



## BEIJING+30 REGIONAL REVIEW MEETING

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"Reviewing 30 Years of Beijing Commitments to Accelerate Gender Equality in the ECE Region"

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### SIDE EVENT CONCEPT NOTE

## Investing in Equality: Closing the Funding Gap for Older Women

Tuesday, 22 October, 13.30 -14.45 CET

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#### Event title

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*Investing in Equality: Closing the Funding Gap for Older Women*

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#### Background and Rationale

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Women aged 50 and above represent 27 per cent of females worldwide and their numbers are set to increase. By the time women approach older age, many will have experienced a lifetime of inequality, leaving them poorer, in worse health and facing far greater negative impacts from ongoing global crises and climate change. Their experiences are often not captured by data or considered as right holders, resulting in older women being excluded from gender equality debates, policy and programmes.

New analysis to be presented during this event shows that older women are largely excluded from gender equality programming, including those from donors within the UNECE region. HelpAge's analysis shows that only 0.1% of all gender equality focused aid spending directly includes older women.

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Thirty years ago, the Beijing Declaration recognised age discrimination as one of the factors contributing to the barriers to women’s empowerment and advancement. The Beijing Platform for Action specifically highlighted the poverty, labour market obstacles, and workplace discrimination faced by older women. It also underscored the importance of demographic ageing and the necessity for gender and age-disaggregated data. As the UNECE region considers how it can leverage funding for gender equality, it is vital that we consider the impact of ageing and gender across the 12 areas of critical concern under the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Thirty years in, and with only a few years left to accelerate progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it is crucial for international donors and policymakers to acknowledge and include older women as a population of equal interest in their agendas and within their gender-targeted spend to support the achievement of gender equality for girls and women of all ages.

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## **Session objectives and expected outcomes**

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The side event aims to present new findings around the extent to which gender spending in international aid is reaching older women, initiate a debate on why older women are often overlooked by donors’ programmes that prioritise gender equality and hear from the experiences of older women against some of the key areas of critical concern. The event will seek to explore mechanisms and strategies needed to better track development assistance to ensure older women are better included in the achievement of gender equality and women’s empowerment.

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## **Organizers**

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**Lead organizers:** HelpAge International, UNECE Standing Group on Ageing, Sida,

**Focal points:** Sara Danesi (HelpAge International)

**Email:** [sara.danesi@helpage.org](mailto:sara.danesi@helpage.org)

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## **Agenda and Structure**

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- Welcome and introduction to the topic
- Presentation of research findings by HelpAge International
- Panel discussion
- Q&A and interactive discussion with audience
- Closing remarks

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**List of Panelists**

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- Alfredo Ferrante, Chair, UNECE Standing Working Group on Ageing (moderating)
- Tanvi Patel, Gender Policy Adviser, HelpAge International
- Tatiana Sorocan, Executive Director, HelpAge Moldova
- Gustavo Demarco, Lead Economist and Global Pensions Lead, Task Team Leader, World Bank
- Carin Zetterlund, Programme Specialist, Sida
- Birkie Beyene, Older woman representative from Ethiopia – supported by Sofia Mohamed (Senior Program Officer, HelpAge International).

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**Sign-up / Registration Link**

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[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_JGlwN4G4TF2hBPhOAYn8eg#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_JGlwN4G4TF2hBPhOAYn8eg#/registration)