

STATEMENT TO OEWGA-11

We represent the Tinker Institute on International Law and Organizations, an NGO founded in 1992 and ECOSOC-accredited since 1996. A short video is posted on our website at <https://www.tiilo.org> by our interns, youth who care about older persons.

Youth are digital natives, but older people often need digital literacy training, and access to helplines, internet connections and smartphones. Older persons have a right to be digitally included in order to participate in the markets, work, obtain government services and forms, connect with family and friends, remain informed and educated, and continue to be active members of society in every way they choose. We see the potential of digital technology as a tool for older persons to achieve full participation and contribute to society's advancement.

By 2030, persons over 60 will outnumber young people globally. By 2050, 20% of the world's population will be over 60; one in six people alive will be over 65, and many will be over 90 or 100 years old. All will have a variety of knowledge and abilities to contribute to society; skills, memories and values to share; and varying age-specific needs. Will we be prepared for this demographic shift? We ask everyone participating in OEWGA 11: What do you want the lives of your family and community or your life to be like as an older person?

We support age-inclusive implementation of the SDGs, the Madrid Plan of Action, UN GA resolutions and the work of the OEWGA over the past decade, the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing 2021-2030 and the UN report against ageism. We support the UN Secretary-General's call for an international legal instrument to promote and protect the rights and dignity of older persons and those member states prepared to act now.

We request all Member States to address older persons in their Voluntary National Reviews at the High Level Political Forum; adopt policies and regulations that promote the well-being and health of older persons; ensure access to justice and legal support to end financial, physical and emotional abuse of older persons; and actively encourage the participation of older persons in all aspects of local and national life and decision-making. We expect states to adopt specific targets to combat ageism and achieve them by 2030. The time has come to act.

We endorse the following as our "top 10" recommendations from UNGA Resolution 75/152 of December 2020: operative paragraphs 5, 6, 7, 14, 17, 23, 24, 25, 30, and 38. They recognize basic rights of older persons to education, social protection, work and justice. They contribute to elaboration of elements of a possible legal instrument to promote and protect the rights of older persons and combat ageism, and recognize additional barriers affecting older women.

Finally, we urge the OEWGA to recommend that the United Nations General Assembly accelerate a formal preparatory process and move to negotiations on adoption of a *Convention on the Rights of Older Persons*: for dignity, for visibility, for equity and for human rights.