

## “Older Persons as Active Agents in a Changing Climate”

30 September 2022, 13:00-14:30 CEST, WebEx Event, United Nations, Geneva

### Moderator



**Monica Ferro**, Director of the UNPFA Office in Geneva since April 2017, has worked to promote equality, development and human rights for the past 20 years. Prior to joining UNPFA, Ms. Ferro had a twenty-year career of public service in Portugal, during which she served as a Member of Parliament, as Secretary of State for National Defense, as a university lecturer, a media personality and an activist. She served as a Member of Parliament and was Vice-President of the Parliamentary Group of the Social Democrat Party; Chair of the All Party Parliamentarian Group on Population and Development; and Vice-President of the European Parliamentary Forum for Population and Development. A National Defense and Civil Crisis Management Auditor, Ms. Ferro has also been a lecturer at the University of Lisbon, guest lecturer at the National Defense Institute and University of Military Studies. Furthermore, she is an Associate Researcher at the Interdisciplinary Center for Gender Studies, University of Lisbon and has been a columnist for several national newspapers and magazines, and author of more than a hundred articles, entries in encyclopedias, book chapters on the United Nations, Development Cooperation, Human Rights, Security Sector Reform and Gender equality.

### Panelists



**Stefanie Brander** is a gender equality expert who recently joined Senior Women for Climate Protection.

She studied philosophy and French language and literature in Berne and Paris. As a student, she was an activist in the Bernese Women's Liberation Movement and was involved in the struggle for women's self-determination, sexual liberation and the right to abortion. As a research assistant at the University of Bern, she worked on the representation of masculinity and femininity in the history of philosophy and on women philosophers. Her professional career then led her to take an interest in gender issues not only in theory, but above all in practice: she was successively Gender Equality Delegate for the University of Bern and for the City of Bern. She also held the position of Head of Section at the Federal Office of Culture, where she was responsible for supporting linguistic and cultural minorities in Switzerland. She is convinced that the protection of nature and effective climate protection is closely linked to the fights for social and human rights.

Supporting Stefanie, Anne Mahrer is Co-president of Senior Women for Climate Protection and was a member of Parliament in the Canton of Geneva for the Green party, as well as member of the Swiss Parliament.



**Carole Osero-Ageng'o**, is the Lead, Global Initiatives & Africa Regional Representative for HelpAge International. Carole is a multilingual human rights lawyer and gender expert with broad experience gained at the national, regional, and global levels on women's rights, sexual reproductive health, and rights (SRHR), gender, governance, ageing, and conflict management. She is an excellent negotiator, people connector, mentor, and policy influencer with broad experience

In her current role of Lead, Global Initiatives & Africa Regional Representative at HelpAge International, she continues to lead in policy advocacy for the rights of older persons in Africa and linking this to strategic initiatives at global level for greater impact. She is a member of the Executive Steering Group.

Immediately prior to joining HelpAge International she was the Associate Regional Director for Policy and Advocacy at Planned Parenthood Global and has also served as the Senior Program Officer for Africa at the International Women's Program of the Open Society Foundations; Program Officer for Africa at Equality Now; and Legal Counsel at the Federation of Women Lawyers in Kenya (FIDA Kenya). At the start of her career, she was a litigation and conveyancing counsel for 11 years in several law firms in Kenya before joining the civil society.

Carole has led and undertaken groundbreaking advocacy over the years, and most notably led Equality Now in the delivery of a compelling advocacy initiative for the appointment of a Special Rapporteur on Laws that Discriminate against Women. This undertaking culminated in the establishment of a Working Group by the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights at the 15th Session of the Human Rights Council in September 2010.

Carole has served on various governance and supervisory boards over the years and is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the Initiative for Strategic Litigation in Africa (ISLA), Women's Link Worldwide, and the Steering Committee of the Solidarity for African Women's Rights (SOAWR). She represents HelpAge on the Board of African Women Communications Network (FEMNET) and the Stakeholders Group on Ageing (SGA) Africa.



**Karl Pillemer, Ph.D.** is the Hazel E. Reed Professor of Human Development at Cornell University and Professor of Gerontology in Medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine. He is the founder and Director of the Cornell Institute for Translational Research on Aging. In that role, he works to develop interventions that translate research findings into practical programs that increase quality of life for older people. His research centers on human development over the life course, with a special emphasis on social integration in later life. A main area of research interest is the relationship between aging and environment

sustainability. His current projects examine the causes and consequences of environmental civic engagement and volunteerism among older people, with a focus on developing and evaluating new methods of training and recruiting retirees for environmental leadership and action on climate change.



**Miklós Veszprémi** grew up in Basel, Switzerland, where from a young age, he played piano professionally to audiences across the generations. He began his studies at the Royal College of Music in London and continued with a PhD at Yale. Wishing to make an impact beyond music and the academy, he began working on several climate change topics, most recently leading Swiss Youth for Climate to UN climate conferences.



**Frances Zainoeddin** left Australia in 1970 to work at the United Nations, New York, and upon retirement, joined the NGO community to further promote the ideals of the United Nations, with specific interest in gender and ageing issues.

Frances is currently representative to the United Nations for the International Federation on Ageing, Soroptimist International and Gray Panthers, and an elected Vice-Chair of the NGO Committee on Ageing. She is also the UN Focal Point in New York for the Stakeholder Group on Ageing which was established in 2013, as part of the Major Groups and Other Stakeholders involved in sustainable development issues and was actively engaged United Nations negotiations leading to the adoption of the

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, ensuring inclusion of the concerns of older persons.

Frances is also actively involved in advocating for the rights of older persons, particularly in the context of efforts by the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing at the United Nations to elaborate an international legal instrument to protect and promote the rights of older persons.