

2017 MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON AGEING  
A Sustainable Society for All Ages:  
Realizing the potential of living longer  
Lisbon, 21-22 September 2017

**Equity for all ages: lessons from the region**

**Side event**

21 September 2017, 13:00 – 14:00

**Background**

Modernization and urbanization, along with changes in family structures have disrupted community and intergenerational support mechanisms as we knew them. In Eastern Europe and the Caucasus, this trend is exacerbated by high levels of international migration. Older people are often seen as vulnerable or potentially vulnerable. But there is growing recognition of the incredible productivity and contribution made by those over 60 as caregivers, voters, volunteers, entrepreneurs etc. Increased longevity is one of humanity's greatest achievements. The challenge is to harness this longevity and secure the contributions that a socially and economically active, secure and healthy ageing population can bring to society and ensure that all people, everywhere, age with dignity and security, enjoying life through the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms. This will require greater income security, health and long-term care, human rights and participation, themes to which our panelists will speak. With the right measures in place to secure health care, regular income, social networks and legal protection, there is a longevity dividend to be reaped by current and future generations.

**Format**

The format of the side event is informal: following introductory remarks by the moderator, the panelists are given opportunity to talk briefly about their experiences, after which the moderator will present a number of questions for further discussion, in which all participants are invited to participate.

**Panelists and topics**

The joint UNECE-UNFPA side event features panelists from six countries, with the well-known TV presenter, actress and UNFPA Goodwill Ambassador **Ms. Catarina Furtado** as moderator and closing remarks by UNFPA.

- **Moldova:** Practical tools on mainstreaming ageing into sectorial policies (**Dr. Stela Grigoras**, Minister of Health, Labour and Social Protection)
- **Albania:** Providing social pensions for older people living in rural areas (**Ms. Merita Xhafaj**, General Director for Social Policies)
- **Belarus:** Elderly people as domestic violence survivors (**Ms. Darya Tsaryk**, Shelter for DV survivors “Radzislava”)
- **Bosnia and Herzegovina:** Centers for healthy ageing (**Ms. Sejdefa Basic-Catic**, Partnership in Public Health)
- **Georgia:** Using the population census for in-depth analysis of older persons (**Ms. Nino Odisharia**, Head of Social Protection Department, Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs)
- **Serbia:** Older people in Serbian rural areas (**Ms. Natasa Todorovic**, Serbia Red Cross)
- **UNFPA Concluding Remarks:** Where are Eastern European and Central Asian countries 15 years after MIPAA? (**Ms. Alanna Armitage**, UNFPA Regional Director for Eastern Europe and Central Asia)

