



Written Statement of BAGSO – Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Seniorenorganisationen to the United Nations Multi-Stakeholder Meeting on the Human Rights of Older Persons

Session 4 – Towards strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons

BAGSO, the German National Association of Senior Citizens' Organisations, representing over 120 member organisations from across Germany, looks forward to a succinct report of the Multi-Stakeholder Meeting of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). As organisation that has participated in the discussions on the human rights of older persons at international level for many years now, we call for the inclusion of strong and feasible recommendations for further action to advance the human rights of older persons now.

We are grateful for the important platform provided in this meeting, which allowed for an exchange between all involved stakeholders and hope that a continuation of this discussion can further contribute to increasing understanding and political will at national level which will help to speed up the process at the UN.

Given the urgency of better protecting the human rights of older persons, BAGSO welcomes a continued dialogue on the human rights of older persons at the Human Rights Council. It further calls for the renewal of the mandate of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons as an important mechanism to monitor the human rights of older persons across the world. The work of the Independent Expert already made a significant impact and the reports presented by both mandate holders have provided plenty of evidence for the need to strengthen the protection of the human rights of older persons.

We further call for the adoption of a new substantive resolution of the Human Rights Council defining concrete steps to close the protection gaps for older persons, supplementary to the work undertaken by the UN General Assembly's Open-ended

Working Group on Ageing, as mentioned throughout the sessions. In relation to this, we demand to strengthen the synergies between the different processes to move things forward quickly.

Given the wealth of evidence provided by the OHCHR about existing gaps, including the substantive Human Rights Council Resolution from October 2021, reports of the Independent Expert and the Report on Normative Standards, any further delay in drafting a UN Convention for the Rights of Older People is no longer acceptable.

We have heard in this and other meetings, that the existing framework – both the legislative and policy framework – do not sufficiently protect the human rights of older persons. We therefore reiterate our call upon Member States to move forward towards developing and adopting a coherent comprehensive and integrated human rights framework for the rights of older persons. The meaningful and effective participation of older persons and civil society as well as of NHRIs throughout the whole process is essential for its success.

We, and this includes the growing number of organisations from across the world that unite under the umbrella of the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People (GAROP), have waited for too long already and decisive steps must be taken to finally act against human rights' violations in older age – for today's and tomorrow's generations of older people!

**

Contact:

Ina Voelcker (voelcker@bagso.de)

Secretariat for International Policy on Ageing

BAGSO – Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Seniorenorganisationen (German National Association of Senior Citizens' Organisations)