

**MEETING: OHCHR Multi-stakeholder Meeting**

**SPEAKER: MARÍA ISOLINA DABOVE**  
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**STATEMENT: *Why a Universal Convention will make a huge difference in the daily lives of older persons***

Hello, I am Isolina Dabove from the Argentinean Elder Law Research Center.

Population has become long-lived worldwide. But, not all older persons are accepted and respected in their families and communities.

“Ageism” causes important social problems and harms Human Rights and freedoms of millions of older persons. Moreover, it has been recognized by the WHO several times. To stop it, International Treaty is needed to guarantee them.

Such International Convention would mean official, and legal recognition that life, and the dignity of life, are valued throughout the one’s lifespan, from one’s birth until one’s death, in equal conditions worldwide.

**It will provide effective tools to combat daily ageism at least for 3 reasons:**

**First**, it would empower older persons to exercise their human Rights and to participate in their communities, regardless of their gender, disability, or any other social condition. Also, it would make the construction of a society for all ages sustainable, because it would recognize older persons’s human rights and fundamental freedoms formally.

**Secondly**, it would impose **duties to the States parties** to safeguard these human rights. They could adopt measures to prevent, punish, and eradicate practices that affect the safety and integrity of older persons. They could develop affirmative actions and make reasonable adjustments at the legislative, administrative, judicial and economic level for the effective exercise of those rights. They could promote more efficient tools to foster international cooperation. They could encourage a broad participation of civil society, institutions and older persons in the drafting, implementation, and oversight of public policies and laws about it.

**Finally**, this Convention would enable older persons themselves, the civil society or institutions, to submit reports or complaints of any violations of the provisions contained in it.

**So, I ask the panelists:**

**how could we best motivate member States to move on the writing and approving of this important Convention, as soon as possible?**

Thank you madam chair.