



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
12 December 2016

Original: English

Commission on Population and Development

Fiftieth session

3-7 April 2017

Item 3 of the provisional agenda¹

General Debate 3 (a): Actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development at the global, regional and national levels

3 (b): Special theme of the fiftieth session² of the Commission based on the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the key actions for its further implementation

Statement submitted by AARP, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council³

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

¹ [E/CN.9/2017/1](#).

² Changing population age structures and sustainable development.

³ The present statement is issued without formal editing.



Statement

Data for all ages to ensure the Sustainable Development Goals Leave No One Behind

Older people account for an increasing proportion of the world's population today. By the year 2050, 22 per cent of the world's population will be sixty and over. Population ageing is testament to development progress, resulting from longer lives and declining birth rates. Increased longevity has given rise to new opportunities, such as extending working years, older persons as caregivers, and society benefiting through their contributions as volunteers and active members of their communities.

Leave No One Behind: The commitment to "leave no one behind" in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is essential to ensuring the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is truly inclusive and fit for purpose in a rapidly ageing world. Demand for data and statistics on older persons has been strengthened by the Sustainable Development Goal framework and the central commitment to leave no one behind.

The Stakeholder Group on Ageing recalls the commitment that "no goal or target be considered met unless met for all social and economic groups". Goal 17 target 17.18 reads "By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts". This is the context by which data to monitor and assess the SDGs must be collected, analysed and used for all people of all ages.

While the Sustainable Development goals and targets have given timely attention to the rights and needs of older persons, and we are pleased that at the November Inter Agency Expert Group meeting age brackets were removed from some key indicators, we ask that urgent attention be paid to ensure that the data systems which underpin the indicators collect, analyse and report data across the life course. We call attention to the importance of action to correct age exclusive surveys. For example, target 3.8 on universal health coverage has an indicator to measure coverage of tracer interventions including hypertension and diabetes which are key health concerns for older people. However, the current data source for these measures are population-based surveys which have upper age limits.

Age brackets and upper age limits are incompatible with the promise that Member States have made to "leave no one behind". Where they still exist within indicators, concrete commitments must be made to removing them. This is why we urge members of the Commission for Population and Development to review this issue urgently with survey providers and funders. We further call for Member States' full engagement in survey review processes to ensure that demand for data across the life course can be satisfied.

Disaggregation: The Stakeholder Group on Ageing holds the view that disaggregation is more than just a technical discussion. It goes to the heart of the

human rights approach, and consistent application of age disaggregation across the life course to achieve universality and leave no one behind is needed. Age disaggregation for adults should, at a minimum, be in 5-year cohorts across the life course.

This is why we have strongly welcomed the establishment of a subgroup of the IAEG-SDGs on data disaggregation, and look forward to working with Member States on this work stream in a spirit of transparency and consultation. Age disaggregation should be in five year cohorts across the life course from age 19, and 2-year cohorts before 19. “Catch-all” cohorts of 60 or 65+ must be rejected.

Urgent attention must be given to indicators which mention specific groups not captured in the agreed indicators. For example, target 2.2 refers to ending malnutrition in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons. However, both of the indicators agreed for this target refer only to children under 5. Additional indicators for target 2.2 are needed, along with specific commitments to consultation and transparency in data disaggregation work stream.

Going forward we urge Member States to ensure that as standards for age disaggregation are central to the work of the Commission, approaches to disaggregating data by age must also be robust and reliable and include sensitivity testing, in particular in relation to poverty data, and specific attention is needed to the gender dimension of poverty in older age.
