

NGO Committee on Ageing

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Executive Summary

The period 2025–2026 was an important moment for advancing the human rights of older persons at the United Nations. A key milestone was the adoption of Human Rights Council Resolution 58/13, which initiated a process toward the development of a new international convention on the rights of older persons.

During this period, the NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva played an active role in supporting this process and promoting the inclusion of older persons in global policies. The Committee worked at multiple levels: within the United Nations, with Member States, with civil society, and through global and regional policy engagement, while also strengthening its internal governance and operational capacities.

The Committee co-organized major events, including the International Day of Older Persons 2025 in Geneva and a civil society preparatory meeting for the Intergovernmental Working Group in February 2026. These efforts contributed to strong coordination among stakeholders and supported effective civil society engagement in the first Organizational Session of the Intergovernmental Working Group, marking the formal launch of the process toward a United Nations convention.

The Committee also contributed to key policy processes, including the report of the United Nations Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons and the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2026, as well as to the Human Rights Council High-Level Segment. It further engaged in United Nations processes and multistakeholder dialogues, including Geneva Peace Week and the International Day of Care and Support, contributing to the integration of ageing perspectives across human rights, peacebuilding, and social policy discussions.

The Committee contributed to advancing emerging conceptual frameworks on ageing, including intergenerational collaboration, life-course approaches, and the evolving concept of the silver economy, as well as to global discussions on digital inclusion and multigenerational collaboration, including through participation in the WSIS Forum 2025 and WHO- and UNITAR-led initiatives.

At the global and regional level, the Committee engaged in key platforms such as the Second World Summit for Social Development (WSSD2), the European Parliament, the World Urban Forum, and the International Federation on Ageing Global Conference. Through these engagements, it contributed to integrating ageing into broader policy frameworks and strengthening international cooperation.

The Committee also remained active in thematic advocacy, addressing cross-cutting issues such as gender, poverty, ageism, care systems, food security, and elder abuse, while reinforcing the importance of inclusive and rights-based approaches.

In parallel, the Committee strengthened its internal governance, financial management, and communication capacities, including the modernization of membership payment systems and the expansion of digital outreach and knowledge dissemination.

The Committee worked in close collaboration with key partners, in particular the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People (GAROP), to support coordinated civil society engagement.

Overall, the Committee contributed to strengthening the visibility of older persons' rights, advancing policy and conceptual work, supporting progress toward a United Nations convention, and promoting a life-course and inclusive approach to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

1. Introduction

The period 2025–2026 marked a significant milestone in advancing the human rights of older persons at the United Nations. The adoption of Human Rights Council Resolution 58/13 in April 2025, establishing an Intergovernmental Working Group (IGWG) to elaborate a legally binding instrument, created renewed momentum across the multilateral system.

This development reflects a broader recognition that existing international frameworks do not sufficiently address the specific challenges faced by older persons, including persistent gaps in protection, participation, and accountability. It also signals a shift toward a more structured and action-oriented intergovernmental process aimed at strengthening the international human rights architecture.

In this context, the NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva continued to play an active role in supporting civil society engagement, contributing to policy discussions, and strengthening collaboration with United Nations entities, Member States, and partners. The Committee's work reflects a commitment to promoting a human rights-based and life-course approach to ageing and to ensuring that older persons are fully included in global and regional policy processes.

During the reporting period, the Committee's activities spanned multiple levels of engagement, combining operational, policy, and conceptual contributions. These included the organization of major events in Geneva, active participation in intergovernmental processes, engagement in United Nations mechanisms, contributions to global and regional policy platforms, and participation in international conferences and knowledge-sharing initiatives.

In addition, the Committee contributed to advancing emerging conceptual frameworks and policy narratives on ageing, including intergenerational approaches, the evolving concept of the silver economy, and the integration of ageing into broader discussions on sustainable development. Particular attention was also given to the role of digital transformation, care systems, food security, and multigenerational collaboration in shaping inclusive societies.

These efforts were complemented by strengthened internal governance, communication, and outreach capacities, supporting the effectiveness and sustainability of the Committee's work and reinforcing its role as a bridge between civil society, policy processes, and global knowledge exchange.



2.2 Civil Society Preparatory Briefing for the Intergovernmental Working Group (IGWG)

17 February 2026 | Palais des Nations, Geneva

The NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva, in close collaboration with GAROP and key partners, co-organized a full-day civil society preparatory briefing ahead of the first session of the Intergovernmental Working Group (18–20 February 2026).

The event was structured in two parts. A morning session brought together NGOs and National Human Rights Institutions to strengthen coordination, align advocacy priorities, and prepare for participation in the IGWG. The afternoon session opened dialogue with Member States, OHCHR, and other stakeholders, providing a platform for exchange on the conceptual basis, scope, and expectations for the future convention.

The meeting also served to reinforce the recognition of civil society’s role in the intergovernmental process and to strengthen relationships with key actors in Geneva. It supported the development of common messages, facilitated self-organization among NGOs, and contributed to ensuring an informed, coordinated, and inclusive approach to the drafting process. Held immediately prior to the IGWG session, the briefing played a strategic role in shaping early engagement and strengthening the credibility and coherence of civil society contributions.



Co-sponsors: The preparatory briefing was jointly organised by the International Federation on Ageing (IFA), GAROP, the NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva (NGO COA GVA), the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA), HelpAge International, Age International, HelpAge Canada, AARP, and BAGSO.

The overall coordination of the event was ensured by Ellen Graham, GAROP Coordinator.

The Committee expressed its sincere appreciation to HelpAge International, Age International, HelpAge Canada, and AARP for their generous support in hosting the cocktail reception.



In addition, the Committee participated in two civil society coordination meetings convened by Ms. Chitralenka Massey (OHCHR) in preparation for the IGWG session, which contributed to strengthening information exchange and alignment among stakeholders.

2.3 Global Rally 2026 for Older People’s Rights

📅 1–7 February 2026 | 🌐 Global / online and national actions

The NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva joined and promoted the Global Rally 2026 for Older People’s Rights, a worldwide mobilisation coordinated by the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People (GAROP) under its Age With Rights campaign. The Rally took place from 1 to 7 February 2026, in the lead-up to the first session of the Intergovernmental Working Group (IGWG) mandated to begin the drafting process for a United Nations convention on the rights of older persons.

