

Youth and Older Adults as City Changers: Connecting the Generations

High-Level Working Session
Wednesday, 5 December 2012
3pm to 6pm
North Lawn Building - Conference Room C
United Nations Headquarters

Within the framework of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the HABITAT III Preparatory Process

Agenda

3 – 3:30 **Welcome Remarks: Urban Population Dynamics, Youth and Older Adults sharing the cities.**

Cecilia Martinez, UN-Habitat's NY Office Director

Jean-Pierre Gonnot, Chief, Social Integration Branch, Division for Social Policy and Development, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)

Jose Miguel Guzman, Chief Population and Development Branch, UNFPA.

3:30 - 4:15 **Keynote Addresses**

H.E. Luis Alfonso de Alba, Permanent Representative, Mission of Mexico to the UN.

H.E. Desra Percaya, Permanent Representative, Mission of Indonesia to the UN.

4:15 - 5:30 **Panel Presentations.**

Moderator: Cecilia Martinez, UN-Habitat

Keynote Speaker

Why Special Olympics make a difference? Dr. Stephen Corbin, Vice President, Community Impact, Special Olympics International.

Panelists

Youth Fund Initiative, by Mr. Douglas Ragan, Youth and Livelihoods Unit Leader, UN-Habitat
Common spaces for young and old persons, by Ms. Cynthia Nikitin, Senior Vice President, Project for Public Spaces.

Digital He@lth Initiative, by Dr. Denis Gilhooly, Executive Director.

University of the People "Learning On-line, Free University", by Mr. Shai Reshef, Founder
10,000 Architects, Youth in Local Action, by Prof. Jan Wampler, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Department of Architecture

Building Intergenerational Partnership for Open Society, by Noel S. Selegzi, Director of Youth Initiative, Open Society Foundations

Final conclusions / Wrapping up, by **Mr. Jim Luce**, Founder, The James Dudley Luce Foundation

5:30 – 5:40 **Closing Remarks** by Prof. Dianne Davis, Founding President of the International Council for Caring Communities, ICC

6:30 – 8pm **Musical Moments**
“Youth and Older Adults as City Changers Concert”
North Lawn Building - Conference Room 2
An evening of international music, featuring multi-generational performers dedicated to inspiring connections between generations and cultures in cities and towns across the globe.

Background

Today, half of the global population lives in towns and cities and we expect this figure will reach two-thirds in little over a generation. There are over 1.8 billion young people in the world today, most of them living in cities. Ageing is a demographic revolution affecting the entire world. For the first time in history, our global population will no longer be young, as result of lower fertility, increased child survival and better health. How can these two groups work together in order to avoid conflict and maximize synergies among them, when looking for their opportunities in cities? Which are the opportunities the city can bring to connect them?

As part of a dialogue series that began with the “Age of Connectivity: Cities, Magnets of Hope”, this High-Level Working Session will address opportunities and challenges facing rapid urbanization in the search of city changers, old and young.

An international expert group composed of government representatives, innovative youth leaders, private sector CEOs, entrepreneurs, educators and cultural experts will leverage their insights and expertise in addressing this theme of the 21st Century: “Youth and Older Adults as City Changers – Connecting Generations”.

This High-Level Working Session is co-organized by UN-Habitat (the UN Human Settlements Programme), and the International Council for Caring Communities (ICCC), in collaboration with Member States, other UN agencies and Habitat agenda partners, including the private sector, academia, youth organizations and other civil society groups.

This Session builds upon to reexamine, rethink and redefine current practices and identify viable recommendations for scaling-up successful projects and stimulating new concepts. It will aim to lay the framework for bringing together visionary ideas and practical solutions that can be implemented on the road to the Post 2015 Development Agenda and Habitat III Conference in 2016.