



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

### Fifty-second session

27 February–31 March 2023

Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,  
political, economic, social and cultural rights,  
including the right to development**

**Joint written statement\* submitted by HelpAge International,  
a non-governmental organization in general consultative  
status, Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Senioren-  
Organisationen, a non-governmental organization in special  
consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[3 February 2023]

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\* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



## **The Human Rights Of Older Persons**

HelpAge International and BAGSO (Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Senioren-Organisationen) welcome the summary report of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the multi-stakeholder meeting on the human rights of older persons (A/HRC/52/49).

The multi-stakeholder meeting brought together a wide range of experts, delegates, and organizations with the common goal of identifying ways to strengthen the human rights framework for older people. Throughout every panel discussion, participants supported one clear, central message: that there is a need to expeditiously develop and adopt a comprehensive human rights instrument on older persons.

Older persons worldwide are left behind. The reports of the UN Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons have consistently and repeatedly provided evidence of the deep-rooted ageism, discrimination and human rights violations that older persons face in all areas of their lives. The protection gaps in the existing human rights framework for older persons were unequivocally confirmed in the High Commissioner's report on normative standards and obligations under international law in relation to the promotion and protection of the human rights of older persons (A/HRC/49/7) and the 2021 update by OHCHR to the 2012 Analytical Outcome Study.

Civil society and National Human Rights Institutions have worked tirelessly to promote the rights of older persons and to call for a legally binding instrument. In 2022, the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People campaigned for the adoption of a UN convention, reaching over 1.2 million people in all regions.

More than a decade since its creation, the Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing has yet to fulfil its mandate and present to the General Assembly a proposal containing the main elements that should be included in an international legal instrument to promote and protect the rights of older persons (A/RES/67/139). We therefore welcome the work and progress made in Geneva on the rights of older persons and are strongly convinced that the discussions here at the Human Rights Council and in New York at the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing can and should inform, strengthen and build on each other.

We call on the Human Rights Council and Member States to implement and monitor implementation of the recommendations listed in the summary report on the multi-stakeholder meeting on the human rights of older persons.

We call on the Human Rights Council to adopt a second substantive resolution on the rights of older persons that recognizes the findings of the High Commissioner's report on normative standards (A/HRC/49/7), and that defines further concrete steps to close the protection gaps for older persons.

We call on the Human Rights Council to ensure permanent discussion on the human rights of older persons through the establishment of an expert mechanism within the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Finally, we call on the Human Rights Council to urge Member States to actively participate and support the work of the General Assembly Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing to move expeditiously towards developing and adopting a coherent, comprehensive and integrated human rights framework.

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