Global Ageing and the data revolution
– The way forward in the post-2015 environment
New York, 7 - 9 July 2015

Report of the Expert Group Meeting
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Explanatory Notes

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures.

The following abbreviations are used in this document:

AAI  Active Ageing Index
AIDS  Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
APHRC  Ageing and Development Program African Population and Health Research Center
AU  African Union
CEDAW  Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CRVS  Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
DESA  Department of Economic and Social Affairs
DHS  Demographic and Health survey
DSPD  Division for Social Policy and Development
EGM  Expert Group Meeting
EU  European Union
FIES  Food Insecurity Experience Scale
HAI  Heartland Alliance International
HIV  Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HRS  Health and Retirement Study
IAEG  Inter-Agency and Expert Group
ICPD  International Conference on Population and Development
ICT  Information and Communications Technology
IHR  International Health Regulations
ILO  International Labor Organization
MDGs  Millennium Development Goals
MIPAA  Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing
MMR  Maternal Mortality Ratio
NCDs  Non-Communicable Diseases
NHRIs  National Human Rights Institutions
NSOs  National Statistical Offices
OEWG  Open-ended Working Group on Ageing
OHCHR  Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
POU  Prevalence of Undernourishment
PSA  Philippine Statistics Authority
SDGs  Sustainable Development Goals
TB  Tuberculosis
UK  United Kingdom
UNDP  United Nations Development Programme
UNECE  United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNFPA  United Nations Population Fund
WHO  World Health Organization
I. Background to the Meeting

1. The Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on “Global ageing and the data revolution – the way forward in the post-2015 environment” was held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 7-9 July 2015. The EGM was organized by the Focal Point on Ageing, Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD) of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). The final meeting agenda is attached as Annex I.

2. The meeting was attended by experts from Kenya, Lebanon, the Netherlands, the Philippines, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. Experts also participated from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), ILO New York Liaison office, the Statistics Division of DESA, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Regional Commissions New York Office, AARP, and HelpAge International.

3. The meeting was convened in the context of General Assembly resolution 69/146 of 2015 entitled “Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing,” which recommends that Member States enhance their capacity to more effectively collect data, statistics and qualitative information, disaggregated when necessary by relevant factors, including sex and disability, in order to better assess the situation of older persons and to set adequate monitoring mechanisms for programmes and policies geared towards protecting the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by older persons.

4. So far, in many countries, the development agenda has fallen short of achieving effective responses to the situation of older persons. At the national level, effective legislation and policies responding to the situation of older persons have often not been adopted, or remain dispersed, underfunded or insufficiently implemented.

5. Population ageing has profound implications for many facets of human life. An ageing population will affect everything from economies, labour markets and provisions of health and social care. This prospect requires a better understanding of the challenges and opportunities posed by population ageing as well as their implications for the situation of older persons themselves. While the older population is growing at an accelerated speed, many gaps in ageing related statistics and data still exist, affecting the ability to develop targeted policies and programmes that address ageing related challenges.

6. Ongoing efforts in the implementation of Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) as well as in the context of the Open Ended Working Group on Ageing have demonstrated that further in-depth analysis and evidence is crucial to enhance ageing related policy and programme formulation and implementation. The need for a clear understanding of the impact of global ageing, as well as to measure, monitor and report on progress, therefore calls for a demand for expanding data on ageing issues. Data and statistics demonstrate the changes needed that can address questions, from healthcare and social pensions to age-inclusive policies and programmes. However some of these critical ageing related priority areas are not easily quantifiable using mainstream statistics. Proactive and new initiatives on sex and age-disaggregated data should therefore be applauded as they demonstrate what is possible currently, and highlight where to build and systematize the collection of age related disaggregated data.

7. Demand for data and statistics on older persons has been strengthened by the negotiations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Addressing the statistical capacity of countries was one element highlighted by the Secretary-General’s High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. It concluded that a data revolution was necessary to improve the quality of statistics and information available to citizens. Goal
of the suggested Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has a specific target (17.18) on ‘strengthening availability of high quality timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, and other variables’. Moreover, data should be instrumental in providing the information basis for evidence-based decision making, analysing trends, measuring and reporting that includes the widest possible range of the world’s population, including older persons.

8. In support of implementing a comprehensive Post-2015 Development Agenda, several efforts to define a strategic framework for statistics - ‘The transformative agenda for statistics’ - are currently ongoing. A Global Conference held in January 2015 encouraged the global community i) to engage in the debate on the data revolution, and reiterate the critical need for adequate statistical capacity, both at a technical and institutional level as well as to facilitate efforts that fill the data gaps and satisfy new data requirements; and ii) to address the need for the development of new data sources, method and methodologies resulting from the requirements of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, taking into account the possibilities of new technologies and non-traditional data sources.

9. The establishment of the so-called ‘transformative agenda for statistics’ provides an opportunity for integrating and broadening the scope of statistics and data collection that addresses the gaps and needs posed by ageing. The new integrated approach will introduce innovations to incorporate non-traditional sources of data including “open and big data” that so far have not been utilized in official statistics. These new, non-traditional data sources need to be leveraged to enrich sources of official statistics so that the data needs can be addressed. It should also ensure that spatially disaggregated data can be produced and made available to decision makers to provide them with the necessary statistical information.

10. The integrated approach to broadening the scope of statistics and incorporating new- and non-traditional data opens up opportunities for citizens to engage and report directly on progress of a new set of development goals post-2015. The opportunity for direct interaction between citizens and governments through new and non-traditional data sources holds the potential to generate greater accountability and can facilitate a better understanding of development and performance of specific processes and challenges. The Conference - “A Transformative Agenda for Official Statistics: Towards a Strategic Framework for Statistics in Support of the Post-2015 Development Agenda” - was organized as a follow up of Decision 45/103 taken by the Statistical Commission, March 2014.

11. In the context of the global ageing population, citizens-generated data through new and non-traditional data sources can be instrumental in enhancing a better understanding of the impacts of ageing. By engaging older persons directly in data collection efforts and governance processes, new and non-traditional data sources present new opportunities for measuring, monitoring and reporting on progress. These sources can at the same time enhance older persons’ access to essential public information, strengthen the voice of older persons and enable the participation of older persons in policy-making processes.

12. As such, citizens-generated data collection, such as crowdsourcing mechanisms can serve as an important source of knowledge to aggregate older persons’ views and thereby be instrumental in addressing the current gaps in ageing related data needs. The application of new- and non-traditional data sources therefore hold significant potential to enhance the understanding of critical ageing related priority areas that are not easily quantifiable using mainstream statistics. This can further support the effective implementation of Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and strengthen the formulation and implementation of ageing related policies and programmes in a post-2015 environment.

1 Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.
II. Objective of the Meeting

13. The aim of the Expert Group Meeting was to contribute to identifying both existing gaps in age specific data and explore the possible use of alternative sources of data on ageing to better inform policy development and monitoring. Discussions, presentations and recommendations also contributed to the ongoing discussion and development of new data needs in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and beyond.

14. In order to achieve this objective, experts discussed the opportunities and challenges of the so-called data-revolution. Attention was focused on the data challenges in the context of the SDGs from an older person’s perspective. National- and regional examples of data-collection efforts on ageing issues were presented and discussed including the Global Age Watch Index as well as the Active Ageing Index. In order to explore the concept of citizens-generated data to better understand the impacts of ageing, the meeting included a discussion on e-governance and presented the opportunities and challenges related to enhancing data collection, policy making and monitoring through e.g. crowdsourcing.

15. Overall, the meeting offered an opportunity to identify what exists and what is missing to better understand the effects, needs and possibilities related to the growing ageing population. In conclusion, the experts deliberated on recommendations for harnessing the data-revolution to develop age-friendly policy and programme development in a post 2015 environment.

16. It is essential to note that the meeting could not be expected to cover all urgent and relevant issues in regard to assessing the integration and broadening of the scope of statistics and data collection that addresses the gaps and needs posed by ageing in a post-2015 environment. The experts group's outcome and report should be considered as a contribution to the on-going discussion on indicators and a stepping stone for future work.

III. Opening

17. Ms. Daniela Bas, Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development of DESA, opened the meeting by welcoming the experts and thanking them for their participation, which would provide essential inputs to the Division’s work on advising interested Governments on strengthening data collection efforts to better understand the implications of an ageing population. Ms. Bas highlighted that the demand for evidence based data and statistics on older persons has been called for since the adoption of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in 2002, but has now been seriously taken up again during the negotiations and elaboration of the goals and targets for the Post-2015 Development Agenda. A key feature of these negotiations has been the commitment to ‘leave no one behind’. In order to support this commitment, it is necessary to disaggregate all data by age and sex and adapt data collection efforts to better understand the effects, needs and possibilities of the ageing population.

