

ROUNDTABLE SERIES


MAINSTREAMING KNOWLEDGE ON AGEING

Bridging paths towards strengthening protection and participation



ACCESS TO POLITICAL PARTICIPATION: Ageing with dignity through democratic societies

 **21** SEPTEMBER
2023

 **9:30–11:10 (NY time)/
15:30–17:10 (CET)**

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BACKGROUND

One of the core aspects for the effective promotion and protection of Human Rights is political and public participation at different levels. Its absence deters the rule of law, democratic governance, social inclusion, and economic development, and implies political repression while triggering a wide range of problems against peace and security.

The right to participate in political and public life is crucial to empower individuals and groups towards prosper and inclusive societies for all. In this regard, the active, meaningful, and free participation and engagement of older persons in political issues can ensure a more vital, healthy, and meaningful ageing process; therefore, ageism shall be considered as a barrier for the empowerment of voices and actions for change.

In the same vein, although the age requirements for voting vary from one country to another, same as its mandatory aspect, adequate conditions in access to political participation should be available for older persons through effective mechanisms. It is imperative the recognition and respect of their wisdom, productivity, and contributions without overlooking years as a simple number and avoiding intersecting discrimination based on gender, origin, disabilities and many other grounds.

Political participation of older persons has been holistically embedded in the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing due to the interdependency of all human rights. What impacts at political level also resonates at economic and social levels and vice versa. Therefore, learning about the benefits and challenges coming from access to political participation of older persons is key to better understanding the interconnection between sustainable livelihoods and the new demographic dynamics.

GENERAL OBJECTIVE

This event will be the scenario to identify relevant elements on active, free, and meaningful participation of older persons from the political arena. It will also be the opportunity to learn from experiences on the importance of integrating older persons through democratic societies and decision-making positions.

TARGET AUDIENCE

The event is open to different actors interested in ageing and the rights of older persons, including:

- Public sector officials, policy makers and practitioners
- International Organizations
- Civil Society
- National Human Rights Institutions
- Academia
- Private sector

This event as well as the upcoming ones from the virtual roundtable series are open and free to All.

FORMAT

Online. Due to the worldwide situation caused by the pandemic, these events will be celebrated online with spirit of inclusion to allow participants from different parts of the world to join us.



SPECIAL NOTES

1. Participants who want to receive a certificate of participation need to fulfill the following criteria: Having participated at least 75% by Zoom (To be measured by the system).
2. You're warmly welcome to send questions or suggestions in advance to sdp@unitar.org
3. After the celebration of each event, those participants who joined them will be receiving the respective video recording together with takeaway messages.

Join us!

Register now!

Or go to: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_VsXgWtQ-S3m6XXUb_gLreg#/registration

Earn a certificate of participation!



PROGRAM

Speakers



Hon. Antonio Augusto Eduardo Namburete
Member of Parliament, Mozambique Vice-President of the African Parliamentary Network Against Corruption (APNAC)



Hon. Sirpa Pietikainen
Member of the European Parliament Intergroup "Active Ageing, Intergenerational Solidarity and Family Policies" Finland



Dr. Firas Alhadithi
Executive Director
Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC)



Ms. Silvia Perel-Levin
INPEA, ILC GA, & Geneva NGO Committee on Ageing



Ms. Nino Shalamberidze
Ombudsman Office of Georgia

Moderator



Mr. Alex Mejia
Director, Division for People and Social Inclusion UNITAR

Keynote speaker



H.E. Amb. Luis Benigno Gallegos Chiriboga
Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Ecuador,
UNITAR's Chair of the Board of Trustees

Analysis on the legal gaps on access to political participation for older persons at international level



Dr. Michael Ashley Stein
Co-founder and Executive Director of the Harvard Law School Project on Disability, Visiting Professor at Harvard Law School





Decade of healthy ageing



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