

FINAL DRAFT

Statement to the OEWSGA13th Session 3-6 April 2023

General Debate

Day 1

Madame Chair,

It is my honor, as the Commissioner of the National Human Rights Commission of Korea to present this statement on behalf of 12 National Human Rights Institutions that are members and observers of the Global Alliance of National Human rights Institutions (GANHRI)'s Working Group on Ageing and the rights of older persons.

First of all, I would like to congratulate you on organizing another year of an inclusive forum to protect and promote the rights of older persons. The Open Ended Working Group on Ageing is a unique opportunity where member states, as well as, NHRIs and NGOs from all region come together and engage in meaningful dialogue. I hope we keep this practice alive and well and move forward decisively and substantively to make the international human rights framework stronger.

Most of us here today acknowledge the fact that there are gaps in protecting the rights of older persons. NHRIs are no stranger to this. The members of GANHRI Working Group on Ageing have strongly advocated for the creation of a legally binding instrument. Last year, the National Human Rights Commission of Korea has proposed the draft text for the development of a Convention on the Rights of Older Persons. It incorporated discussions from the OEWSGA, OHCHR, NHRIs, NGOs and others over the years. The protection gaps have been identified, and from our perspective it is about time we start drafting a legally binding instrument at the OEWSGA.

NHRIs are up for the task. We have been active in proclaiming the need for a UN Convention on the rights of older persons and we could serve as national-level monitoring bodies as under a number of other conventions.

We call on all member states to engage actively to adopt a clear plan and timeline for establishing a Convention, in line with the OEWSGA's mandate set out in 2012 by the General Assembly [in resolution A/RES/67/139](#) .

I wish the 13<sup>th</sup> session of the OEWSGA will be the last one addressing the protection gaps of older persons rights, and that substantive work on a draft of a legally binding instrument for older persons will begin promptly after this session.

Once again, I would like to express my gratitude to those who are working to promote the rights of older persons.

I thank you.

National human Rights Commission of Korea  
Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights of Poland  
Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines  
Georgia Public Defender's Office  
Ombudsman's Office of Peru  
Procuraduría para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos  
Nigeria National Human Rights Commission  
Kenya National Commission for Human Rights  
National Commission on Human Rights Egypt  
Ethiopian Human Rights Commission  
Slovak National Centre for Human Rights  
German Institute for Human Rights