18. Ms. Rosemary Lane, United Nations Focal Point on Ageing of the Division for Social Policy and Development, noted that the aim of the meeting is to explore how and which new and non-traditional data sources can support the policy discussions and decision-making on ageing issues. Ms. Lane noted that in order to implement a comprehensive Post-2015 Development Agenda, efforts to define a so-called ‘transformative agenda for statistics’ provide an opportunity for integrating and broadening the scope of statistics and data collection that addresses the gaps and needs posed by ageing. The new integrated approach will introduce innovations to incorporate non-traditional sources of data including “open and big data” that so far have not been utilized in official statistics. Ms. Lane highlighted that the discussions and the outcome of the EGM have to be seen as a work in progress, which can
IV. Summary of Debate

A. The data-revolution: opportunities and challenges

19. This session was moderated by Mr. Edilberto Loaiza, Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Adviser in the Technical Division of the United Nations Population Fund. The session focused on opportunities and challenges of the data revolution as regards global ageing. Ms. Francesca Perucci, Chief of the Statistical Services Branch in the Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, stated that in August 2014, the Secretary-General established an Inter-Agency and Expert Group (IAEG) on the data revolution to advise on closing data gaps and strengthening national statistical capacities, as well as on assessing new opportunities linked to innovation, technical progress and the surge of new data providers. Ms. Perucci highlighted two challenges:

(a) the challenge of invisibility, where millions of people of all ages in low- and middle-income countries are denied basic services and protection of their rights because they are absent from official records; and
(b) the challenge of inequality, where many people are excluded from the new world of data and information by language, poverty, lack of education, lack of technology infrastructure, remoteness or prejudice and discrimination.

20. Ms. Perucci underlined key ideas of the data revolution (Box 1) and noted the following “quick win” initiatives as outlined in the Data Revolution report:

(a) expand the capacity to drive data innovation (United Nations System Data Innovation Lab);
(b) Strengthen data exchange and communication capabilities (Data visualization and dashboard);
(c) Create and strengthen partnerships for coordination and capacity-building in data-driven sustainable development (World Forum on Data); and
(d) Promote greater use of existing data assets within the United Nations System and by the public (United Nations System Data Catalogue).

21. In placing the topic of ageing in the context of data revolution, Ms. Perucci emphasised the need for data disaggregation by age and to identify indicators that address...
issues relevant to older persons. She further elaborated on how to measure the indicators highlighting the following sources and their challenges:

(a) **Censuses:** a good source for data disaggregation, however it is only undertaken every 10 years and has fewer variables;

(b) **Household surveys:** include more variables but are limited in coverage in terms of age groups, geographic units and different population groups. Surveys predominantly focus on reproductive ages (15-49 years) and when they do include data above the age of 49 years, these are usually clumped together as 60+ or 65+;

(c) **Administrative records:** are limited in terms of availability and quality, and cannot be cross tabulated;

(d) **Civil registration systems** and vital statistics; and

(e) **Non-traditional sources:** in addition to drawing on existing sources of data, a true data revolution would explore new data sources. In this context, three important factors stand out, namely: national statistical systems to ensure that the data is validated; the private sector as partners in data production; and civil society organisations to provide feedback to data producers.

22. In exploring new sources of data, and given that the majority of which is generated through GPS devices, auto-digital information teller machines, scanning devices, sensors, mobile phones, satellite and social media; the following challenges were highlighted:

(a) the need to identify new tools to capture and process this data;

(b) the need to ensure that no bias is introduced; and

(c) the need to validate data through applying the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, since this data is collected for non-statistical purposes and does not meet statistical standards.

23. Participants reiterated the need for meeting statistical standards, within the data revolution context, due the importance of data quality especially in constructing indicators. Also highlighted was the importance of considering comparability as countries could share each other’s experiences having learnt from the impact of policy reforms. Efforts to include ages 60 years and older and adapting questions in surveys to capture relevant aspects of the lives of older persons are mainly driven by Member States that recognise ageing as a priority or by donor needs and interests. Experts agreed that data utilisation is a main challenge because of the issue of accountability. Without data disaggregation, decision-makers cannot be held accountable.

24. A number of experts noted the issue of invisibility and questioned why existing systems and agencies which are contributing indicators for SDG measurement continue to utilise data sets with age cut-offs, which result in older persons being absent from existing records. For example, while data from the DHS, a survey designed to study reproductive health of girls and women, is often used to describe patterns of violence against women, it was argued by a participant that these surveys remain discriminatory and not “fit for purpose” as they exclude women aged 50 and above, and who therefore, continue to be absent from existing records and debate on violence. This data set is being recommended to assess the violence target 5.2 under goal 5: ‘Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. Another example was mentioned regarding the target to reduce by one third the incidence of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), using a data cut off of 70 years.

25. Experts emphasised the need to explore more and exploit existing data and consider gaps at the national level, while others noted the importance of collecting and authenticating new sources of data. Participants emphasised that data collection is moving from a modelled structure into an entirely new realm that is characterised by ad-hoc approaches. This is particularly the case in the private sector where data is becoming broad and pervasive, and data dashboards are being produced with more details and broken into ranges of age groups.
The experts moreover made a distinction between types of indicators: sub-national, national, regional and global – emphasising the role of international organisations which would be responsible for the latter. Deliberations also touched on the fact that apart from the UN Focal Point on Ageing there is no single United Nations agency that focuses on older persons, and that there is a need to mobilise donors and key partners to set priorities, identify key indicators and create a corresponding work programme on ageing and data.

B. The Sustainable Development Goals from an Older Persons Perspective

26. This session was moderated by Mr. Barney Cohen, Chief of the Population Studies Branch of the Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The session focused on the Sustainable Development Goals from the perspective of older persons.

27. Mr. Paul Ladd, Senior Policy Adviser, Post-2015 and Sustainable Development Goals, Bureau for Policy and Programme Support at UNDP presented a review of the development of the new post-2015 development agenda and how it differs from the set of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Mr. Ladd noted that the MDGs were a product of successful United Nations-led conferences and summits in the 1990s. However, when it came to crystallising the goals as a road map to implementation, the choices of issues were narrow and selective. He mentioned that so-called “safe” issues were included, while issues related to governance, human rights, inequality and peace were left out.

28. The need for setting a new United Nations development agenda became clear among both governments and civil society organisations by 2010. This entailed the need to develop strategies that would capitalise on the energy and input of stakeholders worldwide. In this context, 100 national dialogues were organized, many decentralised with social groups including older persons. In addition, 11 on-line thematic consultations took place. They included the more challenging issues that were raised in the Millennium Declaration but were nevertheless not captured in the MDGs themselves, including new and emerging issues such as the impacts of demographic change on the new agenda. As a result, more constituencies made significant progress in gaining recognition and making their voices heard in the SDG process.

29. As a part of this process, Mr. Ladd highlighted the importance of the so-called My World Survey. The survey is the largest ever campaign survey in history and involved 7.5 million participants, which were disaggregated by sex, age and location, including the participation of persons 60 years and older. Mr. Ladd stated that this survey yielded non-typical data particularly around preference, and that a cross country analysis could be performed on issues where older persons have a view on and play a role in achieving SDGs.

30. As a result, 17 goals with a corresponding 169 targets have been defined to cover the three dimensions of sustainable development. In contrast to the MDGs, there is specific mention of older persons in Goals 1, 2, 3, 10 and 11, which provides an incentive for follow-up. Mr. Ladd further stated that while the principal of participation has been embedded in post-2015 discussions, the real challenge is to ensure that the implementation phase continues to include multi-stakeholder participation.

31. While the standard census and surveys will continue to have the most influence on policy making, Mr. Ladd noted that this is a time of significant opportunity provided by the universal nature of the agenda and that people could also be producers of data to affect policy. A good example is the “My World Survey,” which supplemented official streams of data with new forms of qualitative surveys and perception surveys that met the principal of leaving no one behind.
Mr. Ladd noted that while governments have said they wish to leave no-one behind, this would imply the need for expanded data and information on different social groups, the existing statistics not being fit for purpose. An angle worth exploring is non-traditional sources of data. He also noted that in the absence of an institutional body representing the interests of older persons, the establishing of a principals’ network of heads of United Nations entities in the interim is crucial to take forward issues of age in the framework and UN programming.

Reflecting Human Rights issues in indicators

Ms. Grace Sanico Steffan, Human Rights Officer at OHCHR in Geneva elaborated on the human rights dimension in defining the SDG indicators. She made reference to a model designed by OHCHR, which provides a standardized approach to develop human rights indicators. The model facilitates and gives structure to the translation of internationally agreed human rights standards into contextually relevant and robust indicators at the country level.

