

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


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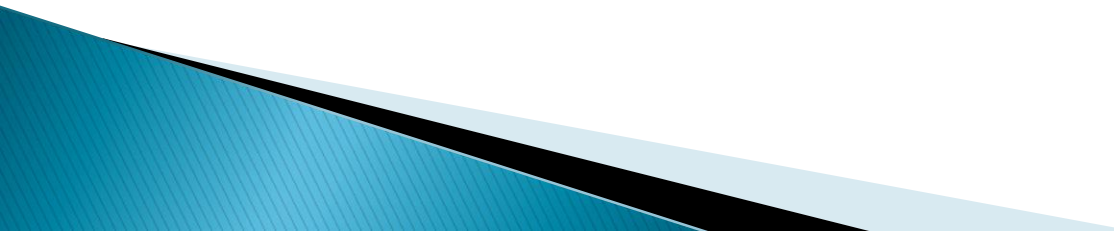
*Thursday, June 12, 2014*



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

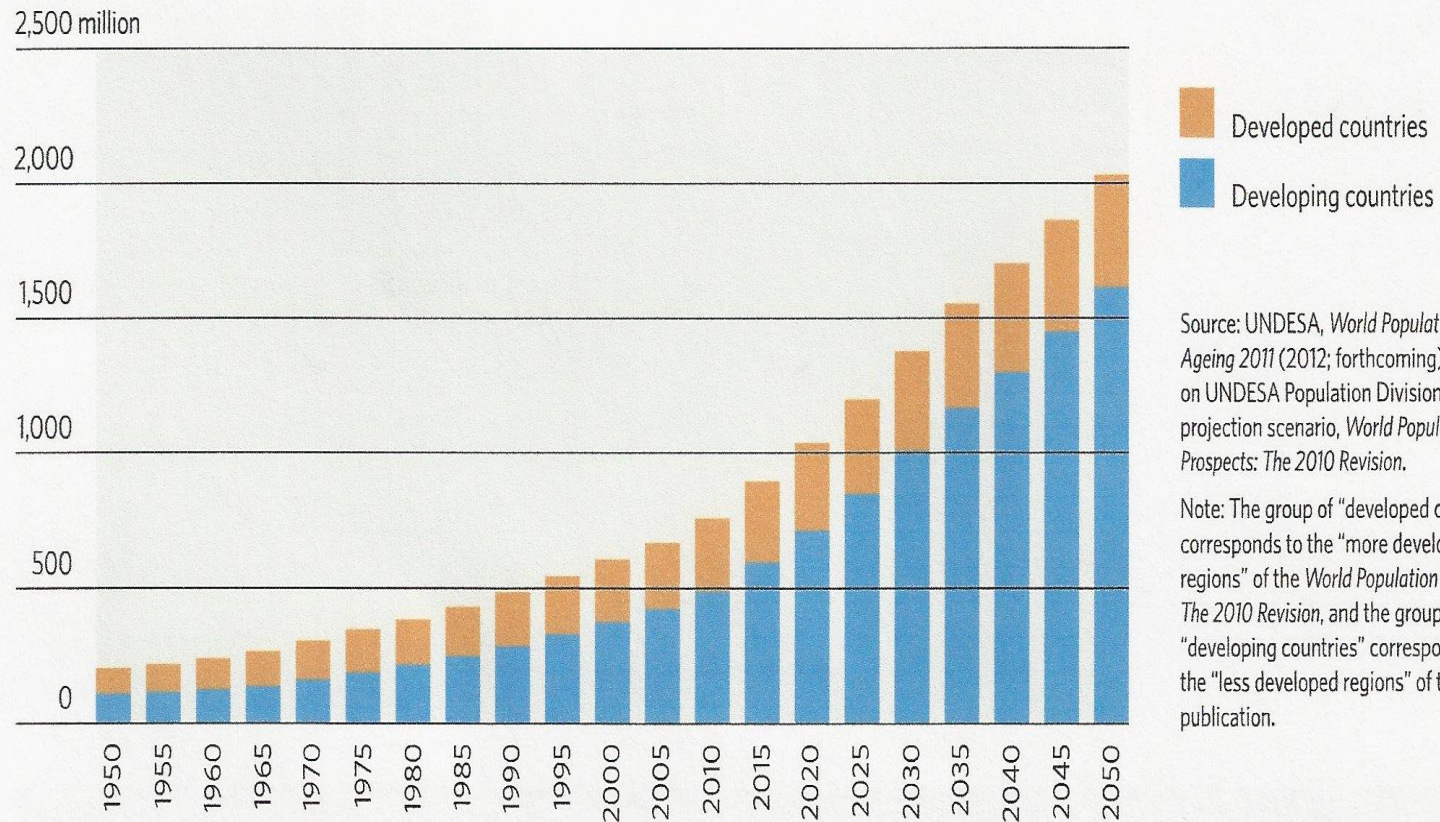
- ▶ The International Federation on Ageing (IFA), the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW), and the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA) have consultative status at the UN.
  - ▶ Representatives of NGOs with consultative status can read statements into the permanent 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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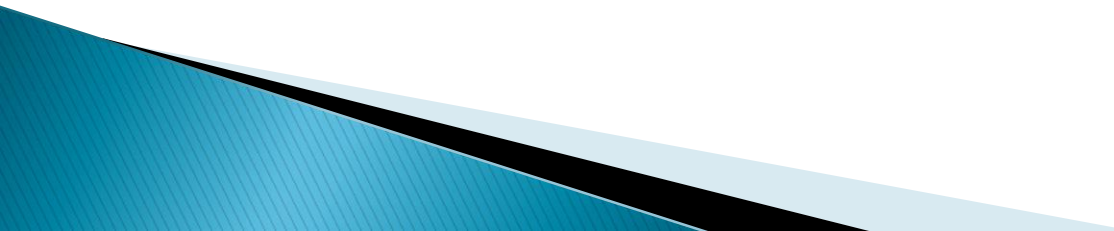
## Number of people aged 60 or over: World, developed and developing countries, 1950-2050



