

Older Women and the United Nations Post-2015 Agenda: Challenges and Opportunities

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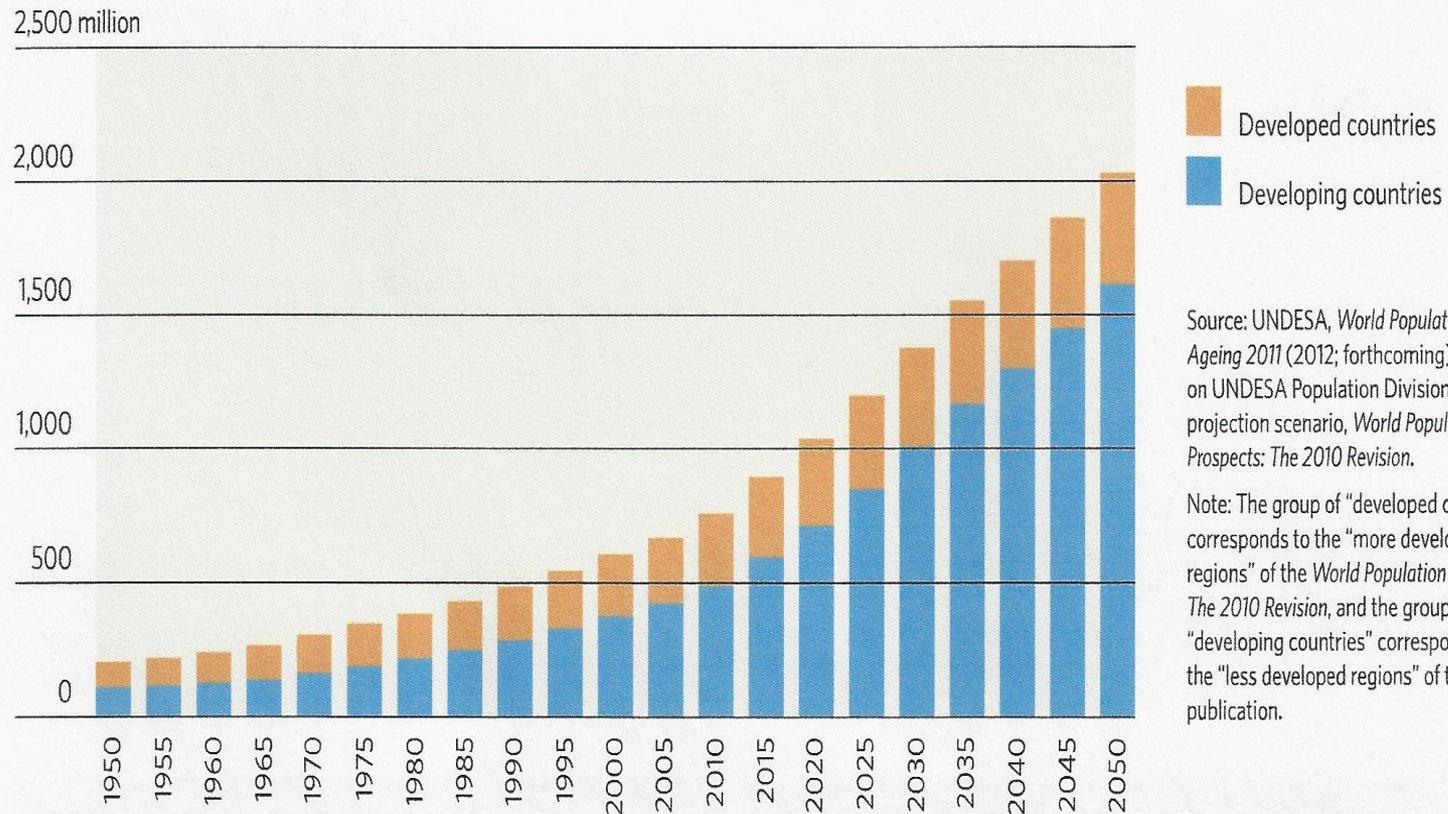
Non-Governmental Organizations with consultative status at the United Nations (UN)