Ms. Steffan stated that this model provides a balance between the universal and the contextual needs of making the indicators relevant at all governance levels. She noted that contextualizing existing OHCHR illustrative human rights indicators for older persons is feasible and should be seen as good practice. Ms. Steffan highlighted the distinctive participatory process feature of the OHCHR approach to developing indicators, where data producers and users, including National Statistical Offices (NSOs), National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), and civil society organizations are encouraged to collaborate.

Ms. Steffan also underlined the importance of the contribution of human rights, including rights to privacy, information, registration, data protection, self-identification, producing trustworthy statistics as well as ensuring robust and independent official statistics systems. Statisticians themselves, require rights to ensure they work in a safe place without fear of recrimination or reprisal. Ms. Steffan stated that it is imperative to explore the human rights approach to data as guidance on how the international community responds to the data challenge posed by the SDGs.

The experts noted that the human rights community relies on the use of statistics to measure the implementation of rights and support evidence based policies, and that the contribution of the human rights community is vital. Reference to the OHCHR module as good practice for identifying indicators was noted, in which indicators have been developed in a matrix format where the normative standards and configuration of structural, process and outcome indicators are captured. Experts also noted the importance of disaggregation, and highlighted that disaggregation of data on social protection covering the entire life cycle from birth to death would offer a better understanding of the poverty phenomenon. Experts noted that although the methodologies for measuring availability and accessibility of basic services exist, data may not be available. While reporting at the global level is still relevant in moving the process forward, participants acknowledged that the focus for change is primarily at the national and sub-national levels, where the predominant mind set is around fiscal spending.

In concluding Session III, the experts highlighted that new partnerships and use of innovative technologies and statistical techniques are required to ensure that older persons are no longer invisible in official statistics. In order to do so, statistical systems should play a more central role in coordinating validation of data to ensure that new sources of data comply with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. Governance mechanisms on a strengthened partnership of official statistics and human rights organizations should be developed, as well as guidelines that ensure that the full spectrum of data production conforms to legal and institutional standards on ethics, statistics and human rights. Furthermore, experts mentioned the importance of increasing data literacy to allow older persons to better understand and use data.
C. Regional and national examples of data collection efforts on ageing issues

38. The session on data collection efforts on ageing issues at the regional and nation level was moderated by Mr. Jean-Pierre Gonnot, Chief of the Social Integration Branch in the Division for Social Policy and Development, DESA. During the session, experts shared examples and practices of ageing related data collection efforts applied in their respective regions and countries. Examples from the Philippines, Africa (Kenya) and the Arab Region (Lebanon) were presented and discussed.

The Philippines

39. Ms. Lina Castro shared that from 1970 to 2010 Census of Population and Housing Surveys in the Philippines have shown that the Philippine population is characterized by a growing proportion of those of working age and a slightly increasing older population. She mentioned that the proportion of population in the older age group (65 and over) in the Philippines had increased from 2.9 percent in 1970 to 4.3 percent in 2010 with the number of persons 65 years and older increasing at a faster rate of 3.4 percent per year.

40. Ms. Castro presented that the various efforts made by the Philippine statistical services in compiling ageing related information, consisting of:

   a) Generation of poverty estimates by basic sectors;
   b) Provision of pensions for senior citizens;
   c) Leading causes of deaths of senior citizens;
   d) Average per capita health expenditure, including the provision of health insurance coverage to Senior citizens since November 2014;
   e) Improvements in the CRVS and the importance of measuring MMR Starting 2012, the death registration form implemented by the PSA included questions related to women deaths and generating information on maternal mortality;
   f) Innovations in the 2015 Census of Population and Housing and field enumeration should address the objective of measuring the level of completeness of death registration to support estimating of mortality and life expectancies.
   g) A study on "Living Arrangements of the Elderly in the Philippines"
   h) A study on Active Life Expectancy among Filipino Older People demonstrating that while female older people live longer lives, they are more likely to spend longer years and a higher proportion of their remaining life in disability. Study results also indicate the increasing level of disability with advancing age, again with females generally at a disadvantage. This implies that as the Philippines anticipates future expansions in the size of the older population and as older people continue to experience increasing longevity, they can expect a corresponding rise in the projected number with disability, with more for females.

41. These efforts demonstrate how a mix of methods, including census, administrative data as well as surveys is applied by the Philippines to compile ageing related data and information.

42. In conclusion, Ms. Castro mentioned a number of steps that have been taken by the Philippine Statistics Authority to forward the data collection and statistics regarding older persons, including the approval of statistical policies to implement new frameworks and
activities, enhancing existing methodologies and improving the quality and accessibility of
statistics. Among these initiatives is the endorsement of a Declaration of a Roadmap for Data
Revolution\(^2\) that aims at: a greater and more efficient production and use of both official and
non-official data, through innovative institutional arrangements and partnerships, new
technologies and processes; increased cooperation and coordination between local, regional
and international statistical systems towards data comparability across time and location;
political leadership that recognizes the fundamental importance of data, the necessity of
adequate and sustainable funding to national statistical systems; and strengthened
commitment of nations to developing capacity to ensure a future of robust, independent and
effective NSSs across the globe. Ms. Castro highlighted the importance of a continuing
engagement with the private sector, civil society organizations and stakeholders as well as
advocacy initiatives, user-producer consultations and dialogues.

**Africa with a focus on Kenya**

43. Ms. Isabella Aboderin, Senior Research Scientist and Head of the Ageing and
Development Program African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) in Nairobi,
Kenya, elaborated on the path toward an ‘evidence revolution’ on ageing in Kenya in the
context of the Sustainable Development Goals. Ms. Aboderin listed a number of initiatives
which had been taken over the past years at the regional level such as the AU Plan of Action,
African Common Position on Older Persons Rights as well as the AU Protocol on the Rights
of Older Persons.

44. At the national level, Ms. Aboderin mentioned a number of specific initiatives,
reflecting the Kenyan commitment to driving the ageing agenda, including policy frameworks
on ageing, various provisions for older persons in sectoral strategies and development plans,
as well as programmes that focus on social protection e.g. an older person’s cash transfer
scheme. She explained that ageing issues were institutionally addressed by the Health and
Ageing Unit of the Ministry of Health. She mentioned that despite of the older persons’ bill,
key gaps in addressing ageing issues were; the lack of specific sectoral policy,
implementation, limited awareness, political will, inadequate budget allocation, uncertainty
about approaches as well as insufficient cross-/within-sector, and government-civil society
partnerships, exchange and coordination.

45. Ms. Aboderin introduced a study carried out in partnership with a number of
stakeholders that assesses the scope of current awareness and action on ageing issues in
Kenya, explores the priorities and information needs and seeks answers to what relevant data
platforms and sources exist. The study was carried out with a view to a number of sectors;
Older persons and the Law, Poverty and sustainable livelihoods, Health, HIV and AIDS,
Family, community and culture, Food security and nutrition, Infrastructure, Education,
Training and ICT, Employment and income security, Social protection and services as well
as Cross-cutting issues. Key findings of the study demonstrated:

a) Lack of (sub)national evidence and contributions of older people impedes the ability
of stakeholders to ‘make a case’ for resource allocation on ageing and to identify
specific approaches for policy, advocacy and programming

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\(^2\) The Declaration of a Roadmap for Data Revolution towards is one of the statistical policies approved
by the Philippine Statistics Authority Board designed to implement new frameworks and activities,
enhance existing methodologies and improve the quality and accessibility of statistics.
b) A lack of such evidence reflects limitations in data collection and analysis approaches in existing national survey- and administrative data systems as well as shortcomings in sharing and the use of generated national data.

c) Stakeholders identified priority evidence ‘wish-list’: 17 topic areas and associated sub-themes.

d) Existing national data-platforms can and should be built upon to meet national priority evidence needs, which requires systematic and a step-wise effort.

46. Based on these findings Ms. Aboderin outlined a number of steps which should be focused on such as; examining existing survey and administrative tools as well as data-sets; performing secondary analysis on relevant data; and establishing a regular, cross-sectoral mechanism for synthesis, sharing and exchange of generated evidence. She furthermore underlined the need to design protocols to enhance ageing-sensitivity of routine survey/administrative data collection as well as the preparation for national surveys to address the remaining evidence needs.

47. In conclusion, Ms. Aboderin pointed at a number of implications for the SDG data revolution on ageing from an African perspective and called for an increasing engagement within the national policy context. She pointed to the importance of integrating ageing-related SDG and national policy frameworks and priorities. In order to enable better policy and programme formulation, Ms. Aboderin underlined the need for data for monitoring, in particular data for cross country monitoring. She furthermore highlighted the critical goal for government agencies when consolidating and raising political and national demand for data as well as capacity building to adapt to the data generation and called for a focus on research.

