



## Additional Interactive Roundtable (cross-cutting issue)

### iii) Women and Ageing – Older Women Count

Tuesday, 4 November 2014, 11:30 - 13:00

Palais des Nations Geneva, Room XI

**Introduction:** Population ageing is one of most significant global trends of the 21st century. However, ageism continues to be tolerated. Older women are more likely than men to live alone and less likely to have access to employment. Women suffer cumulative multiple forms of discrimination and violence throughout their entire life course. The Beijing Platform for Action recognized the impact of age discrimination and made recommendations for government action in some areas affecting older women. To what extent have these actions been implemented? Are older women and population ageing priorities for future action?

**Objective:** This round table will attempt to answer these questions presenting a review of the UNECE country reports to the Beijing + 20 process with regard to older women. Special focus will be given to the areas where the Beijing Platform for Action did not specifically mention older women: women and the media, women in power and decision-making, institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women, women and the environment and human rights of women. The expected outcome is a set of concrete recommendations for action on older women to feed the UNECE process of Beijing +20 and for the UN Women global report.

Co-conveners **Silvia Perel-Levin**, Switzerland, UN Rep., International Longevity Centre Global Alliance (ILC GA)  
**Ursula Barter Hemmerich**, Switzerland, UN Rep., International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA)

Moderator **Bridget Sleep**, UK, Senior Rights Policy Adviser, HelpAge International

Speakers **Elizabeth Sclater**, UK, Executive Officer, Older Women's Network (OWN)  
**Irene Hoskins**, USA, President, Chevy Chase at Home; Immediate Past President of International Federation on Ageing (IFA)  
**Andrea Ferenczi**, Hungary, President of Association for Women's Career Development in Hungary  
**Israel Doron**, Israel, Head, Department of Gerontology, Haifa University  
**Lisa Warth**, Technical Officer, Department of Ageing and Life Course, World Health Organization; Coordinator of the WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities

Recommendations, Q & A From the floor

Rapporteur **Kelly Fitzgerald**, Switzerland, UN Rep., International Federation on Ageing (IFA)

Interpretation Provided from and into English and French

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## Short Bios: Women and Ageing – Older Women Count

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**Co-Convenor: Silvia Perel-Levin** is the Chair of the UN NGO Committee on Ageing in Geneva and an Independent Consultant on health and communication. Her main fields of interest have been research on perceptions of elder abuse, detection and screening and advocacy for the rights of older persons, with a focus on older women. At the WHO, working closely with the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA), Silvia designed and coordinated the first multi-country study on elder abuse and co-wrote the resulting publication "Missing Voices, views of older persons on elder abuse" (2002), Silvia also launched the "Toronto Declaration on the Global Prevention of Elder Abuse" (2002) and published "Discussing Screening for Elder Abuse at the Primary Health Care Level" (2008). She has presented at many international conferences.

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**Co-Convenor: Ursula Barter-Hemmerich** has a long experience working with NGOs. She has worked as a conference interpreter, mostly within the UN system, so she has acquired a good knowledge of international organizations. While representing Soroptimist International she lectured to Clubs and Federations on the role of NGOs at the United Nations. She considers that the issue of ageing is of the utmost importance and requires our full commitment. Ursula represents the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse at the UN in Geneva. She was one of the founders of the NGO Committee on Ageing in Geneva ahead of the UN Assembly on Ageing in Madrid, 2002. She is currently the Secretary of the NGO Committee of Ageing and is also an active member of the NGO CSW Committee in Geneva.

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**Moderator: Bridget Sleep** is the Senior Rights Policy Adviser at HelpAge International. After working at Universidade Eduardo Mondlane in Mozambique for 3 years, Bridget completed a Masters Degree in International Human Rights at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London. Since then she has worked on human rights and development at the Panos Institute, International Family Health and now HelpAge International where she focuses on strengthening the rights of older people through the use of human rights mechanisms.

