cultural and political affairs. Most disturbingly, in many countries, incidences of neglect, abuse and violence against older persons are not at all rare or isolated events.

Acknowledging the crucial role that older persons play in society is an important pillar of the Madrid Plan of Action. Earlier this year, the first review and appraisal of the Plan made abundantly clear that much more needs to be done at the national level to support older persons, promote their income security and social protection, and ensure quality health care as well as the provision of long-term care services. To make this possible, national ageing-specific policies must be improved substantially and the concerns of older persons mainstreamed into a wider policy framework.

This International Day is an opportunity to stimulate discussion on promoting the rights of older persons and strengthen partnerships aimed at securing their full participation in society. Let us all redouble our efforts to realize the rights of older persons, and make the dream of a society for all ages a reality.
Dr. Florence L. Denmark, Chair, CONGO Committee on Ageing, UN NY, has represented both the American Psychological Association and the International Council of Psychologists 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 Research 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 ageing 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 and in 2007, the Raymond D. Fowler Award for outstanding contributions to the APA.

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Maria-Luisa Chávez is the Chief of NGO Relations in the Outreach Division of the Department of Public Information (DPI) and Co-Chair of the Conference Planning Committee. In this capacity, which she assumed in April 2008, Ms. Chávez acts as a liaison between the United Nations and some 1,500 non-governmental organizations associated with DPI. Prior to that, she served as Chief of the Educational Outreach Division in DPI. From 2000 to 2004, she was the Director of the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) in Athens, covering Greece, Israel and Cyprus.

Prior to that, in 1993, Ms. Chávez served as a Political Affairs Officer in the Office for Outer Space Affairs in Vienna. In that capacity, she also served as Assistant Secretary of the United Nations Plenary of the Third United Nations Conference, in 1999, on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III). She joined the United Nations as an Associate Programme Officer with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in 1981, before moving to the Department of Political and Security Council Affairs, where she served from 1982 to 1992, as a Political Affairs Officer. Ms. Chávez is a national of Mexico.

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Eric Falt is the Director of the Outreach Division in the Department of Public Information. Prior to joining DPI in 2007, Mr. Falt served as Director of the Division of Communications and Public Information of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Based at UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi, he simultaneously served as Director of the United Nations Information Centre [UNIC]. Mr. Falt also served as Director of the United Nations Information Centre in Islamabad, Pakistan, from 1998 to 2002. He was the Spokesman and Head of Information for the United Nations Office of the Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq from 1997 to 1998; and prior to that served as Spokesman and Head of the Press and Information Office for the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) from 1993 to 1997. and Spokesman for the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) from 1992 to1993. Before beginning his service with the United Nations, Mr. Falt worked in New York during 1991 to 1992 as Press Attaché for the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations. He was also Press Attaché for the Consulate General of France in Chicago from 1989 to 1991. Eric Falt is a national of France.

For more information on the Outreach Division, please visit http://www.un.org/Depts/index.html.
An economist by education, Dr. Sergei Zelenev studied in Russia and the US: he received his MA in international economic relations in 1972 and PhD in economics in 1975 from Moscow State Institute of International Affairs (MGIMO-UNIVERSITY). In 1993 he completed the management program—the executive MBA program at New York University (Stern School of Business) earning his MBA. He authored a book on transnational corporations and social policy as well as many articles on economic and social development published in Russian and English.

Upon obtaining his doctorate in 1975 he worked as associate professor of political economy at MGIMO-University in Moscow, serving as well as a Vice-Dean of the Department of International Economic Relations. In 1981 he joined the UN Secretariat in New York as an Economic Affairs Officer. Since then he has been working at the UN Secretariat in the socio-economic field, performing, as required, analytical, normative and managerial functions. He continuously contributed to such flagship UN publications as Reports on the World Social Situation and World Economic and Social Survey. He also oversaw the preparation of the Comprehensive report on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development submitted to the 24th special Session of the GA and contributed to the preparation of the draft text of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing submitted to the Second World Assembly on Ageing.

Apart from working at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, twice Mr. Zelenev worked in Africa, participating in the peace-keeping missions in Namibia and South Africa in 1989-1990 and 1993-1994 respectively. His current position is Chief, Social Integration Branch, Division for Social Policy and Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. His responsibilities include managerial functions as well as substantive support to the intergovernmental policy dialogue of the member states at the United Nations, and facilitating international cooperation on social development issues. Specifically, his responsibilities cover conceptualization and overseeing UN/DESA work on ageing, youth, family and inclusive policy issues, including reports which are submitted to such intergovernmental bodies as the Commission for Social Development, the Economic and Social Council and the UN General Assembly.