The Arab Region with a focus on Lebanon

48. Ms. Abla Mehio Sibai, Professor of Epidemiology, Department of Epidemiology and Population Health Faculty of Health Sciences at the American University of Beirut in Lebanon presented the indicators, data sources, strategic tools, data collection efforts, challenges and opportunities related to ageing in the Arab Region. Ms. Sibai shared details concerning the main ageing trends in the region highlighting that Lebanon has, by far, the highest proportion of older persons aged 65 years and more (7.2%). This is followed by Tunisia (6.3%), Morocco (5.2%), Egypt (4.8%), and Algeria (4.5%). By the year 2050, the proportion of older persons will exceed 15% in over 9 countries of the region. She underlined that the scarcity of population-based national data in addition to factors such as return migration of older retired workers to their original (mother) country as well as the consequences of the recent socio-political crisis on the region, impacting the validity of data and the implications for future projections.

49. Establishing institutional arrangements on ageing in the Arab countries has been emphasized by UN agencies since 1999 and has influenced the creation of the three main pillars of public arrangements: specialized departments, national committees, and national plans of action (see Box 2).
50. The main data sources, tools and output on ageing in the Arab region are national reports produced by the Government or by independent scholars; surveys and studies, including small scale surveys in selected populations to include papers, theses, reports using classical methods of data collection; using methods derived from demography; as well as research on research e.g. a scoping (online) review of ageing research in 1994-2013.

51. In addition, Ms. Sibai explained how the Center for Studies on Ageing, founded in 2008, is committed to the promotion of evidence-based policy and practice in support of the older population in Lebanon and the Arab world. The Center is supported by HAI, WHO and UNFPA and produces policy briefs, such as ‘Voices of the care givers’, ‘Pensions: A right long overdue for the older citizens’, ‘Chronic diseases and ageing in the Eastern Mediterranean Region’, ‘End of Life Care’, ‘Age Friendly Cities’ as well as an action brief on ‘Seniors in Emergencies’. It also carried out UN agencies driven assignments/projects such as studies on seniors in emergencies, a Country Profile of Lebanon in 2011, region-wide mapping of ageing policies, programmes and legislation for the MIPAA and ICPD reviews in 2012-2013.

52. Ms. Sibai shared some of the main findings related to the evolution of the landscape of ageing research in the Arab Region (1994-2013), which showed that ageing related research increased seven-fold across two decades in the region concentrated mainly in Egypt and Lebanon. Despite of the increase in ageing related research, Ms Sibai indicated that older people are often ‘invisible’ in research, policy and programs. She pointed out that most of the studies conducted are disease-centered, descriptive in nature, relying mostly on cross-sectional study designs and only a handful of studies examine ‘seniors in emergencies’. Research productivity is particularly weak in the area of policy and health systems research. Furthermore, findings underscore the strong role of public administration and argue for the significance of working on Public Administration to encourage Knowledge-to-Action. There is a need to enhance the translation of knowledge in Arab countries to promote evidence-based policymaking and policy-driven research.

53. Ms. Sibai listed a number of challenges and opportunities related to ageing related data collection in the Arab region. She highlighted that funding for ageing research is deficient and underlined that a higher priority for ageing research in national funding agencies
was needed. She underlined that an increase in ageing research is needed however, that Research Centers are a few and limited to universities. She furthermore mentioned the need for a ‘data sharing culture’, increased data on health; surveys and higher response rate. Another critical challenge in the compilation of knowledge on ageing issues in the Arab region is the context of wars and emergencies. In terms of opportunities, Ms. Sibai mentioned the importance of making use of existing and routine sources of data, medical records, registries, and death certificates as well as the use of social media, tweets and press releases. She concluded and that non-traditional data sources should augment traditional data sources; e.g. telephone interviews, web-based sources as well as pooling of data can fill some of the gaps in reporting.

Discussion

54. Experts noted that the profile of ageing issues at the national level needs to be raised and that an important question is how analysis at the global level is translated into national analysis and vice versa. A real gap in current data collection efforts is the absence of linking, which would enable a cross sectoral approach. Experts agreed that the merging and application of combined methods of data collection is important, as was demonstrated by the example from the Philippines.

55. Discussions also reflected the need for recognition of the need to improve data collection on ageing questions at the national and regional level. In this regard, the role of government agencies as well as advocacy for programmes were seen as crucial for increasing visibility, momentum and funding allocated to address the data needs. Experts noted that funding is often successful in the presence of policy commitment at the national level. The role of powerful groups to gain momentum is important, emphasizing the need for the influence of civil society at the regional level. The experts moreover called for international pressure from the United Nations in addressing the ageing related data needs.

56. Experts discussed the importance of providing Member States a framework which outlines the important aspects and priorities related to enhancing data collection on ageing questions. Building on existing instruments was highlighted as an important step in defining a way forward. In particular citizen engagement and bringing older persons into the national priority setting was seen as crucial step in helping countries to improve data collection efforts.

57. Experts discussed the possibility of introducing a standard set of questions to serve as a platform of guiding ageing related data collection efforts. However, participants noted that standardization differs from country to country and can also pose challenges when addressing local needs. Another initiative which was highlighted as an opportunity is the movement for open data. In this relation, experts called on the UN to encourage initiating a survey which could be a driver for promoting more open data.

D. The Global AgeWatch Index and the Active Ageing Index

58. The session on the ‘The Global AgeWatch Index and the Active Ageing Index was moderated by Mr. Jean-Pierre Gonnot, Chief of the Social Integration Branch in the Division for Social Policy and Development, DESA. The session focused on introducing the two ageing related composite indexes, along the lines of UNDP’s Human Development Index.

59. Mr. Asghar Zaidi, Professor in International Social Policy at the University of Southampton delivered a presentation entitled "Active Ageing Index 2014: a legacy of the
2012 European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generation." Mr. Zaidi referred to the latest analytical report prepared at the University of South Hampton on behalf of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the European Commission released during the Active Ageing Index (AAI) international seminar held in Brussels from 16 to 17 April 2015. The report covers three data points: 2008, 2010 and 2012. Mr. Zaidi noted that the objective of the AAI was to: (a) produce high quality, independent, multi-perspective evidence on active and healthy ageing; (b) highlight contributions of older persons in different areas of their lives, as well as identify potential untapped areas; and (c) offer policy makers comparative evidence for mutual learning and encourage governments to develop strategies accordingly.

60. The AAI is a tool that measures the level to which older persons live independent lives, participate in paid employment and social activities as well as their capacity to actively age. Mr. Zaidi elaborated on the domains and indicators that make up the Index (Box 3). When selecting indicators, the following considerations were upheld: (a) focus on current generation of older persons; (b) measuring outcomes; (c) objectivity; (d) sustainability; (e) flexibility; and (f) comparability. Mr. Zaidi further noted that data used for the indicators were collected from 4 prime sources, namely: European Union (EU) labour force survey; European quality of life survey; EU survey of income and living conditions; as well as the European social survey (waves R4, R5 and R6).

Box 3: Active Ageing Index

61. Mr. Zaidi underlined five key messages from the analytical report: (a) affluent EU States in northern and western Europe have had greater success; (b) top-ranked countries were not necessarily at the top by each domain and indicator; (c) older men scored better than older women, particularly in the area of employment and income security; (d) despite economic crises and austerity measures in Europe, active ageing has been increasing; and (e) the efforts towards active ageing do not worsen older persons' quality of life or affect adversely the economic development of countries in question.

62. The AAI was not intended to measure the quality of life and wellbeing of older persons; however, the Global Age Watch Index was developed by HelpAge International and
the University of Southampton to fill this gap. Ms. Sylvia Beales, Head of Strategic Alliance at HelpAge International and Mr. Asghar Zaidi delivered a joint presentation on “Measuring progress on ageing for the Sustainable Development Goals with the Global AgeWatch Index.” Ms. Beales stated that the objective of the Global AgeWatch Index was to track and monitor key trends on ageing; to provide a multi-dimensional framework to understanding and responding to ageing opportunities and challenges; to provide comparative insights and to be a stimulus for age and sex disaggregated data so as to generate evidence for age inclusive policy making. The Index is in its 3rd year and uses internationally comparative data from a range of sources. To date it has been possible to include 96 countries, comprising 91% of the worlds over 60’s. Persistent data gaps in domain 1, specifically poverty in old age and relative welfare of older people, are the main constraint in adding more countries. Ms. Beales and Mr. Zaidi then elaborated on the construction of the Index, which comprises 13 indicators under 4 domains, with data drawn from international databases (Box 4). They then shared various findings from the global results of 2014.

