



FOUNDATION
BEAUTY OF HELP

Your excellencies, distinguished guests,

It's my great honor to talk to you today, on the International Day of Older Persons. I am founder of Beauty of Help Foundation, which has been supporting and empowering the older persons for past 10 years. And I am also SDGs Ambassador and I am working on promoting the concept of Sustainable Development Goals in the Czech Republic.

And taking aging and older persons into consideration within the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development is something I want to talk about.

All of us here know that aging is a fact and that some countries have populations that are ageing faster than others.

This is due to low rates of fertility and high rates of outmigration.

By 2050, many countries including the Czech Republic will have close to one-third of their population made up of people aged 60 years or over.

The wisdom and experience older persons have acquired over the years should be something to be cherished by younger generations.

But too many older persons in our region lack the good health, skills, financial security and social ties that would enable them to continue being active, contributing members of their communities while enjoying their golden years.

And their struggles too often remain in the shadows, overlooked and unaddressed.

Older women, who outnumber older men in almost all countries, are more likely to be poor, and to live alone.

Their male counterparts are more likely to suffer from ill health and to have a shorter life expectancy.

Older persons in rural versus urban areas also face distinct challenges in terms of social isolation, access to healthcare and other concerns.

Improving the social care and wellbeing of older persons has benefits for all of society, but many countries in our region lack the information they need to tackle these issues effectively.

I would like to emphasize the importance of making sure data is disaggregated for age — including categories representing the very old, age 80 and above — so that older people and their needs, as well as their current and potential contributions to society become more visible.

Without right indicators for different age groups within the Agenda 2030 we can't monitor and measure, and if we can't monitor, how could we know, if situation of older people is improving?

Only with better collection and availability of data can we ensure that human rights and dignity are fully realized for older people in all countries – a necessity as we strive towards building inclusive societies for all ages.

Thank you for your attention.

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