**Statement of the Group of Friends of Rights of Older Persons**

*Interactive Dialogue with the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights*

*by older persons*

Speaker: Ambassador Federico Villegas, Permanent Representative of Argentina

*- 20th September 2021 –*

*Check against delivery*

Madame President,

I am delivering this statement on behalf of the Group of Friends of Rights of Older Persons[[1]](#footnote-1).

We commend the Independent Expert for her report on ageism and age discrimination and her focus on the way that the existing legal and policy frameworks at the international and regional levels protect against these types of discrimination.

We are concerned about the presence of ageism globally that reinforces discrimination, marginalization and exclusion of older persons. We agree with the Independent Expert that these harmful approaches damage social and personal identities and contribute to discrimination based on age. In this sense, we consider that a human rights-based approach is an appropriate framework to challenge ageism and should be better integrated in laws, policies and institutional practices on the matter.

Madame President,

We stress the importance of collecting and analysing disaggregated data, targeting the root causes of ageism, working towards a cultural transformation of the way society sees ageing and older persons, including the voices of the civil society, and ensuring that the responses to the COVID-19 pandemic eliminate internalized stereotypes and biases.

Finally, we encourage States to support the draft resolution on the human rights of older persons presented at this session by the Core Group consisting of Argentina, Brazil and Slovenia

Thank you.

1. Argentina, Austria, Brazil, El Salvador, Malta, Montenegro, Namibia, Portugal, Singapore, Slovenia, Tunisia, Uruguay. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)