

**Statement for the 11<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Open-ended Working Group on Ageing  
on behalf of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights of Poland (A Status NHRI)  
30<sup>th</sup> of March 2021.**

Madam Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this session on behalf of the Commissioner for Human Rights of Poland.

I would like to express my gratitude to all Member States who actively engaged in the debate on the protection of the human rights of older persons. I would like to express our appreciation for each conclusion formulated on behalf of the Member States, which highlighted the need for strengthening the legal protection of the rights of older persons. We have heard, that there are gaps in a normative framework in this regard and now it is time to commence work on addressing and closing them.

Madam Chair, Excellencies,

In the Opening Panel held on the first day of this Session Ms. Ilze Brands Kehris, Assistant to the Secretary General for Human Rights indicated and I quote: *“This Working Group can demonstrate that commitment through a concrete roadmap towards the fulfilment of its mandate to “ present to the General Assembly, at the earliest possible date, a proposal containing, inter alia, the main elements that should be included in an international legal instrument to promote and protect the rights and dignity of older persons”.*

On behalf of the Commissioner for Human Rights of Poland I endorse this suggestion.

We believe that creating a sub-group of the Working Group, be it a formal Advisory Committee or Informal Task Group would be of crucial importance on this road to the fulfilment of the OEWGA’s mandate. This sub-group of the Working Group could include experts from the Member States, CSOs, NHRIs and Independent Expert, to assist the Working Group during the intersessional period,

Moreover, we have listened to many distinguished panelists about the adequacy of the in-depth analysis provided in the recent OHCHR Update report. I believe that including the OHCHR Report in the OEWGA official work plan will assure the highest quality of further reflections.

Madam Chair,

The evidence demonstrated during this and previous Sessions shows that the rights of older persons are too often neglected in practice. Ageism is world spread (according to the new Global Report on Ageism). The impact of Covid-19 on the lives of older persons is painful and devastating. The

new convention on the rights of older persons would be a game-changer and not only would save lives but significantly contribute to the wellbeing and the dignity of every man and woman regardless of their age.

I thank you.

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