



Dear Representatives of the State, Business, Industrial and Civil Society Sectors, and all Participants of COP 28,

Gathered at the V Longevity Expo+Fórum, which took place from September 29th to October 1st, 2023, in São Paulo, Brazil, the resonance to the older adults' cause was clear from both the public sphere and the private sector. The path to visibility for long-lived people is increasingly solid. So are the challenges.

According to the World Health Organization, active and healthy aging represents the greatest social achievement of the last 100 years, and is also an immense challenge for the next hundred, a fact of primary importance. Today we are institutionally represented at national and international levels. This is something to celebrate! And there is also a lot to face! Brazil is a highly unequal country, with serious challenges in terms of economic and social care for the population in general, particularly for elderly people, who also resent the consequences of ageism, a prejudice that is as pernicious as it is universal and structuring. There is a lot to face, certainly!

Considering the consequences of the climate crises, we have found that older people and children are the ones who suffer most, especially those in situations of vulnerability and multiple discrimination. Consequently, the interest of the elderly population in the effects of climate change is growing.

Longevity and sustainability are intertwined. Without tomorrow there are no purposes, and without purposes there is no present. Neither

for older people nor for humanity or non-human lives. We are aware of the urgency of preserving life on planet Earth! We are long-lived, we have a past and we insist on also having a future. Always with a guiding commitment: to encourage coexistence between generations.

We, long-lived people, acknowledge the urgencies that the global context imposes: climate, social, political and economic crises around the world. As members of society, we take responsibility and integrate ourselves into collective processes that seek to break with a *modus operandi* that already appears to be perverse and unproductive.

We are aware of the challenges and opportunities to reinvent a more plural, tolerant and inclusive society. Spice can be added through civil society organizations that, without strings attached, can represent the voices, so many still silent, of those who are most vulnerable and invisible.

The consequences of climate change do matter and are already a reality for a population that will long live! An increase in years of life is not accompanied by the specific care necessary to ensure quality long life. Resolution 44/7 of the Human Rights Council demands, since 2020, that States create and implement public policies for the elderly population taking into account climate change.

The Inter-American Convention on the Human Rights of Older Persons has recognized, since 2015, that older people have the right to live in a healthy environment and to have access to basic public services, and States must encourage the full development of older people, in harmony with nature, and guarantee their equal access to basic public services such as drinking water and sanitation, among others.

193 countries have committed to “Leaving No One Behind”, with the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030 - SDG 2030, where the social and environmental axes are intertwined in 17 Objectives and 163 goals. For what concerns people and their relationships with their environment, SDG 13 - Action against Global Climate Change -

aims exactly to seek urgent measures to combat climate change and its impacts.

Taking São Paulo, the largest city in Latin America, as example, extremely high-temperature spikes were registered in the middle of winter, last August, leading the City Hall to create the High Temperatures Operation, which provides water and fruit in a tent providing a cooling down environment, so that people can rest. As part of the Operation communications and alerts, the elderly population is reminded and encouraged to take action: recommendations to drink water and protect themselves from the sun are always highlighted. In many cities, mitigation and adaptation actions have been carried out, such as changing the energy matrix of buses to clean energy, planting trees, creating parks, implementing urban vegetable gardens, purchasing clean energy on the free market, among others, and so many other actions. Examples like these, certainly relevant, often lack continuity and need to be multiplied through permanent projects.

Countless examples around the planet demonstrate that, faced with environmental disasters, elderly people not only present specific vulnerabilities but also potentialities that must be recognized and taken into advantage. In several cases, for example, their traditional knowledge and experience were fundamental in mitigating the effects of a catastrophe and contributing to the recovery of affected territories. Therefore, the elderly population must be involved in the three phases of climate catastrophe management: prevention, during the event and the reconstruction stage. In this sense, the Inter-American Convention on the Human Rights of Older Persons requires that States Parties adopt measures to address the specific needs of elderly people in the event of disasters, and that they participate in civil defense protocols.

This is a crucial change for our well-being!

We are growing older together every minute, life has already become longer; it is also necessary to make life more dignified.

This is a crucial commitment for our well-being and one that depends on individual and collective awareness. That is awareness

of our practices as citizens that are collectively organized and associated with the actions of the rulers of our country and the planet. All these efforts require the development of public policies with the integration of public and private institutions. We therefore see the need to join forces. It is along this path that we intend to collaborate with addressing the urgent social demands concerning tackling climate crises.

Throughout Longevity Expo+Fórum 2023 we heard repeatedly that, to reach the age of 100 successfully, you need to prepare. The sooner the better: it's never too late. We are growing old together and we need to experience this phenomenon as an opportunity to build the conditions for full exercise of our citizenship, so that together we can give new meaning to issues that will enable a fuller and, certainly, more dignified and happier life for everyone.

The good life of human and non-human groups requires transformations to build possibilities and conditions for longevity. Such transformations require the involvement of long-lived human groups in issues and actions aimed at maintaining living conditions on planet Earth.

At least two challenges can be identified at this time (1) Point out the specific and necessary care, concerning the growing older population, in situations of crisis and climate imbalances (2) Identify ways of greater involvement and articulation of groups of elderly people with other groups and arenas working to tackle climate crises.

And let us always remember: healthy and active older people are resilient, and not just vulnerable groups. Through their lives and experiences, they show the light at the end of the tunnel, they embrace their families and communities, they are resources that point out solutions, and they help us to live and survive.

Yours sincerely,

Collective Citizen Old Age