

The NGO Committee on Ageing, UN Vienna

Mission statement

The NGO Committee on Ageing at the United Nations in Vienna, is a grouping of mostly international non-governmental, non-profit, and non-political organization dealing with or being interested in issues related to ageing. The members of the NGO Committee on Ageing are committed to advance the wellbeing of older persons and their participation in society. They all enjoy official consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

The NGO Committee on Ageing's main purpose is to cooperate closely with the United Nations and its special agencies in all matters concerning the situation of older persons in society. In this regard, it supports UN's policies, strategies and programs.

The Committee's philosophy and actions are based on the fundamental principle of **human dignity** as the ethical basis of society to be enjoyed by all people at any time in their life. Thus, it firmly condemns all kinds of human rights abuses. The Committee considers that **independence**, seen as the right to lead a self-determined life, and **participation**, understood as the right to contribute to and benefit from various aspects of society, are fundamental rights which need to be fully recognized and implemented also for older persons.

The Committee's mission is to promote social, economic and cultural developments in society which raise the recognition of the value and the contributions of older persons, to improve their integration in society, to reinforce the prevention of any kind of adverse discrimination on grounds of age, to improve the living conditions and the quality of life of older persons through the full development of their potential by creating the necessary enabling and supportive environment.

In general, it advocates for the conception, the implementation and the monitoring of appropriate policies and programs which correspond to the needs, aspirations and capacities of older persons. It aims at the promotion of a positive image of older persons. It also encourages the dialogue and the cooperation between all age groups. On this basis, it provides advice, recommendations, statements on the needs and problems of older persons, as well as innovative concepts for decision-making processes.

The NGO Committee on Ageing also presses for effective policies and measures having the objective of enabling older persons to lead, as far as possible, an independent life. Such policies and measures should provide high quality social and health services and strengthen the participation of older persons in related decision-making processes. The Committee gives particular attention to the situation of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged according to the core principle of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development "Leave no one behind".

The Committee's main ways of pursuing its aims include regular meetings of its members to exchange information and plan activities, the setting up of specific Round Tables to analyze the needs, problems, capacities and aspirations of older persons in general and of specific segments of the older population. By doing this, it reaches out for cooperation with public, private, and civil society partners pursuing identical goals.

The Committee organizes Side Events with expert panels to the annual meetings of specialized United Nations Commissions in Vienna, and an annual conference to highlight the UN

International Day of Older Persons which addresses important current and perceived future issues concerning ageing in society.

The Committee aims at involving the media in its work and publishes the contributions of the experts and the conclusions of its events to bring them to the attention of the UN and a larger public.

(This “Mission Statement” has been adopted by the NGO Committee on Ageing at the United Nations in Vienna at its meeting on 30th June 2025)