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

Stakeholder group on Ageing

Excellencies,

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

I echo others thanks to all in this room and many others who have been behind the process, which has allowed us voice and participation, which has been transformative for us and we hope for others.

The interventions this morning and in this session have underlined the fundamental principle of leaving no one behind in the framework. They have suggested ways to do this and indicate agreement about the need for disaggregated data by age sex and disability amongst others .

We want to underline why specific attention to ageing across all goals targets and indicators is so important and give concrete suggestions as to how can be done.

But first, some facts. Older persons are the world's fastest growing population group, with the most rapid ageing happening in the developing world. Globally 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.

Secondly, ageing cuts across all topics of concern to the SDG process. Women over the age of 50 account for 22 per cent of the world's women; 44.6 per cent of people over 65 are likely to have disabilities; three quarters of NCDs occur in the over 60's age group; today's youth are tomorrow's older persons.

And learning from the MDGs is quite simply that they sidelined older people with the result that levels of poverty amongst older age groups are unacceptably high.

Visibility, inclusion and factoring in age is essential. Archbishop Desmond Tutu has just released

a video saying: I am Desmond Tutu, I and 83 years old, I am for all ages and I count'.   Let us hear him.

Older people across the world call to be counted in and to be recognised as assets and essential contributors to the economic, political and social health of our communities.

Excellencies

Improving indicators means change; data collection mechanisms must be amended.   Data on older women and men are frequently missing, and even when collected, not fully utilised. Data sets which count victims of female violence omit people under the age of 15 and over the age of 49 are the basis of age blind and ageist programmes and policy, excluding millions and entrenching ageism and abuse.

The 46th Statistical Commission recommended the   disaggregation of indicators and a human rights dimension to the indicator framework. We ask for language such as "disaggregated by sex and age group" and corresponding action. Action to disaggregate data by age cohort is possible. The existing UN/DESA recommendation to disaggregate by 5 year bands from age 60 onwards can be implemented.

For the global framework to drive programmes, we suggest a full review and analysis at the global level to examine what life course data exists and where there are gaps. This will support national review and development of existing data frameworks, and encourage open discussion of findings which will drive ambitious programmes.

Next steps for life course data indicators must be agreed as well as resources put into data improvement programmes.

We suggest regular opportunities 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, but new data sources and partnerships to produce data are also required. These reviews at regular intervals will help us gauge how fit for purpose they are.

Our core recommendations are

- Put in place cross cutting life course indicators across the goals and targets to pick up shared issues of ageing, gender, disability and other issues and review them through ongoing and open statistical dialogues. We all have insights and innovative ways to share to ensure the SDG data is inclusive and universally applied.

- Investment in national statistical capacity and proper financing to support both improved life course statistics and innovative programmes including non traditional sources of data. FFD must pick this up.

- Regular dialogue and review at national, regional and global levels to strengthen

information sharing and collaboration. Bringing together Government, statistical bodies, civil society and other stakeholders including the private sector for review of progress and tools can be done.

- All UN agencies to incorporate ageing actively in their work and research and publish what they know, and what they are doing.

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We welcome the data revolution. The data we collect must improve the lives of all, from the cradle to the grave. And 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

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