The Rally aimed to strengthen public awareness and political support for a strong and ambitious convention, while emphasizing the importance of the full and equal participation of older persons and civil society in the drafting process. Under the common message “Equal Voices, Equal Rights,” campaigners and organizations across regions organized and promoted a wide range of actions in solidarity.

In this context, the NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva contributed by disseminating information on the Rally among its membership and partners, encouraging visibility and engagement around this important collective advocacy effort. The Rally complemented the Committee’s broader work in support of the convention process, including the civil society preparatory briefing held in Geneva on 17 February 2026 and participation in the IGWG Organizational Session from 18 to 20 February 2026.

The broad support for the Rally, including by major partners such as illustrated the growing international momentum behind the call for a United Nations convention on the rights of older persons and for meaningful civil society participation throughout the process.

2.4 Intergovernmental Working Group (IGWG) Organizational Session

📅 18–20 February 2026 | 📍 Palais des Nations, Geneva

The NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva actively participated in the first Organizational Session of the Intergovernmental Working Group (IGWG) on the rights of older persons, held at the Palais des Nations following the adoption of Human Rights Council Resolution 58/13.

This meeting marked the formal launch of the intergovernmental process to elaborate a legally binding international instrument on the rights of older persons. It represented a historic shift from long-standing discussions on protection gaps toward the concrete development of a new international human rights framework.

In this context, the Committee supported the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People (GAROP) initiative to develop detailed civil society proposals on the modalities of the IGWG process. These proposals emphasized the importance of ensuring an open, inclusive, and transparent process, including expanded civil society participation, the meaningful engagement of older persons and their representative organizations, and the facilitation of hybrid participation and accessibility. They also highlighted the role of GAROP and the NGO Committees on Ageing in facilitating coordinated and representative civil society engagement throughout the process.

The Organizational Session focused on establishing the modalities, structure, and methods of work of the IGWG, including the election of the Chair and the adoption of the programme of work. These decisions are critical, as they determine how the drafting process will unfold, the level of transparency, and the extent of participation of civil society and other stakeholders.

The Committee participated as part of a strong and coordinated civil society presence, building on the preparatory work carried out through the NGO briefing session held on 17 February 2026. It contributed to reinforcing the importance of inclusive, transparent, and participatory processes, ensuring that the voices and experiences of older persons are reflected from the outset of the drafting process.

The session brought together Member States, United Nations entities, National Human Rights Institutions, and civil society organizations from across regions. Discussions highlighted the importance of grounding the future convention in the lived realities of older persons and ensuring meaningful participation of civil society throughout the process.



2.5 Second World Summit for Social Development (WSSD2)

📅 4-6 November 2025 | 📍 Doha, Qatar

The NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva actively contributed to the Second World Summit for Social Development (WSSD2), a major global United Nations process led by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), aimed at redefining the global social development agenda in a context of growing inequalities, demographic change, and social transformation.

The Summit benefited from the strong leadership of the Programme on Ageing Section of DESA, under the guidance of its Chief, Ms. Amal Abou Rafeh, whose efforts were instrumental in ensuring that ageing and the rights of older persons were reflected in the overall agenda.

In the lead-up to the Summit, the Committee engaged with preparatory activities coordinated by DESA, including consultations and inputs related to ageing and the rights of older persons. It contributed to ensuring that ageing perspectives were reflected in the broader discussions on social protection, inclusion, and sustainable development.

The Committee also played a proactive role in facilitating coordination among civil society organizations working on ageing-related issues participating in the Summit, together with the Stakeholder Group on Ageing (SGA). This included the establishment of practical coordination mechanisms to support communication, information sharing, and collective advocacy among those working on ageing and older persons' rights, such as:

- a dedicated WhatsApp coordination group connecting participants;
- a coordination directory to facilitate networking and logistical alignment;
- a shared document repository for the exchange of materials and information;
- and the development of short advocacy messages (“pitches”) and daily session summaries, disseminated through digital platforms.

These tools contributed to building a cohesive and visible civil society presence throughout the Summit and helped facilitate effective collaboration among participating organizations.

During the Summit, the Committee supported and participated in a range of events addressing the situation and rights of older persons, in close collaboration with civil society partners and with the engagement of the United Nations Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, Ms. Claudia Mahler.



A notable feature of the Summit was the strong and coordinated presence of civil society actors working on ageing, informally referred to as the “NGOs Armada,” which brought together a diverse and geographically balanced group of organizations from across regions. This collective engagement significantly increased the visibility of older persons’ issues and demonstrated the effectiveness of coordinated advocacy.

In addition, the Committee supported and participated in a range of events and initiatives focused on older persons, organized by United Nations entities and civil society partners throughout the Summit and its preparatory phase. These included contributions to discussions on social protection, inequality, care systems, and human rights, ensuring that ageing was addressed as a cross-cutting issue within the broader social development agenda.

These activities involved collaboration with a wide range of actors, including the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), as well as civil society organizations such as the International Federation on Ageing (IFA), HelpAge International, and many members of GAROP. They also benefited from the engagement of the United Nations Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights, Claudia Mahler, whose contributions helped reinforce the human rights dimension of the discussions.

The Summit and its associated events, including the Doha Solutions Forum, highlighted the importance of integrated policy approaches to social development, including social protection, employment, and social inclusion, while underscoring the need to ensure that older persons’ rights, needs, and contributions are fully reflected across these policy domains.

2.6 International Federation on Ageing (IFA) Global Conference

📅 9–12 September 2025 | 📍 Cape Town, South Africa

The NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva actively participated in the **17th International Federation on Ageing Global Conference**, a major international platform bringing together policymakers, experts, civil society organizations, and practitioners to address global ageing challenges and opportunities.

The Committee contributed to the Conference through participation in several sessions and exchanges, and by actively supporting dialogue on the human rights of older persons and the development of a United Nations convention. The Committee also contributed to the organization of a dedicated symposium on human rights and ageing, bringing a Geneva-based perspective into global discussions and strengthening the link between international policy processes and practical implementation.

A highlight of the Conference was the recognition of **Silvia Perel-Levin**, Vice-Chair of the NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva, who received the **Julia Alvarez Human Rights Award** in recognition of her longstanding commitment to advancing the rights of older persons.

This distinction reflects both her individual leadership and the broader contribution of the NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva and its partners to the global movement for the human rights of older persons.

