



AGE Platform Europe Statement at 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

30 August 2022

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

The Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Report of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), and older persons themselves have all recognised the inadequacy of the current human rights mechanisms on the rights of older persons. How much more evidence is needed for member States to finally adopt a coherent and comprehensive legally binding instrument?

A UN Convention on the Rights of Older Persons will explicitly recognise ageism as a discrimination and make sure that member States take concrete actions to protect older persons' human rights. It would ensure that older persons' rights are effectively taken into account by the UN system, driving change at different levels: international, regional and national.

It would acknowledge the diversity of older persons, recognising the structural multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination they face.

It would guarantee the involvement of older persons in all processes that affect their human rights. It would allow them to claim their rights, notably through individual complaints to treaty bodies.

It would ensure adequate accountability mechanisms for civil society organisations to monitor the progress made by governments.

We need the active and meaningful participation of everyone, starting with older persons themselves and their representative organisations who continuously work to ensure that gaps in the protection of human rights in old age are being closed. The mandate of the Independent Expert for the full enjoyment of all human rights by older persons is crucial in ensuring that stakeholders share best practices at all levels.

A UN Convention on the Rights of Older Persons is about fostering dialogue and creating positive narratives about ageing and encouraging structural changes that will benefit everyone, no matter their age. Our societies are ageing, this is not a fatality but rather the chance to count on more people's experiences and expertise in tackling the challenges that lie ahead of us. Let not renounce that chance.

Thank you.



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