

Statement

Japan Support Center for Activity and Research for Older Persons

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Open-ended working group on ageing

Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

In Japan, human right violations of older persons have been a social problem, caused by government's policy that puts more emphasis on financial cost-cut, self- help and mutual help by people, rather than human rights protection by the State. With the impact of COVID-19, the situation has become more serious. Poverty among the older persons is increasing. Isolation among the older persons also become more serious, especially who caring the older family member. In fact, sad suicide cases or murder cases among family caregivers occurred several places in Japan, after COVID-19 pandemic.

In such situation, June 2020, our NGO and Japan Senior Citizens' Council (a nationwide CSO), made up the first draft of "The Japanese Declaration of Human Rights of Older Persons". It was created by the initiative and participation of many Japanese older persons and their organizations. This Declaration is the result of their belief that now is the time to focus on human rights protection, as same as the United Nation emphasizes.

This draft sets five basic principles after the UN Principles for Older Persons in 1991. It specifies 23 human rights that should be guaranteed for every older person as well as the obligations of both national and local governments, reflect the international human rights developments. It also expresses the older persons' "Constant endeavor for realization of human rights", based on the Constitution of Japan.

Now this draft is under discussion among not only older people but also younger generation. Next year, the final draft will be decided.

I hope all the participant here to know this Japanese older persons' effort, and we are convinced that this effort will surely contribute to the realization of International Convention on Human Rights for Older Persons. I'd like to ask the United Nations and each member states to accelerate the action to develop the International treaty on older persons as soon as possible. Thank you.