Box 4: Domains and Indicators of the Global AgeWatch Index

63. Ms. Beales also noted that the Index is utilized in various ways, namely: (a) data and tools to explore weighting and country comparison are available and accessible online <www.globalagewatch.org>; (b) country report card pages that show all data available on all countries - and not just the Index; as well as (c) detailed commentaries on 30 countries. She furthermore illustrated how the 2014-2015 findings were used to:

(a) highlight the need to improve and extend data on ageing in the SDGs;
(b) promote better data and visibility, together with the Commonwealth Youth Index;
(c) stimulate national research using the Index framework in four Asian countries, namely: China, Pakistan, India and Bangladesh;
(d) encourage national index development in Korea and China; as well as
(f) stimulate the United Arab Emirates' interest to develop a national and regional index to support planning on ageing and to fill in data gaps in the Arab region.

64. Experts agreed that unlike other global indicators that used a name-and-shame approach, the AAI and Global Age-Watch index were both positively received by governments and academics alike. These indicators started an important conversation on ageing and should therefore be prioritized as a tool for dialogue, especially at the national level. Participants also noted that the indicators are setting the stage for identifying minimum data sets; however, challenges in data availability persist particularly in areas such as elder...
abuse, lifelong learning, political participation and mental well-being as well as the gaps in poverty data already noted.

65. Experts concluded that indicators can help identify policy priorities for each country in addressing common longer-term opportunities and challenges of population ageing. In this relation, detailed cross-country comparisons of domains and individual indicators help identify successful and innovative policy instruments. Experts noted that additional effort is needed on inequality in active ageing through utilizing individual-level active ageing indicators by for instance constructing separate indicators for older women and men. Furthermore, the experts called for including political and civil rights in existing global indicators as well as the need for explore how new and expanded data from national sources could further develop existing indicators.

E. E-Participation: Enhancing data collection, policy making and monitoring through crowdsourcing

66. This session was moderated by Mr. Jean-Pierre Gonnot. Ms. Julia Glidden, Founder and President of @21Consultancy Ltd addressed the topic of enhancing data collection, policy making and monitoring through crowdsourcing. Ms. Glidden stated that engagement and participation of civil society organizations has been on the agenda of the United Nations, and while the bottom-up approach is still a work in progress, it has seen improvement at the global level. Ms. Glidden emphasized what is to be gained by this participation, including building trust amongst various stakeholders as well as a better understanding of what their needs are. Without engagement, it is unlikely that solutions are found when complex policy challenges are addressed. Ms. Glidden stated that while the debate around crowdsourcing was initially about harnessing data, it has now moved towards authentication and a guarantee of provision of quality data. There is a nexus between crowdsourcing and open data, and that this revolution is powerful, transformative and occurs in every aspect of our lives. However, decision-making is lagging behind.

67. Ms. Glidden shared numerous examples of lessons learned including national data portals, social media and the private sector. She highlighted a project in Kazakhstan that tracks data on ageing as a part of the national open government agenda. Developers will utilize the data to create applications to improve the quality of life of older persons. Ms. Glidden also called attention to Scotland’s ‘Linked Open Health Care Data’ initiative as an example of combining and linking high quality data that allows patient based analysis and follow up. She shared examples of how data was applied to monitor institutional and non-institutional health care expenditure as well as to cohort specific analysis on dementia.

68. Experts noted that crowdsourcing initiatives are developing rapidly primarily in the context of sustainable urban governance. While there are efforts undertaken by governments, it would seem that the most creative initiatives are developed by the private sector and citizens through social innovation. Participants also noted a strong discrepancy in use access of these initiatives by age group. The Session concluded by recognizing crowdsourcing as a potentially important monitoring mechanism for the SDGs. Experts agreed that crowdsourcing could be utilized as a supplemental source of information and embedded in indicators in the future.

F. Collecting new and non-traditional data and accountability mechanisms from older persons

69. The session was moderated by Ms. Rosemary Lane, United Nations Focal Point on Ageing of the Division for Social Policy and Development. Ms. Lynda Flowers, Senior
Strategic Policy Advisor of AARP’s Public Policy Institute addressed the topic of collecting new and non-traditional data and accountability mechanisms from older persons.

70. Ms. Flowers shared the experiences and findings of a qualitative study that determines levels of satisfaction of health care of older persons. The study involves 10 focus groups with older adults in five American states measuring five different healthcare delivery models. One of the findings was that even though only one of the models of care provided social opportunities, social opportunities were important to older adults across most of the other care models. She explained how the study demonstrated the linkages between social isolation and health care spending. Challenges related to conducting focus groups were: a) uncertainty about the type of programme individuals were enrolled in, b) difficulty including people with limited English proficiency, c) difficulties recruiting multi-ethnic participants, d) selection bias, e) challenges related to group think and f) findings not generalizable.

71. The qualitative study around social connectedness lead to a quantitative study, which questioned whether the lack of social opportunities increase Medicare\(^3\) costs. The study was carried out in partnership with researchers at Stanford University using three years (2006, 2008 and 2010) of linked data. The hypothesis of the study was: Absence of social contacts (objective social isolation)\(^4\) increases Medicare costs. Ms Flower explained that the study linked to the Health and Retirement Study (HRS)\(^5\) - a nationally representative, longitudinal survey - data as well as Medicare Claims Data, including information on institutional as well as non-institutional beneficiary services, birth dates, date of service as well as provider and beneficiary identifiers covering about 75 percent of Medicare fee-for-service beneficiaries.

72. Findings of the study demonstrated that people who are very\(^6\) socially isolated, have about $130 per month more in Medicare spending than their non- or less-isolated counterparts. The findings carry potential for policy action. Based on the assumption that social isolation leads to increased federal Medicare spending, Medicare may therefore have an incentive to screen people and develop and fund evidence-based social interventions. This is currently not the case.

73. In view of the Sustainable Development Goals, Ms Flowers mentioned, that despite of the higher costs of qualitative studies, compared to qualitative studies, an approach combining research methods is useful for developing public policy solutions that resonate with the public. She explained that the application of “mixed methods” can help draw conclusions on the needs, concerns, habits, and practices of racial and ethnic minorities within various domains, such as health security, economic security, long-term services and supports, independent living, transportation, caregiving, and social determinants.

74. Experts agreed that qualitative studies can provide a realistic picture of the needs, however funding for these studies is challenging. Participants noted that new technology and trends however provide for many opportunities to do qualitative data e.g. through social media. The discussion reflected that some of the challenges around collecting data and

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\(^3\) A health insurance programme for older adults age 65 and older

\(^4\) Objective social isolation encompasses such factors as the size and structure of social networks, the frequency and duration of social interactions, and the type and degree of social supports received, AARP Foundation 2012.

\(^5\) The University of Michigan Health and Retirement Study (HRS) is a national panel study of more than 22,000 Americans over the age of 50. Sponsored by the National Institute on Aging, the study is conducted every two years (1992-2006) and includes core interviews with the sampled respondents and proxy interviews when the sampled respondents have died. The study collects data on physical and mental health, insurance coverage, financial status, family support systems, labor market status, and retirement planning.

\(^6\) Very = one standard deviation above the mean
applying new methods should be validated in terms of whether it can be cost-effective and beneficial. Experts concluded that ‘winning solutions’ come from blending using new trends to point out some trends and use the more formal methods to make it more valid.

G. Opportunities and Challenges of the data revolution vis-à-vis the ageing agenda in a post-2015 agenda

75. The session on ‘Opportunities and Challenges of the data revolution vis-à-vis the ageing agenda in a post-2015 agenda’ was moderated by Mr. Asghar Zaidi of University of Southampton, the UK. The session particularly focussed on the data challenges faced in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals from the perspective of older persons. Experts were divided in groups to review all SDG goals, targets and suggested indicators to date, in order to better reflect needs and resources related to the growing population of older persons.

76. As an overall aim, all goals and targets must be disaggregated by age and sex. The need for improved data disaggregation by age was identified for many indicators. Also, additional indicators were identified so that the SDG and post-2015 development agenda could also address issues specific to older persons. Furthermore, additional indicators were suggested in case the goals and targets specified are not captured by the listed indicators.

77. Experts were aware that it might not be possible to take into account all their recommendations; nonetheless they reviewed the full set of goals, targets and indicators. They were also aware that only the consultation process on indicators is ongoing.

78. A number of broad recommendations were made. If recommending an addition and or revision, there should be knowledge of a data set which allows for comparison between countries. Specific age groups should be defined with clear and appropriate distinctions within the group of older persons, not reduced to single subgroups such as 50+ or 60+ only. Furthermore, a glossary should be provided to define key terms used in the document. Specific recommendations for additions to and revisions of indicators were identified as follows:

GOAL 1: End of poverty in all its forms everywhere.

- Target 1.5: ‘By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters’.
  - Indicator 1.5.1: ‘Number of people affected by hazardous events by sex’ should be disaggregated by age and sex.

GOAL 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

- Target 2.1: ‘By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round’.
- Target 2.2 ‘end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving by 2025 the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of

The list of indicators applied, was Annex 5 of the Working draft from the “Technical report by the Bureau of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) on the process of the development of an indicator framework for the goals and targets of the post-2015 development agenda” (https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/). It might be the case that the list under review may have already been revised to include age disaggregation.
age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls pregnant and lactating women and older.

