



Press Release

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Speaker of the House of Representatives visits International Institute on Ageing, United Nations – Malta (INIA)

On the occasion of the United Nations 26th celebration of the International Month of Older Persons, Speaker of the House of Representatives Angelo Farrugia has today paid a visit to the International Institute on Ageing, United Nations – Malta (INIA). Speaker Farrugia was welcomed by Director of INIA Marvin Formosa, who introduced him to INIA's staff, and explained the mandate and vision of the Institute, an autonomous body, set up by agreement between the Government of Malta and the United Nations in 1987.

October has been designated by the United Nations as the International Month of Older Persons, in recognition of the contribution of older persons to society, and to draw attention to the issues that are affecting their lives. This year's theme is "Taking a Stand against Ageism". The United Nations is promoting this theme in support of the campaign against ageism, a term which signifies the stereotyping of individuals and groups on the basis of their age.

Mr Speaker had an exchange of views with INIA's Director on the ageing situation in Malta focusing on this year's theme of ageism. Farrugia said that in Malta's fast-ageing society, older persons will increasingly be called to play a crucial role in society, both through voluntary work and through their participation in the paid labour force. He added that, from the parliamentary debates relating to ageing that he had chaired, he can confirm that there is a strong awareness in Malta about the need to strengthen the inclusion of older persons and to promote active ageing, and that a lot was already being done in this respect.

Formosa explained how combating ageism was also among the top priorities of INIA, which was mandated to provide multi-disciplinary education and training in the field of ageing, and to act as a bridge for the exchange of information and research between developed and developing countries. He added that, since its inauguration in 1988, INIA had trained over 5,200 persons from 141 countries during international training programmes run both in Malta and abroad.

On behalf of INIA the Director presented Mr Speaker with INIA's latest publication, 'Ageing and later life in Malta: issues, policies and future trends', authored by Formosa himself, as well as a hard copy of INIA's on-line International Journal on Ageing in Developing Countries.