



**1.10.2015 - In 2050, over 900 million older people will live in our cities. In developed countries, an estimated one quarter of the population will be over 60 years of age. To support this growth, cities have a duty to adapt. This is why the United Nations (UN) has chosen to highlight 'Sustainability and Age Inclusiveness in the Urban Environment' for this year's International Day of Older Persons.**



To build for this future, we must take into account the growing number of people aged over 60 who, in recent years, tend to migrate more and more to the cities. These urban areas must therefore act accordingly by adapting for growing populations, particularly in allowing easy and safe access to public places, in order to fully integrate in the life of the city. These increases to senior mobility and interconnectedness also benefit the city as, as seniors are more empowered to participate in the economy and community.

The example of the city of Brussels is indicative of this commitment to the elderly. From September 30 to October 4, the city plans to draw attention to the phenomenon of aging cities throughout Seniors Week by organizing informative cultural and festive activities. Thus, Saturday, October 3, a Sixties Party will be held at City Hall, and Sunday 4, a large senior party will be held in the heart of the European district.

In a message presented today for the International Day of Older Persons, the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called on countries to, "...make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable so that no one - of any age - is left behind."

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### UNRIC's Related Links:

- [UN Secretary-General's message for the International Day of Older Persons 2015](#)
- [UN Observances: International Day of Older Persons](#)
- [UN General Assembly Resolution on International Day of Older Person\(A/RES/45/106\)](#)

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