



National Human Rights Commission of Korea

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Joint Written Statement of a Group of NHRIs on the Human Rights of Older Persons

Honourable Chair, Excellencies,

On behalf of 16 National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) from Colombia, Ethiopia, Finland, Georgia, Kenya, Mongolia, Nigeria, Philippines, Poland, Serbia, Slovenia, Sweden, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Zambia, National Human Rights Commission of Korea would like to highlight the critical importance of the human rights of older persons within the framework of the Human Rights Council's work.


Last year marked a significant milestone in advancing older persons' rights globally. At its 14th session, the UN Open Ended Working Group on Ageing in New York adopted Decision 14/1, which explicitly recognized the significant gaps in the protection of older persons' rights. Notably, Decision 14/1 urged UN Member States to consider its recommendations, including: *'An international legally binding instrument to promote, protect and ensure the recognition and the realization, on an equal basis, of all human rights of older persons'* (para. 25(a)). Subsequently, the UN General Assembly adopted by consensus resolution 78/324 in which it urged "*relevant United Nations bodies, respecting the relevant mandate, to further consider the recommendations as adopted by the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing in its decision 14/1*" (OP. 2). In line with this Resolution, we firmly believe that the UN Human Rights Council is the most appropriate UN body to take this work forward.

Therefore, we are looking forward to welcoming a Human Rights Council resolution which would begin the process of drafting a new Convention on the Rights of Older Persons. We also hope that this process will ensure the meaningful participation of older persons themselves, as well as Civil Society Organizations and National Human Rights Institutions.

Thank you very much.

List of signatories ('A' status NHRIs)

1. Colombia - Defensoría del Pueblo
2. Ethiopia - Ethiopian Human Rights Commission
3. Finland - Finnish Human Rights Institution.
4. Georgia - Public Defender's Office
5. Kenya - Kenya National Commission on Human Rights
6. Korea - National Human Rights Commission of Korea
7. Mongolia - National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia
8. Nigeria - National Human Rights Commission
9. Philippines - Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines
10. Poland - The Commissioner for Human Rights
11. Serbia - Protector of Citizens
12. Slovenia - Human Rights Ombudsman
13. Sweden - Swedish Institute for Human Rights
14. Thailand - National Human Rights Commission of Thailand
15. Timor-Leste - Provedoria for Human Rights and Justice
16. Zambia - Human Rights Commission



Chang Ho AHN

Chairperson

National Human Rights Commission of Korea