

The Right to Science and Access to Technologies for Older Persons



10 SEPTEMBER
2025



9:30 EDT
15:30 CEST



ROUNDTABLE SERIES

MAINSTREAMING KNOWLEDGE ON AGEING

*Bridging paths towards strengthening
protection and participation*

With the support of:

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Scientific and technological advancements are transforming every aspect of modern life, from healthcare innovations and artificial intelligence to digital communications and smart infrastructure.

While these developments hold immense potential to improve the quality of life, older persons often face systemic barriers that prevent them from fully exercising their right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications, as recognized in international human rights law.

Barriers include limited digital literacy, inadequate access to devices and connectivity, and age-related challenges in adapting to rapidly evolving tools. Socioeconomic disparities, inaccessible design, and ageism in technology deployment further compound the problem. Without intentional inclusion, older persons risk being left behind in an increasingly digital society, excluded from opportunities for lifelong learning, telemedicine, online participation, and social connectivity.

Ensuring equitable access to scientific advancements and digital technologies is not only a matter of innovation policy but a matter of rights, dignity, and intergenerational solidarity. In this regard, this roundtable will bring together experts, policymakers, civil society, and older persons themselves to discuss pathways for inclusion, identify existing gaps, and promote concrete strategies that bridge the digital divide.

OBJECTIVE

To identify the barriers older persons face in accessing digital tools and scientific advancements, and to promote policies ensuring inclusion, digital literacy, and equitable access to technological benefits.



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. These events will be celebrated online with the 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

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_il9Qzq2FTeSTwAKhuc14QA

Earn a certificate of participation!

PROGRAM

Welcome Message



Mr. Alex Mejia,
Director, Division for People, UNITAR
Head, CIFAL Global Network

Moderator



Dr. Ebru Canan-Sokullu,
Associate Director of CIFAL Global Network and
Deputy Director for Resource Mobilisation, UNITAR

Speakers



Dr. Loly Gaitan,
Programme Officer, International Telecommunication Union (ITU)



Ms. Yiren Zhou,
Program Manager of the Elderly Care Program "Blue-Vest Initiative",
Sustainability Department, Ant Group



Dr. Jutta Treviranus,
Director of the Inclusive Design Research Centre,
Ontario College of Art and Design University in Toronto



Ms. Silvia Neira,
Vice President, Global Initiative on Ageing and Longevity (GIA Longevity)





Decade of healthy ageing



United Nations

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs



International
Labour
Organization



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency



**World Health
Organization**



**UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS**
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Harvard Law School
Project on Disability



GLOBAL ALLIANCE
INTERNATIONAL LONGEVITY CENTRE
Designing the Future of Ageing

NGO Committee on Ageing
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