The Stakeholder Group on Ageing (SGA) urges local authorities, governments and the international community to take bold, coordinated and innovative action to ensure no one is left behind, regardless of age. This year's theme demands addressing systemic exclusion and marginalisation of older persons. This reinforces several international frameworks: the UN Decade for Healthy Ageing, the Pact for the Future, the Doha Political Declaration, and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, marking its 25th anniversary in 2027.

Older people face multiple forms of discrimination; ableism, sexism, racism, classism, heterosexism, and homophobia.. Physical and spatial barriers—like inaccessible housing, polluted environments, poor public services, and digital exclusion—worsen these inequalities, undermining the 2030 Agenda's goals.

We call on local authorities, governments and the international community to:

1. Adopt and implement people-centred, life course approaches to sustainable development prioritising inclusion, accessibility, safety and sustainability. This means investing in age-friendly infrastructure, ensuring universal access to services and equal opportunities by all. For example, older persons are disproportionately affected by weak water and sanitation infrastructure- SDG6.
2. Recognise and amplify the contributions of older people to their families, communities and society. They are essential for social cohesion, economic vitality, and the transmission of knowledge across generations. Governments must create opportunities for older persons to shape policies, programmes and legislation. SDG9 cannot be implemented effectively without considering how innovation and infrastructure affect participation, employability and resilience across the life-course.
3. Leverage the World Health Organization's Age-friendly Cities framework and integrate its principles into national and local action. Municipal and city governments are uniquely positioned to drive this change.
4. Support the drafting of a UN Convention on the Rights of Older Persons at the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Working Group on older persons, which offers a historic opportunity for the protection and promotion of the human rights of older people.
5. Partnerships on ageing and age-disaggregated data covering the entire life course are essential for SDGs and Doha commitments to be met. We treasure what we measure. Redoubled investments are needed for meaningful inclusion and participation of older persons in partnerships and for the life-course statistics and data in order to leave no older person behind. The SGA stresses the need for age-inclusive data, emphasizing older populations,

Progress has been made, but partnerships must better integrate older people's voices and rights, so that the 2030 Agenda succeeds.