2.7 CoNGO Summit of NGO Committees

“Defining the Present, Securing a Shared Future: Asserting Civil Society Participation at the United Nations”

📅 24 June 2025 | 📍 Church Center for the United Nations, New York (Hybrid)

The NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva actively contributed to the **Summit of NGO Committees**, convened under the auspices of the **Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CoNGO)**.

The Summit brought together representatives of NGO Committees from across the UN system to reflect on the current multilateral landscape and to strengthen the role of civil society in United Nations processes. It focused on key themes including multilateralism, UN–NGO relations, civil society participation, and the future role of NGO Committees in a changing global context.

As part of the programme, Alejandro Bonilla Garcia, Chair of the NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva, contributed as a lead facilitator in discussions on co-branding and institutional visibility of NGO Committees, highlighting the importance of coherent communication, collaboration, and shared identity among civil society actors within the UN system.

The Summit also served as a strategic preparatory platform for the CoNGO General Assembly, generating recommendations and reinforcing the role of NGO Committees as essential mechanisms for civil society engagement at the United Nations.

3. Normative, Policy and Conceptual Contributions

3.1 Contribution to the UN Independent Expert’s Thematic Report

The NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva contributed to the thematic report of the United Nations Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, Ms. Claudia Mahler, entitled: *“The right to social protection and the right to work of older persons”*.

The Committee’s submission provided a detailed analysis of the structural and legal barriers affecting the realization of these rights, with particular attention to the situation of older persons facing multiple and intersecting vulnerabilities, including older women.

The contribution highlighted key challenges, including the lack of clarity and consistency in legal frameworks, insufficient enforcement and monitoring mechanisms, and gaps in resource

allocation and service delivery systems. It emphasized that existing social protection systems often fail to reflect the realities of ageing populations, particularly in relation to non-linear work histories, caregiving roles, and informal employment.

A central element of the Committee’s input was the promotion of a life-course approach to social protection, ensuring continuity of rights across all stages of life. The submission also underscored the importance of addressing administrative, informational, and accessibility barriers, including the digital divide, which disproportionately affects older persons.

In addition, the Committee drew attention to the persistence of ageism and gender-based inequalities as structural factors limiting access to social rights. It emphasized the need for inclusive and rights-based policies that recognize older persons as active rights holders, rather than passive beneficiaries.

The contribution also identified obstacles related to fragmented service delivery, complex administrative procedures, and insufficient communication strategies, which can prevent older persons from effectively accessing their rights. It proposed a range of policy recommendations, including strengthening legal frameworks, improving coordination across institutions, enhancing public awareness, and promoting inclusive labour market policies.

3.2 Contribution to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2026

The NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva contributed to the preparation of the Stakeholder Group on Ageing (SGA) input to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) 2026, the United Nations’ central platform for the review and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Committee played an active role in the development and consolidation of the document *“Integrating ageing perspectives into the Sustainable Development Goals under review at the 2026 High-Level Political Forum”*, ensuring that the rights and contributions of older persons were reflected in the global policy dialogue. The statements are intended to inform discussions at the HLPF, including contributions to official sessions and stakeholder interventions.

The contribution focused on the integration of ageing across four Sustainable Development Goals under review:

- **SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation):** highlighting barriers faced by older persons in accessing safe water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services, including issues related to accessibility, affordability, and infrastructure design.
- **SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy):** addressing energy poverty and the specific needs of older persons in accessing reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy, particularly in the context of health, housing, and climate change.

- **SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities):** emphasizing the importance of age-friendly urban environments, including accessible housing, transport, public spaces, and disaster resilience.
- **SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals):** focusing on the need for strengthened multi-stakeholder partnerships and improved availability of age-disaggregated data to support inclusive policymaking.

Across these areas, the Committee promoted a life-course and human rights-based approach, while also contributing to shifting policy narratives toward recognizing older persons as active contributors to sustainable development.

The contribution also underscored structural challenges such as ageism, gender inequalities, digital exclusion, and barriers to participation, and provided concrete policy recommendations aimed at improving inclusion, accessibility, and equity across sectors. It further emphasized the importance of aligning sustainable development efforts with ongoing human rights processes, including the development of a United Nations convention on the rights of older persons.

Through this work, the NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva contributed to strengthening the visibility of ageing within the HLPF process and to advancing a more inclusive and coherent approach to sustainable development that ensures no one is left behind, regardless of age. This work was further complemented by the Committee’s participation in the UNECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (RFSD) 2026, which reinforced linkages between global and regional follow-up and review processes and supported the promotion of age-inclusive approaches across the SDGs.

3.3 Address to the Human Rights Council High-Level Segment (HRC61)

The NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva contributed to the General Segment of the High-Level Segment of the 61st session of the Human Rights Council (HRC61), following the selection of Alejandro Bonilla Garcia, Chair of the NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva and representative to the United Nations of IFA, as a civil society speaker through an ECOSOC-accredited organization.

The intervention, delivered in the context of the theme “*Peace, Security, and the Protection of Civilian Life*,” brought a civil society perspective to high-level discussions and highlighted the importance of inclusive protection frameworks that consider the specific risks faced by different population groups, including older persons.

3.4 Conceptual Contributions to the Global Policy Debate on Ageing, Sustainability and the Silver Economy

During the reporting period, the NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva contributed to advancing conceptual and policy-oriented thinking on ageing, sustainability, and inclusive development, complementing its engagement in United Nations processes and intergovernmental discussions.

In this context, Alejandro Bonilla Garcia contributed as author to the paper “*Intergenerational Collaboration and the Life-Cycle Social Contract: Reframing Ageing as a Regenerative Investment for Post-2030 Sustainability*”. The paper advances a life-course approach to social protection and highlights the importance of intergenerational collaboration in addressing demographic change and supporting sustainable development beyond 2030.

In addition, Alejandro Bonilla Garcia contributed as co-author, together with Lichia Saner-Yiu, Raymond Saner, and Bettina Borisch, to the chapter entitled “*Sustainability and Regenerative Ageing: Co-Creating Productivity in a Regenerative Silver Economy*”. This chapter has been prepared for inclusion in the forthcoming volume “*Aging and Society: A Multidisciplinary Approach*”, edited by Dr Andrzej Klimczuk and to be published by Edward Elgar Publishing as part of the series *Multidisciplinary Movements in Research*.

These contributions reflect the Committee’s engagement in shaping emerging narratives on ageing, including the integration of life-course approaches, intergenerational perspectives, and the evolving concept of the silver economy within broader discussions on sustainable development.

