



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

Session 3 – Strengthening coordinated actions for the protection of the human rights of older persons

30 August 2022

Thank you, Ms. Chair.

How do we strengthen coordinated actions to address violations of the human rights of older persons when there is no legally binding instrument that explicitly recognise ageism as a form of discrimination? How do we strengthen coordinated multilateral actions when there is no instrument on which to establish minimum standards?

The absence of a consistent international legally binding instrument prevents the establishment of a set of objectives and limits the implementation of a human rights-based approach by Member States at national level.

A UN Convention on the Rights of Older Persons would strengthen cooperation at international, regional, national, and local levels. It would allow States to adopt domestic legislation implementing the provisions of such an instrument and effectively tackling the violations of the human rights of older persons in many cross-sectional issues.

This convention would strengthen cooperation not only between States, but also with relevant stakeholders such as Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), notably membership organisations, representing the voices of older persons. Indeed, States must involve older persons in the conception of laws, policies, and strategies – including membership organisations – to truly develop inclusive societies in which decisions are grounded on the lived experiences of all citizens. Civil society actors should not be left behind but included in the discussions and consultations.

The European Union and EU Member States must play a leading role in advancing a UN Convention on the Rights of Older Persons. This is our responsibility if we want to achieve a European Union of Equality, a society that works for ALL ages.

Such a legally binding international instrument would provide for a stronger coordinated cooperation based on enhanced dialogue and rights-based language. It would lead to concrete enforceable actions and in fine to the advancement of the human rights of older persons.

Apolline Parel (she/her)
Human Rights Officer
AGE Platform Europe
apolline.parel@age-platform.eu





AGE work is co-funded by the **Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme** of the European Union. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of AGE Platform Europe and cannot be taken to reflect the views of the European Commission. Transparency Register ID: 16549972091-86