



Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWG-A) 12th Session

BAGSO – German National Association of Senior Citizens' Organisations

Written statement

OEWG-A Item 6 – Interactive Discussion on strengthening the promotion and protection of the human rights of older persons in the context of COVID-19 pandemic and beyond

13th of April 2022

Dear Madam Chair, Excellencies, and delegates,

We welcome the interactive discussion on strengthening the promotion and protection of the human rights of older persons in the context of COVID-19 and beyond. Global crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic or the war against Ukraine have once again demonstrated the risk of human rights violations and the importance of moving the work of the OEWG-A forward, for it to comply with its mandates.

While many discussions have taken place and ample evidence on the gaps in the existing international human rights framework has been put forward, not only at the OEWG-A but also by other United Nations' bodies, to-date the OEWG-A has not been successful in capturing and holding itself to account for decisions that have been made. Together with hundreds of civil society organisations part of the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People (GAROP) and many NHRIs, we have contributed to the discussions and made specific recommendations for next steps. However, there has been no satisfying reaction to this so far.

BAGSO, as federal association of senior citizens' organisations, hopes that all efforts put into the mandate of the OEWG-A and related processes will finally and without further delay result in the drafting and subsequent adoption of a

UN Convention for the Rights of Older Persons. We align ourselves with the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older Persons in saying: “Now is the time for action and concrete outcomes. Older people have waited and campaigned for over a decade, they cannot wait any longer.”

Political will and leadership are key to show that the human rights of older persons are seen as equally important. We hope that governments, including the German Government, take decisive steps to finally act against human rights violations in older age – for today’s and tomorrow’s generations of older people!

Contact details

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