

## Press Release

### **Latest IFA Interactive Dialogue explores the Integration of a Life Course Approach to Immunization within NITAGs**

**April 2025 – Toronto, ON**

The International Federation on Ageing (IFA) is pleased to release the findings from the virtual dialogue, *Civil Society Action in the Implementation of a Life-Course Approach to NITAGs*. This dialogue aimed to build consensus across the fields of ageing, patient advocacy, and vaccination on key actions to drive structural change in National Immunization Technical Advisory Groups (NITAGs), ensuring that patient voices inform policy recommendations.

NITAGs are multidisciplinary country-level expert committees tasked with providing independent, evidence-based advice to policymakers and program managers on immunization and vaccine policy. Depending upon the country, NITAGs provide scientific recommendations to their respective Ministry of Health (MoH) to inform the National Immunization Plan (NIP).

Civil society organizations (CSOs), who are experienced in working closely with older adults and patient groups, are in a unique position to inform NITAGs of the specific barriers to, and opportunities for, immunization among older people and those with chronic comorbidities. Through this virtual interactive dialogue, CSO partners shared their specific experiences in addressing challenges and barriers in vaccination policy in their country, engaging in NITAG decision-making processes, and their advocacy efforts to strengthen a life course approach within NITAGs.

Recommendations from the dialogue highlight the critical gap in CSO engagement in NITAG decision-making processes and call for greater prioritization of a life course approach within NITAGs. Integration of a life course approach to healthy ageing is critical to guide comprehensive national vaccination programs in order to achieve the strategic priorities of the WHO's Immunization Agenda 2030. Key recommendations from the dialogue include:

1. Improve expertise in adult immunization among NITAG members by integrating lived experiences and understanding of broader determinants of health.
2. Improve transparency of decision-making and publicly available information.
3. Strengthen channels for participation available to CSOs and external partners.

The virtual dialogue, *Civil Society Action in the Implementation of a Life-Course Approach to NITAGs*, shines a powerful light on the urgent need to improve the integration of a life course approach in NITAG decision-making. The inclusion of perspectives from CSOs, as well as geriatric and gerontological professionals, is crucial to ensuring that immunization policies and programs reflect the needs of at-risk populations.

To learn more about the *Civil Society Action in the Implementation of a Life-Course Approach to NITAGs* virtual dialogue visit: <https://www.vaccines4life.com/programs-of-work/nitags/cso-action-in-nitags/>.

## Media Contact

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## About the International Federation on Ageing (IFA)

IFA is an international, non-governmental organization (NGO) with a unique membership base comprising government, NGOs, academics, industry, and individuals in over 80 countries. Over the last 45 years, the IFA has become known as a leading and innovative organization that works across disciplines and sectors toward common goals that improve the lives of older people.

Improving rates of vaccination for globally is a priority of IFA, as a key contributor to healthy ageing. The IFA, across almost a decade, and through the [Vaccines4Life](#) program, has worked alongside committed organizations to address barriers to improve adult vaccination rates in the context of healthy ageing.

As a non-State actor at the World Health Organization (WHO) and with general consultative status at the United Nations and its agencies, the IFA is in the position to advocate directly with Member States and contribute to and inform intergovernmental dialogue.