



**INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR CARING COMMUNITIES**

*Better Living ... Adding Life to Years*

**“Imagining the Future: Ageing in a New Age”**  
**Friday, 1 October 2021**  
**Virtual Session**  
*In support of the International Day for Older Persons and*  
*76<sup>th</sup> United Nations Anniversary*

**Concept Note**

Statistics show that by the year 2050 there will be approximately 1.5 billion persons over the age of 65!  
The “AgeQuake”

This session will present practical solutions towards creating new mindsets and stimulate social change and a Society for all Ages and abilities. An emphasis will be placed on how information and communication technology (ICT) is a catalyst for engaging diverse population in addressing complex issues such as health, social justice, gender empowerment, dementia, retirement plus reimagining older persons involvement in dance, museums and community spaces.

Within the framework of support for the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal Agenda and the New Urban Agenda, the International Council for Caring Communities (ICCC) has organized this international virtual session composed of a non-traditional gathering of international Change-Agents from Austria, China, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad & Tobago, United Kingdom, the United States and the United Nations. The focus is to leverage their insights and wisdom to address enhancing “*Better Living, Adding Life to Years*”. Against a backdrop of environmental change in a fragmented complex developed and developing world.

This session is part of the ICCC “Age of Connectivity: Cities, Magnet of Hope, Imagining the Possible” Dialogue Series, which has addressed the challenges facing a rapidly urbanizing and ageing world since 1994. Against a backdrop of seismic demographic and environmental shifts, this session will explore meaningful partnerships and action-oriented initiatives toward accelerating the achievements of the indivisible and inter-linked 2030 Sustainable Development Goal agenda particularly as they relate to ageing populations in the digital economy and society. The milestones of international ageing starting with the first World Assembly on Ageing will be explored. The achievements and obstacles of policy action on ageing and future perspectives will be outlined - the *Forty Years of International Ageing!*

Actions will be identified to delineate, develop, scale-up and implement programs related to local cultures. The Session includes exploring how a holistic approach, enhanced by technology and innovation, can help to facilitate the improvement of *Ageing in a New Age*. Recommendations will be reviewed by the relevant organizations including government decision-makers, and United Nations bodies and presented to related venues by enhancing relevant international hubs and highlighting contributions from industry leaders and entrepreneurs who are stimulating new mindsets and intergenerational empowerment.

Rather than a conventional Concept Note, The following attempts to capture the rich and random musings of the Change-Agents assembled today who have generously contributed their thoughts prior to this session for the purposes of stimulating the debate.



## **INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR CARING COMMUNITIES**

*Better Living ... Adding Life to Years*

Change-Agents comments:

### **Why Retire?**

We live in a time where there has been great advances in medical science and if one engage in activities that they are passionate about why even consider retirement. I believe if each of us would think globally and begin acting effectively locally our horizons will be expanded and we can begin to act nationally and globally!

I grew up on a plantation as the son of “sharecroppers.” Thru hard work I’ve been able to help equip hospitals throughout Africa and south and Central America and the Caribbean’s.

Additionally, I help to found 2 colleges in Brazil and a Learning Center in Kenya. I adopted the philosophy which is embodied in an old Negro Spiritual, “ I keep so Busy Serving My Master, Until I Don’t Have Time to Die.”

### **Once a Man, Twice a Child**

The saying, “*Once a man, twice a child*” is ancient, based on a theory of retrogenesis - meaning that we start out in life as a child, grow into an adult, then as we age and lose abilities, both physical and cognitive, become a child again in our needs.

This presentation puts a different spin based on personal experience, of ‘retiring’ and working on an encore career(s); and examines concepts of child, youth, adult and old, and connect it to functionality and health. The world has some 1 billion persons over 60 years currently, projected to be 2 billion by 2050, a first in human affairs.

The talk will also examine the climate crisis as an unprecedented threat to people of all ages, and our mission in EarthMedic and EarthNurse of mobilising health professionals to wake up and act. It has been a ‘walk on water’ experience!

### **The “Ageless” Population of the Ageing Post-Pandemic: Becoming the Change-Makers’**

How the Coronavirus pandemic has changed the scope of work, living, and moving forward in the future with the aging population as the ones who need to set the tone or lead the younger generation of Millennials and Generation Z. This population of leaders being “ageless” meaning there are no limitations because of their age. This group of leaders can offer their ageless wisdom, guidance, direction, and advice to young Millennials and Gen Z in how not to just survive in the pandemic but to thrive in spite of it – thus being the “change-makers”. The pandemic has changed the scope of the workplace and workplace interaction, with many remote employees, therefore the ability to interact daily is null, which can slack in the development of social skills. The pandemic has greatly affected lifestyles and home life where the younger population will need creativity and ingenuity to thrive where much has been lost to the pandemic. And as a resolve to become entrepreneurs to supplant their lost incomes and a mechanism to produce income in the new climate of the pandemic (and the lack of a full economic recovery).

The ageless group of leaders can impart their knowledge through both emotional intelligence and cultural intelligence to assist in providing a roadmap for Millennials and Gen Z to follow.