He participated in numerous international events, symposia and conferences, making keynote presentations on issues of international significance.

H.E. Minister Paulo de Tarso Vannuchi, Brazil (See bio on a separate sheet.)


Dr. Sidorenko joined the United Nations Secretariat in 1988, first in Vienna, Austria, and since 1993, in New York. He was the UN Focal Point on Ageing; Chief of the United Nations Programme on Ageing (1993-2002); Coordinator of the International Year of Older Persons (1999). His major responsibilities have included the coordination of the UN activities in the area of ageing, including promotion and monitoring of international policy and programmes on ageing. In 2000-2002, coordination of substantive preparations for the Second World Assembly on Ageing in Madrid, Spain. Since October 2002 - UN Focal Point on Ageing. Principal tasks include follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing. Specific areas of professional involvement are the monitoring of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the development of evidence based policy on ageing.
**Prof. Nana Araba Apt** is presently the Dean of Academic Affairs at Ashesi University in Accra, Ghana. She previously taught at the University of Ghana, Legon and chaired the Departments of Sociology and Social Work. At the same University she set up the Centre for Social Policy Studies with UNICEF funding and was its first Director. Her research and publication record bridges disciplinary applications in gerontology, family relations, child development and women’s education. Prof. Apt is author of six books including “**Coping with old age in a changing Africa**” and over 80 articles and book chapters on aging in Africa and social development issues. Her latest book chapter titled “Health and Aging in Africa” was published in 2007 by Jossey-Bass in *Global Health and Global Aging*. Prof. Apt has received awards for her work from the UN Secretary General, the British Geriatrics Society and the International Federation on Aging.

Professor Apt is presently the President of HelpAge Ghana and has for many years served on the Board of HelpAge International. Professor Apt was a member of the United Nations technical team for the 2002 Second World Assembly on Ageing.

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**Dr. Lia Susana Daichman** was born in Argentina and obtained her Medical Degree at the Faculty of Medicine, Cordoba National University in 1970. She continued her Postgraduate training in Geriatrics and Psycho Geriatrics in the United Kingdom, where she stayed until 1977. She had recently re-certified her Specialist Degree in Geriatrics for the second time at the Argentinean Medical Association (year 1996 and 2001) and also at the National Academy of Medicine, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Dr. Lia Daichman has been a Medical Adviser to the Social Services and to the Coordinating Council of the Jewish Community, Buenos Aires since 1984. She has been Coordinator of the Specialist Postgraduate Course on Geriatric Medicine from the University of Buenos Aires since 1995.

She has written and published several papers in Journals and book chapters on Gerontology and Geriatrics nationally and internationally. Her research and advocacy has been focused on elder abuse and neglect, discrimination and Human rights and Ethical issues and care giving in Geriatric care.

Since July 2001, at the World Congress of Gerontology in Vancouver, Canada, the INPEA International Board and Regional and National Representatives General Assembly unanimously elected her Chair of INPEA (International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse), NGO with UN status. During the year 2001 (UN- New York) till April 2002, she devoted her work to advocate into the Plan of Action elaboration and Political Declaration for the Second Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 2002 as a Chair of INPEA and as an Expert Adviser to the Argentinean Political Delegation. She also enthusiastically worked for and participated in the World UN NGO Forum on Ageing, Madrid, 2002 as INPEA President.

She was elected by the FVSA and INPEA as the “2004 Rosalie Wolf Memorial International Award” recipient in San Diego, USA (September, 2004) and unanimously elected President of ILC- ARGENTINA at the International Longevity Center Alliance annual Meeting at the IAGG Congress (Rio, Brazil, 2005).

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**Dr. Nabil Kronfol** is the President of the Lebanese HealthCare Management Association, a not-for-profit professional association that focuses on the further development of policies and health systems in Lebanon and the MENA Region. He is also a founding member of the recently established “Center for Research and Policy Development on Ageing” in Lebanon and the MENA Region.

