



United Nations

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs

**High-Level Side Event on the margins of the International Day of Older Persons
Organized by Italy and co-sponsored by Japan, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, DESA
and the Group of Friends on Ageing and Sustainable Developments
Building a Resilient Future: International Responses to an Aging World**

**October 1st 2025, UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, Conference Room 8,
13:15 – 14:30**

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

Global demographic trends indicate a significant and steady increase in the aging population, presenting both opportunities and multifaceted challenges. Addressing these dynamics effectively requires robust international cooperation, shared knowledge, and innovative policy responses. On the occasion of the International Day of Older Persons, Italy, in partnership with Japan, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Group of Friends on Ageing and Sustainable Developments, aims to promote dialogue and enhance collaborative strategies on aging-related issues through a high-level side event at the United Nations. This initiative also aligns with the ongoing efforts of the Group of Friends of Ageing and Sustainable Development, which continues to play a pivotal role in raising awareness and mobilizing political attention around aging issues within the multilateral system.

Objectives

The side event seeks to:

- Foster international cooperation and exchange of best practices in addressing health-related challenges associated with aging, such as arthritis, osteoporosis, Alzheimer's disease, and oncology.
- Explore political, social, and economic implications of an aging world population.
- Highlight the unique challenges faced by aging women and underscore the importance of targeted policy interventions.
- Promote preventive measures and lifestyle practices beneficial to healthy aging, including dietary approaches like the Mediterranean Diet.

Format

The event will feature high-level speakers from academia, healthcare, international organizations, and policy-making institutions, culminating in the presentation of a distinguished award recognizing leadership and advocacy in aging-related matters.

AGENDA

13:15 – 13:30 | **Opening Remarks**

- Ambassador Maurizio Massari, Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations
- Ambassador Abdulaziz M. Alwasil, Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations
- Ambassador Rui Vinhas, Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations

13:30 – 13:50 | **Keynote Addresses**

- Prof. Francesco Bove (President of AILA Foundation); MD-PhD Giorgio Bove, Unicamillus Rome; *"Ageing population and osteoporosis: the challenge of bone health"*
- Dr. Diene Keita, Executive Director of UNFPA (TBC)

13.50 – 14.10 | **Expert Panel**

- Prof. Ottavio Arancio, Columbia University, *"Alzheimer's: Turning Science into Solutions"*
- Dr. Monica Fornier, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Oncology
- Noel Lateef, President, Foreign Policy Association, *"Political and Economic Implications of Global Aging Trends"*
- Video-message from the Family Affairs Council of Saudi Arabia (TBC)
- Dott.ssa Sabrina Basciavi, Italian Trade Commissioner *"The Mediterranean Diet: A Model for Longevity and Health"*

14:10 – 14:20 | **Special Award Ceremony**

Presentation of the AILA Award for distinguished leadership and advocacy in aging issues to a prominent female UN personality

14:20 – 14:30 | **Closing Remarks**

- Ambassador Maurizio Massari, Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations
- Ms Masumi Ono, Chief Social Inclusion and Participation Branch, DESA