



NSINDAGIZA ORGANIZATION

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Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing 11 WAYFORWARD STATEMENT

Your Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen.

We commend the great decision of the UN general Assembly 10 years ago, establishing the OEWGA to strengthen the protection of the human rights of older people.

Older people are denied the right to quality health services, right to lifelong learning, training and capacity building, access to finance, life/health insurance, access to work and to participation...

It has been said in this 11th session in the WHO report on ageism that 1/2 of the world population practice ageism, which is understandable because there are no binding instruments at all levels to protect against it.

We are now saying that 10 years of discussions is enough, as older people are still abused, neglected and their Human rights denied and violated. Many countries don't have any national legal and policy framework on ageing as it seems not to be a priority at all levels. This is the time to start drafting an International Convention as a legal and binding instrument regulating the implementation of human rights for older people, worldwide taking into account their specific needs in relation to their physical status, as well as their rich experience.

As said by the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights: "it requires full commitment by all Member States and all stakeholders to collectively move forward."

This is the time to unite our effort for action without further delay.

The rights of older people are the rights for all ages, as we are all heading towards old age.

Thank you

Elie MUGABOWISHEMA,

President of NSINDAGIZA Organization

Fight for the rights and welfare of older persons, www.nsindagiza.org