



REGERINGSKANSLIET

Señor Presidente,

Le felicitamos por su elección y la apertura de este grupo de trabajo, conducta de la cual se encuentra en buenas manos. Sweden supports the statement made by Hungary on behalf of the European Union.

The proportion of older people is increasing worldwide. This is a sign of increasing welfare and prosperity in the world. Average life expectancy is also increasing which means that more people are able to live longer, more active and healthier lives.

The Swedish Government believes that ageing should be characterized by dignity, security and the right for the individual to choose its life: how she or he wishes to live. This is a central notion of Swedish ageing policy: a rights-based approach.

It is therefore essential to remove, where they exist, barriers that circumvent or prevent the independence and autonomy of elderly persons. For instance, all persons should have a right to stay in their home as long as she or he wants and are able to do so. Older persons should, in the view of my delegation, be able to decide from whom and how they receive care.

Barriers may therefore mean an un-accessible environment, but also the lack of access to support, rehabilitation and assistive devices. We look forward to learn, this week, more about the nature of these barriers and existing responses to them.

Mr. Chairperson,

Strong intergenerational solidarity and exchange is fundamental for sustained well-being of societies in times of demographic change. Yet we see around the world how ageing for many people may, on the contrary, be associated with social and economic exclusion and isolation, discrimination and different forms of abuse.

Targeting ageing is therefore a cross-cutting human rights issue. Indeed, ageing may impact differently on men and women, and also as a result of other conditions or status such as refugees, persons with disability, etc. Realizing multiple vulnerability is key to policies on ageing, whether at national, regional or international level.

Sweden believes that further systematic analysis, from a rights-based approach, is the first step in the path towards ensuring that older persons enjoy all their human rights. We hope that this working group will broaden our understanding in that direction, in fulfillment of its mandate.

Thank you.