The 6 models of change using the Transtheoretical Model can show how to make a change in behavior.

A more thought out and developed sense of human interaction and human capital can produce a better (personal) outcome, thus ‘thrive’ in life.

The ageing population of leaders as Change Agents can make the difference in how the younger generation looks toward the future and navigates through life for a positive outcome



## **INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR CARING COMMUNITIES**

*Better Living ... Adding Life to Years*

### **Forty Years of International Ageing**

Next year we will be observing the twentieth anniversary of the Second World Assembly on Ageing in Madrid, Spain, and the fortieth anniversary of the first World Assembly on ageing in Vienna, Austria. These two anniversaries give us an opportunity to critically review what has been achieved and what has been a failure in international ageing. Thoughtful review and even revision of international policy actions on ageing are necessary for ensuring that the future efforts in individual and population ageing are evidence informed and realistically planned.

Next year we will be observing the twentieth anniversary of the Second World Assembly on Ageing in Madrid, Spain, and the fortieth anniversary of the first World Assembly on ageing in Vienna, Austria. These two anniversaries give us an opportunity to critically review what has been achieved and what has been a failure in international ageing. Thoughtful review and even revision of international policy actions on ageing are necessary for ensuring that the future efforts in individual and population ageing are evidence informed and realistically planned.

### **Dance On ....!**

Once it was common for everyone to dance but in many societies this is no longer the case especially as adults get older. Why is this? How might more dance opportunities and choices be available in the future? There is increasing evidence that dance ticks many boxes: physical cognitive, social and emotional, spiritual health & wellbeing. Dance can be a change agent to enable more people, especially older adults to remain active and lead meaningful, creative, expressive lives within their communities, be seen and experience joy. Many older people, especially women, want to dance and remain active but provision is patchy and resources often limited. If more opportunities become available, there will be increased employment for facilitators and instructors, increased cultural activities and audiences, and professional dancers would have longer careers. Dance benefits individuals, neighborhoods, societies and helps to create a more peaceful and empathetic world.

### **Dementia - A World with Respect and Dignity**

Overcoming the challenges of an oncoming Tsunami of Dementia through design and social approaches available for all—ecopsychosocial treatments available for all cultures and economic levels. The presentation includes discussion of the online evidence-based *Design-Dignity-Dementia Manifesto*, and *Meet Me at the Museum*, the highly successful I'm Still Here® program that brings people living with dementia throughout the world into their community.

### **Toward an inclusive, accessible and sustainable COVID-19 world from the disability perspective**

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted systems and societies globally. The unprecedented health crisis and its economic and social impacts have exacerbated the situation of those with vulnerabilities, including women, persons with disabilities, and other disadvantaged groups. This is particularly true for those who experience intersecting forms of discrimination, such as persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities, those with invisible or psychosocial disabilities, older persons, migrants, refugees, and racial and other minorities.

The international community – Governments, the UN system, and health and expert networks across disciplines and civil society – has been tackling varying phases and situations of the impact of the pandemic on communities around the world, addressing “leaving no one behind” in its response to – and building back better from – the COVID-19 crisis. The topics of such initiatives range from conducting socioeconomic impact assessments; combatting discrimination and its intersecting forms – including gender-based violence; improving access to and accessibility of health care and essential services and resources – including mental health and sexual and reproductive health care and accessible communication technologies; expanding social protection and income security; supporting those engaged in unpaid care and domestic work; and ensuring legal protection for all.

International Council for Caring Communities (ICCC)

Tel/Fax: 1 212 688-4321 E-mail: [icccworld@earthlink.net](mailto:icccworld@earthlink.net) [www.international-iccc.org](http://www.international-iccc.org)



## **INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR CARING COMMUNITIES**

*Better Living ... Adding Life to Years*

Bringing the perspectives and experiences of the disadvantaged groups to identify solutions for future steps in the Covid-19 recovery and “building back better” processes would steer ourselves back to the implementation of the 2030 development agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals toward an inclusive, accessible and sustainable world for all.

### **Background of ICCC:**

The International Council for Caring Communities (ICCC), established in 1993, responds to the challenges and opportunities of a rapidly aging global population. ICCC stimulates and identifies successful strategies and creative solutions by encouraging their adaptation and/or replication in both developing and developed countries.

Mainstreaming ageing issues, especially within the areas of the built environment and information and communication technologies (ICT), is the centerpiece of ICCC's global dialogue. ICCC is a non-profit organization and has United Nations Special Consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). It serves not only as a leader and catalyst but also as a bridge joining universities, government agencies, the private sector, NGOs as well as United Nations agencies to promote new ways of viewing an integrated Society for all Generations.

Since its inception, one of ICCC's unique goals has been to highlight the contributions that private enterprises and individuals have made to the betterment of society. Through global dialogues, technical support and international student design competitions, ICCC promotes the mainstreaming of ageing issues through “out of the box” gatherings of non-traditional change agents and experts.