Bonn, **06.02.2026**

Written statement

By the Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Senioren-Organisationen to the Organisational Meeting of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Older Persons

A historic milestone

BAGSO, the German National Association of Senior Citizens' Organisations, recognises that this organisational meeting of the Intergovernmental Working Group for the elaboration of a legally binding instrument on the promotion and protection of the human rights of older persons marks a historical milestone. It is a significant step towards a better world for people of all ages, where people will age with their rights promoted, respected and protected. BAGSO is committed in doing its utmost to ensure that future generations will be able to live well. The new legally binding instrument is a significant contribution to ensuring a world in which all people can age with dignity and without discrimination.

Ensuring the participation of older people from the outset

In the interest of ensuring that a future Convention on the Rights of Older Persons reflects the diverse realities of older people's lives across the globe, we humbly request for a clear commitment to the participation of older people and their representative organisations in the work of the IGWG. It is vital that the drafting process is truly participatory with the active involvement of older people.

As a member of the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People (GAROP), a global civil society coordination platform, and AGE Platform Europe, largest European network of non-profit organizations of and for older people, BAGSO respectfully calls upon the relevant parties to consider allocating speaking time for older people and their representative organisations. In addition, it may be beneficial for Member States to consider including older people as members of their delegations to the

negotiations on the convention. Furthermore, in order to ensure that the voices of older persons and their representative organisations are heard in all meetings, they must be invited as speakers as experts in their own rights. Furthermore, hybrid participation, including live, online oral interventions, webcasting and live captioning, should be guaranteed to facilitate access by and inclusion of older persons and their representative organisations.

The way forward

In terms of the upcoming work of the IGWG, BAGSO is pleased to support the recommendations developed by GAROP, requesting for the work to begin with a thorough consideration and framing of the underpinning conceptual basis, fundamental principles and scope of the new legally binding instrument. In doing so, the process should build on the work of the Open-Ended Working Group and ensure that the instrument fully addresses the fundamental conceptual deficiencies around the human rights of older persons in the existing human rights system.

Conclusion

We would like to express our eagerness to engage with Member States, older persons, like-minded NGOs and other stakeholders, in this process. We stand ready to contribute to a process that centres the voices of those most concerned: older persons.

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BAGSO – The voice of older people

BAGSO, the German National Association of Senior Citizens' Organisations, represents the interests of older generations in Germany. It stands up for active, healthy and self-determined ageing in social security. BAGSO is an umbrella organisation of more than 120 civil society organisations that are run by or work for older people. In a colourful and diverse society, BAGSO promotes a differentiated

image of old age. This includes both the various opportunities arising from longer lives as well as times of vulnerability and the need for care. BAGSO calls on politicians, society and businesses to offer conditions that allow for a good and dignified life in older age – in Germany, Europe and worldwide.

At the United Nations, BAGSO is actively involved in the development of a UN Convention for Older People. BAGSO is a member of the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People (GAROP), an international alliance of over 400 civil society organisations that advocates for the rights of older people, and of AGE Platform Europe, the largest European network of NGOs for and of older persons. BAGSO's Secretariat for International Policy on Ageing provides information on current international developments in ageing policy and contributes the interests of civil society to international processes.