



**THE 22ND ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PERSONS  
“LONGEVITY SHAPES THE FUTURE”**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2012  
10:00 AM – 1:00PM**

**PRESENTED BY:**

**THE NGO COMMITTEE ON AGEING/NEW YORK IN COLLABORATION WITH:  
THE UN DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS (UNDESA),  
THE UN POPULATION FUND (UNFPA),  
THE PERMANENT MISSION OF EL SALVADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS,  
AND PFIZER INC.**





**NGO Committee on Ageing, United Nations, New York**  
c/o CoNGO, 777 UN Plaza, 6th floor, New York, NY 10017 USA [www.ngocoa-ny.org](http://www.ngocoa-ny.org)

## **2012 UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PERSONS**

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

#### **“LONGEVITY SHAPES THE FUTURE”**

2012 celebrates the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Second World Assembly on Ageing and the adoption of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA), a blueprint to improve the lives of the world’s rapidly growing ageing population. This International Day of Older Persons will present important new information on the current status of older persons today around the globe, indicating the extent to which their needs are being met by existing policies and programs, where significant gaps continue to negatively affect their lives, and what steps can be taken to promote the continued use of MIPAA to address these gaps.

The objectives of this International Day of Older Persons are, therefore, to:

- 1) Identify where the social, economic and political conditions for older persons have improved since the promulgation of the Madrid Plan as well as where there are continuing areas of critical unmet needs;
- 2) Recommend initiatives that in the light of concerns facing the world today can feasibly be undertaken through partnerships between governments and non-governmental organizations to meet these needs;
- 3) Provide opportunities for the empowerment of older persons by developing roles for their participation in addressing their needs; and
- 4) Create greater awareness among policymakers, the private sector and the media of the reality of an ageing world and its needs.

# INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PERSONS

## PROGRAMME

9:00 am – 10:00am  
**REGISTRATION**

10:00 am – 1:00 pm  
**PROGRAMME**

*Introduction of Program:*

**Mr. Ivan Šimonović**, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights (*invited*)

*Message from Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations*

*Message from Mr. Vuk Jeremić, President of 67<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly*

*Message from Dr. Florence L. Denmark, Immediate Past Chair, NGO Committee on Ageing/New York*

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS:** *"The Case for a Universal Human Rights and Development Convention for Older Persons: The Viewpoint of El Salvador"*

**H.E. Dr. Vanda Pignato**, First Lady & Secretary for Social Inclusion of El Salvador

### **OPENING VIDEO**

*Remarks: "Perspectives from the 10 Year Review of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing"*

**Ms. Rosemary Lane**, Senior Social Affairs Officer and UN Focal Point on Ageing.  
UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs

### **PANEL:** – "Connecting the Dots...Our Past...Our Future"

*Moderator:* **Ms. Judith Graham**, Contributing Journalist, New York Times

*Panelists:*

**H.E. Mr. Jakkrit Srivali**, Ambassador & Deputy Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations

**Dr. José Miguel Guzmán**, Chief, Population and Development Branch, UN Population Fund

**Dr. Mohini Giri**, Guild for Service, New Delhi, India

**Mr. Tseliso Thipanyane**, Former Chief Executive Director, Human Rights Commission of South Africa

*Questions and Discussion*

*Closing Remarks:*

**Mary Fox**, Chair, International Day of Older Persons 2012 Planning Committee,  
NGO Committee on Ageing

## **BIOGRAPHIES**



### **Mr. Ivan Šimonović, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights**

Mr. Ivan Šimonović assumed his functions as Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights on 17 July 2010, heading OHCHR's New York Office.

Before joining the United Nations, from 2008 he held the position of Minister of Justice of Croatia. Previously Mr. Šimonović was Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Permanent Representative to the UN in New York, where he served as Senior Vice-President and President of the Economic and Social Council from 2001 to 2003.

A Croatian national, Mr. Šimonović worked as a professor at the Faculty of Law at the University of Zagreb, where he served as Head of the Legal Theory Department, Vice-Dean and Vice-Rector for international cooperation. He has experience and has published extensively in the fields of international relations, law, human rights, and development of national institutions. In an expert capacity, he has been a member of the Council of Europe's Commission for Democracy through Law (i.e. the Venice Commission) and the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), as well as the Agent of the Republic of Croatia before the United Nations International Court of Justice (ICJ).

