

Republic of Singapore

Agenda No. 23

Well-being and health promotion

Written Statement

Singapore thanks the Secretariat for the reports on well-being and health promotion and the outcome of the WHO Commission on Social Connection. We express our appreciation for WHO's global framework for integrating well-being into public health and reaffirm our strong support for embedding social connection within health and development agendas.

2 As populations age worldwide, addressing loneliness and social isolation becomes increasingly critical for health systems sustainability and individual well-being. Our experience demonstrates how countries can translate WHO's well-being framework into actionable strategies that generate health benefits for populations.

3 Singapore has developed a comprehensive approach to successful ageing through our Action Plan for Successful Ageing, which is centred around the three key themes of Care, Contribution and Connectedness. Building on this foundation, Singapore has launched Age Well SG, a national programme in November 2023 that aims to support our seniors to age actively, stay socially connected, and be cared for within their communities. This represents a nationwide transformation across housing, transport, active ageing and care services to anchor ageing in the community.

4 Central to our approach are Active Ageing Centres (AACs) that serve as key community nodes, leveraging common spaces and community-wide efforts to engage seniors. AACs offer active ageing programmes across five key domains: social, physical health, cognitive, learning and volunteerism. The Silver Generation Office (SGO) also conducts outreach to seniors and connects those with needs or who are at risk of social isolation, to community resources such as befriending services at the AACs. Age Well SG also seeks to strengthen care in the community through enhanced home care options and seamless delivery of care, coordinated through single points of contact.

5 Singapore's experience highlights the importance of addressing social connection through environmental design and policy integration. Our Friendly Streets initiative creates more inclusive and pedestrian-friendly neighbourhoods. These include covered walkways, lifts, ramps, and other senior-friendly features in public housing and communal areas, designed to help older residents leave their homes and engage with their communities more easily. Community Care Apartments (CCAs) are a public housing typology that pairs senior-friendly housing with on-site social activities

and care services that can be customised according to the senior's care needs. Seniors living in CCAs can also enjoy convenient access to various amenities.

6 We welcome WHO's development of guidelines on interventions to reduce social isolation across the life course, and support the proposed global index on social connection. Such standardised measures will enable countries to monitor progress and strengthen evidence-based policies. Singapore supports establishing robust global baselines as foundations for subsequent target-setting, recognising the importance of data quality and pragmatic timelines.

7 Singapore looks forward to contributing to WHO's proposed social connection policy lab and global policy database. We remain committed to sharing practical lessons from our experience and working with WHO and Member States to embed social connection as a foundation for health and well-being within resilient, people-centred health systems.