

Side Event: Interactive discussion on the inclusion of older people in Sustainable Development Goals in Africa

Date: 17th April 2019 at 1.00PM – 2.30PM

Background

The launch of Sustainable Development Goals, Agenda 2063 in 2015, and continuity of ICPD PoA beyond 2014 with 2019 marking its 25th anniversary offered an opportune moment to reverse the exclusion of older people in public, social, economic, cultural and political spheres. The three development frameworks promote prosperity for all ages, social and economic justice, human rights, data disaggregation, participation, partnerships, principles of universality and reaching the furthest left behind first through the “leave no one behind” ambition. Despite these promising commitments and ever increasing population of older people in Africa, little or very staggered actions have been reported jeopardizing the benefits such commitments would bring to the wellbeing and quality of life of older people.

Rational

African governments and development partners continue to experience challenges in integrating older people in sustainable development due to limited technical capacity on older people’s rights, lack adequate evidence to inform legal and policy implication and limited resource allocation. Simultaneously, older people lack understanding of their rights, entitlements, and how government works, as well as a supportive structure necessary to create an effective social accountability platform to demand for action and to hold duty bearers to account.

SGA-Africa, UNDESA Programme on Ageing, and UNFPA Arab States Office (ASRO) will be hosting an interactive session to facilitate a dialogue among Member States and their agencies, UN bodies, development partners, older persons and civil society organizations to explore, share experience, and agree on interventions and approaches to galvanize political support and enhance integration of older people in the implementation, monitoring and reporting of SDGs and Agenda 2063.

Objectives

The side event seeks to:

- Increase understanding and knowledge among policy makers on how to make SDGs and Agenda 2063 work for older people.
- Share approaches and learning on how to increase visibility and integration of older people in SDGs and Agenda 2063 implementation and reporting processes.
- Galvanize political support from stakeholders on increasing investments and progress in the inclusion of older people in SDGs and Agenda 2063.
- Share the experience from Arab States Region on developing a regional strategy for older people to action policy directions.
- Identify key strategies and priorities to accelerate the integration of older people in SDGs and Agenda 2063.

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