

“Yebo / Yes! Action on Ageing: Evidence, Policy and Practice”
Cape Town, South Africa is the location from 9-12 September 2025

**“Thrive in Place: A Collaborative Age-Friendly Communities Summit”,
an Age-Friendly Programming at IFA’s 17th Global Conference on Ageing**

Background on the Age Friendly Framework

By the year 2050 people 65 years and older will represent over a quarter of the global population. This trend in population ageing is inextricably linked with trends towards urbanization, globalization and migration. These trends are profoundly impacting the way individuals irrespective of age will interact with and experience their environments and age healthy.

The IFA with general consultative status with the United Nations and in official relations with the WHO is dedicated to the priorities set forth by these organizations as they relate to healthy ageing, and acting as both the secretariat and as an affiliate for the WHO Global Network of Age Friendly Cities and Communities, is committed to driving the creation of age-friendly environments globally.

World Health Organization’s (WHO) Age-friendly World

Age-friendly environments foster healthy and active ageing. They enable older people to: age safely in a place that is right for them; be free from poverty; continue to develop personally; and to contribute to their communities while retaining autonomy, health and dignity. Because older people know best what they need, they are at the centre of any effort to create a more age-friendly world.

Cities and communities are increasing where older people are living. The physical and social environments in our cities and communities are powerful influences on the experience of ageing and the opportunities that ageing affords. Cities and communities around the world are already taking steps towards becoming more age-friendly. An age-friendly world is possible and will be built by all of us - community by community, city by city, and region by region.

IFA’s 17th Global Conference on Ageing:

In alignment with the WHO Age-Friendly Environments program, this conference serves as a rallying point to accelerate the global agenda for creating inclusive communities that support the diverse needs and aspirations of people of all ages. Rooted in the principles of respect, equity, and social inclusion, this theme emphasizes the importance of fostering environments where older adults can age with dignity, independence, and active participation.

Implementing the WHO’s Age-Friendly Cities and Communities framework, encompassing the key domains of outdoor spaces and buildings, transportation, housing, social participation, respect and social inclusion, civic participation and employment, communication and information, and community support and health services is a commitment to healthy ageing.

Key objectives include:

- **Sharing Best Practices:** Facilitating knowledge exchange and sharing of best practices in age-friendly planning, policy development, and implementation strategies from diverse regions and contexts.
- **Building Capacity:** Empowering stakeholders with the tools, resources, and expertise needed to create and sustain age-friendly environments, including training sessions, technical assistance, and capacity-building workshops.
- **Fostering Collaboration:** Promoting collaboration and partnerships between governments, civil society organizations, academia, businesses, and older adults themselves to leverage resources and expertise in advancing age-friendly agendas.
- **Promoting Equity and Inclusion:** Ensuring that age-friendly initiatives are inclusive and responsive to the diverse needs and priorities of older adults, particularly those from marginalized and vulnerable populations.
- **Driving Action:** Catalyzing action-oriented strategies and commitments to accelerate the implementation of age-friendly initiatives at the local, national, and global levels.

IFA's Global Conference will address an advance the age-friendly agenda by hosting: a pre-conference Collaborative Summit, highlighting the diversity of age-friendly initiatives in South Africa, and hosting the WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities Affiliates Meeting and showcasing age-friendly advancements throughout concurrent sessions during the conference.

By convening stakeholders from diverse sectors and regions, this conference aims to harness collective action towards building inclusive communities where people of all ages can live, work, and thrive.

**Thrive in Place: A Collaborative Age-Friendly Summit
September 9th, 2025**

Time	Session	
8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Registration	
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Session 1 – Age-Friendly and The Interplay between Structural and Functional Domains	
	Potential Speakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be confirmed
	Session Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Casual Armchair Discussion Q&A Period at the End of Session
10 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	Health Break	
10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Session 2 – Highlighting Current Initiatives in the African Context	
	Potential Speakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be Confirmed (NGO, CSO Representation from South Africa and/or Africa)
	Session Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Moderator 2-3 panellists Brief Introduction by Panellists, Including a Discussion of the Work They are Currently Undertaking in Their Organizations That is Connected to Age-Friendly Programming. Casual Armchair Discussion Q&A Period at the End of Session Include a Brief Description of What the Working Lunch Will Entail Before Everyone Exits the Session
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Lunch and Learn	
	Description	While conference participants are eating their lunch, they will be able approach panellists and experts with questions and comments about age-friendly community engagement.
12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Building Bridges Workshop: Enhancing Community Engagement and Partnership Building	
	Description	<p>This 2-hour session aims to provide global experts with an opportunity to discuss community engagement strategies and explore effective partnership-building techniques in the context of age-friendly planning. The workshop will be highly interactive, with a focus on sharing insights and learning through practical activities.</p> <p>The goal is to equip participants with actionable ideas for fostering collaboration in their own communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop to be moderated by Dr. Kathleen Brasher and collectively run by participant engagement
	Workshop Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lightning presentation (5-10 minutes) and introduction to the workshop and goal setting. Collaborative group activity (EX. Identifying local stakeholders and organizations to partner with across the 8 domains) Moderated discussion (Discuss challenges and opportunities available in fostering connections across the identified stakeholders)

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Time	Session
2:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Health Break
3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Conclusion: Building Bridges Workshop Action Plan
	<p>Description</p> <p>Conclude the session by summarizing key insights and providing participants with the opportunity to map actionable next steps.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderated by Dr. Kathleen Brasher
	<p>Session Structure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roundtable review of everyone's stakeholder mapping and continued discussion of challenges and opportunities Sharing of resources and contacts amongst participants Creation of individualized plans of action to increase community collaboration and age-friendly engagement.
3:30 p.m.	Close

WHO Global Network Affiliates Meeting – Date to be Confirmed

Agenda is to be confirmed (TBC).

Concurrent Sessions on Age-Friendly- Dates and Times to be Confirmed

Delegates wishing to submit an abstract for the conference must first register for the conference; however, payment is not required at this time.

The deadline for all submissions is **30 April 2025**. Abstracts will be reviewed on rolling basis with a notification issued within **one week** of submission and will be reviewed by members of Program Committee and assigned to the appropriate session.

Additional details on abstract submission may be found here: <https://www.ifaconf.ngo/submit-an-abstract>



CREATE A MORE AGE-FRIENDLY WORLD

Join the IFA's Collaborative Summit to connect with international experts, NGOs, and CSOs for a dynamic day of collaboration and knowledge sharing on age-friendly initiatives. The summit will feature:

- Insightful discussions on the interplay between structural and functional domains in age-friendly planning, as well as highlights of impactful initiatives from the South African context.
- Engage directly with experts during the interactive Lunch & Learn session, and take part in the Building Bridges Workshop, a hands-on session led by Dr. Kathleen Brasher, focused on community engagement and partnership building.
- The day will conclude with an action-planning session, equipping participants with concrete strategies to foster age-friendly initiatives in their communities.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to connect, collaborate, and create meaningful impact in the global movement for age-friendly communities.