

**Age International Statement for Interactive Dialogue
Open-ended Working Group on Ageing 7th Session**

Mr Chair, I would like to begin by commending yourself and participating Member States for what has been a constructive dialogue during this session of the OEWG. We are particularly pleased to hear various calls for deepening the discussion of substantive issues and bearing this in mind, we would like to offer the following reflections:

- We believe that it is essential for the Open-ended Working Group to focus its work on specific substantive topics that allow us to articulate the rights of older persons in these areas and align ourselves with the views expressed by HelpAge International.
- We believe that these discussions must use, as a starting point, the extensive body of evidence and analysis that has already been collected throughout the Open-ended Working Group process and would expect that a formal report would be produced to inform these discussions.
- We think that in order to ensure we can advance our discussions in a constructive way, that the next session of the Open-ended Working Group result in an outcome document for the substantive areas to be discussed.
- We believe that it will be most constructive to consider the format of the OEWG discussions so that there is time to develop collective thinking outside the plenary sessions.
- We also expect that these discussions will involve the full participation of civil society organisations.

Mr Chair, I would like to conclude by impressing upon member states the importance of keeping discussions in the OEWG focussed on human rights standards and norms, and urge member states to use all national and intergovernmental opportunities to identify and put into practice immediate actions that will strengthen the protection of the rights of older persons today.