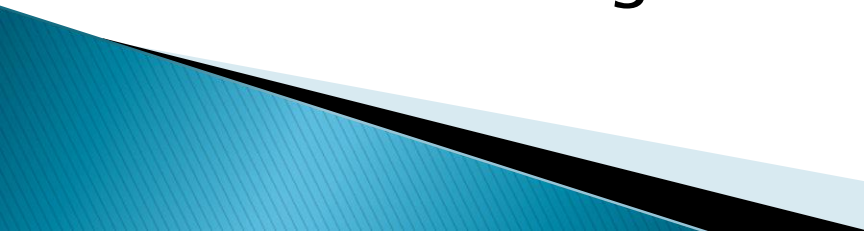
Source: UNDESA, *World Population Ageing 2011* (2012; forthcoming), based on UNDESA Population Division medium projection scenario, *World Population Prospects: The 2010 Revision*.

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?

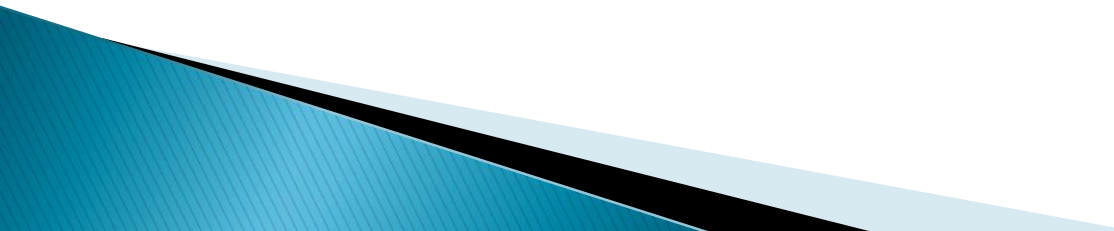
- ▶ At UN Conference on Sustainable Development (RIO+20) held in Rio de Janeiro in June, 2012, 193 UN Member States created an inclusive and transparent process to develop global sustainable development goals (SDGs).
  - ▶ The Post-2015 Development Agenda to succeed the MDGs, which expire in 2015, must 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)

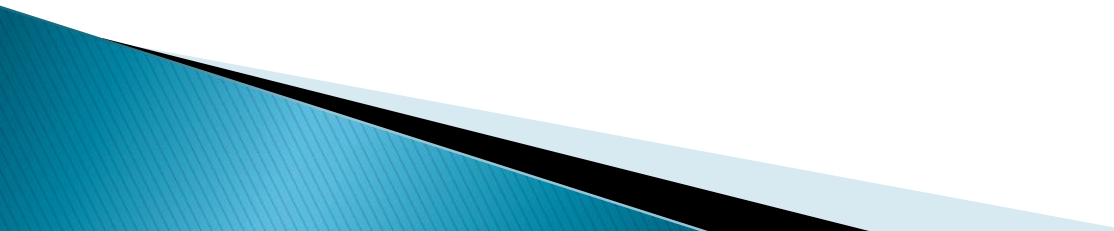


#7: Sustainable cities and human settlements, sustainable transport, Sustainable consumption and production, Climate change and disaster risk eradication (January, 2014)

