

## **Activity Report 2018/2019**

### **NGO Committee on Ageing Vienna**

by

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In January 2018 I finished my (non-renewable) mandate as the Chair of the Vienna NGO Committee on Ageing, having served this Committee as a Chair for two periods of 4 years (from 2003 to 2007, and from end of 2013 to end of 2017).

My successor, Dr Jacqueline Stark/IFA, defined three main fields of activities and objectives:  
A – Raising awareness regarding the importance of the representation of older persons on the global level.

B – Involving older persons in all developments of new technologies.

C – Working on the SDGs, first discussing which of the SDGs the CoA Members found most important to improve the lives of older persons.

Ad A – Raising awareness about the work done by the NGO Committees on Ageing:

Both in 2018 and in 2019, it was decided to use the events organised to celebrate the International Day of Older persons to make the voice of older persons heard and to present the activities of the Vienna NGO Committee on Ageing, to attract attention also outside the group of persons either working at the UN or representing international NGOs in all fields of work. Therefore the IDOP events took place (respectively will take place) not at the UN premises but in Vienna city centre, in the House of the European Union.

On 1 October, 2018, the title was “Celebrating Human Rights of Older Persons”, with opening speeches among others by a member of the European Parliament and a high-level representative of the Austrian Ministry for Social Affairs. The keynote speeches were held by Alexandre Sidorenko (former head of the UN Programme on Ageing), and by Shams Assadi (Commissioner for Human Rights of the City of Vienna). This was followed by contributions on Strengthening Human Rights of Older Persons from the Perspectives of Governmental and Non-Governmental Organisations, and by Presentations of Ongoing and Planned Research on HR of Older Persons.

On 2 October, 2019, the title of the IDOP event will be “The Journey to Age Equality” with a focus on Equality and Dignity in Ageing, as well as on Artificial Intelligence Assistive Technology in Ageing. Again, there will be speakers from the European Parliament, from the Austrian Ministry for Social Affairs, as well as international high-level experts and NGO representatives, addressing topics such as “why we need smart & assistive technology to ensure dignity of older adults”, “Gender and socio-economic inequality in health”, among others.

Ad B – Older Persons and New Technologies:

The topics chosen for the 2019 IDOP event reflect a general concern of the members of the Vienna NGO Committee on Ageing: leaving no one behind when it comes to profiting from new developments in smart and assistive technology and ensuring that older persons’ dignity is respected when using these new assistive technologies.

The Vienna Committee has worked on this topic for several years now, and Committee members were also involved in the International Expert Conference on Human Rights of Older Persons in November 2018, organized by the Austrian Ministry for Social Affairs with the objective to exchange experiences about new challenges and opportunities regarding the human rights of older persons, including their right to education and lifelong learning, related to technological developments such as digitalization, robotics, automation and artificial intelligence.

#### Ad C – Implementing SDGs

Ways to implement the SDGs have been discussed in all meetings of the Vienna NGO Committee on Ageing. As strengthening the knowledge about the SDGs on the national and even local levels will be key for their implementation, the Vienna Committee concentrates on reaching the national member organisations of the International NGOs on the one hand, and on strengthening the co-operation between NGOs and Governments on the other. In the September 2019 meeting of the Vienna Ageing Committee, therefore, there was a long discussion to voice the NGO concerns and to contribute to the programme of a Multi-Stakeholder Workshop to implement the SDGs in the field of ageing that is planned for 6 November, 2019, in Vienna. This Workshop is organized by the Austrian Ministry for Social Affairs in close co-operation with the European Centre for Social Welfare and Policy Research, with contributions, among others, by a speaker coming from UNECE, Geneva. In this Workshop I will contribute to Working Group 2 – Healthy and Active Ageing & Social Participation, stressing the importance of preventive measures in health policies (life-course immunisation), and the close link between the topic of the working group on health and social participation with the topic of another working group, namely education and digitalization.

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