

International Day of Older Persons (IDOP) 2026

Side Event of the 63rd session of the Human Rights Council

Thursday, 1 October 2026 | 13:00–14:00

Room V, Palais des Nations, Geneva

WebEx: https://bit.ly/UNOG_NGOCOAGVA_IDOP_2026



Misión Permanente Argentina
ante los Organismos Internacionales en Ginebra



Republika ng Pilipinas
Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines
to the United Nations and other International Organizations
Geneva, Switzerland



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED
NATIONS OFFICE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA



Permanent Mission of Montenegro to the United Nations
and other International Organizations in Geneva



International
Federation on
Ageing



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER



BRIDGING
DEVELOPMENT GAPS



association for
the prevention
of torture



bagso

NGO Committee on Ageing
GENEVA



OLDER PERSONS AT THE CENTRE: TOWARDS A LEGALLY BINDING INSTRUMENT

Background

The 2026 United Nations International Day of Older Persons is being observed at a historic moment for the advancement of the human rights of older persons.

Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 58/13, the Council established an open-ended intergovernmental working group (IGWG) mandated to elaborate an international legally binding instrument for the promotion and protection of the human rights of older persons. Following its first substantive session in July 2026, the Chair-Rapporteur of the IGWG presented a report to the Human Rights Council at its sixty-third session. IGWG will reconvene later in October.

The International Day of Older Persons therefore provides a timely opportunity not only to reflect on the progress achieved, but to continue discussions on the legally binding instrument and to continue building momentum for its adoption.

The discussion will bring attention to human rights issues that need further consideration, including the situation of older persons deprived of liberty and those exposed to extreme forms of violence, abuse, and discrimination.

A crucial question will guide the discussion: **How can we ensure that older persons across different regions, backgrounds and circumstances, participate meaningfully in shaping the future legally binding instrument, in its implementation and monitoring?**

Organizers: The event is being co-organized by the Permanent Missions of Argentina and Slovenia, with the NGO Committee on Ageing (Geneva).

Programme

Welcome and Introduction by moderator

Alejandro Bonilla Garcia, Chair, NGO Committee on Ageing (Geneva). IFA Representative to the United Nations.

Placing Older Persons at the Centre: Purpose and Guiding Question of the Event

Setting the Scene

H.E. Ambassador Carlos Mario Foradori, Permanent Representative and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Argentina to the United Nations in Geneva. Chair-Rapporteur of the IGWG.

From the First Substantive Session to the Next Stage of Negotiations

Mr. Dimiter Chalev, Chief of the Equality and Non-Discrimination Branch (OHCHR)

Advancing the Human Rights of Older Persons through a Legally Binding Instrument

Panel Discussion

H.E. Ambassador Carlos D. Sorreta, Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations in Geneva.

Regional Perspectives for the Development of the Legally Binding Instrument

Short message from an Older Person

What Meaningful Participation Means in Practice

Veronica Filippeschi, Senior Thematic Adviser, Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT)

Protecting Older Persons Deprived of Liberty

Dr Adebisi Adebayo, Founder and Executive Director, Bridging Development Gaps (BDG)

Barriers to the human rights of older women in Africa

Fire chat moderated dialogue

Moderator's Summary and Information on GAROP's new Capacity-Building Tool

Closing Remarks

H.E. Ms. Božena Forštnarič Boroje, Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the United Nations in Geneva.

Closing Reflections: Shared Perspectives, Common Purpose

For details and cosponsoring: ngoageing@gmail.com