- The indicator for these targets lack a reference to nourishment levels of older persons it is solely child focussed. Additional data set is needed
  - Indicators 2.1.1; ‘Prevalence of Undernourishment (PoU)’ and 2.1.2; ‘Prevalence of population with moderate or severe food insecurity, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)’ should also capture undernourishment and food insecurity for older people.

**GOAL 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.**

- Target 3.3: ‘By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases’.
  - Addition needed: Indicator 3.3.1; ‘HIV incidence per 100 susceptible person years (adults, key populations, children, adolescents)’ should also identify and prioritise HIV prevalence among older persons.

- Target 3.4: ‘By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases, through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being’.
  - Revision needed: Indicator 3.4.1; ‘Probability of dying of cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, or chronic respiratory disease between ages 30-70 mortality’ should also be recorded for those aged above 70.

- Target 3.5: ‘Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol’.
  - Addition needed: Indicator 3.5.1; ‘Coverage of opioid substation therapy among opioid-dependent drug users’ and indicator 3.5.2; ‘Coverage of interventions for the prevention of substance abuse interventions among people under 25’ is also an issue for older age groups, which should be monitored using specific indicators.

**GOAL 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.**

- Target 4.3: ‘By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university’.
  - Addition needed: An additional indicator should be added to the target, to capture access to education and training for older people should also be included.

**GOAL 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.**

- Target 5.2: ‘Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including the trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation’.
  - Addition and revision needed: Indicator 5.2.1; ‘Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls (aged 15-49) subjected to physical and/or sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner, in the last 12 months’ and indicator 5.2.2; Proportion of women and girls aged 15-49 subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner, since age 15’, should also capture older age groups to report and monitor violence against older persons.
GOAL 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

- Target 8.5: ‘By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value’.
  - **Addition and revision needed:** Indicator 8.5.1; ‘Employment to working-age population (15 years and above) ration by gender and age group, and people with disabilities’, should not be restricted to ‘working age’ population, instead **employment of older age groups should also be accounted for.**

- Target 8.10: Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services.
  - **Revision and addition needed:** The target should be supported by an **additional indicator capturing financial inclusion of older persons.**

GOAL 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

- Target 10.7: ‘Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies’
  - **Addition needed:** Indicator 10.7.1; The ‘Index on Human Mobility Governance measuring key features of good-governance of migration’ **should also account for specific needs of older migrant persons.**

GOAL 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

- Target 11.1: ‘By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums’. Target 11.2 specifically references older persons in relation to transport and target 11.7 references older persons in relation to safe and accessible public spaces.
  - **Addition needed:** An **indicator is required on the physical safety, especially for older persons. Indicators should capture accessibility, affordability, safety and satisfaction aspects for older persons of public transport.**

GOAL 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

- Target 16.1: ‘Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere’.
  - **Addition and revision needed:** Indicators 16.1.1; ‘Homicide and conflict-related deaths per 100,000 people’ and indicator 16.1.2; ‘Percentage of the adult population aged 18 and older, subjected to violence within the last 12 months, by type (physical, psychological and/or sexual)’ should be support by data on violence that is disaggregated by age with no upper age limit and sex. The term abuse should also include financial abuse.

In addition, it was recommended that a number of additional indicators should be further divided by age. They are:

1.5.1: Number of people affected by hazardous events by sex

2.3.1: Value of agricultural production per hectare (measured in constant, USD/hectare, disaggregated for the two lowest quintiles of ‘countries’ farm size distribution, as well as for female-headed smallholder producer households)
3.3.2: HIV/AIDS deaths per 100,000 population
3.3.3: TB incidence per 1,000 persons years
3.3.4: Number of TB deaths
3.3.5: Malaria incidents cases per 1,000 person years
3.3.6: Malaria deaths per 100,000 population
3.3.7: Prevalence of hepatitis B surface antigen in children under 5
3.3.8: Prevalence of 13 IHR core capacities for surveillance and response
3.8.2: Fraction of households protected from incurring catastrophic out-of-pocket health expenditure
5.1.1: Whether or not legal frameworks discriminate against women and girls, as identified by the CEDAW committee
5.1.2: Whether or not inheritance rights discriminate against women and girls
5.b.1: Individuals who own a mobile phone, by sex
5.b.2: Individuals with ICT skills, by type of skill, by sex
5.c.1: Indicators to be finalized which will monitor the existence and quality of policies to achieve gender equality
5.c.2: Percentage of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women’s empowerment
8.8.1: Ratification and implementation of ILO fundamental conventions and relevant international labour and human rights standards
10.3.1: Percentage of population reporting perceived existence of discrimination based on all grounds of discrimination prohibited by international human rights law
10.3.2: Existence of an independent body responsible for promoting and protecting the right to non-discrimination
11.2.1: Percentage of people living within 0.5 km of public transport per person for cities with more than 500,000 inhabitants
11.3.2: Cities with more than 100,000 inhabitants that implement urban and regional development plans integrating population projections and resource needs
11.5.1: Number of people killed, injured, displaced, evacuated, relocated or otherwise affected by disasters
11.5.2: Number of housing units damaged and destroyed
11.7.2: Proportion of residents within 0.5 km of accessible green and public space
11.a.1: Cities with more than 100,000 inhabitants that implement urban and regional development plans integrating population projections and resource needs
16.1.1: Homicide and conflict-related deaths per 100,000 people

79. Additionally, a number of inconsistencies needed to be remedied. For Target 5.4, the provision of public services and also the social protection aspects were not captured by any indicator. For Target 8.5, an additional indicator on the quality of work should also be included. Indicator 10.4.1 should also include basic income. For Target 11.5, economic

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8 Target 5.4: Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.
9 Target 8.5: By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value
10 Indicator 10.4.1: % of people covered by minimum social protection floor, that include basic education and health packages, by age, sex, economic status, origin, place of residence, disability, and civil status (widows, partners in union outside of marriage, divorced spouses, orphan children) and other characteristics of relevance for each country.
11 Target 11.5: By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and decrease by [x] per cent the economic losses relative to gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations.
losses of other types should also be accounted for by additional indicators. For Target 16.9\textsuperscript{12}, an additional indicator is needed to identify legal identity for older persons.

V. Key findings

80. The concluding session was moderated by Mr Jean-Pierre Gonnot, Chief of Social Integration Branch, DSPD. The following findings of the various Sessions were defined to harness the data revolution and develop age-friendly policy and programme development in the post-2015 era:

Session I: Key findings in the opportunities and challenges of the data revolution were as follows:

- Dialogue with data producers on key policy priorities on ageing and older persons
- Fostering and promoting innovation to fill data gaps.
- Extending age limits in Demographic and Health Households Surveys.
- Exploiting existing data sources (censuses, household surveys) by expanding tabulation by sex and age and adding questions.
- Mobilizing resources to overcome inequalities between developed and developing countries and between data-poor and data-rich people
- Leadership and coordination to enable the data revolution to play its full role in the realization of sustainable development for all at all ages
- Exploring the use of open and big data and new non-traditional data sources
- A global effort to improve cooperation between old and new data producers
- Improving data analysis and presentation

Session II: Key findings in discussing the data challenge of reviewing the SDGs from an older person’s perspective and reflecting human rights issues in indicators were:

- A forward looking approach is needed to ensure that the SDG priorities are not limited to existing data with assessment of the indicators which are suggested currently
- For truly transformative SDGs, a human rights based approach to data is critical
- New partnerships and use of innovative technologies and statistical techniques are required to ensure that older persons are no longer invisible in official statistics
- Statistical systems should play a more central role in coordinating validation of data to ensure that new sources of data comply with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics
- Develop governance mechanisms on a strengthened partnership of official statistics and human rights organizations
- Develop guidelines to ensure that the full spectrum of data production conform to legal and institutional standards on ethics, statistics and human rights
- Increase data literacy to allow older persons to better understand, use and contribute to data

Session III: Key findings in discussing national and regional examples of data collection efforts on ageing issues:

- The importance of the national policy context needs to be recognized, particularly now there is a momentum to engage with the ageing context

\textsuperscript{12} Target 16.9: By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration
• It is crucial to ensure integration between the SDG related priorities, data needs and indicators and those that relate to national policy contexts including follow up to MIPAA
• The role of governments, government agencies, development commissions, civil society and advocacy have a critical role to play in consolidating and raising awareness about the data demands nationally, increasing visibility, momentum and funding allocated to address the ageing related data needs
• A real gap in current data collection efforts is the absence of linking data, which would enable a cross sector approach. The merging and application of combined methods of data collection are ways to address this gap.
• The UN should consider conducting a survey which could be a driver for encouraging open data.