3.5 Address to the AAFI-AFICS General Assembly

📅 8 October 2025 | 📍 Geneva

The NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva contributed to outreach and awareness-raising efforts among former international civil servants through an intervention at the General Assembly of the Association of Former International Civil Servants (AAFI-AFICS).

On this occasion, Alejandro Bonilla Garcia, speaking in his capacities as Chair of the NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva, Representative of the International Federation on Ageing to the United Nations, and member of the Bureau of the Former Officials of the International Labour Organization, addressed the Assembly on the significance of recent developments within the United Nations system.

The intervention focused on the adoption of Human Rights Council Resolution 58/13, which establishes an intergovernmental working group to elaborate a United Nations convention on the rights of older persons. It highlighted the historic nature of this decision, marking a transition from long-standing discussions toward the development of a legally binding international instrument.

The address emphasized the persistence of normative, protection, and implementation gaps in the current international framework, and underlined the importance of recognizing older persons as rights holders, active contributors to society, and agents of change. It also stressed the need for continued engagement by all stakeholders, including Member States, United Nations entities, civil society, and older persons themselves, in shaping a strong, inclusive, and effective convention.

4. Engagement with UN Processes and Mechanisms

4.1 Human Rights Council Side Event (HRC60).

“Active Ageing: Ensuring the Full Enjoyment of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights”

📅 29 September 2025 | 📍 Geneva

The NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva contributed to a side event held in the margins of the 60th session of the Human Rights Council (HRC60), focusing on the promotion and protection of the economic, social, and cultural rights of older persons.

The event provided a platform for discussing gaps in the current international legal framework and for advancing dialogue on the need for a comprehensive and coherent approach to the human rights of older persons. Discussions highlighted the importance of addressing fragmentation in existing legal instruments and strengthening international standards.

Alejandro Bonilla Garcia participated as a panelist, contributing a civil society perspective on the need to strengthen international legal frameworks and to ensure the full enjoyment of rights by older persons across all domains, including social protection, work, health, and participation.

Through its participation, the Committee contributed to reinforcing the relevance of Human Rights Council Resolution 58/13 and to advancing the case for a legally binding international instrument on the rights of older persons. It also helped to connect ongoing thematic work on economic, social and cultural rights with the broader normative developments taking place within the Human Rights Council, contributing to greater coherence between existing human rights frameworks and the emerging convention process.

4.2 Joint Programme on Ageing (JPA)

The NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva engaged actively in the Joint Programme on Ageing (JPA) through regular monthly meetings bringing together key United Nations entities, including the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the Office of

the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). These meetings provided a structured platform for inter-agency coordination and exchange on a wide range of issues related to ageing, including the development of the global strategy on healthy ageing, the integration of ageing into national and regional policy frameworks, and the strengthening of data systems and indicators. Discussions also addressed demographic resilience, long-term care, and the alignment of ageing-related initiatives with broader United Nations processes and priorities.

The Committee participated actively in all meetings during the reporting period and contributed to ongoing exchanges by sharing updates on civil society engagement and advocacy. These included contributions related to the Human Rights Council processes, the International Federation on Ageing Global Conference, and the Second World Summit for Social Development (WSSD2), as well as reflections on the outcomes and potential impact of the Doha Declaration.

The meetings also highlighted the importance of adopting a life-course and multi-sectoral approach, including the establishment of national focal points on ageing, the development of guidance tools, and the strengthening of partnerships across sectors. Particular attention was given to improving the availability and use of data, including initiatives such as the Active Ageing Index and national data assessments, as well as to enhancing communication strategies and promoting a shift in the narrative on ageing.

In addition, discussions addressed future priorities for 2026, including coordination around regional review processes, policy dialogues on long-term care and media narratives, and the potential integration of ageing into broader inter-agency mechanisms on demographic change.

It also contributed to strengthening the link between protection frameworks and the broader human rights agenda on ageing within the Human Rights Council.

4.3 World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) 2025 Side Event

“Addressing Abuse of Older Persons in Institutions”

📅 19 June 2025 | 📍 Palais des Nations, Geneva

The NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva contributed to the organization and delivery of a side event held in the context of the 59th session of the Human Rights Council, marking World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) 2025. The event was jointly organized by the Permanent Missions of Montenegro and Slovenia, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA), and the NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva. It brought together representatives from governments, United Nations agencies, academia, and civil society to address the critical issue of abuse of older persons in institutional settings, including nursing homes and long-term care facilities.

The discussion highlighted both good practices and persistent gaps in the prevention of abuse, emphasizing the need for stronger monitoring mechanisms, legal frameworks, and accountability systems. Particular attention was given to the role of ageism as a root cause of abuse, as identified in the work of the United Nations Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons.

Alejandro Bonilla Garcia, Chair of the NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva, moderated the session, facilitating dialogue between policymakers, experts, and practitioners on the transition from data to action in addressing abuse. The panel included contributions from the World Health Organization, the University of Oxford, and representatives of Member States, reflecting a multi-stakeholder approach to the issue.

This event reinforced the importance of integrating protection from violence, abuse, and neglect into the broader human rights framework for older persons and highlighted the relevance of ongoing discussions toward a legally binding international instrument on their rights.

It also contributed to strengthening the link between protection frameworks and the broader human rights agenda on ageing within the Human Rights Council.

4.4 Geneva Peace Week – “Peace Dialogue: Participation and Inclusivity in Peacebuilding”

📅 November 2025 | 📍 Geneva

The NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva contributed to Geneva Peace Week 2025 through participation in a dialogue session entitled “**Peace Dialogue: Participation and Inclusivity in Peacebuilding,**” which brought together representatives from Member States, the United Nations, civil society, and academia to reflect on inclusive approaches to peacebuilding.

The discussion focused on the importance of ensuring broad and meaningful participation in peace processes, emphasizing that sustainable peace requires the inclusion of all segments of society, including groups that are often underrepresented in decision-making processes. Attention was given to the role of inclusivity, dialogue, and participation as essential elements for strengthening trust, legitimacy, and long-term resilience in peacebuilding efforts.

Silvia Perel-Levin, Vice-Chair of the NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva, participated as a panelist, contributing a perspective grounded in human rights and the life-course approach. Her intervention highlighted the importance of recognizing older persons as active contributors to peacebuilding, drawing attention to their experience, knowledge, and role in fostering social cohesion and intergenerational dialogue.

