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**HelpAge International Opening Statement, 30th July 2014**

**5th Session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing**

**UN Headquarters, New York, 2014**

HelpAge International would like to congratulate the Bureau for creating a programme of work for this 5th OEWGA session which covers some under-explored areas of older people’s rights and we look forward to a full and substantive discussion on these.

We also commend and appreciate the efforts that the Chair has been making in building consensus amongst Member States around the importance of addressing the barriers that people face to enjoyment of their rights in older age.

The last twelve months have been important ones for the rights of older people.

We have seen the appointment of an Independent Expert with a clear mandate to deepen our understanding of, and provide recommendations on, overcoming the barriers that people face to enjoyment of their rights in older age.

The Human Rights Council has shown further leadership in this area by devoting the 2014 Social Forum to the rights of older people.

However, HelpAge International would like to express its concern about the limited progress made by the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing on implementing Resolution 67/139 and sees the panel discussions during this session as a major opportunity to make some progress in this direction by exploring what the main elements of a new legal instrument should be in the areas of rights under discussion.

As a member of the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People, HelpAge International strongly supports the suggestion of a Chair’s Summary of the main elements of a new legal instrument that have been proposed to date within the Open-ended Working Group process. Such a Chair’s Summary would reflect the main elements that have already been proposed and could be the basis for further discussion on the proposal on main elements for the General Assembly which is one of the actions agreed on under Resolution 67/139.

We look forward to a productive fifth session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing and the full implementation of resolution 67/139.

Thank you.