

BACKGROUNDER

Adapted from the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing
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BACKGROUNDER: THE 2022 HEALTHY AGEING 50

Government, Civil Society, Industry and Academic Leaders Transforming the World to be A Better Place in Which to Grow Older

The United Nations General Assembly declared 2021-2030 the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing: an opportunity to bring together governments, civil society, international agencies, professionals, academia, the media, and the private sector for ten years of concerted, catalytic and collaborative action to improve the lives of older people, their families, and the communities in which they live.

This year, as the Second World Assembly on Ageing approaches its 20-year milestone, there is an opportunity to generate renewed momentum for action to advance the ageing agenda. The Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, adopted in 2002, called for changes in attitudes, policies and practices at all levels – international, national, community, corporate and organizational – to recognize the ageing population as a potential resource that can contribute to development. At the same time, it sought to ensure that people everywhere will be enabled to age with security and dignity, and continue to participate fully in society.

The Healthy Ageing 50 will help to drive this renewed momentum by honouring 50 leaders from across the globe who are already working to transform the world to be a better place in which to grow older. Health and well-being are central to the experience of older age and the opportunities that ageing and longevity bring. The COVID-19 pandemic has shed a light on many gaps, not just in doing things, but in how to think about ageing and older people. Improving the lives of current and future generations of older people requires a whole-of-society approach.

The Healthy Ageing 50 is a UN Decade of Healthy Ageing advocacy initiative that aims to inspire others by celebrating individuals (and not their organizations nor affiliated entities) around the world who are already working to improve the lives of current and future generations of older people. To learn more go to the [Healthy Ageing 50 page](#) on the Decade Platform.

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The [International Federation on Ageing](#) (IFA) is an international, non-governmental organization (NGO) with a unique membership base comprising government, NGOs, academics, industry, and individuals in over 80 countries. Nearly 50 years old, the IFA has become known as a leading and innovative organization that works across disciplines and sectors toward common goals that improve the lives of older people. Through the IFA's formal relations with the World Health Organization (WHO) and general consultative status at the United Nations and its agencies, the IFA is in the position to advocate directly with member states and contribute to and inform intergovernmental dialogue.