



Special Session 8

Leaving No One Behind:

Mainstreaming Ageing in Sustainable Development

Thursday, 16 March 2023, 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Beirut time

Background and objective

The share of older persons (those aged 65 years and above) in the Arab region is expected to more than double by 2050, to nearly 11 per cent of the total population (72 million). This reflects the significant achievements of human development, such as improved health, greater longevity, and lower mortality. Yet, such fast-paced demographic change coupled with the alarming situation of older persons today, makes ageing a policy priority and leaves a tight window for member States to act.

Ageing is an issue that cuts across several SDGs, including on poverty eradication, ending hunger, good health, gender equality, economic growth and decent work, reduced inequalities and sustainable cities. Yet, older persons have often been overlooked by development policies. Mainstreaming ageing in sustainable development will help ensure that older persons are not left behind.

The session will aim to:

- Explore ageing as an emerging regional priority
- Identify challenges facing older persons in the region
- Share good practices of mainstreaming ageing in sustainable development

Questions to be addressed

- Why is mainstreaming ageing in policy making a priority for our region?
- How have older persons issues been mainstreamed in social development?
- What are the challenges faced in addressing ageing in development policies?
- What are some practical solutions that governments can take to address older persons' priorities?

Moderator

- **Sara Salman**, Populations Affairs Officer, ESCWA

Opening Remarks

- **Sara Salman**, Populations Affairs Officer, ESCWA
- **Ismail Lubbad**, Population and Development Advisor, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Arab States Regional Office

Panelists

- **Nabil Kronfol**, Regional Expert on Ageing, Lebanon
- **Samar Al-Sibai**, Head of the Syrian Commission for Family and Population Affairs, Syrian Arab Republic
- **Sawsan Mohammad Sa'ada**, Country Director, HelpAge International, Jordan
- **Imran Riza**, UN Deputy Special Coordinator for Lebanon, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator

Discussant

- **Said Elbanna**, Director of the Center for Entrepreneurship, Professor in Management, Qatar University

This Special Session will be organized as a hybrid event. To participate over Zoom, please [register here](#). Those physically present at the UN House can attend the session in the Mezzanine Meeting Room (MZ floor).



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