



The German National Association of Senior Citizens' Organisations BAGSO reiterates its call for a UN Convention on the Rights of Older Persons

Written Statement by BAGSO submitted to the 8th meeting on the Way Forward of the 11th Session of the Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing at the United Nations on April 1st 2021

1. BAGSO, the German National Association of Senior Citizens' Organisations, representing more than 120 civil society organisations from all over Germany, welcomes the fruitful discussions held during the meetings and side events of the 11th Session of the Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing.
2. These discussions have shown the growing momentum to strengthen the rights of older people through an international human rights instrument among many Member States, national human rights institutions, civil society organisations and, what is particularly important, the United Nations system including the General Secretary, the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights, and the Special Procedures.
3. It gives us hope that now also the Member States of the European Union commit to drafting a UN convention on the rights of older people to close the existing gaps.
4. Together with AGE Platform Europe, we strongly encourage the EU, to clearly voice support for a UN convention. The EU could be a strong champion, able to move the discussions forward.
5. After 10 years of discussions at the Open-Ended Working Group, the excellent work done by the Special Procedures and others, we have vast evidence that the existing international human rights system does not sufficiently protect and promote the rights of older persons.
6. The update of the analytical study undertaken by OHCHR, funded by Germany and Austria, adds further weight. It states, “the lack of a dedicated normative instrument” and “conceptual limitations of existing instruments” and recommends “a new dedicated normative instrument ... to comprehensively remedy those deficiencies”.



7. Older people all around the world must not wait any longer for a convention. It is unacceptable to continue to listen to Member States' reports on their achievements in terms of policies and programmes at national level. Member States must act NOW for the Open-Ended Working Group to fulfil its mandate.
8. We urge all national States to get on with this process. In accordance with the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People (GAROP) we call for the creation of a sub-group of the Working Group that would include experts from Member States, CSOs, NHRIs and the Independent Expert, to start drafting the main elements of an international instrument and so support the OEWG. Member States must finally consent to go a step further and propose a way forward so that soon we can all age with equal rights.

--

1st of April, 2021

BAGSO – Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Seniorenorganisationen e.V.
German National Association of Senior Citizens' Organisations
Noeggerathstr. 49
53111 Bonn
Germany
Contact: mollenkopf@bagso.de / voelcker@bagso.de
www.bagso.de
twitter.com/bagso_de
www.facebook.com/bagso.de