

Oral statement by HelpAge Deutschland, at the GA Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing, 30 March 2021, afternoon meeting

NEW VERSION (BUT SAME CONTENT AS SENT on 26 March, ONLY SIMPLIFIED)

This is a statement by HelpAge Deutschland from Germany on social protection, especially on old-age pensions.

[possible reference to what a panelist has said]

Older persons need pensions, but contributory social insurance pensions only apply to formal workers, and also have a gender bias. Therefore, non-contributory pensions for the poor—so-called social pensions—have been introduced in the global South. However, only half of the Southern countries have a social pension. Moreover, the existing social pensions are deficient in many ways.

How come? One reason is the massive gap in existing legal instruments. The right to social security is laid down in Article 9 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. But this is the shortest article in the Covenant. It sets no standards and only names one instrument, social insurance.

Why is this so? The article was worded more than half a century ago, at a time, when social pensions were not yet on global agendas.

Therefore, HelpAge Germany calls for a Convention of the Rights of Older Persons that defines the right to social security in a more substantial way, by setting standards and including non-contributory pensions.

[possible reference/question to a panelist]

Thank you very much.