

## **Regional Forum on sustainable development for the UNECE region**

**25.4.17**

### **Roundtable 3: Data and Monitoring**

#### **Statement given by Sylvia Beales (Stakeholder Group on Ageing)**

**Question 1 - how MS can be more adequately prepared to deliver the commitment made in goal 17.18 – and how the principles spoken of today of coherence, collaboration and communication, and initiatives mentioned for the universal agenda to be able to support improvements in data for all people of all ages.**

1. Disaggregation is at the heart of Agenda 2030. It is more than a technical discussion, as it goes to the heart of the human rights and its universal vision. We are supposed to treasure what we measure, include everyone in the data efforts and count everyone in.
2. Agenda 2030 is for all ages which means everyone across the lifecourse. It is for everybody, including the 4 million homeless in the EU not included in EU SDG indicator framework.
3. Target 17.18 specifies the need to “increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.”

**Question 2: What is the reason behind the overall lack of data for left behind groups, including older people and people with disabilities, at national and country levels?**

4. Attitudes –to difference, ie disability - and the persistence of ageism, a form of discrimination or stereotyping of people on the basis of their real or perceived older age.<sup>1</sup>
5. Data systems in a number of country contexts used for policy making which exclude people outside the 15-64 age range.<sup>2</sup> These gaps are directly related to limitations of Household surveys which are limited to one respondent and mask realities of household members.
6. The very different capacity, financing and functioning of National Statistical Offices.

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<sup>1</sup> See the dictionary description of ageism: noun: discrimination against persons of a certain [agegroup](#); tendency to regard older persons as debilitated, unworthy of attention, or unsuitable for employment. <http://www.dictionary.com/browse/ageism>

<sup>2</sup> These surveys include Multi Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS), for ages 15-49; the Demographic and Health Survey (USAID) for women 15-49 and men aged 15-54 and the Living Standards Measurement Study (World Bank). The latest data set to be published by FAO on food insecurity is not old age specific.

7. Global regional and national statistical systems do not incorporate citizen generated data
8. As yet no specific guidelines are globally available on statistical surveys of older persons.
9. SDG indicators are not always fit for purpose for the target. Example is Goal 2 target 2.2 on malnutrition of older persons. with an indicator that is stunting of children under 5.
10. Limited participation of left behind groups - including older people and disabled people and the homeless - in national and county policy dialogue, strategies and programmes.

### **Question 3: Impact of this**

- Difficult for policy makers to make a case for budgetary allocation for statistics
- Inadequate coordination collaboration and communication and sharing efforts
- Civil society groups experience exclusion, and lose trust in the process.

### **Question 4: What can be done**

- Ensure Age and disability indicators are in the UNECE SDGs indicator plans – building on UNECE stats, initiatives such as the Active Ageing Index and existing UNECE recommendations
- Promote exchange of good practice on stats across the region
- Support for Cape town principles and action plan and the Citigroup on ageing initiative
- Financing as well as capacity building for NSOs across the region
- Bring civil society systematically into the indicators discussions
- Incorporate citizen generated data from left behind groups into national SDG reporting processes