



Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing®

UNITED NATIONS ACTIVITY REPORT

The United Nations [Department of Public Information](#) (DPI) in partnership with the [Non-Governmental Organization/DPI Executive Committee](#) co-hosted an event titled “Intergenerational Dialogues on the Sustainable Development Goals.” The purpose of the event was to raise awareness of the high value that youth and older persons can bring to implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and foster a shift in the perception of youth and older persons from beneficiaries of social policy to agents of social change.

The event was held 1 August 2017, at the United Nations Headquarters, New York City, NY, United States.

Report Submitted by Constance Sobon Sensor, STTI United Nations Liaison

I was assigned to be a rapporteur* for the Dialogue on Healthy Living: Physical and Mental Wellness. I gave an oral report of the sessions as part of the closing plenary and is archived at the United Nations. My written report will be included in the archived summaries of the event and contribute to the future agenda of the United Nations and the non-governmental organization community in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Dialogue 6: Healthy Living: Physical and Mental Wellness

Rapporteur: Dr. Connie Sobon Sensor, PhD, RN, CTN-A

Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing Representative to UN

Dr. Jane Barratt, International Federation on Ageing, remarked that ageing begins at birth. The choices made for one in early years coupled with environmental factors impact health later in life, especially related to Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) such as diabetes, cancer, lung disease, and cardiovascular disease. She highlighted issues with safe and affordable housing, vaccinations for young and old, and age-related vision problems such as macular degeneration, which affect quality of life.

Dr. David Alexander, Academy of Dentistry International, spoke about the importance of oral health, because oral disease often leads to NCDs.

Ms. Shermin Luo addressed mental wellness and self-awareness in youth.

Consensus Points:

- Mental/emotional health is a prevalent problem across generations that affects quality of life and is not adequately addressed in policy and practice worldwide.

- Oral/dental health is important throughout the lifespan to prevent disease and promote wellness.

Examples of Generations Working Together or Points of Partnership:

Transportation

School buses can be community buses; between transporting children, they can be used to transport elders. In Japan, buses are free for grandparents and their grandchildren.

Housing

Youth and elders live together in communal housing in the Netherlands, India, and Denmark. This provides reciprocal social support through relationship bonds as well as help with activities of daily living.

Education

New learning improves cognitive function. Older adults mixing with younger ones share experiences and learn from each other.

Mentorship

- Industry gives a good example of the value of relationships and transfer of knowledge.
- Global Youth Mentorship Initiative in China, India, and the Philippines is a program of mentoring students “left behind.” The purpose is for young students to develop relationships with older mentors, educate families to build stronger bonds, and partner faculty and mentors to work together to improve self-concept, mental health, and to decrease violent tendencies in disadvantaged youth.
- Give youth opportunities to work with people in Hospice and Palliative Care to promote understanding and compassion.

Disease Prevention

- Free dental clinics for those who can’t afford it
- Campaigns advocating for vaccinations in young and old

Recommendations/Shared Foundations for Future Work:

- Need to include a voice from civil society to advocate for the impact of oral health and consequences of neglect on NCDs, nutrition, and growth and development and academic performance in children
- Need interdisciplinary collaboration among health professionals to promote oral health and raise awareness of its impact on developing NCDs
- Promote vaccinations for young and old for disease prevention and wellness

- Need knowledge-sharing capacity globally. Youth can make contributions here in “show and tell” capacity to teach technology skills to elders (common vessel for communication and social support between generations).

Link to Dialogue:

<file:///C:/Users/rebeccas/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/Content.Outlook/86PFRCGX/Diallogue%206%20-%20outreach.un.org.ngorelations.html>

*Rapporteurs will be formed into teams of two or three. Each team will attend both the morning and afternoon session of the same dialogue. Each rapporteur will take note of the topics covered in the dialogue as well as points of agreement and disagreement. After the afternoon session, having conferred with their teammates, each team of rapporteurs will present a 5-minute oral precis at the closing plenary highlighting (1) what was common to both the morning and afternoon sessions, (2) what was unique to the morning session, and (3) what was unique to the afternoon session. These points are written down so they can generate a brief written record of the event to be posted on the Executive Committee website and to be available for future reference.