The panel also included Ambassador Anita Pipan of Slovenia, a member of the Core Group of Friends of Older Persons, whose participation reflected the growing engagement of Member States in promoting the inclusion of ageing perspectives within multilateral processes.

The discussion underscored the need to move beyond traditional approaches to peacebuilding by integrating intergenerational perspectives and ensuring that older persons are fully recognized as stakeholders in peace, security, and development processes.

This engagement contributed to positioning ageing within broader discussions on peace, security, and inclusive governance.

4.5 International Day of Care and Support 2025

📅 29 October 2025 | 📍 Geneva

The NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva contributed to the commemoration of the International Day of Care and Support 2025, organized within the framework of the United Nations system. On this occasion, Alejandro Bonilla Garcia, Chair of the NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva and Representative of the International Federation on Ageing (IFA) to the United Nations in Geneva, delivered an intervention addressing the transformation of care and support systems from a human rights perspective.

The intervention highlighted the persistent gaps in care systems worldwide, noting that care and support remain unevenly distributed, undervalued, and often insufficiently recognized within public policy frameworks. It emphasized that care should not be treated as a private matter or left to informal arrangements but rather recognized as a collective social responsibility grounded in human rights, dignity, and equality.

Attention was given to the importance of adopting a life-course perspective, recognizing that all individuals are, at different stages of their lives, both providers and recipients of care. The intervention also underscored the need to view care not as a cost, but as a strategic investment in social cohesion, resilience, and sustainable development.

In this context, the discussion highlighted the relevance of ongoing efforts toward the development of a United Nations convention on the rights of older persons, emphasizing the importance of ensuring that care and support are fully reflected within emerging international human rights standards.

The intervention further outlined key elements for the transformation of care systems, including the recognition of the right to care, the need for inclusive and person-centred approaches, the valuation of unpaid care, and the importance of accountability, data, and legal frameworks.

This contribution reinforced the role of the NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva in advancing a rights-based approach to care and in linking social policy, human rights, and sustainable development within United Nations discussions.

It also contributed to reinforcing the recognition of care as a central component of human rights and sustainable development discussions.

5. Global and Regional Policy Engagement

5.1 UNECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (RFSD) 2026

📅 April 2026 | 📍 Geneva

The NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva participated in the UNECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (RFSD) 2026, a key regional platform supporting the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda in the UNECE region.

The Forum brought together representatives from Member States, United Nations entities, civil society, and other stakeholders to review progress on selected Sustainable Development Goals under in-depth review in 2026, including SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities).

The Committee attended the Forum in order to strengthen linkages between its work on the human rights of older persons and ongoing regional discussions on sustainable development. In particular, it followed discussions related to inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable cities, with a view to ensuring that the perspectives and rights of older persons are reflected in urban policy frameworks. Particular attention was given to discussions on housing, accessibility, and urban inclusion, which are directly relevant to the situation of older persons.

Participation in the Forum also contributed to reinforcing coherence between the Committee’s engagement in the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2026 and regional SDG processes, including through the promotion of age-inclusive and life-course approaches across policy domains.

5.2 European Parliament Event – “Towards a UN Convention on the Rights of Older Persons: What Role for the European Union?”

📅 21 April 2026 | 📍 European Parliament, Brussels (hybrid participation)

The NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva contributed to a high-level policy dialogue at the European Parliament, organized by the European Parliament Intergenerational Forum in cooperation with AGE Platform Europe.

The event brought together Members of the European Parliament, representatives of European institutions, Member States, United Nations actors, and civil society organizations to assess the current state of play of the convention process and to explore how the European Union can contribute to its development.

Alejandro Bonilla Garcia participated as a panelist, contributing a civil society and Geneva-based perspective to the discussion. His intervention highlighted the importance of active

engagement of European actors in the intergovernmental process in Geneva and encouraged coordinated efforts to support the development of a legally binding international instrument on the rights of older persons.

The discussion also emphasized the potential of the European Union to play a leading role in promoting a rights-based approach to ageing at the global level.

5.3 AGE Platform Europe Annual Conference – “Intergenerational Solidarity in Europe”

2025 | Europe (Brussels / hybrid)

The NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva attended the AGE Platform Europe Annual Conference 2025, held under the theme “Intergenerational Solidarity in Europe.”

The conference brought together policymakers, representatives of European institutions, civil society organizations, and experts to explore the implications of demographic change and the role of public policies in fostering inclusive and equitable societies across the life course.

Discussions focused on strengthening intergenerational solidarity as a key dimension of social cohesion in ageing societies, addressing issues such as access to social protection, participation in decision-making, and the need to combat ageism.

This engagement contributed to reinforcing the importance of aligning social and economic policies with demographic realities and ensuring the full inclusion of older persons in policy processes.

5.4 ASEAN–China Silver Economy Development Forum

2026 | Asia (Bangkok / online)

The NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva contributed to the ASEAN–China Silver Economy Development Forum, held at the Rajamangala University of Technology Krungthep (Bangkok, Thailand), which brought together policymakers, academic institutions, and international partners to advance regional cooperation on healthy ageing and sustainable development.

Within this framework, Alejandro Bonilla Garcia delivered an online keynote intervention entitled “*Advancing the Silver Economy: ASEAN–China Cooperation for Healthy Ageing and Sustainable Development.*”

The presentation emphasized the need to move beyond the “burden narrative” of ageing and to recognize ageing as a structural dimension of sustainable development. It promoted a life-course approach and highlighted the importance of re-framing social protection as a long-term investment in resilience, productivity, and social cohesion.

The intervention also underscored the significant contributions of older persons to economies and societies and called for a more comprehensive and inclusive understanding of the silver economy, recognizing older persons as active contributors and co-creators of value.

5.5 World Urban Forum (WUF13) – Baku Preparatory Process

📅 May 2026 (forthcoming) | 📍 Baku, Azerbaijan

The NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva contributed to the preparatory process of the 13th World Urban Forum (WUF13), organized by UN-Habitat, with a focus on mainstreaming the rights of older persons within urban development policies.

The Committee participated in a reference working group supporting the conceptual development of a roundtable on the rights of older persons in cities. This engagement contributed to identifying key issues affecting older persons in urban environments, including housing, mobility, social participation, and resilience to climate-related risks.

The Committee also contributed to stakeholder consultations aimed at ensuring that the perspectives of older persons are reflected in the Forum’s outcome document, the Baku Call to Action.