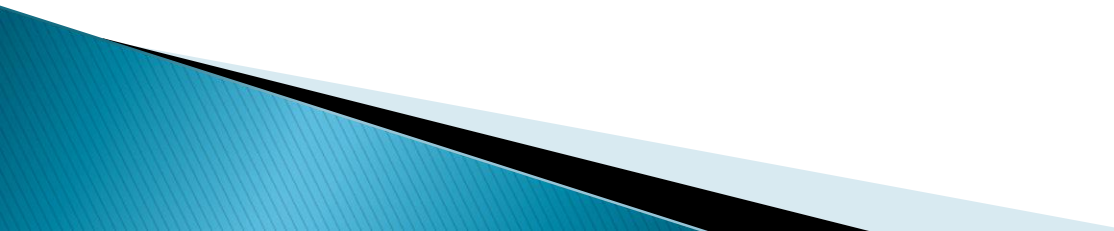
#8: Oceans and seas, forests, biodiversity, Promoting equality, gender equality and women's empowerment, Conflict prevention, post-conflict peacebuilding and the promotion of durable peace rule, rule of law and governance (February, 2014)



# Meetings and input ongoing

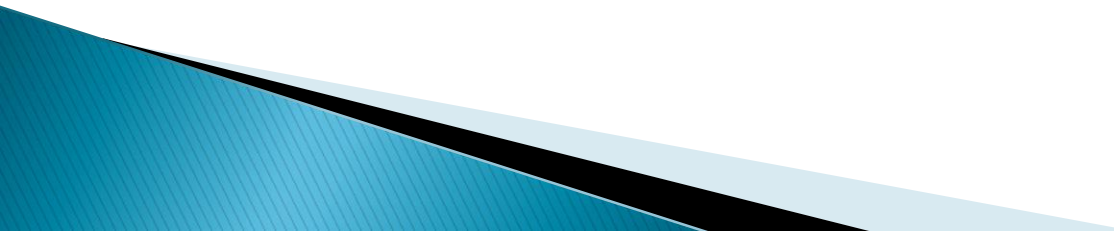
- ▶ After last OWG Thematic session, further OWGs conducted to address various focus areas and themes arising out of the Thematic OWGs.
  - ▶ Member states and NGO stakeholders had opportunities for input.
  - ▶ Report due to General Assembly, September 2014.
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#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

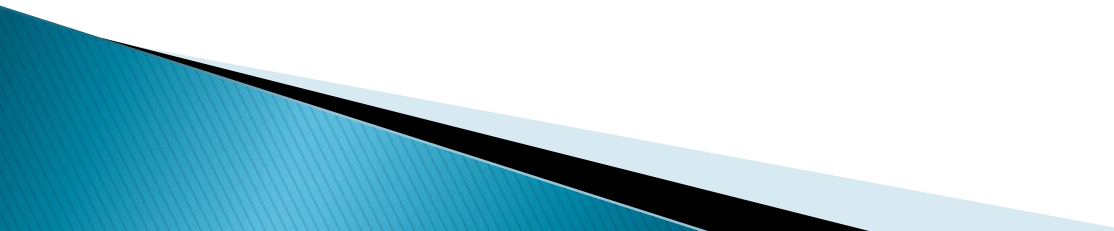
- ▶ Business and industry
  - ▶ Children and Youth
  - ▶ Indigenous Peoples
  - ▶ Local Authorities
  - ▶ Scientific and Technological
  - ▶ Women
  - ▶ Workers and Trade Unions
  - ▶ Farmers
  - ▶ NGOs (Non Governmental Organizations)
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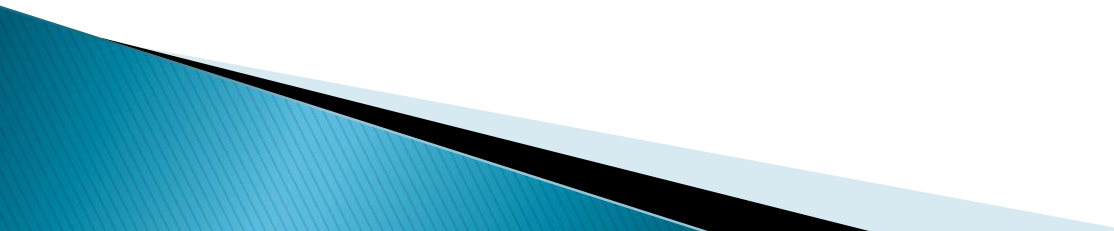
# Other Stakeholders

- ▶ 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](http://www.ifa-fiv.org)
  - ▶ [www.inpea.net](http://www.inpea.net)
  - ▶ [www.icsw.org](http://www.icsw.org)
  - ▶ [www.ngo-coa.org](http://www.ngo-coa.org)
  - ▶ Contact us at:
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  - ▶ Dr. Cynthia Stuen [cynthia.stuen@gmail.com](mailto:cynthia.stuen@gmail.com)
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# World We Want

- ▶ Participate in shaping the future of the World We Want.
  - ▶ Visit [www.worldwewant.org](http://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?
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