Born in 1944, in Beirut, Lebanon, Dr Kronfol received the medical degree with the Penrose Award from the American University of Beirut (AUB) in 1969. Following residency training at AUB and at the Harvard’ Children’s Hospital in Boston, United
States, Dr. Kronfol became a Diplomate of the American Board of Pediatrics in 1972. Dr. Kronfol then joined the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston and was graduated with a Masters in Public Health and then with a Doctorate in Public Health in Health Services Administration. Dr. Kronfol joined the American University of Beirut in 1974 and moved through the academic ladder to become full Professor, Chairman of the Department of Health Services Administration (now Health Policy and Management), Assistant Dean for Allied Health and finally Deputy Vice President for External Programs in Health.

While on the professional tenure, Dr. Kronfol established the College of Health Sciences in the State of Bahrain, four schools of nursing in the United Arab Emirates and the Planning Unit at Lebanon’s Ministry of Health. He also played a key role in the establishment of several faculties of Medicine and Public Health in the MENA Region.

Dr. Kronfol received the International McGaw Award in 1984, the Fulbright International scholar Award in 1985 and lately the Shusha Award from the World Health Organization (2007).

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**H.E. Minister Dr. Dzamila Stehlikov** was born February 6, in Alma-Ata, in Kazakhstan. She is of Kazakh nationality. On January 9, 1988 she married the citizen of the Czech Republic Miloslav Stehlík, Csc. The marriage was dissolved on June 23, 1997. In June 1988, she moved to the Czech Republic for family reasons.

On February 17, 1992 she was granted the citizenship of the Czech Republic. In 1985 she finished her studies at the 1st Medical University in Moscow, in the branch of general medicine. In 1985–1988 she worked in the position of scientific workman and pedagogue in the Cathedra of psychiatry of Medical University in Moscow. In February 1989–August 1992, she served as expert doctor-psychiatrist in NsP Chomutov, and in 1992–1997 as scientific workman in the National center of health support in Prague and in the State’s Health care Institute.

She has been involved in scientific, publication, advisory and pedagogical activities focused on drug problems, prevention of HIV/AIDS and problems of discrimination against minorities exhibiting risk behaviours. In 1998–2006 she was in general practice of a physician in the branch of psychiatry in Chomutov, and devoted herself to pedagogical and scientific activities in the Department of Social Sciences of the Faculty of Environment at the Univerzity of Jan Evangelista Purkyně in Ústí nad Labem.

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**Manohar Upreti**, Advocate, from Katmandu, Nepal, has been engaged, since 1989, as a Freelance Advocate, working within the Supreme Court System, in Kathmandu to ensure the Human Rights of all, especially Older Persons in Nepal. Mr. Upreti is currently working with the Nepal Government’s panel of Rules Drafting Committee for Elder People, to which he was appointed in 2007. He is currently the Vice President of Nepalese society of Victimology (NESOV) 2007-2010. And, he serves as an International Marketing consultant for Western Nepal Crafts Pvt. Ltd (Traditional Hand made paper and paper product company) 1999-present.

He received his Bachelor of Law in 1989 from Tribhuvan University Nepal, having studied: English, International law, Corporation law, Criminology, International Institution and Human Rights, Air and Space Law, etc.) Additionally, he completed an Asian Post Graduate course on Victimology and Victim Assistance in 1999 at Tokiwa University, Japan, where he has also been a Guest Lecturer. Further, he has studied General Marketing and Export Management in 1998. He speaks, reads and writes fluent Nepali. He also reads and writes Hindi and English.

His other accomplishments and professional responsibilities include the following: Visiting faculty: KSL Kathmandu School of law (since 2005); Volunteer Teacher: Martyrs Law Campus Kathmandu (1995-96); Part time Trainer: Nepal Legal Aid Projects (1995-1997); Field Researcher: Political Parties & the parliamentary Process in Nepal (1992); Adviser: Siddhi Memorial foundation (A non profit charitable institution) working mainly with older
people. (2005-present); Adviser: CFVJRADN (Center for Victim Research and Development, Nepal (Presently); and Executive member: Elderly income generating program (2007 March-to present)

He has written various articles and presented several papers in victimology and relevant fields in Nepal. He has numerous memberships and positions in organizations such as the Supreme Court Bar Association, Human Rights Organization of Nepal,(HURON) and National Senior Citizen Organization Network, Nepal (NSCONN) He is a Life Member: SCWAN (Senior Citizen’s Welfare Association, Nepal) and the Nepal Red Cross Society. He may be reached at manohar-wsv@hotmail.com.
NGO Committee on Ageing, UN New York

