

Sylvia Beales - Help Age International

PGA INFORMAL INTERACTIVE HEARINGS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, CIVIL SOCIETY, MAJOR GROUPS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR ON THE POST 2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

Statement for Roundtable 2: sustainable goals, targets and Indicators

Excellencies,

My name is Sylvia Beales. I work with HelpAge International, and am speaking on behalf of the Stakeholder Group on Ageing, representing the interests of over 800 million older persons worldwide.

This topic is of vital importance. The SDGs must reach everyone, including all those over the age of 60, in all countries. Why so important?

Looking toward 2030, older persons are the world's fastest growing population group. People aged 60 and over now make up nearly 12 per cent of the world's population – and will be 16 per cent by 2030. By then the over 60s will outnumber children under 10.

Ageing is a gender issue: today women over the age of 50 account for 22 per cent of the world's women; it is a disability issue: 44.6 per cent of people over 65 are likely to have disabilities; it is a health issue; three quarters of NCDs occur in the over 60's age group; it is a youth issue: today's youth are tomorrow's older persons.

And learning from the MDGs is quite simply that the Millennium Development Goals effectively sidelined older people. This must not happen again.

Not leaving older people behind is not about charity or welfare. We have the right to be counted, and to be recognised as assets and essential contributors to the economic, political and social health of our communities.

Excellencies

Turning to the indicators to leave no one behind, attention to existing data collection mechanisms is needed. Data on older women and men are frequently missing, and even when collected, not fully utilised. Data sets which omit people under the age of 15 and over the age of 49 exclude millions, currently the case for the data used to assess female victims of violence.

Recalling the 46th Statistical Commission's recommendation for the disaggregation of indicators and a human rights dimension to the indicator framework, we look for language on "disaggregated by sex and age group" in the setting of indicators and corresponding action. SDGs indicators must reflect the life-course for all people at all stages of their lives. Disaggregated data by age cohort is necessary, and the existing UN/DESA recommendation to disaggregate by 5 year bands from age 60 onwards implemented.

For the global framework to drive progress, priorities include a full review and analysis at the global level of what life course data exists and where there are gaps. This will support review and development of existing data frameworks at the national level, and encourage open discussion of findings to set the priorities on next steps for the indicators and data systems needed, and how capacity and resources for data can be enhanced.

Regular opportunities can be in place at national and global level for multi stakeholder discussions on essential data and tools for effective monitoring and transparency. We can build on existing tools and data sources – using WHO data, for example, on Age Friendly Cities would highlight issues of access for all to housing, public space and transportation. But new data sources are also required. Revisiting SDG indicators at regular intervals of 5, 10 and 15 years, will help us gauge how fit for purpose they are.

In terms of strengthening data collection, use, analysis and sharing essential steps include :

- Investment in national statistical capacity and proper financing to support both improved life course statistics and innovative programmes including non traditional sources of data
- Regular dialogue and review at national, regional and global levels to strengthen information sharing and collaboration between Government, statistical bodies, civil society and other stakeholders, including the private sector.
- Participation and involvement of major groups and other stakeholders in the statistical dialogues - we have insights and innovative ways to share to ensure the data on ageing is comprehensive and accurate.

Excellencies.

We welcome the data revolution.

We must not delay to develop the robust and high-quality indicator framework that will help us meet the ambitious goals and targets . The data we collect must improve the lives of all, not just of a few and not just for a few short years of life. A life-course approach is imperative. The data collected nationally and used globally must make visible those who are currently invisible.

We pledge our full engagement and participation of our organisations and networks in this effort which is essential to realise the ambition of ‘leaving no one behind.

Thank you