

OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP (OEWG) ON AGEING

U.S. Closing Statement; April 21, 2011

Delivered by Courtney Nemroff, USUN

On behalf of the United States, the delegation thanks the Chair and participants for a very informative series of panels and discussions. They have given us much food for thought.

Over the coming months, we will be considering the various points made by the panelists. The human rights of older persons are often not respected and, indeed, are often not even understood. This is true despite the existence of legally binding regional and international human rights treaties regarding the human rights of all persons and despite the many non-binding international documents that relate to the application of those human rights to the situation of older persons.

The United States was impressed by the commitment of the Working Group and other participants in this week's sessions to considering how best to address this serious problem. We will ourselves consider the various possibilities proposed, including:

- Another binding instrument;
- A special rapporteur;
- Implementation efforts, whether at the national, regional or international level;
- And other measures that may be appropriate.

We very much look forward to further discussion of these issues at the August session of the Working Group, so that we can all contribute to ensuring that older persons can lead dignified, secure lives as full and active members of our societies. Thank you again for a very constructive first session.