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Autonomy and independence IX Session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing

1) The national goals concerning elder policy stipulate that old women and men should be able to: 1. age in a safety environment while maintaining independence; 2. live an active life and have influence in society and over their daily lives; 3. be respected and 4. have access to good health care and care. The Social Services Act specifies that care of the elderly should focus on older people's ability to live a dignified life.

2) To ensure that older people are fully integrated and able to participate in the society it is important to counter all forms of discrimination due to age or disability. Expanded protection against age discrimination entered into force in 2013 and since then the ban on discrimination also covers care and health care and social services.

3,4,5) Special attention is needed to be able to be responsive to older persons that may have difficulties in expressing their own views, due to different circumstances.

In 2016 the Government passed an ordinance on grants for arranging and providing housing for older people. The grants aim at encouraging renovation of existing residential properties for elderly people and the construction of new ones, as well as covering modifications to properties in order to enable older people to remain in their homes through improved accessibility and safety. SEK 150 million (EUR 15 million) was allocated for this purpose in 2016, and 300 million in 2017 (EUR 30 million) and 400 million in 2018 (40 million EUR).

Effective fall prevention is crucial for the elderly's ability to live an independent life. In order to achieve the government's goal of halving the number of fall casualties, case-preventive work is being developed. The National Board of Health and Welfare has been commissioned by the Government to increase knowledge of fall prevention in the health and care sector. SEK 7 million (EUR 700 000) was earmarked for this purpose in 2016. The aim is to raise the awareness in general as well as for potential risk groups with a focus on how women and men themselves can act in order to avoid a falling accident. Cooperation with civil society, particularly organizations that represent elderly people, is a strategic part in this work. The Government allocates SEK 13 million (EUR 1,3 million) in 2018 for effective fall prevention.

Using assistive technology increases opportunities for elderly people to live an independent life as fully participating citizen of society. The Agency for Participation has coordinated an initiative to speed up the introduction of digital services in the municipalities, mainly personal emergency alarms. Assistive technology can also improve the quality of life of people with reduced decision-making capacity. The goal is to give people whose decision-making capacity is reduced good care with as few elements of coercion as possible, using an approach in which the individual's needs are central. The Agency for Participation has a mandate from the Government to develop technical solutions and modifications in the home environment that make it easier to care for people with a reduced decisions-making capacity.

As an alternative to an administrator or a trustee appointed by the court and as a supplement to ordinary proxies a legislation introduced in 2017 has made it possible to appoint a person with the task to take care of personal and economic affairs later in life, in case the person's own ability is decreasing. This person can be appointed in advance and will act if necessary. A decision taken by the local social committee which may affect autonomy and independence concerning LTC can be appealed to an Administrative Court.

6) The government attaches great importance to cooperation with civil society on matters concerning older citizens. In 1991 the government established a national pension committee. Four times a year representative of

the government meet with the organizations representing the elderly. The committee consists of six pensioners organizations