

Statement of UNFPA to the Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing

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by

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UNFPA has been in the forefront of activities related to population ageing in preparation for the tenth anniversary of the Second World Assembly on Ageing. An important part of these activities was the commissioning of work relating to the human rights of older persons to inform the on-going discussion within the international community.

UNFPA is collaborating with American University Washington College of Law in the preparation of a comparative legal assessment of national legislation and its implementation relating to the rights of older persons. We are expecting the final document shortly. It will provide an overview of international and regional human rights of older persons and examples of good practices at national levels. The next step is the preparation of a capacity building module that will produce technical tools and legal knowledge base for civil society organizations to advance their advocacy and reporting activities, as well as their capacity to effectively use legal and justice systems at national levels.

A user-friendly practical handbook/popular multimedia resource on the human rights of older persons to inform the international community is being prepared in collaboration with the Global Action on Aging. This will make the contents of the larger, technical report more accessible to a broader, international non-expert audience.

In collaboration with the UN Programme on Ageing and other partners, UNFPA developed a minimum set of indicators to measure progress towards implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing. These indicators will be disseminated to the Regional Commissions and distributed to UNFPA Regional and Country Offices to help them assist countries with the reporting for the Madrid+10 review.

UNFPA is working with HelpAge International, UN entities including the UN Programme on Ageing, the UN Population Division, OHCHR, UNHCR, UNICEF, and WHO, and non-UN partners, including the International Federation on Ageing, the Global Action on Ageing and AgeUK, in the preparation of a report on *The State of the World's Older Persons 2012* which will assess progress made since 2002 in the quality of life of older persons, focusing on the three priority directions of the Madrid Plan (development, health and enabling environments) and highlighting the voices of the older persons themselves. The human rights of older persons will feature prominently in the report.

UNFPA also provides support to regional initiatives, for example, the Regional Strategy and the Brasilia Declaration in Latin America and the Caribbean, and research and advocacy work in the Asia and Pacific region.

Mr. Chairman, one of the areas where serious gaps are observed is abuse and discrimination of older persons. We lack good evidence. What we have is scattered information about these issues but we lack systematic knowledge, comparative indicators and high quality information. The Open-Ended Working Group may wish to request the creation of an inter-agency group to prepare a report on the current situation, gaps and proposals for comparative research in the area of abuse and discrimination of older persons. UNFPA would be willing to work with this group, if requested.

Thank you.