



## AGE Platform Europe Statement at United Nations Multi-Stakeholder Meeting on the Human Rights of Older Persons

### Session 2 – Adequacy of existing human rights mechanisms in responding to the challenges

29 August 2022

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

As mentioned in the report of the High Commissioner (A/HRC/49/70), the existing UN human rights mechanisms on the rights of older persons are not adequate. They fail to respond effectively to ageism and age discrimination. This contrasts with other forms of discrimination such as ableism, racism, and sexism, for which specific treaties exist.

The current human rights framework is severely lacking for older persons. For example, in case of risks and humanitarian emergencies, their rights are only covered under Article 11 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Yet, the recent Russian invasion of Ukraine shows that in practice the rights of older Ukrainians – whether they are staying or fleeing the country– are not provided for in the same way as the rights of persons with disabilities.

The lack of human rights mechanisms to address the challenges older persons face exposes them to further danger. For instance, older persons are ignored in the procedures that monitor human rights treaties. Constant monitoring of the human rights of older persons are important so that States can implement concrete actions, notably national action plans, to respect, protect and fulfil the human rights of older persons.

The inclusion of civic society organisations in this monitoring process is crucial, in particular representative organisations who represent the voices of older persons. Membership organisations bring not only the experiences of older persons forward, but they also bring technical expertise: only older persons themselves know the structural barriers they face and what concrete solutions they would like to see put forward.

To tackle the discriminatory issues older persons face, we need to recognise them. To respect, protect and fulfil, once and for all, the human rights of older persons, we need to develop human rights mechanisms designed by and for older persons. It is high time that the international community starts drafting a UN Convention on the Rights of Older Persons.

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