



Statement by Slovenia  
at the  
**45<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council**

**Interactive Dialogue with the Independent Expert on the Enjoyment of all Human Rights by Older Persons**

*Geneva, 21 September 2020*

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Madame President,

We commend Ms Claudia Mahler for her first report as Independent Expert.

Ms Mahler,

In your report you touched upon a very specific issue related to older persons: the data gap. As stated in the report you detected a serious gap on data availability to address the human rights situation of older persons comprehensively. A fundamental conceptual shift in method and process is needed to overcome the detected deficiency.

At the end of your report you tackled several highly important issues, of which some could be related to the current situation caused by COVID pandemic. Older people are severely affected not only by the illness itself, but even more by other consequences of aggravated socio - economic situation and poverty.

Medical care became one of the issues where older people were treated in a discriminatory manner and in some cases even left without care. Last but not least, you pointed also to the lack of data on the effect of medicines on older persons, as they are mostly excluded from clinical research and studies. Such situation can lead to inappropriate medication and drug prescription.

Ms Mahler,

Could you please elaborate on how do you see the current situation to improve and better address the data gap issue?

Thank you.