- ▶ The International Federation on Ageing (IFA), the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW), and the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA) have consultative status at the UN.
 - ▶ Representatives of NGOs with consultative status can read statements into the permanent record of the UN.
 - ▶ NGOs with consultative status at the UN are responsible for educating, advocating, and providing expertise on specific topics of concern to world governments and UN staff.
 - ▶ NGOs including IFA, ICSW and INPEA have an ageing focus and volunteer member representatives provide expertise on issues related to older adults in society.
 - ▶ Our NGOs are represented in the Sub-Committee on Older Women
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Why is our role so timely?

- ▶ The global picture on population ageing shows the world's population is ageing at a rapid pace.
 - ▶ Developing countries are ageing at a faster pace than developed countries.
 - ▶ Older women live longer than older men; ageing is a woman's issue.
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Number of people aged 60 or over: World, developed and developing countries, 1950-2050



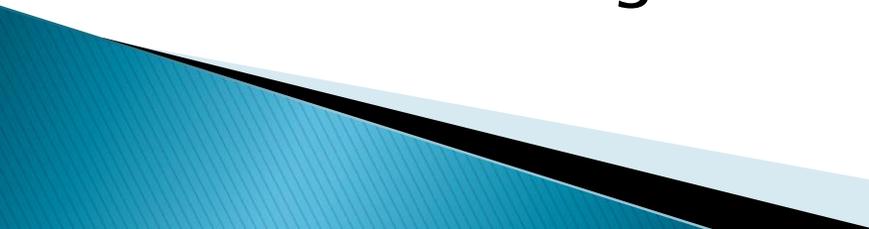
Source: UNDESA, *World Population Ageing 2011* (2012; forthcoming), based on UNDESA Population Division medium projection scenario, *World Population Prospects: The 2010 Revision*.

Note: The group of "developed countries" corresponds to the "more developed regions" of the *World Population Prospects: The 2010 Revision*, and the group "developing countries" corresponds to the "less developed regions" of the same publication.

Socio-Demographics of Older Women

- ▶ By 2050, there will be over 2 billion women aged 60 years and older in the world
 - ▶ Older women provide no cost family care for spouse/partners, family members with disabilities, children and grandchildren
 - ▶ Widows are poorer than older married couples and single older women living alone or with orphan grandchildren have higher poverty rates than other age cohorts
 - ▶ Older women have lower pensions than older men due to unpaid work in the home such as caregiving, childcare.
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What are the Millennium Development Goals?

- ▶ MDGs were formulated for 2000 to 2015 to provide world governments with a standard to help move people out of poverty.
 - ▶ MDGs include anti-poverty targets for children and women of reproductive age; older people including older women were not included in target populations.
 - ▶ Post 2015 agenda beyond MDGs is underway.
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What are the Sustainable Development Goals?

- ▶ At UN Conference on Sustainable Development (RIO+20) held in Rio de Janeiro in June, 2012, 193 UN Member States created an inclusive and transparent process to develop global sustainable development goals (SDGs).
 - ▶ The Post-2015 Development Agenda to succeed the MDGs, which expire in 2015, must include economic, social and environmental considerations.
 - ▶ Age and gender measures must be included as indicators to ensure attention to older women!
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Open Working Group (OWG) Themes and Meetings at UN

#1: OWG established by General Assembly
(January 2013)

#2: Poverty eradication (April 2013)

#3: Food Security and Nutrition, sustainable
Agriculture, Desertification, Land
Degradation, and Drought, Water and
Sanitation (May, 2013)



#4: Employment and Decent Work, Social Protection, Education and Culture, Health and Sustainable Development, Population Dynamics (June, 2013)

#5: Sustained and Inclusive Growth, Infrastructure Development, and Industrialization, Macroeconomic Policy Questions, Energy (November, 2013)



#6: Means of Implementation, Global Partnership for achieving sustainable development, Needs of countries in special situations land-locked developing countries, small island developing states as well as specific challenges facing the middle-income countries, Human rights, the right to development, global governance (December, 2013)

