

UN ECE NGO FORUM ON AGEING
Tuesday 18 September 2012, Vienna, Austria

The NGO Forum on Ageing, on Tuesday 18 September 2012 in Vienna, is considered as an integral part of the Ministerial Conference on Ageing of the UN Economic Commission for Europe, 19-20 September 2012. This important conference, bringing together the 56 member states of the UNECE, addresses the topic “*Ensuring a society for all ages: promoting quality of life and active ageing*”. Civil society, in particular NGOs engaged in the field of ageing related policies, representing older people in society or providing services for these persons, will play a major role in this conference – as speakers and experts on the panels, as discussants and through the NGO Political Declaration which they will present during the second day of the conference.

Goal of the NGO Forum

The overall goal of the NGO Forum is to bring together around 130 non-governmental organizations from all over the UNECE region (stretching from Vladivostok to Vancouver) to exchange information and opinion on policies on ageing and their appropriate implementation in order to advise politicians on people’s needs and how to cover them best. The NGO Forum will thus aim at advancing the UNECE Regional Implementation Strategy for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (UNECE RIS/MIPAA) during the third implementation cycle 2013-2017. Policy makers and researchers are welcome to attend the NGO Forum.

Tasks of the NGO Forum

The participants of the Forum will examine the various thematic issues of the Ministerial Conference as well as the draft of the Ministerial Political Declaration to be presented during the conference and put them critically into relation with their own experiences on the ground, their concepts on effective policy implementation and their understanding of quality services for the elderly.

The results of this analysis will be used to identify important issues and arguments to be put forward by the NGO representatives serving as experts on various panels of the Ministerial Conference. The NGO experts will speak on behalf of the civil society community at large and not for their own organization. Thus they will be the porte-parole of people concerned by policies and public measures in the area of ageing and voice their concerns and needs in the understanding that such policies and their implementation are ultimately a shared responsibility of governments and civil society.

The NGO Forum will also put the final touch on the so-called “NGO Political Declaration” which will highlight weaknesses as well as the strengths of the Ministerial Political Declaration – both to be presented on the second day of the Ministerial Conference.

Patronage

The Forum will be organized and conducted under the patronage of the hosting Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection in collaboration with the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research, the European Commission, and in cooperation with the Secretariat of the UNECE.

The responsible organizer of the NGO Forum is Dirk Jarré.
Contact: dirkjarre@aol.com or dirkjarre@hotmail.de