

WUF11 SESSION CONCEPT NOTE

OLDER PERSONS ROUNDTABLE

Exploring the interactions between age-friendly cities initiatives and other strategic agendas

1. List of Partners Contributing to the Session:

- GAP Older Persons
- Research Network on Ageing in Europe
- Public Space Research Group at The Graduate Center, City University of New York
- City Space Architecture
- Age-Friendly Cities and Communities Network from the Institute for the Elderly and Social Services (IMSERSO)
- AGE Platform Europe

2. Key Words:

Older persons, active ageing, age-friendly cities, smart cities, NUA, SDG 11, age-responsive cities, sustainable urban futures, good practices and tools

3. Objectives of the Session:

The Older Persons Roundtable will:

- Support and sustain a partners-stakeholders knowledge-sharing platform to showcase best practices and tools for age-friendly city initiatives.
- Analyse/identify opportunities and ways forward for effective engagement of older persons in planning, governing and managing other strategic agendas.
- Discuss factors that shape the need for and affect the design and delivery of age-friendly urbanization (e.g., public spaces, safety and transport, leadership and governance, housing, sustainable infrastructure etc.).
- Provide inputs, action-points and recommendations to ensure age-friendly cities and older persons interests are highlighted in WUF11 official sessions, UN-Habitat's strategy, action plan and programme.
- Investigating the synergies between local and national governance, and the implementation of the NUA for achieving age-friendly cities with a focus on older person's rights.

4. Summary:

The Older Persons Roundtable at the Eleventh World Urban Forum (WUF11) is a key meeting point for participants working to build sustainable, age-responsive and inclusive cities. The roundtable will serve as a space to share tools, strategies, and actions on the implementation of the NUA and its role in promoting age friendly cities and urban futures. The theme of WUF11, 'Transforming Our Cities for a Better Urban Future', provides an opportunity for age-friendly cities initiatives to be integrated into all strategic agendas in order to ensure the interests of older persons are prioritized.

Developing 'age-friendly' cities has become a significant issue for social policy, encompassing issues in both urban and rural settings. The World Health Organization

(WHO) initiative of 'age-friendly cities' in 2007 supports the notion that older people can become continuous contributors to society through improved health, security, and participation. In accordance with the SDGs' overarching principle of "leave no one behind," countries must assist their aging populations in "addressing the social, economic, and spatial implications of aging populations.

This roundtable discussion will explore the interactions between age-friendly cities initiatives and other strategic agendas such as smart cities, enhanced social integration and inclusive communities, and access to affordable and adequate housing. It will also present best practices by UN-Habitat, local and national governments, stakeholders and partners that have been used to address limitations and opportunities of age-friendly city initiatives.

5. Guiding Questions for Discussions:

- What are the constraints older persons living in urban environments are facing accessing public spaces and social services, and what policy measures are required to improve accessibility for older persons in cities?
- Which best practices are stakeholders implementing in urban environments and to what extent can they be replicated and adopted in other contexts?
- In what terms can the term "elderly" give the wrong idea, when it is a paradigm shift from being beneficiaries to rights holders and active agents of change?
- How does the currently accepted concept of Smart cities not work for older persons?
- How should we focus on solutions, rather than problems?
- How do we ensure cities are safe and accessible for older persons?
- How can an older persons centered approach that is inclusive and intersectional be advanced?
- What challenges and opportunities do other strategic agenda's such as smart cities bring for older persons?
- What approach should be taken to mainstream older persons interests into planning, governing, and managing other strategic agendas?

6. Expected Outcomes and Impact:

The outcome of the Older Persons Roundtable session will be a report, containing a summary of the discussion and recommendations directed at National and Local governments, and other stakeholders. The report will be widely disseminated, made available at the next WUF Older Persons Roundtable session and on the website of UN-Habitat. The outcomes and main take-aways are expected to feed into the WUF11 outcome declaration, "Katowice Declared Actions".

7. Session Format:

The format of the roundtable session on older persons will focus its discussion on integrating age-friendly city initiatives into other strategic agenda's. It will include interactions on SDG 11, the NUA, best practices, and other thematic issues on age inclusive cities. The sessions will include speakers, guided discussion with panellists and a Q&A with audience (online participants, if possible live stream and live tweet of the event).