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### **Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary-General, United Nations**

Mr. Ban Ki-Moon is the eighth Secretary-General of the United Nations. His priorities have been to mobilize world leaders around a set of new global challenges, from climate change and economic upheaval to pandemics and increasing pressures involving food, energy and water. He has sought to be a bridge-builder, to give voice to the world's poorest and most vulnerable people, and to strengthen the Organization itself. The Secretary-General has introduced new measures aimed at making the UN more transparent, effective and efficient.

At the time of his election as Secretary-General, Mr. Ban was his country's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade. His 37 years of service with the Ministry included postings in New Delhi, Washington D.C. and Vienna, and responsibility for a variety of portfolios, including Foreign Policy Adviser to the President, Chief National Security Adviser to the President, Deputy Minister for Policy Planning and Director-General of American Affairs



**Mr. Vuk Jeremić, President of the 67th Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

At the time of his election to the 67th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Mr. Vuk Jeremić was serving as Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, an office he held starting on May 2007. Throughout his five years as Foreign Minister, Mr. Jeremić was actively engaged in the work of the United Nations, representing his country at key sessions of the General Assembly and the Security Council. He led the Serbian delegation at high-level segments of the United Nations Human Rights Council (2008, 2010 and 2011), at the annual General Conference of the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and at high-level meetings of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations.

Mr. Jeremić began his career in public service as Adviser to the Minister of Telecommunications of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, in the year 2000. In June 2003, he was appointed Adviser for Foreign Affairs to the Minister of Defence of the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro, and in February 2004, he was appointed Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Democratic Party. Later that year, in July 2004, he became Senior Foreign Policy Adviser to the President of the Republic of Serbia, continuing in this capacity until taking up the position of Foreign Minister in May 2007.

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**Florence L. Denmark**, Immediate Past Chair, NGO Committee on Ageing, New York, has represented both 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 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 six 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.



**Vanda Pignato, First Lady of El Salvador and National Minister of Social Inclusion**

Dr. Vanda Pignato, El Salvador's First Lady and National Minister of Social Inclusion, is a Brazilian lawyer who has devoted her career to human rights and international relations. Among other things, Dr. Pignato was one of the founders of the International Relations Secretariat of the Workers' Party in Brazil.

She grew up in Sao Paulo and, while attending law school, joined the international movement in solidarity with the FMLN during the Salvadoran Civil War. Dr. Pignato's strong interest in politics led her to join Brazil's Workers' Party, the political party of former Brazilian President Lula da Silva.

In the 1980s Dr. Pignato participated in different missions of human rights verification in the context of the armed conflict in El Salvador. One year after the signing of the Peace Accords, she moved to El Salvador in the early 1990s to represent the Workers' Party in Central America. In 1992 she became the director of the Center for Brazilian Studies at the Brazilian Embassy in San Salvador.

When Mauricio Funes was sworn in as President of El Salvador in 2009 he named his wife Minister of Social Inclusion, making her the first Salvadorian First Lady to hold a political position while being First Lady. The Ministry of Social Inclusion's purpose is to formulate public policies that ensure the realization, respect and assurance of human rights of the traditionally excluded sectors of El Salvador: women, older persons, people with disabilities, gender diversity, and homeless children.

In the time Dr. Pignato has been in office, she has promoted reforms that have reduced the exclusion of the most vulnerable groups. The National Council for Assistance of People with Disabilities and the National Council for Assistance of Older Persons have been strengthened, and an executive decree has been passed in which all forms of gender discrimination in the public service have been prohibited. Dr. Pignato also formulated, promoted and implemented the Program "Ciudad Mujer" (Women City), which consists of integrated centers that provide specialized services for women and that aims to contribute to the accomplishment of the Millennium Development Goals. The program has been so successful that it has won two international recognition awards: the South-South Award (by South-South News) in the women's and children's health category, and the Americas Award 2011 (by CIFAL- Atlanta) in the gender equality leadership category.

Dr. Pignato is also president of the Salvadorian Institute for Women Development and was appointed by El Salvador's President as the first president of the Salvadorian National Council for the Youth.

In May 2012, the First Lady was awarded the Medal of Honor of Ellis Island by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations for her initiatives on Salvadorian women rights and for the contributions Salvadorians living in the United States make to this country. During the conference Dr. Pignato addressed the challenges women face in El Salvador as well as the sustainable solutions the Secretary of Social Inclusion have developed such as "Ciudad Mujer".