5.6 WSIS Forum 2025 – Multigenerational Collaboration in the Digital Age

📅 8 July 2025 | 📍 Geneva (Palexpo / hybrid participation)

The NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva contributed to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum 2025 through participation in a Special Track session entitled “*Multigenerational Collaboration: Rethinking Work, Learning, and Inclusion in the Digital Age*,” organized by the Centre for Socio-Economic Development (CSEND), Geneva.

The panel brought together international experts, including Prof. Angus Yang, Prof. Bettina Borisch, Prof. Lichia Saner-Yiu, and Ms. Vitalija Gaucaite, and was moderated by Prof. Raymond Saner.

Alejandro Bonilla Garcia participated as a panelist, contributing a perspective grounded in human rights, social protection, and the life-course approach. His intervention highlighted the importance of fostering intergenerational partnerships as a response to demographic change and emphasized the role of digital technologies in supporting inclusive labour markets and lifelong participation.

The discussion underscored the importance of rethinking the future of work through an intergenerational lens and reinforced the role of inclusive digital policies in promoting sustainable and equitable societies.

5.7 UNECE Standing Working Group on Ageing (SWGA)

The UNECE Standing Working Group on Ageing (SWGA) is the principal intergovernmental platform in the UNECE region for advancing policy dialogue, cooperation and monitoring on ageing. It brings together representatives of 56 Member States, as well as international organizations and other stakeholders, to support the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) and its Regional Implementation Strategy.

The eighteenth meeting of the SWGA (12–14 November 2025, Geneva) marked an important milestone in regional ageing policy. It formally launched the fifth cycle of review and appraisal of MIPAA/RIS, setting the stage for renewed policy commitments and evidence-based assessments across the region.

The meeting also initiated preparations for the next UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing, to be hosted by Germany in 2027. The proposed themes—including digital inclusion, intergenerational solidarity and whole-of-government approaches—reflect a forward-looking and integrated vision of ageing societies.

A notable feature of the discussions was the strong emphasis on the role of civil society and academia. Participants underlined the importance of inclusive processes and multi-stakeholder engagement, including dedicated spaces for civil society contributions in the lead-up to the Ministerial Conference.

Importantly, the meeting highlighted the growing convergence between regional policy frameworks and global human rights developments. Linkages were made between the ongoing update of MIPAA/RIS and the emerging process towards a United Nations convention on the rights of older persons. This convergence underscores the need to align policy approaches with evolving human rights standards.

Although the NGO Committee on Ageing (Geneva) is not a formal member of the SWGA, it was invited to participate in the eighteenth meeting. This participation reflects the increasing recognition of civil society actors as key contributors to regional ageing policy discussions and provides an important opportunity to strengthen linkages between policy and human rights processes.

The Committee also supported and disseminated among its membership a call for good practices issued in the context of the preparation of UNECE Policy Brief No. 31 on “Changing the Narrative on Ageing and Older Persons,” encouraging contributions aimed at addressing ageist stereotypes and promoting more balanced, inclusive, and empowering representations of ageing in public policy and discourse.

6. Thematic Advocacy and Cross-Cutting Issues

6.1 Widows Rights International Event – “Widows and Peace: The Role of War Widows in Striving for Peace”

17 October 2025 | Palais des Nations, Geneva

The NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva participated in a full-day seminar organized by Widows Rights International (WRI), with the support of Latter-day Saint Charities and Soroptimist International, focusing on the role of widows in peacebuilding and social cohesion.

The event addressed the situation of widows in conflict and post-conflict contexts, highlighting the scale and invisibility of this population—estimated at over 300 million worldwide—and the multiple forms of discrimination and exclusion they face, including harmful traditional practices, economic marginalization, and social stigma.

Discussions explored the intersection between widowhood, poverty, migration, access to resources, and gender inequality, as well as the limited recognition of widows within existing international frameworks, including the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda. Attention was given to the absence of dedicated mechanisms within the United Nations system to address the rights of widows.

The seminar brought together representatives of Member States, international organizations, civil society, and widows’ groups from different regions, providing a platform for both policy dialogue and the sharing of lived experiences. Testimonies from widows and grassroots organizations highlighted their role as agents of change and contributors to peacebuilding, while also emphasizing the need for greater institutional support and recognition.

Through its participation, the NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva contributed to advancing a broader understanding of the intersections between ageing, gender, and human rights, and to strengthening the visibility of widows’ rights within international policy discussions.

6.2 Online Event Series – “An Engaged Civil Society as Engine for an Age-Friendly Society: An International Exchange”

2025 | Online

The NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva co-sponsored an online event series entitled “*An Engaged Civil Society as Engine for an Age-Friendly Society: An International*

Exchange,” organized by BAGSO, the German National Association of Senior Citizens’ Organisations.

The series provided a platform for representatives of civil society organizations across the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) region to exchange experiences, share good practices, and discuss current developments in ageing policy and the human rights of older persons.

The first session in 2025 highlighted innovative examples of community-based and intergenerational initiatives from across the region, focusing on how such approaches can be strengthened and replicated. The discussions emphasized the role of civil society in fostering inclusive, age-friendly environments and promoting social cohesion.

The second session, held in December 2025, presented the results of national stakeholder consultations on future ageing policies in the UNECE region. Participants discussed key challenges facing ageing societies and explored how rights-based frameworks can support the development of inclusive, equitable, and sustainable policy responses.

The series also contributed to ongoing regional processes, including the review and update of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA/RIS), and discussions on a potential United Nations convention on the rights of older persons. It identified priority areas for action and reinforced the importance of coordinated civil society engagement in shaping future policy directions.

Through its participation and co-sponsorship, the NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva contributed to strengthening regional dialogue, promoting knowledge exchange, and supporting the role of civil society as a driver of rights-based approaches to ageing.

6.3 International Gender Champions Initiative

The NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva contributed to advancing gender equality through engagement in the International Gender Champions (IGC) network, a global leadership initiative bringing together senior decision-makers committed to breaking down gender barriers and promoting equality across institutions and policy processes.

In this context, Alejandro Bonilla Garcia, as a member of the International Gender Champions network, actively participated in meetings and initiatives promoting gender-responsive policies and institutional practices. In 2026, he renewed his commitments (“pledges”), focusing on strengthening the integration of gender equality within international processes related to the rights of older persons.

