

The draft resolution “Towards a comprehensive and integral international legal instrument to promote and protect the rights and dignity of older persons” (A/RES/67/139) was adopted in the 67<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly by voting with a high number of abstentions (YES: 54, NO: 5, ABSTAIN: 118). Japan abstained from the draft resolution. In this regard, the GA resolution 67/139 for a legal instrument for older persons has no consensus among the Member States. The creation of a new legal framework needs international consensus to make it universal.

Some Member States addressed the need of a comprehensive and integral international legal instrument for older persons. However, it is not clear on which points the existing human rights frameworks have faults for the protection of the rights of older persons and how the challenges could be improved through a legal instrument.

Taking into consideration the discussions in the second review of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, we believe that the full implementation of existing frameworks which include UN human rights treaties, existing Special Rapporteurs and mainstreaming aging in the UN, including through the use of the Universal Periodic Review, is needed at this moment. These efforts will identify and improve gaps between the frameworks and the actual challenges faced by older persons.

We should also recognize that the intergovernmental process on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system is now ongoing in the General Assembly.

Japan is committed to promoting and protecting the human rights of older persons. For that purpose, Japan will continue to actively be engaged in the open-ended working group based on the General Assembly resolution A/RES/65/182.