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**Speaker: Elizabeth Sclater** brings over 40 years experience of working with older people as a social worker, policy officer and volunteer. She has worked as an equalities officer for older people, managed a corporate Equality and Diversity Team, and supported the development of the new Equality and Human Rights Commission. Since retirement Elizabeth is active at the local, national and international level. As General Secretary of the Older Women's Network (OWN), Europe, she has worked with the Committee that monitors the UN Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). In 2011, Elizabeth brought together NGOs to develop a UK CEDAW shadow report on older women. She is an active member of Age Platform Europe's Social Inclusion Expert group contributing to a review of the member states' National Reform Programmes (NRP) and lobbying for the inclusion and strengthening of measures to support civil society in future NRP requirements.

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**Speaker: Irene Hoskins** was President of the IFA from 2006 to May 2012. Before that, she worked as Senior Technical Officer at WHO. She has contributed to many UN-based initiatives on ageing, such as the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the Regional Plan of Action on Ageing for the UN ECE. Irene was Chair of the NGO CSW, Geneva and a member of the Facilitating Committee of the NGO Forum of the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. She also served as Vice-president of the Conference of NGOs; and one of the three co-founders of the Geneva International Network on Ageing. She has authored and/or directed several projects that have resulted in publications on women and ageing and has been a speaker at numerous international conferences on ageing. She is currently the president of Chevy Chase@Home, a local group based on the principles of good practice for ageing-in-place initiatives.

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**Speaker: Andrea Ferenczi** has more than 20 years of experience in the fields of women's empowerment and career development, including helping women attain leading positions by the implementation of Western models within a Hungarian cultural framework. She is an entrepreneur and founding president of the Association for Women's Career Development in Hungary (AWCDH) where she has organized over 30 international conferences and founded several awards. She started the "Women's Career for a Lifetime" project in 2009 to raise awareness of the need to support participation of women over the age of 50 in the labor market and of their role in the family. She is a member of the National Level Steering Board of the National Smart Specialization Strategy, the Employment and Active Ageing Expert Group of AGE Platform Europe, and a Board member of the Older Women's Network (OWN).

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**Speaker: Professor Israel (Issi) Doron** is the Head of the Department of Gerontology at the University of Haifa, and the Past President of the Israeli Gerontological Society. He received an LL.B. from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, an LL.M. from Washington College of Law in Washington DC, and a Ph.D. from Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto. He specializes in the fields of law and ageing, social policy and ageing, ethics and ageism. Prof. Doron has written extensively on the human rights of older persons and the debate around the need for an International Convention on the Rights of Older Persons. Prof. Doron is the editor of key books in the field such as "Theories on Law and Ageing: The Jurisprudence of Elder Law" (Springer, 2009); and "Beyond Elder Law: New Directions in Law and Ageing" (Springer, 2012; with Ann Soden).

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**Speaker: Lisa Warth** is a Technical Officer in the Department of Ageing and Life Course at the World Health Organization in Geneva. She coordinates the WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities which connects over 200 cities and communities worldwide that are committed to creating socially inclusive and physically accessible environments that are adapted to the needs of older people and foster healthy and active ageing. Prior to joining WHO in March 2012, Lisa worked at UNECE where she helped to organize the Beijing +15 Regional Review. She holds a PhD in Social Policy from the London School of Economics and Political Science where her comparative research focused on gender equality and the reconciliation of paid work and care in Europe.

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**Rapporteur: Kelly Fitzgerald** is the Vice Chair of the UN NGO Committee on Ageing in Geneva. She holds a Master of Public Administration from Georgia State University and a Master of Science and PhD in Gerontology from the University of Massachusetts Boston. She has held several leadership positions in various ageing organizations including currently co-chairing the Global Aging Committee for the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education. She has authored numerous international presentations and publications. Kelly is a Faculty member of the Center for Gerontology at Western Kentucky University (Bowling Green, Kentucky USA) where she teaches online graduate and undergraduate gerontology courses and supports various research projects. She is a Guest Scientist at the Center for Gerontology at the University of Zurich. She currently volunteers as a Network Facilitator for the WHO's Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities.

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