



**United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)
Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD)
Programme on Ageing**

Expert Group Meeting

“Rights of Older Persons”

5-7 May 2009, Bonn, Germany
Langer Eugen, room LE 2712
Hermann-Ehlers-Str. 10
53113 Bonn

Annotated Agenda

4 May 2009

Participants arrive in Bonn.

5 May 2009

9:00-9:30

Registration

9:30-9:45

Opening session

Welcome and Opening Remarks: Mr. Sergei Zelenev, Chief,
Social Integration Branch, DSPD, DESA, United Nations

9:45-10:15

**Introductory Session: Objectives and expected outcomes of the
meeting (Mr. Sergei Zelenev)
Introductions of participants**

10:15-10:30

Break

10:30-12:30

Session I: Facing the challenge: ways and means to document existing infringements of rights of older persons

Moderator – Ms. Tracey McDonald

Introductory remarks – Ms. Lia Daichman and Ms. Ferdous Ara Begum

Questions for discussion

- What amounts to age discrimination in today's world?
- What are the causes of ageism and elder abuse in different settings?
- What is the prevalence of elder abuse, neglect and violence in your region/country? (examples, case studies)
- What is the scope of legislation in your country to address violence against older persons, elder abuse and ageism?
- Aside from legislative measures, how can governments prevent age discrimination in all its forms, including gender discrimination, as well as abuse and neglect of older persons?

Roundtable discussion

12:30-14:00

Lunch Break

14:00-15:30

Session II: Current status of rights of older persons on the national level

Moderator – Ms. Laura Machado

Introductory remarks – Ms. Kate Mewhinney

Questions for discussion

- What are some examples of comprehensive and effective laws, policies, and programmes on prevention of discrimination of older persons in your country and region?
- What are some examples of effective laws, policies, programmes and/or provisions against elder abuse, neglect, and violence in your country and region?
- What are some examples of effective laws, policies, programmes or provisions on legal entitlements regarding employment, income security, housing and health care geared towards older persons in your country and region?

Roundtable discussion

15:30-16:00

Break

16:00-17:30

Session II: Current status of rights of older persons on the national level (cont'd)

Moderator – Ms. Laura Machado

Introductory remarks – Mr. Jody Kollapan

Questions for discussion

- What steps may improve the legal structure geared at securing the rights of older persons who receive long-term care as well as the rights of caregivers in your country and region?
- What are existing laws, policies, programmes or provisions for older migrants and ethnic and racial minority older persons in your country and region?
- What enforcement mechanisms exist at the national level (e.g. appeals boards and other legal remedies)?
- What makes laws and policies effective or impedes their effective implementation?

Roundtable discussion

6 May 2009

9:00-10:30

Session III: Addressing the issue of rights of older persons on the international level

Moderator – Ms. Kate Mewhinney

Introductory remarks – Ms. Lindsay Judge and Mr. Israel Doron

Questions for discussion

- How effectively do the existing international documents relating to older persons, including the Vienna International Plan of Action on Ageing (1982), the United Nations Principles for Older Persons (1991), the Political Declaration and Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (2002), protect older persons' rights?
- To what degree are older persons' rights addressed in existing international human rights instruments, including the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities? Is it sufficient?

- Are there links between contents of national legislation and elements of the above-mentioned international human rights instruments and documents related to older persons?
- What are the main challenges in implementation of existing international commitments regarding the rights of older persons, as reflected in the existing human rights instruments?

Roundtable discussion

10:30-10:45

Break

10:45-12:30

Session IV: National capacity required for effective implementation of laws and policies concerning the rights of older persons

Moderator – Mr. Israel Doron

Introductory remarks – Ms. Tracey McDonald

Questions for discussion

- What are the crucial capacity elements that are essential for successful policy planning and implementation regarding enhancing the rights of older persons?
- How is the training of government staff on legal matters, particularly concerning the rights and non-discrimination of older persons, organized in your country or region?
- What are the specific measures to increase awareness, including among older persons themselves, about existing national, regional and international mechanisms protecting the rights of older persons?

Roundtable discussion

12:30-14:00

Lunch break

14:00-15:30

Session V: Developing an international legal framework on the rights of older persons

Moderator – Ms. Ferdous Ara Begum

Introductory remarks – Ms. Lindsay Judge and Mr. Israel Doron

Questions for discussion

- Are additional normative international human rights instruments needed?
- Which possible international mechanisms (such as a Special Rapporteur on rights of older persons, a working

group dealing with the rights of older persons, a political declaration on the rights of older persons) may enhance the capacity for more effective implementation of the Madrid Plan?

- What are the pros and cons of creating international convention on the rights of older persons?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of each of the above mechanisms, including what seems most politically feasible at this point?

Roundtable discussion

15:30-16:00

Break

16:00-17:30

Session VI: Discussion in two working groups

Topics for discussion in the groups

- What types of mechanisms would be most desirable for effective protection of the rights of older persons at the national level?
- What new capacity tools are required and may be recommended to policy makers when addressing the rights of older persons at the national level?
- What are some specific recommendations for promoting the rights of older persons at the international level?

Preparation of draft recommendations

7 May, 2009

9:00-10:30

Session VII: Presentation of the findings by the rapporteurs and Q+A

10:30-10:45

Break

10:45-12:00

Session VIII: Review of recommended approaches

Moderator – Ms. Bridget Sleap

- What are the major findings?
- What are the implications of different mechanisms and policy options nationally and internationally?

12:00-14:00

Lunch break

14:00-15:30 **Session IX: Distillation of findings and finalization of the recommendations**

Moderator – Ms. Lindsay Judge

Roundtable discussion

15:30-16:00 **Break**

16:00-16:30 **Adoption of recommendations by experts**

16:30 **Concluding remarks, farewell and closing** – Mr. Sergei Zelenev