Session IV: Key findings of the Session on the Global AgeWatch Index and Active Ageing Index:

• Indicators help identify trends and policy priorities for each country to address common longer-term opportunities and challenges of population ageing
• Detailed cross-country comparisons of domains and individual indicators help identify successful and innovative policy instruments
• Additional effort is needed to capture data on inequality in active ageing through utilizing individual-level active ageing indicators
• It is critical to tackle the poverty data gaps in order to expand country inclusion within the Global AgeWatch Index
• Construct separate indicators for older women and men for the Global AgeWatch Index
• Include political and civil rights in existing global indicators
• Explore how new data from national sources could further develop existing indicators held internationally

Session V: Key findings of enhancing data collection, policy making and monitoring through crowdsourcing and e-participation:

• Crowdsourcing could be utilized as a supplemental source of information and should be embedded in indicators in the future
• Crowdsourcing could be utilized as an important monitoring mechanism for the SDGs
• While valuable efforts are undertaken by governments, many initiatives are developed by the private sector and citizens through social innovation.

Session VI: Key findings of collecting new and non-traditional data and accountability mechanisms for older persons:

• Qualitative studies can provide a realistic picture of the needs, however funding for these studies are challenging.
• New technology and trends however provide for many opportunities to do qualitative data e.g. through social media.
• Challenges around collecting data and applying new methods should be validated in terms of whether it can be cost-effective and beneficial.
• ‘Winning solutions’ come from blending new trends to point out some trends and use the more formal methods to make it more valid.
Session VII: Key findings in discussing the opportunities and challenges of the data revolution vis-à-vis the ageing agenda in a post-2015 environment:

81. A good number of indicators have already been included capturing the needs and resources of older people. That said, number of indicators still requires additional breakdown by age.

Additional indicators are required to capture:

- Poverty in old age.
- Number of older people affected by hazardous events.
- HIV prevalence rate among older persons.
- Mortality among older persons aged 70+ from NCDs.
- Substance abuse by older age groups.
- Access to education and training for older persons.
- Violence against older persons, especially older women.
- Financial inclusion of older persons.
- Treatment of older migrant persons; and
- Physical safety of older persons in their local neighbourhood;

VI. The Way Forward

82. Discussing the way forward in addressing the data needs in the field of ageing, the EGM reflected that suggestions for different types of processes should be seen in the context of the post-2015 development agenda, the implementation of MIPAA as well as the review and appraisal of MIPAA.

83. A starting point for fostering systems that improve ageing related data collection is at the country level. While bearing in mind the relevance of the regional level, national statistical systems play a central role in coordinating the validation of data to ensure that new sources of data comply with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. A key priority in fostering adequate data collection efforts is enabling blending different sources of data, support better quality of data as well as making use of existing data sources that are supplemented by new and non-traditional data collection efforts.

84. In the context of the SDG targets and indicators, a forward looking approach is needed that does not solely build on existing data. The approach should include a human rights based approach to data and new partnerships. It should make use of innovative technologies and statistical techniques that are required to ensure the inclusion of older persons in official statistics. Governance mechanisms on a strengthened partnership of official statistics and human rights organizations should be developed, as well as guidelines that ensure a full spectrum of data production conforming to legal and institutional standards on ethics, statistics and human rights. In particular citizen engagement and bringing older persons into the national priority setting is crucial in helping countries to improve collecting data.

85. The current stage of defining indicators in the context of the SDGs provides a momentum for identifying policy priorities that address common longer-term opportunities and challenges of population ageing. In this context, additional effort is needed to address current gaps that form a barrier to obtaining a comprehensive understanding of the impacts and consequences of ageing e.g. through utilizing individual-level ageing indicators as well as constructing separate indicators for older women and men. Furthermore, detailed cross-country comparisons of domains and individual indicators can help identify successful and innovative policy instruments.
86. A good number of indicators that capture the needs and resources of older people have already been included. That said, a number of indicators still require additional breakdown by age. Additional indicators are among others required to take into account; the number of older persons affected by poverty; hazardous events; HIV prevalence rate among older persons; mortality among older persons aged 70+ from NCDs; substance abuse by older age groups; access to education and training for older persons; violence against older persons, especially older women; financial inclusion of older persons; treatment of older migrant persons as well as physical safety of older persons in their local neighbourhood.

87. In exploring how new data could further develop existing indicators, ongoing (global) processes, such as e-government surveys are useful sources to take into account. Also the ‘open data movement’ should be recognized as a suitable mechanism for enhancing sharing data. Crowdsourcing should be embedded in indicators in the future and can be applied as a supplemented source of information e. g.in the monitoring of the SDGs. In view of enhancing citizen’s engagement, the issue of increasing data literacy to allow older persons to better understand and use data should be taken into consideration.
Annex I: Final Meeting Agenda

Day 1: Tuesday, 7 July 2015

9:15 – 9:30 Registration of participants

9:30 – 10:00 Opening, Objectives and Organization of Meeting

Ms Daniela Bas, Director, Division for Social Policy and Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations

Ms Rosemary Lane, Focal Point on Ageing, Division for Social Policy and Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations

10:00 – 11:30 Session I: The data revolution: opportunities and challenges

Ms Francesca Perucci, Chief Statistical Services Branch, Statistics Division, Department of Social and Economic Affairs, United Nations

11:30 – 13:00 Session II: The Sustainable Development Goals from an older person perspective: the data challenge

Mr Paul Ladd, Senior Policy Adviser and Lead Author, Post-2015 and Sustainable Development Goals, Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, UNDP

Reflecting human rights issues in indicators

Ms Grace Sanico Steffan, Human Rights Officer, OHCHR, Geneva (teleconference)

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch break

14:30 – 17:00 Session III: National and regional examples of data collection efforts on ageing issues

Ms Lina V. Castro, Interim Deputy National Statistician, Censuses and Technical Coordination Office (Retired), Philippines

Ms Isabella Aboderin, Senior Research Scientist, Head, Aging and Development Program African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC), Nairobi, Kenya

Ms Abla Mehio Sibai, Department of Epidemiology and Population Health Faculty of Health Sciences, American University of Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon

Day 2: Wednesday, 8 July 2015

10:00 – 11:30 Session IV: Global Age Watch Index and the Active Ageing Index

Ms Sylvia Beales, Head of Strategic Alliance, HelpAge International

Mr. Asghar Zaidi, Professor in International Social Policy, University of Southampton, United Kingdom

11:30 – 13:00 Session V: E-participation: Enhancing data collection, policy making and monitoring
through crowdsourcing

Ms Julia Glidden, Founder & President @ 21c Consultancy Ltd

13:00 – 14:30  *Lunch break*

14:30 – 15:30  **Session VI: Collecting new and non-traditional data and accountability mechanisms from older persons**

Ms Lynda Flowers, JD, MSN, RN, Senior Strategic Policy Advisor, Public Policy Institute (PPI), AARD, Washington, USA

15:30 – 17:00  **Session VII: Group discussions: Opportunities and challenges of the data revolution vis-à-vis the ageing agenda in a post-2015 environment**

**Day 3: Thursday, 9 July 2015**

9:30 – 12:30  **Session VIII: Recommendations for harnessing the data revolution to develop age-friendly policy and programme development post-2015**

12:30 – 13:00  **Concluding remarks and closing**
Annex II: Concept note

“Global ageing and the data revolution - the way forward in the post-2015 environment”

Concept note

Introduction

A critical element of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA), adopted in 2002, is national data collection and analysis on ageing related issues. It concerns the compilation of gender and age specific information for policy planning, monitoring and evaluation. In order to support the effective implementation of MIPAA, General Assembly resolutions have repeatedly called upon Member States to improve ageing related data collection. However, considerable gaps in reliable data continue to form a barrier to obtaining a comprehensive understanding of the impacts and consequences of ageing.

The Focal Point on Ageing is organizing an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on “Global ageing and the data revolution - the way forward in the post-2015 environment” in New York on 7-9 July 2015. The Meeting will contribute to identifying the possible use of alternative sources of data on ageing to better inform policy development and monitoring. Discussions, presentations and recommendations can also contribute to the ongoing discussion and development of new data needs in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and beyond.

Background

So far, the development agenda has fallen short of achieving effective responses to the situation of older persons. At the national level, effective legislation and policies responding to the situation of older persons have often not been adopted, or remain dispersed, underfunded or insufficiently implemented.

Data needs on ageing issues

Population ageing has profound implications for many facets of human life. An ageing population will affect everything from economies, labor markets to health and social care. This prospect requires a better understanding of the implications and possibilities posed by population ageing as well as the situation of older persons themselves. While the older population is growing at an accelerated speed, many gaps in ageing related statistics and data exist, affecting the ability to develop targeted policies and programmes that address ageing related challenges.

