



**Decade
of healthy
ageing**

The UN Decade of Healthy Ageing: #HealthForAll by adding life to years

A Member State-led World Health Assembly side event

Co-supported by the United States National Academy of
Medicine and the World Health Organization

23 May 2023

18:00–19:00 CEST [followed with refreshments]

Centre International de Conférences Genève
Geneva, Switzerland

Concept Note

People around the world are, on average, living longer than ever before. By 2030, the number of older persons is projected to increase by 34% to 1.4 billion, with the majority living in low- and middle-income countries. This is one of humanity's greatest achievements and an unprecedented opportunity for all people to live with meaning, dignity, and purpose for longer.

However, longer lives are not yet healthier lives for all. Too many people around the world are experiencing worse health than they should, particularly as they age, because of gaps in our health and social care systems as well as broader environments that prevent us from maximising our later years. While we have succeeded by adding years to life [extending lifespan], we must now add life to years [extending the number of years lived in good health].

Recognising the urgency of action, UN Member States designated 2021–2030 the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing: a global collaboration aligned with the last ten years of the Sustainable Development Goals that brings together governments, civil society, international agencies, professionals, academia, the media, and the private sector to improve the lives of older people, their families, and communities. The UN Decade calls on all sectors and stakeholders to work together to:

- Change the way we think, feel, and act towards age and ageing;
- Ensure communities foster the abilities of older people;
- Deliver person centred integrated care and primary health services responsive to older people; and
- Provide long-term care for older people who need it.

The first report on progress in implementing the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing will be made to the Seventy-Sixth World Health Assembly. The report will indicate that significant advancements have been made to realise the vision of a world where all people can live long *and* healthy lives. However, an accelerated, all-of-society approach is required to continue this trajectory of success – particularly in light of the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the health and well-being of older people.

Since the declaration of the UN Decade, new evidence has continued to show that Member States around the world stand to gain significant returns by investing in healthy ageing. For example, the United States National Academy of Medicine's *Global Roadmap for Healthy Longevity* provides a comprehensive assessment of the challenges and opportunities presented by global ageing and supports the implementation of the UN Decade by outlining evidence-based recommendations. Such resources as well as ongoing work by Member States clearly demonstrate that investments in healthy ageing:

- Benefit not only the health sector, but all other sectors in turn – work, economy, education and more
- Improve the health and well-being of current *and* future generations of older people
- Enable countries to deliver on multiple commitments at once, including the Sustainable Development Goals

This event will create a space for Member States to have an open dialogue on how we can maximise the opportunities presented by longevity during the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing. Participants will hear from fellow Member States on the investments they are making in healthy ageing, the returns on investment they are seeing, and how they are drawing on new resources and evidence to implement the UN Decade. The discussion will also feature reflections from the World Health Organization and the National Academy of Medicine on emerging themes and ways forward to fulfil the promise of the 2030 Agenda through the UN Decade.



Programme

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| Welcome 18:00 – 18:02 CEST | Dr Etienne Krug Director Department of Social Determinants of Health World Health Organization |
| Introductory remarks 18:02 – 18:09 CEST | Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus Director-General World Health Organization [pre-recorded] UN Decade of Healthy Ageing film Dr Victor J Dzau President US National Academy of Medicine [pre-recorded] |
| Member State panel discussion 18:09 – 18:49 CEST | H.E. Mr Ong Ye Kung – <i>Chair</i> Minister for Health Singapore H.E. Dr Edwin Dikoloti Minister of Health and Wellness Botswana H.E. Dr Ahmed Abdulwahab Al-Alwadhi Minister for Health Kuwait H.E. Dr Alexei Carrillo Villegas Vice Minister of Health Costa Rica H.E. Dr Vesna Kerstin Petrič Director-General Public Health Directorate, Ministry of Health Slovenia |
| Concluding remarks / Q&A if time allows 18:49 – 18:56 CEST | |
| Emerging themes and next steps 18:56 – 19:00 CEST | Dr Linda Fried Co-Chair, International Commission Global Roadmap for Healthy Longevity United States National Academy of Medicine Dr Anshu Banerjee Director Department of Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health and Ageing World Health Organization |