

## ECOSOC Partnership Forum 31 January 2023 Oral Statement

International Federation on Ageing (IFA) oral statement by Dr. Cynthia Stuen, UN Main Representative

*{oral statement on the main theme of the Forum “Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels”}*

Thank you for the opportunity to share key messages on the importance of partnership in efforts to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is difficult to identify one theme to address as they are intertwined. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted shortcomings across global systems and societies, placing undue burden on vulnerable groups, such as older people. Across all spheres of life, older persons continue to be subject to ageism and age discrimination, or discrimination based on other characteristics such as gender, disability, migrant or other status. To accelerate recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and fully implement the SDGs, there is a need for innovative responses and partnership across disciplines, that ensure the representation of older people and other vulnerable groups.

Greater investment in prevention and promotion is needed to mitigate the increased burden on health and social care systems. To achieve the targets of the SDGs and reorient global systems, partnership will be vital across disciplines, sectors, and global agendas including healthy ageing, immunization, vision, hearing, ageism, and many others.

While connections must be made across existing domains, a shared agenda must be realized to solve shared problems. Partnership within government and joined-up approaches will be needed to enact policy and practice change. Across these efforts, civil society plays an important role in facilitating partnerships, the sharing of ideas across sectors and disciplines and mobilizing shared actions and innovations. Overcoming access and affordability of the digital world is essential. While the preamble of Agenda 2030 is Leaving no one behind, where is the political to be inclusive of older persons at the table? IT IS TIME.

Thank you.