

Summit of the Future - General Assembly, 6th plenary meeting, 79th session

**Statement by the Universal Postal Union on behalf of the UN Inter-Agency
Group on Ageing**

(Check against delivery)

Distinguished delegates,

On behalf of the United Nations Inter-Agency Group on Ageing, I am honored as a representative of the Universal Postal Union, a member of the Group, to deliver this statement. The postal sector, represented by the Universal Postal Union, as a specialized agency of the United Nations, plays a vital role in the development of universal postal services that meet the needs of all citizens, including in supporting older persons. The postal sector, has also long been an indispensable bridge between generations, facilitating intergenerational solidarity and strengthening community ties. With its extensive network of approximately 700,000 post offices and a growing digital and social infrastructure, the postal system reaches even the most remote communities, providing essential services to billions of people worldwide.

As we convene at this Summit, often referred to as “a once-in-a-generation opportunity” to shape our collective future, it is imperative that we adopt a people-centered, rights-based, life-course approach - one that fully includes all generations, including older persons. Demographic changes are not a distant challenge, they are already transforming our world and will define the future.

Population ageing is a global phenomenon that is accelerating, with Europe, North America, Australia and New Zealand currently leading in terms of the highest proportion of persons aged 65 years or over. However, regions such as Latin America and the Caribbean, North Africa, Western Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa

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