

**Statement by Dr. Melita GABRIČ,
Minister Plenipotentiary, Human Rights Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Slovenia,**

**at the Open – ended Working Group on Ageing
“Item 5: Other matters - Discussion on the way forward”
New York, 1 August 2014**

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to thank the Chair and the bureau, the Secretariat and all contributors for the fruitful session. As was amply demonstrated during the session, we need to improve the situation of the human rights of older persons.

We believe that new approaches and policies should be put in place in order to secure a better life for future older generations. We need to boost income security and provide greater access to essential health and social services for older persons, as well as ensure their full-fledged social participation.

As a member of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, Slovenia has been advocating for building SDGs on the basis of human rights based approach. For achieving truly sustainable development we need to continue our joint efforts to address human rights of all people, including older persons, within the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Slovenia's strategy on ageing puts special emphasis on the concept of active, quality aging and on the inter-generational solidarity. We are convinced that an active and engaged older generation can successfully contribute to the sustainable development of societies. To this end we have to do more to tap into the vast experience and skills of older persons, including through addressing age-based discrimination in employment.

Mr. Chairperson,

A category that should be granted our special attention are older women. Gender-based discrimination in employment throughout life has a cumulative impact in old age. While on average women in Slovenia live 8 years longer than men, they are much more likely to live in poverty and social exclusion and experience different types of violence.

Protecting the rights of women, promoting gender equality and empowering women throughout the life cycle is one of the main challenges of ageing societies. Addressing specific issues concerning older women, in particular regarding the impact of the economic crisis, and the issue of violence against older women is something we should pay special attention to, also in the international context.

Mr. Chairperson,

On this note, allow me to conclude by saying that Slovenia is fully prepared to continue with its efforts, not only domestically, but also through an active engagement in international efforts to further the rights older persons, including through exploring a new UN instrument for the promotion and protection of the rights of older persons.

Thank you for your attention.