

Mr President,

I have the pleasure of speaking on behalf of the Group of Friends of Rights of Older Persons namely Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Montenegro, El Salvador, Namibia, Portugal, Singapore, Tunisia, Uruguay and my own country, Slovenia.

We would like to begin our statement by thanking the Independent Expert on Rights of Older Persons Madam Kornfeld- Matte, and her team, for their outstanding work over the recent years during which she served two terms as the Independent Expert. Our Group will remain committed to this mandate also in the future.

Madam Independent Expert,

We welcome the focus of your last report and the important job you have done by highlighting the specific risks older persons face e.g. in relation to land and property rights, income and work, health and shelter plus discrimination, violence and mental health.

Our group views the specific content on refugees and forced displacement of older persons which is timely given the upcoming Global Refugee Forum where member states will be making pledges in relation to the Global Refugee Compact.

Moving forward, we would like to ask the Independent Expert what topics she thinks would be essential to study in further detail in order to promote and protect the human rights of older persons.

I am continuing this speech in my national capacity.

Madam Independent Expert,

Slovenia believes it is especially vital to apply the principle of non-discrimination also in humanitarian assistance. We support your call to ensure humanitarian actors are required to report on how humanitarian programmes are reaching and responding to the rights and needs of older persons.

I thank you.