

June 23 2015

The New Agenda for Global Action does more than agree on global goals for the sustainable development of humanity and of our planet. It is not only to eradicate poverty or about economic and social development, or about the environment. The New Agenda is **not business as usual. It is a universal promise and a commitment to ensure** that each and every person across their lifecourse lives in security, without fear, without despair, without discrimination. The New Agenda promises hope, optimism and confidence in a brighter future for all people of all ages.

The Stakeholder Group on Ageing has submitted specific proposals for incorporation into the zero draft. We highlight today four specific issues that should be clearly articulated in the New Agenda for Global Action.

1. We are extremely pleased that Member States in paragraph 17, are now including "culture", "migratory status", "economic situation" and "disability" to the list of discriminatory practices, and applaud their inclusion. **At the same time, we, young and older people alike, call upon Member States to also include the word "age" to the list.** We hope that Member States will establish the precedent of henceforth including this expanded list which acknowledges ageism in all future references to it. This also applies to paragraph 22, and elsewhere. Ageism must end now, once and for all.
2. When Member States refer to the rights of women and girls, they must refer to **"all" women** and girls, and not exclude those under 15 or over 49 years of age, as is currently the case specifically with respect to sexual violence. Ageism must end now, once and for all.
3. Data for the framework must be disaggregated by **age bands up to death using existing recommendations by UNDESA.** Demographic trends of falling fertility and increasing longevity is resulting in the growing population of older persons in all countries.. Let us not be myopic. Ageism must end now, once and for all.
4. Alongside other groupings older persons must be included in the formal implementation processes of the framework, through their **systematic engagement in consultation, information and participation** in the mechanisms for planning, monitoring, review and reporting. Ageism must end now, once and for all.

The Stakeholder Group on Ageing advocates tirelessly for inclusion of older persons in the negotiations not only because older persons have rights too, not only because older persons count and should be counted, not only because they have voices and should be visible, not only because they are significant contributors to the economy, not only because they are the unsung heroes of their communities.

The Stakeholder Group on Ageing has also been advocating inclusion of older persons because we want our children and our young people to live a long and fruitful life and prosper with dignity throughout their life-course. We want all to experience a lifelong journey that is filled with optimism and hope. Life's journey is from cradle to grave.

The time to put an end to ageism is now.

Further information: Sylvia Beales: sbeales@helppage.org Erica Dhar: edhar@aarp.org