These commitments include reinforcing the links between the work of the Intergovernmental Working Group (IGWG) on the rights of older persons, the Human Rights Council, and the International Gender Champions network, with the aim of ensuring that gender equality,

inclusion, and intersectionality are reflected in emerging global standards on ageing. They also include promoting the systematic inclusion of older women’s rights and lived realities in both the substantive discussions and working methods of the IGWG.

Through this engagement, the Committee contributed to advancing a life-course and intersectional approach, highlighting the cumulative effects of discrimination and the need to address the specific challenges faced by older women. This includes promoting gender-responsive language, encouraging the participation of women-led and older women’s organizations in international processes, and strengthening the visibility of gender dimensions within ageing-related policy frameworks.

This work reinforces the importance of integrating ageing into gender equality agendas and contributes to ensuring that global commitments to gender equality fully reflect the realities and rights of older persons.

7. Conferences and Knowledge Exchange

7.1 17th IFA International Global Conference on Ageing

📅 9–12 September 2025 | 📍 Cape Town

The NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva actively participated in the 17th International Federation on Ageing (IFA) Global Conference, a major international platform bringing together policymakers, experts, civil society organizations, and practitioners from across regions to address key issues related to ageing and longevity.

The Committee contributed to the Conference through multiple interventions and active participation in high-level sessions addressing the human rights of older persons and the development of a United Nations convention.

Alejandro Bonilla Garcia presented the paper “*A Convention with Consequences: How International Law Can Transform Ageing*,” highlighting the transformative role of international legal frameworks in addressing structural inequalities and advancing the rights of older persons. This contribution forms part of a broader and evolving body of work entitled “*Building a Society for All Generations: The Case for a UN Convention on the Rights of Older Persons*,” which provides a global overview of advocacy, policy developments, and strategic momentum toward a United Nations convention.

The Committee also played a leading role in organizing and delivering a dedicated symposium entitled “*Working Together: NGOs Advancing the UN Convention on the Rights of Older Persons*,” bringing together key global actors from civil society, academia, and international organizations. The session focused on practical strategies for NGO engagement in the convention process.

In addition, the Committee contributed to the featured symposium “*Advancing Human Rights for Aging Populations: Global Perspectives and Local Actions*,” which explored the integration of human rights approaches into ageing policies and practices.

Silvia Perel-Levin, Vice-Chair of the NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva, also contributed to discussions on emerging issues at the intersection of technology and human rights, including participation in a session on “*AI and Human Rights of Older Persons – towards a new Convention in the digital age*.”

Through these contributions, the Committee strengthened the link between global policy discussions and Geneva-based human rights processes, reinforcing the importance of coordinated civil society engagement.

7.2 Harvard Law School Event

📅 18 November 2025

The Committee participated in:

“Older Persons’ Human Rights: Forging a Path Towards New International Legal Protections”

The NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva participated in a high-level academic event organized by the Harvard Law School Project on Disability (HPOD), in collaboration with the Petrie-Flom Center for Health Law, Biotechnology and Bioethics, and the Center for Law, Brain & Behavior.

The event brought together leading experts in international law, human rights, and public policy to examine the emerging process toward a United Nations convention on the rights of older persons, drawing lessons from the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

Alejandro Bonilla Garcia and Silvia Perel-Levin participated as panelists, contributing a civil society and Geneva-based perspective. Their interventions highlighted the importance of coordinated advocacy, the role of civil society in shaping the convention process, and the need to address structural gaps in the protection of older persons’ rights.

This engagement strengthened the connection between academic research and intergovernmental processes and reinforced the visibility of the NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva within global discussions on international human rights law and ageing.

7.3 United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) Event on Inequality

📅 March 2026 | 📍 Geneva

The NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva participated in a high-level event organized by the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) on global inequality and inclusive development.

The Committee contributed to the discussions by highlighting the specific dimensions of inequality affecting older persons, including structural ageism and the absence of a comprehensive international legal framework protecting their rights.

Alejandro Bonilla Garcia emphasized that these dimensions remain key drivers of inequality that are often insufficiently reflected in global policy analysis. He also expressed the Committee’s readiness to contribute to future work in this area and to support the integration of ageing perspectives into inequality frameworks.

This engagement reinforced the importance of incorporating ageing into broader debates on inequality and inclusive development.

7.4 WHO “Age-friendly Conversations” Launch

“Human Rights of Older Persons and the Drafting of a UN Convention: Why Does It Matter for Advancing Equity in Age-Friendly Cities and Communities?”

26 March 2026 |  Online

The NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva contributed to the launch of the “Age-friendly Conversations” series, an initiative of the WHO Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. The first event of the series was organised by AGE Platform Europe, an affiliate partner of the Global Network, bringing together members of the network and key stakeholders.

The session focused on the relationship between age-friendly environments and the ongoing United Nations process toward a convention on the rights of older persons. It brought together policymakers, experts, and civil society representatives to explore how human rights frameworks can support more inclusive urban environments.

Silvia Perel-Levin moderated the session, facilitating dialogue between global policy discussions and local implementation.

This engagement highlighted the importance of linking human rights frameworks with practical approaches to age-friendly environments.

7.5 WHO Life Course Network Meeting (5th Meeting)

5–6 November 2025 |  Virtual

The NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva contributed to the 5th WHO Life Course Network Meeting, entitled “*Extending Benefits Across the Life Course – Connecting Optimal*

Development and Healthy Ageing,” which brought together WHO experts, academic institutions, and global partners to advance the implementation of a life-course approach.


The meeting is part of a broader programme of work (2022–2027) aimed at operationalizing the life-course approach across policies and systems, linking early development, adult health, and healthy ageing.

Alejandro Bonilla Garcia contributed as a participant and peer reviewer, providing input on social protection and the need to ensure continuity of rights and capacities across the life course. His intervention emphasized the importance of integrating health, labour, and social protection policies to support individuals throughout their lives.

The discussions also reviewed emerging scientific outputs, including evidence on interventions and approaches to measuring health trajectories across the life course.

This engagement reinforced the Committee’s contribution to advancing a life-course approach as a central pillar of sustainable development and human rights, linking technical evidence with policy and intergovernmental processes.

7.6 UNITAR Virtual Roundtable Series on Ageing – 5th Event

13 November 2025 |  Virtual

The NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva contributed to the Virtual Roundtable Series “*Mainstreaming Knowledge on Ageing*”, organized by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), with which the Committee has maintained a longstanding collaboration.

