

Hybrid
via Zoom

**Wednesday,
8th November 2023**
10 am to 3 pm CET
in Bonn, Germany

The voice of older people at the United Nations

Kick-off of the event series

“An engaged civil society as engine for an
age-friendly society: an international exchange”



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"An engaged civil society as engine for an age-friendly society: an international exchange"

Increasing digitalisation, climate change and the ageing of the population pose major challenges and opportunities for societies worldwide. These issues are also being discussed and agreements are reached at the United Nations (UN). But to what extent are older people involved and considered?

Civil society organisations have an important role alongside states at the UN in influencing the work of the international community, for example through statements at meetings or contributions to consultations. However, effective participation requires more than just time and commitment.

What expertise is needed to influence the work of the UN and thus help shape future policy? Which processes offer clues to bring in the voice of older people? And what are the immediate benefits of international agreements for ageing policy at the national level?

The launch event "The voice of older persons at the United Nations" will specifically focus on showing how civil society can influence discussions at the UN and, conversely, use international agreements for national advocacy.

The conference is the kick-off of the event series "An engaged civil society as engine for an age-friendly society: an international exchange". Representatives of civil society will have the opportunity to learn about the international framework and engage in exchange with non-governmental organisations from countries in the UNECE region¹.

1 The UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe) comprises 56 states. In addition to European states, these also include Canada, Israel, the USA and some successor states of the Soviet Union.

Programme

9.30 am

Registration

10.00 am

Welcome

- Nicole Zündorf-Hinte, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth
- Dr Heidrun Mollenkopf, President of AGE Platform Europe, BAGSO board member and representative of civil society at the Standing Working Group on Ageing (SWGA) of the UNECE

10.15 am

Overview of relevant UN processes and debates

Brief presentation

- Ina Voelcker, BAGSO Secretariat for International Policy on Ageing

10.30 am

The role of civil society at the United Nations: what is needed

Interview

- Frances Zainoeddin, representative of the International Federation on Ageing (IFA) to the United Nations in New York

11.00 am

Coffee break

11.15 am

**The voice of older people at the United Nations:
how to make it heard**

Debate

- Nena Georgantzi, AGE Platform Europe
- Verity McGivern, HelpAge International
- Silvia Perel-Levin, INPEA and NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva

12.15 pm

International agreements: how to use them at national level

Inputs and debate

- H.-Günter Heiden, NETZWERK ARTIKEL 3 e.V.
- Tatiana Sorocan, HelpAge Moldova

1.00 pm

Lunch break

2.00 pm

Examples of advocacy around *ageism*

Inputs and debate

- José Carreira, Stop Idadismo, Portugal
- Margaret Gillis, Canadian Coalition against Ageism

2.45 pm

The way forward

- Martin Amberger, BMFSFJ and SWGA
- Lisa Warth, UNECE–Population Unit
- Dr Heidrun Mollenkopf, AGE Platform, BAGSO and SWGA

15.00 pm

End

Moderation: Ina Voelcker and Lisa Warth

Language: Conference languages will be English and German. Simultaneous translation will be provided.

Please note: During the event photos will be taken. The photos may be published on the internet or in print media for public relations and documentation purposes.

Organisational information

■ Venue

Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Building 14, Room 3, Rochusstraße 1, 53123 Bonn, Germany.

Please note that you must have an official photo ID with you. This will be required to enter the building.

■ Registration

Participation in the event is free of charge. The number of participants is limited. The closing date for registration is **30th October 2023**. Registration via the online registration form is required. You will then receive a confirmation e-mail with further information. Individual registrations by telephone can also be accepted.

Registration

■ Accessibility

The venue is accessible. Please inform us of any possible support requirements when registering. Within the scope of our possibilities, we will be happy to make appropriate arrangements associated with the event.

■ Arrival

Arrival by public transport from Bonn main station: Bus lines 606, 607, 608, 609 (direction Hardtberg Klinikum, Brüser Berg/Südwache) to the bus stop "Euskirchener Straße". The venue is only a few minutes' walk from there. Please note that there may be irregularities and timetable changes for buses due to a large construction site in Rochusstraße.

■ Online participation

A few days before the event the login details for Zoom will be sent by e-mail. Further information with regards to the online participation will be shared at this occasion.

■ Organiser

Secretariat for International Policy on Ageing
BAGSO, German National Association of Senior Citizens' Organisations

In cooperation with



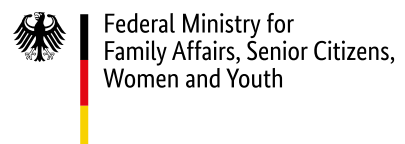
Contact

**BAGSO –
Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft
der Seniorenorganisationen e.V.**

**German National Association
of Senior Citizens' Organisations**

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