

Draft joint statement to be delivered during GD on Item 3

Older persons are entitled to the full enjoyment of their human rights. This is essential for their dignity and wellbeing, as well as that of societies as a whole in the strive towards equality, especially considering the challenges associated with rapid ageing of the world's population and emerging demographic trends.

Older persons have the right to support and care not solely as passive recipients but as full members of society. The lack of adequate support and care in all settings, encompassing inter alia support with daily activities, autonomous decision-making and participation in society, is one of the main barriers older persons face to the realisation of their rights.

We welcome the work of the Independent Expert on the full enjoyment of all human rights by older persons in this regard. In her comprehensive report, the Independent Expert noted the need for an all-encompassing and human rights-based approach to the care of older persons, as well as the need for coordination among sectors providing support services throughout the continuum of care, from prevention, promotion, rehabilitation, through to long-term and palliative care, including social care and other community services, as well as, education, training and life-long learning [para. 33, A/HRC/33/44].

We welcome also the work of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing which has addressed this issue in several sessions. It may be useful to update the 2012 OHCHR Analytical Outcome Paper on normative standards to provide further legal analysis of the applicable normative standards at the international level, taking into account the work of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons and in particular her comprehensive report on the rights of older persons.

We call on the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Member States and all stakeholders to continue a focused effort on this crucial aspect of the rights of older persons.