Executive Committee

Chair: Florence Denmark, American Psychological Association and International Council of Psychologists
Vice-Chair: Jessica Frank, AARP International
Recording Secretary: Elizabeth Nolasco, Instituto Qualivida
Corresponding Secretary: Anne O’Sullivan, International Association for Volunteer Effort
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Phyllis Gottdiener, International Council of Jewish Women
William T. Smith, International Association of Homes and Services for the Aged
Richard Velayo, International Council of Psychologists

Elder Abuse Committee

Co-chair: Pat Brownell, International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse
Co-chair: Margo Nadien, American Psychological Association

Multigenerational Committee

Co-chair: Norma Levitt, World Union for Progressive Judaism
Co-chair: Rosa Perla Resnick, International Immigrants Foundation

NGO COMMITTEE ON AGEING
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Co-Chairs
Janet Sigal, American Psychological Association
Susan Somers, International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse

Associate
Jack Kupferman, NYC Department for the Aging

Co-Chairs
Norma Simon, International Association of Applied Psychologists

Members
Rojita Abujiam, Intern, American Psychological Association
Pat Brownell, International Network for the prevention of Elder Abuse
James Collins, International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics
Mary Covington, International Federation for Home Economics
Florence Denmark, International Council of Psychologists/ American Psychological
Vernie Ellis, Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc.
Jessica Frank, AARP
Helen Hamlin, International Federation on Ageing
Kaori Kato (Intern), American Psychological Association
Judy Lear, Gray Panthers
Valerie Levy, International Federation on Ageing
Mary Mayer, International Federation on Ageing
Susanne Paul, Global Action on Aging
Jackie Pope, National Service Conference of the American Ethical Union
Rosa Perla Resnick, International Immigrants Foundation
Nancy Ross, United Health Network
Ed Ryan, AARP
Mary Toumayan
Richard Velayo, International Council of Psychologists
Lee Vuong-Holland, Intern, American Psychological Association
Peter Walker, Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues
LIST OF ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATIONS

NGO COMMITTEE ON AGEING NEW YORK

(As of September 2008)

AARP
Aging in America/IAHSA
Albert Einstein College of Medicine
All India Women’s Conference
American Association of Family & Consumer Services
American Ethical Union/National Service Conference
American Psychological Association
Armenian International Women’s Assoc, Inc.
AFICS/FAFICS (NY)
Brookdale Foundation
Cancer Care
Case Western Reserve University/Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences
Catholic International Education Office
Church Women United
Colombia University School of Public Health
Colombia University School of Social Work
Congregation of St. Joseph
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
Eastern Michigan University
Economists for Peace & Security
Fordham University Graduate School of Social Services
Global Action on Aging
Gray Panthers
Help Old People (HOPE) Africa
House Calls Medical Corp.
Instituto Qualivida (Brazil)
International Association of Applied Psychologists
International Association of Gerontology & Geriatrics
International Association of Housing and Services for the Aging
International Council for Caring Communities
International Council of Jewish Women
International Council of Psychologists
International Council of Women/NOW/USA
International Federation on Ageing
International Federation for Home Economics
International Federation of Social Workers
International Immigrants Foundation
International Longevity Center
International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse
Isabella Geriatric Center
Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc.
Japanese & American Institute on Gerontology/Fordham U. Graduate School of Social Services
League of Women Voters
Loretto Community
Morningside House/IAHSA
National Silver Haired Congress
National Women’s Conference Center
NY Citizen’s Committee on Aging
NOVA/Southeastern University/Institute of Peace
Making Elders
Partnership for Global Justice/Center for Gerontological Health
Penn State University Intergenerational Program
Rotary International
Sheridan Elder Research Center
Social Aid of Hellas (Greece)
Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues
South County Senior Services, Inc
Soroptimist International
United Health Network, Inc
United States Mission to the UN
University of Michigan Institute for Social Research
University of Rhode Island
World Council of Churches
World Council of Conservative/Masorti Synagogues
WFUNA
World Federation of Ukrainian Women’s Organizations
World Union for Progressive Judaism
YAD SARAH
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CONTRIBUTORS

The NGO Committee on Ageing thanks the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for their generous support for this celebration of the International Day of Older Persons. We also thank AARP International for its valuable in-kind assistance.

If your organization is interested in supporting the work of the Committee, we would like to hear from you.

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