**Speech to the UN OHCHR Multi-stakeholder Meeting on the Human Rights of Older Persons - August 29, 30, 2022: Daniela Chivu, Vice President-Justice National Council of Women of Canada**

**Excellencies, Distinguished Colleagues-**

**Standing before you today as a Canadian woman who has watched helplessly the treatment of older women in my country during the pandemic, through our policies and programs is not easy.**

**While Canada is the country of life’s second chances, a beacon of hope, compassion, and humanity, one group of Canadians have been left behind, older women. Are you shocked? So am I. Older women’s needs remain largely overlooked and unaddressed in our domestic public policies, Foreign Policy and Women Peace and Security. Gender Equality and Rights unfortunately is a blanket statement lacking social and economic protection floors related to older women.**

**Economically older women have lower income security, less access to housing and other assets, and are less likely than men to receive a pension, and face age-based discrimination than older men.**

**According to UN Women 61% of older women reported losing income as a result of the pandemic, compared to 53% of young women aged 18–24. More than half of women aged 60+ (54%) reported reduced paid working hours, and more than men aged 60+ (38%).**

**Among the 38 members countries of the OECD, women receive 26 per cent less in annual pension payments than men. Poverty rates for older women in Canada are almost 1.6 times that of men — and it increases with age.**

**Your Excellencies your functions collectively, the UN OHCHR are the acme of compassion and humanity, based on the principles of oneness of humanity. I call upon my government to support a Convention on the Rights of Older Persons based on the principles of no one left behind post pandemic and beyond and I appeal to the collective consciousness and good political will to facilitate the process grating equal human rights and health to older persons.**