

“After the MDGs – Where are all the Older People”

The **United Nation’s Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)** have been the most successful global anti-poverty push in history. Extreme poverty halved since 1990, millions more girls in school, fewer children dying each day, and fighting killer diseases like AIDS, malaria and Tuberculosis. While further efforts and a strong global partnership for development are needed to accelerate progress and reach the goals by 2015, the plight and lives of older people is ashamedly absent from the MDGs and the targets.

The United Nations Secretary-General appointed a High-level Panel of Eminent Persons in July 2012 to advise on the global development agenda beyond 2015, the target date for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The post-2015 agenda aims to be founded on a coherent global framework with a single agenda embracing economic growth, social inclusion and environmental sustainability. Despite the success of the MDGs not enough attention has been paid to the very poorest and the marginalized and vulnerable, including people with disabilities, children, women, and older people.

Furthermore, underpinning the post 2015 agenda is the need to strengthen global governance to ensure it is fit for its purpose; avoid overlap and the duplication of efforts; and encourage joint work to address cross-cutting issues

This session is set at a pivotal time on the development of the post 2015 agenda so it is with great pleasure that UN agencies including (UN DESA, UNECE, UN DP, and UNFPA) will present a status report while also describing some of the challenges in the development and consensus building of agenda.

Expert Speakers



Dr. Zahidul Huque

United Nations
Population Fund



Ms. Rosemary Lane

United Nations Department
of Economic and Social
Affairs



Ms. Vitalija Gaucaite Wittich

United Nations Economic
Commission for Europe



Ms. Rosemary Lane, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)

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

She has worked on issues of ageing since 1993 and was a member of the secretariat for the Second World Assembly on Ageing in 2002. She was a main contributor to the drafting of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing that was adopted at the Second World Assembly on Ageing in 2002. Following the Madrid Assembly her work concentrated on promoting the implementation of the Plan of Action at the national level, and in particular focusing on the provision of technical assistance to Member States. Her current work also includes the support of the open-ended working group on ageing for the purpose of strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons established by the General Assembly in 2011. She became the Focal Point on Ageing in 2010.

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



Ms. Vitalija Gaucaite Wittich, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN ECE)

Ms. Gaucaite Wittich is a chief of Population Unit of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and is responsible for the UNECE work in the area of population ageing and intergenerational relations. She oversees the organization of the reviews of national policies and strategies in implementing the Madrid International Plan of Actions on Ageing in the UNECE region, capacity development and policy briefs in the area of population ageing and acts as the UNECE coordinator for the Generations and Gender programme. Ms. Gaucaite Wittich is a member of the UNECE staff since 1994; prior to this post she worked in the Statistics and Economic Analysis Divisions. She has a doctoral degree in Social sciences and before joining UNECE was an Associate Professor of Economics at Vilnius University in Lithuania.



Dr. Zahidul Huque, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

A national of Bangladesh and USA, Zahidul A. Huque has had more than thirty years of professional experience in public health policy development, program management in population, gender and reproductive health and applied research in demography and health. He has led large scale development and humanitarian assistance programs in several countries. He has worked in diverse geographic, political, economic, social and cultural settings, including in Bangladesh, Mongolia, USA, Indonesia, Philippines, Pakistan, India, Sudan, Egypt, Bolivia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey. His primary expertise is scaling up of pilot population and health interventions from non-governmental settings to public sector programs and innovations in pro-poor program designs. He has designed, implemented and evaluated large scale non-governmental and public sector health and population programs in many countries. Dr. Huque has a medical degree from Bangladesh and masters and doctorate degrees from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, USA. Currently Dr. Huque is the Representative for United Nations Population Fund in Turkey and Country Director for Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.