

Honourable Chair, Excellencies,

On behalf of the Commissioner for Human Rights of Poland and a group of +25 national human rights institutions from Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Germany, Georgia, Guatemala, Jordan, Kenya, Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, Palestine, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor Leste, Ukraine

I would like to thank engaged Member States for their efforts to strengthen the human rights of older persons and every step undertaken towards a new comprehensive convention on the rights of older persons. We appreciate actions undertaken both in the forum of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWGA) in New York and at the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) in Geneva, where on 29-30 August 2022 a [Multistakeholders' meeting](#) on the human rights of older persons was organized by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in response to the request formulated in [the first HRC substantive resolution on human rights of older persons](#). At this meeting 20 Member States in their informal contributions¹ not only expressed their explicit support for a new Convention but also indicated substantive content which should be included in this international, binding instrument. We expect that more Member States will join this group and will become leaders of change in championing the cause of the human rights of older persons, thus adding momentum to the shift from a social rights based perspective, towards a human rights based perspective on ageing and older persons.

We expect that on the way forward older persons, NHRIs and NGOs will be actively and meaningfully included in the consultations in the form indicated in the draft decision of the Working Group. We expect a meaningful participation which allows adequate time and space for dialogue, and through which our inputs will not just be listened to but also and taken into account, like those captured in the OHCHR [summary report](#) of the 2022 multistakeholders' meeting.

Older Persons of today and older persons of the future have been waiting for over a decade for this discussion to have a tangible, impactful and positive outcome – this is way overdue. Work on identification of gaps in international law as proposed by

¹ The informal contribution is to be downloaded at the web page of OHCHR Multistakeholders' meeting, as the first statement in the section of "Interventions from the floor and other written documents submitted for the meeting", <https://www.ohchr.org/en/events/meetings/2022/multi-stakeholder-meeting-human-rights-older-persons>.

Argentina at the 12th OEWGA Session² should be accompanied by a clear roadmap towards achieving the goal which is a new binding convention on the rights of older persons. We need a comprehensive instrument which will make older persons and their human rights more visible and universally recognized.

Thank you very much.

National Human Rights Institutions

1. National Institution for Human Rights - Kingdom of Bahrain
2. Institution of Human Rights Ombudsperson of Bosnia and Herzegovina
3. Commissioner for Administration and the Protection of Human Rights, Cyprus
4. Procuraduria para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos, El Salvador
5. Ethiopian Human Rights Commission
6. Fiji Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission
7. The Human Rights Centre / Finnish National Human Rights Institute
8. German Institute for Human Rights
9. Public Defender (ombudsman) of Georgia
10. National Human Rights Entity of Guatemala
11. National Center for Human Rights, Jordan
12. Kenya National Commission on Human Rights
13. National Human Rights Commission of Korea
14. Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM)
15. Myanmar National Human Rights Commission
16. Palestine Independent Commission for Human Rights
17. Defensoría del Pueblo, Peru
18. Commission on Human Rights, Philippines
19. Commissioner for Human Rights of Poland
20. Romanian Institute for Human Rights
21. Slovak National Centre for Human Rights
22. Human Rights Ombudsman of the Republic of Slovenia
23. Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka
24. National Human Rights Commission of Thailand
25. Provedor dos Direitos Humanos e Justiça, Timor-Leste
26. Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights

² <https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1g/k1gdbyxwwd>.