**Rosemary Lane, United Nations Focal Point on Ageing**

Rosemary Lane has worked at the United Nations since 1984 in a number of capacities in the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development, the United Nations Drug Control Program in Vienna and most recently in the Department for Economic and Social Affairs, Division for Social Policy and Development. She is a Senior Social Affairs Officer and the UN Focal Point on Ageing.

She has worked on issues of ageing since 1993 and was a member of the secretariat for the Second World Assembly on Ageing in 2002. She was a main contributor to the drafting of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing that was adopted at the Second World Assembly on Ageing in 2002. Following the Madrid Assembly her work concentrated on promoting the implementation of the Plan of Action at the national level, and in particular focusing on the provision of technical assistance to Member States. She became the Focal Point on Ageing in 2010.

Rosemary is from the United Kingdom and has an MA in Social Policy from the State University of New York.

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**Judith Graham, Journalist, New York Times**

Judith Graham is an award-winning journalist who contributes regularly to the New York Times' New Old Age blog. Previously, she worked at the Chicago Tribune as a senior health and medicine correspondent and a national correspondent covering the western U.S. Ms. Graham recently received a year-long mental health reporting fellowship from the Carter Center; her project will investigate mental illness in frail, homebound older adults. Ms. Graham's work has appeared in the LA Times, USA Today, Washington Post, Baltimore Sun,

Philadelphia Inquirer, The Atlantic and many other publications.

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**Mr. Jakkrit Srivali, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Thailand to the UN**

Ambassador Jakkrit Srivali assumed his position of Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN in 2009. During his twenty year career with Thailand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Srivali previously has served in a number of positions, including most recently as Minister-Counsellor in the Department of Information and Director of Division of Economic Relations and Cooperation in the Department of International Economic Affairs. Since 1989 Mr. Srivali has also been a columnist for the *Daily News* of Bangkok.



**Dr. Jose Miguel Guzman, Chief, Population and Development Branch, UN Population Fund**

Within the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), Dr. Guzmán works on issues related to population and development including climate change, urbanization, ageing, fertility transition, child and maternal mortality and health, gender, international migration, poverty, natural disaster impacts, surveys and censuses, and information systems. Before joining UNFPA he served as Population Affairs Officer in the Population Division of the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). Dr. Guzmán received his PhD in Demography from the University of Montreal, Canada.

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**Dr. Mohini Giri, Guild for Service, New Delhi, India**

Dr. Mohini Giri is a Social Activist, Writer, Scholar and a leader in the women's movement, the voice for women, peace and justice in India and South Asia. Dr. Giri is the Chairperson of the Guild of Service, an NGO in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the UN, an organization representing interests and doing initiatives for India's widows - a unique constituency and a leader of the Internal Peace Movement that is playing key role among sometimes aggravated and anxious communal factions within the country

Specializing in human rights and gender justice, she is renowned nationally and internationally for her four decades of committed work in empowering women politically, socially, legally and economically. Dr. Giri has worked relentlessly for the cause of National Integration and has done pioneering work for war affected families since the past four decades.

She is also well known and respected from many constituencies, although not a politician, she is a visionary and an advocate for the vulnerable in her own and global society. Born at Lucknow in 1938 belonging to an illustrious family of scholar Dr. V. S Ram and a family of civil servants, musicians and armed forces. Mohini Giri is also the daughter-in-law of Late Shri V.V. Giri, former President of India



**Tseliso Thipanyane, B.Sc, LL.B and LL.M, Former Chief Executive Officer of the South African Human Rights Commission.**

Mr. Tseliso is currently working as an independent consultant on human rights, democracy and good governance with a special focus on Africa and national human rights institutions. Mr. Tseliso is also an adjunct lecturer in law at Columbia University Law School, teaching a course on African human rights systems. Member of the international advisory board of the Children Institute of the University of Cape Town, South Africa and member of the advisory board of the Council for the Advancement of South Africa's Constitution.

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**Mary Fox, Chair, International Day of Older Persons 2012 Planning Committee, NGO Committee on Ageing/New York**

Mary Fox, Founder, Mary Fox Research, Inc., has over thirty years of experience working with Fortune 500 companies such as Microsoft, Merrill Lynch and JPMorganChase, in marketing and marketing research. She has extensive expertise in developing and executing strategic qualitative market research approaches with a focus on breakthrough services and products in the consumer and business to business markets.

