



## Economic and Social Council

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### Commission for Social Development

#### Fifty-fifth session

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**Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and  
the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly:  
priority theme: strategies for the eradication of poverty to  
achieve sustainable development for all**

### **Statement submitted by International Federation on Ageing, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council\***

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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\* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



## Statement

The International Federation on Ageing (IFA) is a global membership network of organizations and individuals that aims to improve the quality of life for older persons through advocacy for policy change. Its knowledge platforms provide opportunities for information exchanges and the creation of innovative partnerships on age-related issues. IFA appreciates this opportunity to address the Commission's agenda "Strategies for the Eradication of Poverty to Achieve Sustainable Development".

Although our global population is steadily increasing, up to date statistics continuously note that the world population is ageing. By 2050 there will be more persons aged 60 years and above compared with those 15 years and under. This means that unless we focus on guaranteeing the human rights and financial security of all persons of all ages, today's children and youth will face the same issues and inequalities, including poverty, older people face today but exponentially more severe.

Poverty is rampant all over the world and affects individuals of all ages regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, level of education, community standing, nationality, and/or country of residence. There is an urgent and ever increasing demand to develop strategies that will finally eradicate poverty globally.

However, overarching strategies that generalize poverty although impactful will not have the lasting effect to achieve sustainable development. The reason for this is because depending on the various factors previously listed, poverty is experienced differently due to the intersectionality of various types of oppression such as ageism, racism, sexism, homophobia, and ethnocentrism. For instance:

- In OECD countries older women are 33% more likely to be poor compared to men of the same age.
- Cognitive pathologies and physical diseases common to older adults are seriously exacerbated for those living in refugee camps or seeking asylum as medical attention and psychological support is limited, supplies are minimal, malnutrition is rampant, and adequate shelter is often lacking.
- LGBT older adults are at greater risk for physical and mental illness because they are less likely than heterosexual and/or non-transgender older people to access support at non-LGBT health service providers, meal programs, and other types of social support programs due to the fear of experiencing severe discrimination and sexual harassment.

Thus, in order to create effective and long lasting strategies to eradicate poverty, it is imperative that these strategies address the various underlying intersecting forms of oppression such as the ones mentioned previously. This will not only allow for the dominant discourse that perpetuates social inequalities, such as poverty, to be challenged, it will also allow for the creation of strategies that understand and address marginalizing and discriminating laws, policies, practices, and attitudes.