

# 56<sup>TH</sup> COMMISSION for SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Strategies for eradicating poverty  
to achieve sustainable development for all  
2018 United Nations Headquarters, New York

 United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
Division for Social Policy and Development  #CSocD56 #SDGs #GlobalGoals WEBSITE: [socialun.org/csocd](http://socialun.org/csocd)

## “Strategies for the eradication of poverty to achieve sustainable development for all”

The United Nations Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD),  
the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia-Pacific, and  
the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,  
cordially invite you to participate in a high-level panel discussion:

### Meeting the specific needs of older persons facing poverty = challenges and opportunities for social policymaking

2<sup>nd</sup> February 2018, from 1.15 to 2.30 pm Room  
7, United Nations Headquarters New York,  
NY



#### Moderator

**Daniela Bas**

Director, Division for Social Policy &  
Development, DESA

#### Opening remarks

**H.E.Dato' Sri Muhammad Shahrul**

**Ikram Yaakob**

Permanent Representative of Malaysia on  
behalf of H.E.Dato' Sri Rohani Abdul  
Karim, Minister of Women, Family and  
Community Development of Malaysia  
and President of the Intergovernmental  
Council of UNESCO's MOST  
Programme

#### Speakers

**Nagesh Kumar**

Director, Social Development Division,  
UNESCAP

**Cecilie Golden**

Programme Specialist, UNESCO's Management of  
Social Transformations Programme

**Fred T. Neto**

Director, Social Development Division,  
UNESWA

**Vitalija Gaucaite Wittich**

Chief, Population Unit, UNECE

**Asghar Zaidi**

Professor of International Social Policy,  
University of Southampton, UK

**Himanshu Rath,**

Agewell Foundation

**Shashi Tyagi**

Co-Founder, GRAVIS, India

**Open Discussion**



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Management of  
Social Transformations  
Programme



United Nations  
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

United Nations Department  
of Economic and Social Affairs  
Division for Social Policy and Development



## **TOPIC: Meeting the specific needs of older persons facing poverty – Challenges and opportunities for social policymaking**

**FORMAT:** Presentations followed by a moderated discussion

**CONCEPT:** The rapid increase in ageing populations is part of recent demographic changes and transformations that are having substantial and varied implications on societies and social development. While Europe and Asia are two regions where the majority of countries face population ageing in the near future, every country in the world is experiencing growth in the number and proportion of older persons in their population. Between 2015 and 2030, the number of people in the world aged 60 years or over is projected to grow by 56 per cent, from 901 million to 1.4 billion, and by 2050, the global population of older persons is projected to more than double its size in 2015, reaching nearly 2.1 billion. Older persons as a social group form an integral part of every society, and their needs must be adequately addressed in social policymaking on multiple levels. Ageing must also be seen in relation to human rights and other facets of development, taking into account economic, political and cultural aspects.

The Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) adopted by the Second World Assembly on Ageing in Madrid, 2002, marked a turning point in the drive for achieving “sustainable development for all” and for all ages, and encompasses three priority areas: older persons and development; advancing health and well-being into old age; and ensuring enabling and supportive environments. The MIPAA proposes an agenda for action by a wide range of stakeholders.

Older persons are particularly vulnerable to social exclusion and poverty, and age is an intersecting factor that co-operates with many other social aspects, which contribute to shape social statuses and exposing individuals and groups to different forms of discrimination. The UNDESA Preliminary assessment of the Third review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, presented at the 55<sup>th</sup> CSD session in February 2016, highlighted emerging issues within ageing and social policy, including social protection, care, health care and human rights.

Ageing as a contemporary, highly relevant issue was addressed at the 1<sup>st</sup> MOST Forum of Ministers of Social Development for the Asia-Pacific region, in the context of “Building inclusive societies”, co-organized by the Government of Malaysia and UNESCO, held in Kuala Lumpur on 20-23 March 2017, with the participation of UNDESA and UNESCAP. The World Social Science Report, 2016, points out: “investing in and closing the knowledge gap in social science research into inequalities will be vital to achieve the cross-cutting ambitions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Let’s work together now – to ‘leave no one behind’ tomorrow”. UNESCO’s Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme is focusing on bridging the gap between social science and policy-making, including through the MOST Regional Forums of Ministers of Social Development.

The ESCAP report “Addressing the Challenges of Population Ageing in Asia and the Pacific: Implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing” presented at the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Third Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, held in Bangkok on 12–14 September 2017, found that with effective policies, population ageing can herald a period of sustained progress. Older persons go beyond constituting a vulnerable group – they must be recognized as the active agents of societal development in order to achieve truly transformative, inclusive and sustainable development.

The other regional commissions have also undertaken their regional reviews to feed into the “Third Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing” taking place during the 56<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission for Social Development.

**OBJECTIVES AND THEMATIC FOCUS:** The side event will discuss findings of regional reviews and the sharing of best practices among stakeholders, for reducing inequalities, vulnerabilities and building resilience, in order to strengthen policies for an inclusive society for all people of all ages. The side event will focus its discussion on: 1) addressing ageing in its multiple dimensions as a key strategy to reduce poverty; and 2) how social science community could effectively contribute to policy making process in this area.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

- How can the links and interactions between ageing and the dimensions of poverty (economic, political, social, cultural, environmental, spatial and knowledge-based) be better understood?
- What evidence is there on poverty among aged hampering sustained and inclusive growth and adversely impacting the efforts to reduce poverty?
- What are concrete strategies/policies that have proven to be successful in reducing poverty among older persons?