Ms. Fox has applied herself to humanitarian and philanthropic efforts. Last year, she was selected to join the United Nations Observer Corps of the League of Women Voters – U.S. She remains an active Board Member of her local league. Her contributions include chairing the following committees: environment, membership and state liaison.

## **NGO COMMITTEE ON AGEING, UN NEW YORK**

### **Executive Committee**

Chairperson: **Jessica Frank López**, AARP  
Vice-Chairperson: **James Collins**, International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse  
Recording Secretary: **Norma P. Simon**, International Association of Applied Psychologists  
Corresponding Secretary: **Elizabeth Nolasco-Sanford**, Instituto Qualivida  
Treasurer: **Richard Velayo**, International Council of Psychologists  
Past Chairperson: **Florence L. Denmark**, International Council of Psychologists  
Members-at-Large: **Martha Bial**, International Association of Gerontology & Geriatrics  
**Jack Kupferman**, Gray Panthers  
**Clarence Pearson**, AARP  
**Janet Sigal**, American Psychological Association  
**Katharine Weiss**, International Association of Homes and Services for the Aged

### **International Day of Older Persons Planning Committee, 2012**

Chair: **Mary Fox**, League of Women Voters, U.S.

Members: **Kevin Brabazon**, Generations United  
**Pat Brownell**, International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse  
**Mary Covington**, International Federation of Home Economists  
**James Collins**, International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse  
**Florence L. Denmark**, International Council of Psychologists  
**Erica Dhar**, AARP  
**Jessica Frank López**, AARP  
**Judith Gordon**, International Alliance of Women  
**Denise Gosselin**, International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse  
**Helen R. Hamlin**, International Federation on Ageing  
**Felice Hannah**, Retiree Chapter Outreach Coordinator  
**Scott Hill**, NGO Committee on Ageing/NY  
**Kathy Kline**, AARP  
**Jack Kupferman**, Gray Panthers  
**Mary Mayer**, International Federation on Ageing  
**Chrystal McLead**, Student  
**Kaja Meade**, International Federation on Ageing  
**Linda D. Misek-Falkoff**, Respectful Interfaces  
**Elizabeth Nolasco-Sanford**, Instituto Qualivida  
**Clarence Pearson**, AARP and Council on Foreign Relations  
**Alice Pineau**, NGO Committee on Ageing/NY  
**Edward J. Ryan**, AARP  
**Janet Sigal**, American Psychological Association  
**Norma P. Simon**, American Psychological Association  
**Mary V. Toumayan**, Armenian International Women's Association  
**Richard Velayo**, International Council of Psychologists  
**Katharine Weiss**, International Association of Homes and Services for the Ageing  
**Connie R. Wibrowski**, CUNY Graduate Center  
**Sergei Zelenev**, International Council on Social Welfare

**LIST OF ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATIONS**  
**NGO COMMITTEE ON AGEING NEW YORK**

- AARP
- Aging in America
- Age Rights International
- AIDS Community Research Initiative of America (ACRIA)
- Alzheimer's Disease International
- American Psychological Association (APA)
- Armenian International Women's Association
- Association of Former International Civil Servants – NY (AFICS)
- Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service
- Business Council for the United Nations
- Center for Advanced Studies in Education (CASE)
- Dobroe Delo: Regional Source Fund to Aid the Aged (Moscow, Russia)
- Elder Share the Arts
- EURAG – European Federation of Older People
- Generations United
- German Seniors League
- Global Action on Aging
- Global Alliances through Gerontological Engagement (GAGE)
- Global Bioethics Initiative
- Global Coalition on Ageing
- Gray Panthers
- HelpAge USA
- Instituto Qualivida
- International Alliance of Women
- International Association of Applied Psychology
- International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics (IAGG)
- International Association of Homes and Services for the Ageing (IAHSA)
- International Association of Schools of Social Work
- International Council of Psychologists (ICP)
- International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW)
- International Federation on Ageing (IFA)
- International Federation for Home Economics
- International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW)
- International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA)
- League of Women Voters – U.S.
- Middle East Academy for Medicine of Ageing
- Multilateral Consulting, LLC
- Respectful Interfaces
- South Beach Psychiatric Center
- Soroptimists International
- World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations
- Uniao Geral dos Trabalhadores, UGT
- University of Kentucky – College of Social Work