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

**Joint written statement* submitted by International
Federation on Ageing, a non-governmental organization in
general consultative status, International Network for the
Prevention of Elder Abuse, International Longevity Center
Global Alliance, Ltd., International Longevity Centre
Canada, non-governmental organizations 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.

[5 February 2023]

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



On 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)

International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA), International Federation on Ageing (IFA), International Longevity Centre Canada (ILC Canada) and International Longevity Center Global Alliance (ILC Global Alliance) welcome the summary report A/HRC/52/49 of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on the Multi-stakeholder Meeting (MSM) on the Human Rights of Older Persons that took place in Geneva 29-30 August 2022.

The rich discussions held over two days reaffirmed unequivocally the conclusions by OHCHR 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/49/70), the 2012 OHCHR Analytical Outcome Paper on the Normative standards in international human rights law in relation to older persons and the OHCHR 2021 update of this analytical study.^{1 2 3}

The MSM confirmed what we, civil society, have been proving for over a decade: that the current International human rights legal frameworks provides fragmented and inconsistent coverage of the human rights of older persons in law and practice; that the engagement by international human rights mechanisms on the human rights of older persons has been far from systematic, coherent or sustained; and that the lack of a dedicated legally binding instrument continue to hinder the effective protection of the human rights of older persons.

Representatives of all stakeholders make a clear call to urgently develop and adopt a comprehensive human rights instrument on the human rights of older persons.

These conclusions coincide with the recommendations by the Independent Experts on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons and the increasing number of special mandate holders who recognize the protection gaps in the existing human rights framework in relation to the human rights of older persons.

The UN Secretary-General in his Policy Brief on the Impact of COVID-19 on Older Persons from May 2020 called for stronger legal frameworks at both the national and the international levels to protect the human rights of older persons including by accelerating the efforts of the General Assembly's working group to develop proposals for an international legal instrument to promote and protect the rights and dignity of older persons.⁴ 146 Member States signed a statement of support of the policy brief.⁵ And yet, almost three years later little progress has been made.

We endorse the conclusions on summary report and call on Member States of the Human Right Council to:

- a) Increase the substantive body of work on the human rights of older persons and adopt periodic resolutions on older persons.
- b) Hold periodic discussions hosted by the Council to develop the elements of a Convention.
- c) Establish a drafting working group with the participation of Member States, Civil Society, National Human Rights Institutions, OHCHR and human rights experts.
- d) Provide the Office of the High Commissioner with the necessary resources to include the human rights of older persons in its working plans.
- e) Ensure that the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing for the purpose of strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons in NY adopts the conclusions of all discussions and recommendations on the human rights of older persons held at the Council including the findings and recommendations of the multi-stakeholder meeting.

The Human Rights Council and the Open-ended Working Group should work in cooperation and coordination to establish the most effective and quickest road to fulfill the mandate given

to the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing by General Assembly established in resolution A/RES/67/139.

All human rights mechanisms should fulfill their role by ensuring the human rights of older persons are meaningfully included in all fora and reports and that that all UN adopts a human rights-based approach to ageing and older persons.

Civil society, including older persons and the organisations that represent them, should actively participate in national, regional and global processes. The contribution of civil society is fundamental to address the intersectional and multiple discrimination that older persons face.

Ageism may lead to violence, abuse and neglect in different forms, and in all settings, both in the community and institutions but apart from limited data from a small number of countries, and some sensationalist headlines, elder abuse remains a taboo, hidden topic. Violence, abuse and neglect of older persons are deeply rooted in societal and gender-based ageism. We call on Member States and all stakeholders to provide input to the upcoming report by the Independent Expert on violence, abuse and neglect.⁶

Older Persons suffer human rights violations daily and there is no real awareness or provision of remedy. A UN Convention on the Rights of Older Persons will assist governments to respect, protect and fulfill our rights. It will raise awareness of all sectors of society and all generations that we all have the same rights and that we should all age free of discrimination. We need a solid, legal foundation to end systemic ageism.

1 <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/outcome-documents/ohchr-working-paper-update-2012-analytical-outcome-study-normative>

2 <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/outcome-documents/analytical-outcome-paper-normative-standards-international-human-rights>

3 <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3927180?ln=en>

4 <https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-05/Policy-Brief-The-Impact-of-COVID-19-on-Older-Persons.pdf>

5 https://www.un.org/development/desa/ageing/wp-content/uploads/sites/24/2020/05/ENG_final_-with-countries.pdf

6 <https://www.ohchr.org/en/calls-for-input/2023/report-violence-abuse-and-neglect-older-persons>