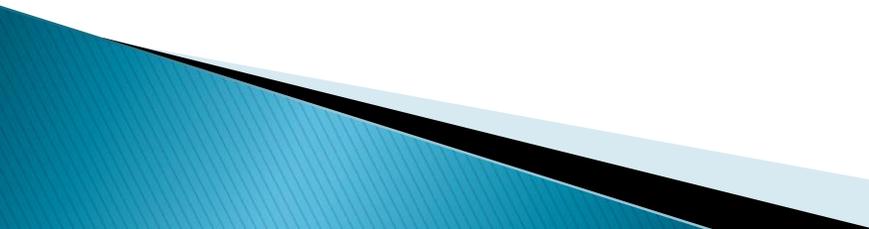


#7: Sustainable cities and human settlements, sustainable transport, Sustainable consumption and production, Climate change and disaster risk eradication (January, 2014)

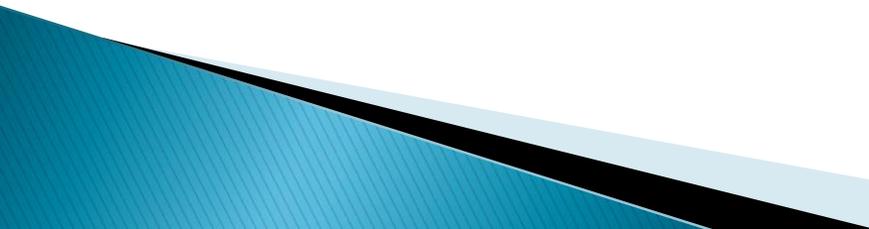
#8: Oceans and seas, forests, biodiversity, Promoting equality, gender equality and women's empowerment, Conflict prevention, post-conflict peacebuilding and the promotion of durable peace rule, rule of law and governance (February, 2014)



Meetings and input ongoing

- ▶ After last OWG Thematic session, further OWGs conducted to address various focus areas and themes arising out of the Thematic OWGs.
 - ▶ Member states and NGO stakeholders had opportunities for input.
 - ▶ Report due to General Assembly, September 2014.
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Major Groups(9)

- ▶ Business and industry
 - ▶ Children and Youth
 - ▶ Indigenous Peoples
 - ▶ Local Authorities
 - ▶ Scientific and Technological
 - ▶ Women
 - ▶ Workers and Trade Unions
 - ▶ Farmers
 - ▶ NGOs (Non Governmental Organizations)
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Other Stakeholders

- ▶ Disabilities Community
 - ▶ Volunteer
 - ▶ Ageing People (NGO Committee on Ageing)
 - ▶ Financing and Development
 - ▶ Social movement/People's goals
 - ▶ Beyond 2015
 - ▶ GCAP
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What are the Challenges and Opportunities for Inclusion of Targets for Older Women?

- ▶ Prevent neglect, abuse and violence against older women through enforced protection laws
 - ▶ End extreme poverty for older women through social protections
 - ▶ Provide government support for caregiving by older women through government subsidies, recognition of pension credit for unpaid work in the home
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What can you do to advocate for human rights of older adults generally and older women specifically?

- ▶ Ensure that laws and policies reflect a life course perspective.
 - ▶ Insert language that states “girls and women of all ages”
 - ▶ Become familiar with CEDAW General Recommendation No. 27: Human rights of older women
 - ▶ Demand that **OLDER WOMEN COUNT!**
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For more information:

- ▶ www.ifa-fiv.org
- ▶ www.inpea.net
- ▶ www.icsw.org
- ▶ www.ngo-coa.org
- ▶ Contact us at:
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World We Want

- ▶ Participate in shaping the future of the World We Want.
- ▶ Visit www.worldwewant.org and provide your input.
 - Key challenges of older people?
 - What can SDG agenda do to change lives of current and future generations of older people?
 - What would you like to say to heads of state about population ageing and Post 2015 framework?