



Governance for Ageing Societies in Times of Emergencies, Crises and Conflicts

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As many countries around the world have aging populations, there is a growing demand for effective and efficient governance to protect older persons and to create opportunities for them contributing to society rather than be a burden to government's budgets and physical resources⁵

However, governance in favor of protecting older people and other vulnerable groups is seriously jeopardized by climate change and its many manifestations of environmental and social emergencies.⁶

Extreme weather events are projected to become more frequent and intense as average global temperatures continue to increase. Floods, droughts and heatwaves are among the key risks of global warming that will pose the greatest threat to humans in the future, according to the IPCC, which examined rising temperatures as a series of comprehensive global risks.⁷

⁵ For example, in the United States adults over 65 will outnumber children by 2030, and in Japan, more than 40% of the country will be over 65 by 2060. *From robots to virtual reality: 4 ways tech can improve seniors' lives*, <https://news.itu.int/tech-seniors-lives-robots-ai-iot-vr/>.

⁶ Filberto D, et. al. "Older People and Climate Change: Vulnerability and Health Effects," *Journal of the American Society on Ageing*. 2011

⁷ Intergovernmental panel on Climate Change (IPCC), *Climate Change 2014: Synthesis Report. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* [Core Writing Team, R.K. Pachauri and L.A. Meyer (eds.)]. IPCC, Geneva, Switzerland, 151 pp, 2014



Two-thirds of people aged 60 or over live in low- and middle-income countries where disasters are more likely to happen. While climate change affects everyone, there is a growing body of evidence that it poses specific risks for older people.⁸

HelpAge reports the following risks due to climate change: floods, typhoons and hurricanes, heatwaves, water security, agriculture and livelihoods, food security, ill-health, migration and displacements to urban centers, energy and resource poverty.

While all of the risks mentioned above require prevention and assistance by governments at national, regional and local levels during times of climate change crisis, solutions could also be found through cooperation between governments, business, civil society and older people. In developed countries, persons aged between 60-85 years are often still in good health and willing to help if invited to contribute rather than being pushed aside by still prevalent ageism.

Transforming public management to improve system resilience and to reduce system vulnerability to global warming will require effective monitoring and policy coherence across different sectors. Institutional learning needs to be a foundational feature of institutional renewal and transformation. Patch work and incremental adjustments will no longer fit for purpose to mitigate and adapt the climate impact on the older persons. A robust institutional learning mechanism needs to be created to cope with the post-1.5 Celsius world.

The organizers suggest the following list of topics in this call for papers:

1. How have governments responded to CC emergencies in regard to the protection of older people?
2. Which ministry or agency is in charge of preventing and assisting older persons during CC emergencies and corresponding effectiveness?
3. Do governments cooperate with CSO organization such as the ICRC, IFRC, MSF, local Red Cross and Red Crescent societies to protect older persons and if so, how with what results?
4. How do governments interact with international organizations to take care of older people such as WHO, DDR, UNICEF, and OHCHR?
5. How do governments collaborate with business to create preventive measures to provide assistance during CC related emergencies?
6. What kind of ICT technologies are being used during CC crisis to attend to older persons?
7. What kind of institutional learning capacities are available within the public sector and modalities to assist older people?
8. Other topics could be added but should cover governance, climate change and protection of older persons.

⁸ Climate Change in an Ageing world, HelpAge position paper, London, 2015 2015
https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/COP21_HelpAge_PositionPaper_Final_0.pdf



Submissions are welcome as either extended abstracts (2000 -4000 words) or full papers (5000-8000 words) as well as presentations. Priority is given to case examples rather than theoretical papers. Presentations would be welcomed in form of power points.

The organizers initiated the IIAS-Study Group on Governance for Sustainable Ageing in 2019. Several of the members participate in the UN Open Working Group on Ageing, the UNECE Working Group on Ageing and have contributed to the meetings of the two working groups⁹ and contributed studies and conferences on the challenges and opportunities of Ageing such as the UN Library Talk on Ageing with Dignity¹⁰.

⁹ <http://www.csend.org/active-aging-aging-with-dignity-and-the-sdgs/487-9th-open-ended-working-group-on-aging-oewga-un-headquarters-new-york-23-27-july-2018?highlight=WylhZ2VpbmciXQ>

¹⁰ [http://www.csend.org/images/articles/files/20170710_UN_Library_Talk%20\(final-3\).pdf](http://www.csend.org/images/articles/files/20170710_UN_Library_Talk%20(final-3).pdf)