

As of June 30, 2025

PS 1.5: No One Left Behind: Inclusive Policies for Vulnerable and At-Risk Groups in an Era of Demographic Change

PMAC2026 Main Theme: *“Navigating Global Demographic Transitions Through Innovative Policy: An Equity-Centered Approach”*

Subtheme 1 : *Demographic Transitions, Social Equity, and Population Diversity.*

Session Overview:

As global demographics shift—through aging populations, urbanization, migration, and changing family structures—vulnerable and at-risk groups often remain excluded from the benefits of development and social progress. This session explores how inclusive policy design and innovative interventions can ensure equity for vulnerable and at-risk groups, such as the older persons, people with disabilities, migrants, indigenous populations, and gender minorities. With examples from diverse global contexts, the session offers actionable insights for building socially cohesive and inclusive societies amidst demographic transitions.

Session Objectives: By the end of the session, participants will:

1. Understand the differentiated impacts of demographic transitions on vulnerable and at-risk groups.
2. Learn from real-world examples of inclusive policy innovations.
3. Be equipped with practical tools and guiding principles to apply equity-focused thinking to policy design.
4. Engage with global voices and perspectives on inclusive development.

Session Format:

- **Total Duration:** 2 hours
- **Format Type:** Overview + Case Spotlights + Interactive Panel Discussion + Closing Synthesis

Tentative Agenda:

0:00 – 0:05 | Opening Remarks by Chair/Moderator

By Prof. Ilona Kickbusch, Founder, Global Health Centre, Graduate Institute Geneva, Switzerland

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Set the context—why inclusion matters now more than ever amid shifting demographics. Introduces speakers/panelists and session flow.

0:05 – 0:20 | Overview: “No One Left Behind: Inclusive Policies for Vulnerable and At-Risk Groups in an Era of Demographic Change”

Dr. Sudvir Singh, Unit Head, Equity and Health, World Health Organization

Highlights the intersection of policy innovation, equity, and demographic change. Provide understanding of vulnerable and at-risk groups. Describe the differentiated impacts of demographic transitions on vulnerable and at-risk group and the need for inclusive policy designs.

0:20 – 0:45 | Policy Innovation Spotlights

Theme/Format: Two short, high-impact case studies (~10 min each), each showing how inclusion has been operationalized. Each presenter explains 1) the demographic and equity challenge 2) What policy innovation was introduced 3) Outcomes and key learnings.

Spotlight 1: Universal Design and Age-Friendly Housing in Thailand. (10 mins)

Speaker: Assoc.Prof. Trirat Jarutach, Department of Housing, Faculty of Architecture, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand

- A comprehensive, action-driven model for elderly-friendly housing—ranging from micro-level interior improvements to macro-level urban designs. The focus on practical, culturally sensitive, and affordable changes makes such approach both inclusive and scalable across Thai urban districts.

Spotlight 2: Gender-Inclusive Social Protection in Latin America (10 mins)

Speaker: Mr. Federico Graña, Former National Director of Socio-Cultural Promotion, Ministry of Social Development, Uruguay

- The development and promotion of Uruguay's comprehensive trans equality law, known as the Comprehensive Law for Trans Persons (Law 19.684), which was adopted in 2018. This law aims to reverse discrimination and advance the rights of transgender individuals, including access to healthcare, education, housing, and employment. It also includes provisions for gender-affirming healthcare, such as hormone therapy and surgery, to be covered by the state.

Joint Q&A by Moderator (5 mins)

0:45 – 1:45 *Panel Discussion: Lived Realities and Inclusive Policy Responses*

Theme/Format: Each panelist gives 10-minutes presentation sharing lived realities of specific group/community facing challenges to inclusion amidst the implication from demographic transitions, and how an inclusive policy has (or has not) responded to the challenges. A 20-mins moderator-led roundtable Q&A is followed.

Panelists:

1. **Dr. Renu Khanna, Co-founder, SAHAJ (Society for Health Alternatives), India** – [gender-responsive policy] provide practical perspective on challenges and policy interventions for marginalized groups, especially women, in South Asia.
2. **Mr. Alberto Vásquez, Former Co-Director, Center for Inclusive Policy (CIP) and President, Sociedad y Discapacidad (SODIS) in Peru** - [Ensuring disability rights in public policy] How to embed disability rights in public policy such as building Inclusive fiscal policies for people with disabilities, advocate rights-based, community-centered approaches of disability care systems over institutionalization.
3. **Dr. Viviane Oke, MD, Founder of ELLES App, Benin** – [advocacy for youth and women's health] provide inspiring story of transformative advocacy for youth and women health. ELLES App delivers reliable, youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health information and connects women and girls with healthcare professionals across Sub Saharan Africa.
4. **Dr. Patricia DaSilva, Programme Advisor, UNFPA, New York, USA** – [guidelines for inclusive policymaking for people with disabilities] the process of formulating guidelines for greater inclusion of persons with disabilities, and cover aspects like the principles of greater participation, needs assessments, and the use of data in preparing these guidelines.

Joint Q&A by Moderator (20 mins)

1:45 – 2:00 | *Synthesis, Reflections, and Key Takeaways*

- **Chair/Moderator** draws out:
 - Common themes across the cases, particularly at the intersection of policy innovation, equity, and demographic change.
 - Key strategies for developing effective inclusive policy.
 - Practical lessons, key takeaways for other countries
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