Twenty years after Madrid, 12 years after the creation of the Open-Ended Working Group in New York, the contributions of the independent expert and now this Human Rights Council have produced many advances in terms of spaces for dialogue, production of documents some of which are binding, identification of regulatory gaps that lead us to the conviction that older people are a vulnerable and deeply discriminated group that require the sanction of an international instrument that grants them a framework of protection.

But I wonder why during this time other vulnerable groups like children, women, people with disabilities managed to achieve these forms of legal protection, and older people did not?

And I ask myself this question precisely because population aging is a global phenomenon. Societies will be older and older, old age is everyone's future, but old people are still subject of systematic discrimination worldwide.

The doctor in sociology and expert in social policy, Marian Barnes says that we are terrified of getting old and that is why in the public policies that are implemented there is always talk that older people will only achieve well-being if they can be independent and active, basically YOUNG. And it was for this reason that she carried out an investigation that involved older people between 67 and 87 years old and concluded that what older people want to obtain well-being is to maintain interpersonal networks with their family and friends that provide them with attention and care that keep them integrated to the society. She finishes her work by stating that there are older people who have stated that they do not want to leave their home because society seems hostile.

And since old age is a social construction, that hostile society is the one that logically builds that stereotyped and negative image of old age. A society that, although it knows that old age is its destiny, does not want to see it.

This is why I believe that NGOs must work on this social fabric, remove the blindfold and make them see that ending discrimination in old age is not only an imperative of justice, but is essential for the development of societies in the world.

Those societies that understood gender inequalities and now cannot see that the situation of older women is intersectionally much more serious, that people with disabilities deserved to develop and have a place in the world, seems incapable of understanding that older people with disabilities are also victims of abuse and mistreatment. Those societies that saw that the LGTBY minorities deserved to have their rightful place and defend their rights, cannot see that under this regime, in old age they will eventually lose that place of dignity they have earned and will have to hide their condition again.

It is our responsibility to shout at that society that discriminates ¡ SOONER OR LATER WE SHALL ALL BECOME OLD, IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME!