

Older People's Right to Social Security and Social Protection

Open Ended Working Group on Ageing and Rights of Older People 11th Session 29 Mar – 1 April

Thank you Chair, I am speaking on behalf of GSSST.

We are far from the reality of reaching adequate social protection as a right for all. In Tanzania only 4% of older people receive a pension after their retirement at the age of 60. Older people in the informal sector do not retire, they continue working to survive until they drop.

Older people have the right to social protection and social security systems, which provide universal coverage whether in cash or in kind, contributory or non- contributory, to ensure an adequate standard of living. We need adequate income security in old age, access to health care, medication and assistive devices and access to support services for autonomous and independent living in old age.

To help guide states to put these services in place, it is essential that the normative elements of the right to social security and social protection in older age are clearly articulated in a new convention on the rights of older persons.

These normative elements include

- that social security and social protection are of a high enough value, quantity and quality for full period of life,
- that older persons have access to information on social protection and social security schemes including on eligibility and qualifications,
- and that older persons have the right to social security and social protection measures on an equal basis with others without discrimination on the basis of age, disability or other grounds.

Older persons also have the right to participate in the decision-making process regarding issues affecting them and in the management and administration of social protection and social security measures for older persons.

The time has come to put clarify what these elements are in a new convention in order to trigger the change that is so urgently needed. Thank you.