Ongoing efforts in the implementation of MIPAA as well as in the context of the Open Ended Working Group on Ageing have demonstrated that further in-depth analysis and evidence is crucial to enhance ageing related policy and programme formulation and implementation. The need for a clear understanding of the impact of global ageing, as well as to measure, monitor and report on progress, therefore calls for a demand for expanding data on ageing issues. Data and statistics demonstrate the
changes needed that can address questions, from healthcare and social pensions to age-inclusive policies and programmes. However some of these critical ageing related priority areas are not easily quantifiable using mainstream statistics. Proactive and new initiatives on sex and age-disaggregated data should therefore be applauded as they demonstrate what is possible currently, and highlight where to build and systematize the collection of age related disaggregated data.

The data-revolution

Demand for evidence based data and statistics on older persons has been generated by the negotiations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Addressing the statistical capacity of countries was one element highlighted by the Secretary-General’s High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. It concluded that; a data revolution was necessary to improve the quality of statistics and information available to citizens. Moreover, data should be instrumental in providing the information basis for evidence-based decision making, analyzing trends, measuring and reporting that includes the widest possible range of the world’s population, including older persons.

In support of implementing a comprehensive Post-2015 Development Agenda, several efforts to define a strategic framework for statistics - ‘The transformative agenda for statistics’ - are currently ongoing. A Global Conference held in January 201513 encouraged the global community i) to engage in the debate on the data revolution, and reiterate the critical need for adequate statistical capacity, both at a technical and institutional level as well as to facilitate efforts that fill the data gaps and satisfy new data requirements; and ii) to address the need for the development of new data sources, method and methodologies resulting from the requirements of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, taking into account the possibilities of new technologies and non-traditional data sources.

The establishment of the so-called ‘transformative agenda for statistics’ provides an opportunity for integrating and broadening the scope of statistics and data collection that addresses the gaps and needs posed by ageing. The new integrated approach will introduce innovations to incorporate non-traditional sources of data including “open and big data” that so far have not been utilized in official statistics. These new, non-traditional data sources need to be leveraged to enrich sources of official statistics so that the data needs can be addressed. It should also ensure that spatially disaggregated data can be produced and made available to decision makers to provide them with the necessary statistical information.

Citizens-generated data collection in a post-2015 development environment

The integrated approach to broadening the scope of statistics and incorporating new- and non-traditional data opens up opportunities for citizens to engage and report directly on progress of a new set of development goals post-2015. The opportunity for direct interaction between citizens and governments through new and non-traditional data sources holds the potential to generate greater accountability and can facilitate a better understanding of development and performance of specific processes and challenges.

In the context of the global ageing population, citizens-generated data through new and non-traditional data sources can be instrumental in enhancing a better understanding of the impacts of ageing. By engaging older persons directly in data collection efforts and governance processes, new and non-traditional data sources present new opportunities for measuring, monitoring and reporting on progress. These sources can at the same time enhance older persons’ access to essential public information,

strengthen the voice of older persons and enable the participation of older persons in policy-making processes.

As such, citizens-generated data collection, such as crowdsourcing mechanisms can serve as an important source of knowledge to aggregate older persons’ views and thereby be instrumental in addressing the current gaps in ageing related data needs. The application of new- and non-traditional data sources therefore hold significant potential to enhance the understanding of critical ageing related priority areas that are not easily quantifiable using mainstream statistics. This can further support the effective implementation of MIPAA and strengthen the formulation and implementation of ageing related policies and programmes in a post-2015 environment.

**Purpose**

In view of better understanding the effects, needs and possibilities related to the growing ageing population, there is a strategic necessity to adapt data collection efforts. The EGM on “Global ageing and the data revolution - the way forward in the post-2015 environment” responds to the need for sound ageing related statistics and data as well as to the needs that will arise from the targets contained in the Sustainable Development Goals and the Post-2015 environment. The EGM is convened to explore how and which new and non-traditional data sources can support the policy discussions and decision-making on ageing issues at both the national and international levels.

**Time and venue**

The Expert Group Meeting on “Global ageing and the data revolution - the way forward in the post-2015 environment” will take place in New York at the United Nations Headquarters from 7-9 July 2015. The meeting will be organized by the Focal Point on Ageing in the Social Integration Branch, Division for Social Policy and Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations Secretariat.

**Objectives**

The EGM aims at informing the overall debate on developing a compendium of non-traditional sources of data on ageing in the context of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the enhanced implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, by assessing the possibilities for strengthening the statistics and data collection related to ageing issues as well as considering new measures to support the way forward.

Specific objectives of meeting are:

- To map non-traditional data sources to help define evidence based policy and programme formulation and enhance measuring, monitoring and reporting of progress related to ageing issues;

- To compile a compendium of the use of non-traditional data sources and statistics that could further support the implementation of MIPAA and be included in the discussions surrounding the data revolution;
To contribute to the ongoing debate on improving the statistics for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals as relevant to older persons and improving data sources on the situation of the lives of older persons.

To identify and document selected citizens-generated data collection approaches that can strengthen an older persons perspective in a post-2015 environment.

**Participants**

Experts, academia, and representatives of United Nations entities, intergovernmental organizations, and civil society will discuss the ways in which statistics, data collection and the application of non-traditional data sources can enable evidence based policy and programme formulation and define priority areas for action in addressing the challenges and opportunities posed by the ageing population.

**Outcome**

The EGM provides an occasion for the exchange of views and ideas. The presentations and discussions that will take place during the meeting will directly contribute to the further implementation of MIPAA, the wider strategic framework for implementing the post-2015 development agenda as well as the ongoing efforts in defining the SDG indicator framework. An analytical outcome report reflecting the discussion and all viewpoints will be prepared. This outcome document will be a contribution to the implementation of MIPAA as well as the work of the Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing. The report will be available to Member States and other stakeholders.

**Main themes of the Expert Group Meeting**

The following main themes will be discussed during the Expert Group Meeting under its various agenda items:

1. **New and non-traditional data sources and new technological solutions**

   To generate the necessary flow of reliable and timely data that ensures evidence based policy and programme formulation, traditional statistical processes will need to be redesigned to become more integrated and efficient and to yield different disaggregated data. Efforts to collect disaggregated data at the lowest possible level, by sex and age, should be made.

   During the EGM, non-traditional data sources will be presented. It will demonstrate what information these sources can prove and contribute with as well as identify ways and means of how to benefit from the data revolution regarding data and statistics on older persons.

2. **Assessing data and information gaps – what are the needs for enhancing evidence based policy and programme formulation on ageing?**

   Understanding the opportunities of ageing related non-traditional data sources and statistics requires an overview of the policy and programming needs. The EGM will reflect on which gaps need to be addressed in view of the inclusion of ageing issues in the discussions around SDG indicators and statistical measurements. It will address questions as to; what are the key challenges as well as the data

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14 The themes are subject to finalization of the organization of the sessions of the EGM.
requirements and limitations in different sectors such as health, employment, social security, human rights, discrimination as well as abuse, violence and neglect of older persons. The meeting will also explore how, and which new data sources and technologies can contribute to filling current gaps and consequently enhance evidence based policy and programme formulation in the ageing field.

3. The potential of new and non-traditional data sources and new technological solutions at the national level, regional and global level

Under-representation of older persons in national statistical sources is a significant barrier to developing active responses to various ageing related aspects. At the same time, the urgency of addressing national statistical capacities to better measure and report on progress in sustainable development has been highlighted in the report of the Secretary General’s High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Enabling a comprehensive national approach to ageing issues through obtaining reliable and valid data can enable making international comparisons. However, comparison of data from varying practices and conditions can be difficult and non-comparable data can lead to the dissemination of incorrect information and consequently to misinterpretation of matters. It is therefore essential to discuss common comparability issues as well as assessing the linkages of age related data collection at the national, regional and global levels.

The EGM will explore how national efforts in applying new and non-traditional data can drive improvements in addressing the growing ageing population by e.g. facilitating comparable cross-national data. It aims at discussing how new and non-traditional data could be made more widely available - at the national, regional and global level - to monitor and analyze effects on the sustainability of public finances, welfare provisions, or the economic and social impact of demographic change. The meeting will also address questions related to how to strengthen national capacities by e.g. applying national guidelines, data coordination and reporting of information that support the design of appropriate policies at the regional and global level.

4. Recommendations related to older persons in a Post-2015 Development Agenda environment – defining the way forward

This EGM will conclude with elaborating a number of concrete recommendations which contribute to the ongoing debate on improving the statistics for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals of relevance to older persons. The recommendations aim at compiling a compendium of the use of non-traditional data source and statistics that could be included in the discussions surrounding a “Transformative Agenda for Statistics” and further support the implementation of MIPAA.
Annex III: List of Participants

Experts

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