Why it Matters: AI for Older Persons

10th Session of the Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing

18 April 2019
Conference Room 7, 1.15 – 2.30 pm
UN Headquarters, New York

Frontier technologies, as robotics and Artificial Intelligence (AI), are fast-growing and have the potential to exert significant impact on societies, economies and the environment. Against this backdrop, population ageing is unprecedented without parallel in the history of humanity. Between 2017 and 2030, the number of persons aged 60 years or over is projected to grow by 46 per cent, from 962 million to 1.4 billion, globally outnumbering youth, as well as children under the age of 10.

Transforming the world and realizing the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 will require a paradigm shift in the way societies think about ageing and the use of AI to engage and empower older persons as active agents of sustainable development.

AI is making its way into our everyday lives, promising to make sustainable development a reality, improving people's lives, promoting prosperity and protecting the planet. AI has the potential to improve healthcare, accessibility and transportation systems, and increase social connections. However, the rapid pace of technological change also introduces significant policy challenges and presents new ethical and human rights implications, which point to a need to further explore how best to mitigate potential risks while ensuring that IA continue to deliver economic and social benefits to older persons.

The side event organized by the UNDESA's Division for Inclusive Social Development, AARP and ITU during the 10ᵗʰ Session of the Open-ended Working on Ageing, will highlight key questions and policy issues related to the use of AI for older persons.

Objective

The event will examine the development and key challenges of AI, with a special focus on older persons. The aim is to:

- Engage Member States, national human rights institutions, civil society organisations, the private sector and United Nations entities to discuss the role of AI in improving independence, community living, health and well-being.
- Showcase examples of AI for older persons.
- Support the exchange of ideas on how AI can empower older persons and accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs.

Draft Programme

Moderator: Ms. Ursula Wynhoven, ITU Representative to the United Nations

Welcoming Remarks: Mr. Christoph Angster, Senior Policy Officer, Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection in Austria

Speakers:

- **Ms. Amal Abou Rafeh**, Chief of Programme on Ageing, UN DESA
- **Ms. Christina Fitzpatrick**, Director of Policy Integration for AARP
- **Ms. Michelle J. Johnson**, Assistant Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, University of Pennsylvania
- **Ms. Roberta Massi,** President Cooperativa Sole
- **Mr. Takanori Shibata**, Chief Senior Research Scientist, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), PARO Robots
- **Mr. Anthony Nunez**, President, INF Robotics