

**ECOSOC High Level Segment, General Debate
Wednesday, 20 July 2015 United Nations NY
Theme: Leaving No One behind**



Action to '**leave no one behind**' is the historic opportunity to roll back discrimination and exclusion on the grounds of age. Ageism must end, once and for all. All people count and all people should be counted.

All countries are ageing. Foresight and planning with a life course approach, from cradle to the grave, including everyone, is essential for the world we all want.

We have the following recommendations:

1. Goal 17 target 17.18 explicitly calls for a 'significant increase in high quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.' **Delivering fully on this target underpins the success of the SDGs.** Enhanced collaboration with statistical offices, UN agencies, development organizations and civil society is needed to more fully use existing data, to identify data gaps and fill them, including through the integration of citizen generated, real-time data from different sources.
2. The voice and participation of civil society across all sectors including older persons is needed in the work of the national SDG coordinating units, which must function at the highest level of government.
3. Transparent national budgets showing the level of investment for implementing and monitoring the SDGs across all goals and for all people are essential.
4. National regional and global reviews to the HLPF must include civil society opinion including older persons and be transparent on action to reach them.

In sum action to Leave No One Behind means a change in mindset, it is not business as usual.

We in the Stakeholder Group on Ageing pledge to do our part to bring about a transformed world in which we can all live long, in safety, and with dignity.