

## UNECE in-depth policy discussion on ageing: Combating inequalities in older age

Wednesday 22 November 2023, 10:00 am to 13:00 pm CET | EN, FR & RU | Geneva (Palais des Nations, Room VII)

**Objective:** In times marked by the megatrends of global ageing and the simultaneous increase in economic and social inequalities, we find ourselves at a pivotal crossroads. Currently, socio-economic disparities among older persons are already large, and there is an imminent risk that these inequalities will only magnify among future generations, e.g., due to decreasing generosity of pension benefits. At the same time, tight public finances, especially in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, are limiting many Governments' abilities to effectively reduce inequalities among their populations.

This year's in-depth policy discussion will present the most pertinent trends in socio-economic inequalities among younger and older generations in the UNECE region. The central aim of the event is to discuss the policy implications of these trends as well as to highlight concrete policy options for preventing as well as mitigating social inequalities among both younger and older generations.

**Target Group:** The in-depth policy discussion is designed for national policymakers, civil society representatives and other stakeholders.

**Expected Results:** The policy discussion aims to provide a heightened awareness of current and future inequalities among older persons and how they intersect. It will provide participants with concrete policy recommendations for addressing these disparities in older age.

### Provisional Programme:

10:00am – 10:10am	<b>Welcome of participants &amp; introduction</b>
10:10am – 11:30am	<b>Session I: Current and future trends in inequalities among older persons and selected policy responses</b>
	<p>Introduced by a presentation on current and future trends in inequalities among older persons in the UNECE region, this session will analyse how intersecting and cumulative disadvantages over the life-course affect inequalities in older age. It will also provide an empirical overview of social inequalities of older persons in the region. Furthermore, the session will feature the presentation of concrete policies aimed at preventing and reducing inequalities in later life.</p> <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Philipp Hessel (UNECE Population Unit): Current and future trends in inequalities among older persons in the region – an overview</li><li>• James Bishop (Department for Work and Pensions, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland): The Mid-life MOT project</li><li>• Kateřina Linkova (Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Czech Republic): Action Plan for Implementation of Strategic Framework for Preparing for an Ageing Society 2023–2026</li><li>• Vijeth Iyengar (AARP, United States of America): Achieving equitable healthy aging in low- and middle-income countries</li><li>• Dorothea Schmidt-Klau (International Labour Organization): Overcoming old-age inequalities through decent work for all</li></ul>

	Participants are invited to contribute country experiences during the discussion.
<b>11:45am – 12:55pm</b>	<b>Session II: Policy responses to prevent and mitigate inequalities in older age</b>
	<p>This session will present and discuss policy options and analysis for preventing ageing unequally. It will also showcase concrete actions taken by member States and civil society to address inequalities among older persons.</p> <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Miroslava Klemková (Ministry of Employment, Social Affairs and Family, Slovakia): The parental pension</li> <li>• Sandrine Boyals &amp; Kévin van Houter (Walloon Agency for Health, Social Protection, Disability and Families, Belgium): The Walloon Social Cohesion Plan</li> <li>• Nuno Marques (General Secretariat of the Ministry of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security, Portugal): National Action Plan on Active and Healthy 2023-2026</li> <li>• Galina Poliakova (Turbota pro Litnih v Ukraini, Ukraine): Support to people 70+ living in the zone of hostilities in Ukraine</li> <li>• Nataša Todorović &amp; Milutin Vračević (Red Cross of Serbia, Serbia): Long-term care of older persons and older persons with disabilities in the Western Balkans</li> </ul> <p>Participants are invited to contribute country experiences during the discussion.</p>
<b>12:55pm – 13:00pm</b>	<b>Wrap-up and closing remarks</b>