



## Commission on Population and Development

### Forty-second session

30 May - 4 June, April 2009

**Theme:** The contribution of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development to the nationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals

### AARP Statement to the 42<sup>nd</sup> Session of the United Nations Commission on Population and Development

AARP is honored to be participating in the 42nd Session of the UN Commission on Population and Development and pleased to be joining government delegations and civil society organizations for these important deliberations on population and development. AARP stands ready to offer our expertise, experience and knowledge to enhance the quality of life for all as we help years by participating in major conferences on issues impacting older persons.

Since its founding in 1958, AARP has served as a primary source of global information and advocacy for issues of concern to older persons, conducting policy research, presenting concrete statistical and demographic research, and strengthening the network of opinion leaders, policy makers, and advocates who believe that everyone should age with dignity and purpose. AARP has held consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council for over 20 years.

The capacity of governments to assure a sustainable population life for hundreds of millions of people in the decades ahead will be tested to the head. The several demographic trends that the Report of the Secretary-General points out – population aging, urbanization, the impact of HIV/AIDS, international migration, women, particularly older women – are all vantage points of aging. From how long people will live; Will they need? And how much access to the health care they need?

International demographic trends present a double-edged sword to people of all ages, not just to older persons. However, AARP strongly believes that addressing older persons' needs will strengthen their ability to contribute to the well-being of their families, communities and societies. Globally, the number of persons aged 60 and over is projected to increase from 529 million in 2009 to 1.1 billion in 2050.

more than two-fold in developed countries.

Because the rapidly increasing numbers of older citizens are presenting our nations with enormous new social and economic challenges, we have been compelled to better promote intergenerational contracts, solidarity and mutual support systems. These challenges compel us to address difficult questions such as, "What social contract do our governments hold with

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