This series aims to strengthen knowledge-sharing and capacity-building on ageing-related issues, contributing to the integration of ageing perspectives across policy areas and supporting the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Within this framework, the Committee participated in the fifth event entitled “*Increased Demographics, Urbanism, and the Right to Food for Older Persons*,” which focused on the impact of urbanization on food security and access to adequate nutrition for older persons.

The discussion highlighted the growing challenges associated with rapid urbanization, including unequal access to food systems, rising costs of living, and the specific vulnerabilities of older persons in urban and peri-urban settings. Particular attention was given to the need for sustainable and inclusive policies that ensure access to safe, nutritious, and affordable food for older persons across different contexts.

Silvia Perel-Levin, Vice-Chair of the NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva, participated as a panelist, emphasizing the importance of adopting a human rights-based approach to food security and of recognizing older persons as both rights holders and active contributors within food systems. Her intervention highlighted the relevance of integrating ageing perspectives into urban planning, social protection systems, and community-based responses.

Chitralenka Massey, from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), also contributed to the discussion, underscoring the importance of grounding food security policies in human rights frameworks and reinforcing the need for accountability, participation, and non-discrimination in addressing food-related challenges affecting older persons.

The event reinforced the importance of linking demographic change, urbanization, and human rights, and highlighted the role of coordinated policy approaches in ensuring that older persons are not left behind in evolving food systems.

8. Regular Coordination and Institutional Engagement

During the reporting period, the NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva maintained sustained engagement through regular coordination with key international and regional platforms, ensuring continuity, alignment of advocacy efforts, and effective participation in ongoing policy processes.

Key platforms included the NGO Committees on Ageing (Geneva, New York, Vienna), the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People (GAROP), the UNECE Standing Working Group on Ageing (SWG), the Stakeholder Group on Ageing (SGA), the Joint Programme on Ageing, and the Section of Former ILO Officials.

These engagements contributed to strengthening coordination across institutions and regions, enhancing information exchange, and supporting coherent and strategic civil society participation in international processes related to ageing and the human rights of older persons.

9. Administrative, Financial and Communication Matters

During the reporting period, the NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva continued to strengthen its administrative, financial, and communication capacities, ensuring the effective functioning and sustainability of its activities.

Financial management and treasury

Donatella Benjamin, Treasurer of the NGO Committee, played a central role in ensuring the sound financial management of the organization. She oversaw all payments related to the Committee's activities throughout the year and prepared the financial statements for the reporting period.

In collaboration with Valerie Bichelmeier, former Treasurer, she introduced new and more flexible modalities for the payment of annual membership fees, facilitating contributions from members across different contexts. These include:

- payment by bank transfer, including the use of QR codes;
- payment via TWINT (for Switzerland);
- payment via PayPal, including an online payment link.

These measures have contributed to simplifying payment procedures and improving accessibility for members.

Donatella Benjamin also liaised with the Geneva Welcome Centre (CAGI) in relation to the official recognition of the NGO and explored new regulatory provisions enabling the Committee to apply for financial support, including potential grants from the City of Geneva.

The financial statements of the NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva were audited by Ms. Sabine Kinzer and Mr. Hans Peter Graf, who confirmed that they present accurately, in all material respects, the financial position of the organization.

Communication and outreach

The Committee continued to strengthen its communication and outreach activities through coordinated efforts across different channels.

Kim Stoeckel ensured the regular dissemination of information to the membership, partners, and interested contacts. These included communications related to the Committee's activities, relevant third-party initiatives brought to the attention of the Secretariat, as well as information on meetings of the Executive Committee and the broader Committee.

Sophia Casale contributed actively to the Committee's presence on social media, in particular through its Facebook and LinkedIn pages. She shared and amplified information on the Committee's activities and relevant external initiatives, and reposted content from partner organizations and other stakeholders working on issues related to older persons.

In addition, Sophia Casale developed and disseminated, on a regular basis, a series of thematic "quotes" aligned with the Committee's advocacy work, particularly in relation to the development of a United Nations convention on the rights of older persons. These communications contributed to reinforcing key messages and increasing visibility and engagement across digital platforms.

The Committee also disseminated and promoted selected global advocacy initiatives among its members and partners, including the **Global Rally 2026 for Older People's Rights**, thereby helping to amplify coordinated civil society mobilisation in support of the emerging UN convention process.

Web presence

Kala Madhav, webmaster of the NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva, ensured the regular updating of the Committee’s website, including the publication of information related to its activities.

During the reporting period, several improvements were made to the website. These included updates to the homepage, the restructuring of key sections such as “What we do” and “Where we work”, and the creation of a dedicated “members-only” section. The content of this section remains under development and will be further discussed within the Executive Committee.

10. Conclusion

During the reporting period, the NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva further consolidated its role as a key civil society actor in advancing the human rights of older persons across multiple levels of governance.

Through its sustained engagement in United Nations processes, global summits, regional platforms, and civil society initiatives, the Committee contributed to shaping policy discussions, strengthening partnerships, and promoting a coherent human rights-based approach to ageing. These efforts were complemented by contributions to emerging conceptual frameworks, including work on intergenerational collaboration, life-course approaches, the silver economy, and the role of care systems within a human rights framework.

The Committee’s work was strengthened by close collaboration with key partners, in particular the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People (GAROP), reflecting the importance of coordinated civil society action in advancing the rights of older persons and supporting the intergovernmental process.

The period was marked by growing momentum toward the development of a United Nations convention on the rights of older persons. The Committee actively supported this process by facilitating civil society coordination, contributing to policy debates, strengthening outreach and communication across different constituencies, and promoting inclusive and participatory approaches that ensure the meaningful involvement of older persons.

At the same time, these efforts contributed to the advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), by promoting integrated, life-course and intergenerational approaches that position ageing as a cross-cutting dimension of sustainable development, while also highlighting the importance of digital inclusion and evolving labour market dynamics.

These achievements were supported by strengthened internal administrative, financial, and communication capacities, contributing to the effectiveness, transparency, and sustainability of the Committee’s work.

Looking ahead, the NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva remains committed to supporting inclusive, participatory, and effective engagement in the intergovernmental process, and to contributing to the development of a forward-looking international framework that promotes dignity, equality, and the full enjoyment of human rights by older persons, in a society for all generations.

“Advancing a society for all generations remains both a shared responsibility and a collective opportunity.”
