



SIDE EVENT @ THE 2023 SDG SUMMIT

DEVELOPING A BLUEPRINT FOR CIVIL SOCIETY AND PRIVATE SECTOR CONTRIBUTIONS:

Towards the Elaboration of a
Comprehensive and Integral International
Convention on the Rights of Older Persons

 **18** SEPTEMBER
2023

 09h30-11h00
(EST)

 Secretariat Building UNCA,
Room S-301
New York, USA



Summary

UNITAR, in collaboration with G3ict, GIA, will host a kick-off event on the benefit of the International Convention on the Rights of Older Persons and to explore how private sector and civil society stakeholders can get involved and contribute their experience and perspectives to its elaboration. The discussion will highlight the value that older persons contribute to the economy and society at large, their growing demographic importance, how their insight and participation is critical to building our future, and which treaty dispositions would be needed to protect their rights and their unrestricted access and participation in all aspects of society including fast evolving digital technologies and environments.

Overview

In 2015, the Organization of American States adopted the *Inter-American Convention for the Protection of the Human Rights of Older Persons*. This document promotes, protects, and ensures the recognition and full enjoyment and exercise, in conditions of equality, of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of older persons. The negotiation of this regional instrument, a pioneer in its area, responds to the fact that Latin America and the Caribbean there will be more elderly people than children by the year 2040.

Similar demographic trends will affect other parts of the world. According to the World Health Organization, in 2050, 80% of older persons will come from low- and middle-income countries, and the proportion of the world's population over 60 years of age will nearly double from 12% to 22%¹. Those demographic changes will imply behavioral and societal changes, investment in human capital and infrastructure, policy and institutional reforms, as well as relying on technological innovations².

Most importantly, such developments must be met with equal concern for the respect, promotion, and protection of the human rights of older persons. Since 2010, the Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing has been working at the United Nations to identify gaps in the existing international framework protecting the rights and fundamental freedoms of older persons. Momentum is building to address those gaps by elaborating an international instrument that will be grounded on the principles of dignity, equality, non-discrimination, autonomy, independence, and meaningful participation of older persons.

This side event, to take place during the SDG Summit 2023 / United Nations, will discuss the potential benefits of such an instrument, not only to eliminate discrimination, exclusion or restriction based on age, but also to seek the protection and exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the sociopolitical, economic, technological, and cultural spheres for older persons. This dialogue among experts will serve as an invaluable support to this year's conversation among United Nations Member States on a definite and crucial step towards a comprehensive and integral international legal instrument that is long overdue.

Objectives

This event aims to:

1. Showcase the current work underway to negotiate a comprehensive and integral international convention on the rights of older persons.
2. Share private sector and civil society initiatives related to older adults and their perspectives of older persons' participation and contribution to the future of work, business, technology and society.
3. Discuss collaborative efforts between policy makers, civil society and the private sector to foster the sharing of knowledge that can be contributed to the elaboration of an international convention on the rights of older persons anticipating the future challenges of our fast evolving societal and technology environments.

¹ <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/ageing-and-health>

² <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/fandd/issues/Series/Analytical-Series/aging-is-the-real-population-bomb-bloom-zucker>



Format

The event will be in hybrid format. In person in Conference Room S-301 of the United Nations headquarters in New York, and virtual hosted on Zoom. The meeting will be conducted in English.

Programme

09h45 | Panel discussion:



Ms. Bethany Brown
Independent
Human Rights Expert



Ms. Silvia Neira
Vice-chair of the Global Initiative
on Ageing Foundation (GIA)



Ms. Hillary Wool
Principal,
Boston Consulting Group (BCG)



Ms. Hazel Moran
Head, Global Patient Insights
and Advocacy,
Healthcare Government
and Public Affairs,
Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany



Mr. Michael Philips
Director, Technology Strategy
& Relationships, AARP



**Mrs. Frances West
(Moderator)**
Founder of FrancesWestCo & Author,
First woman technologist
to speak on digital inclusion
at the United Nations,
Former Chief Accessibility Officer
of IBM

09h30 | Opening Remarks



**H.E. Ambassador
Luis Gallegos Chiriboga**
President of the Global Initiative
on Ageing Foundation (GIA),
Chair of the Board of G3ict,
and Chair of the UNITAR Board of Trustees

10h40 | Q&A

10h55 – 11h00 | Closing / Summary



Mr. Axel Leblois
President and CEO,
G3ict

Join us!

Register here!

Or go to: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Olh1OznNQhaUHooSpWaz7A#/registration

