Statement to the OEWGA14th Session 20-22 and 24 May 2024

On behalf of a group of NHRIs

General Debate

 Day 1

Honourable Chair, Excellencies,

On behalf of the Commissioner for Human Rights of Poland and a group of 25 national human rights institutions from Albania, Australia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Guatemala, Honduras, Korea, Malasia, Malawi, Philippines, Portugal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Thailand, 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 an expert meeting on the violence, neglect and abuse of older persons is planned by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in response to the request formulated in the second HRC substantive resolution on human rights of older persons ([A/HRC/54/L.20](https://undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=A%2FHRC%2FRES%2F54%2F13&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False)).

**We appreciate also the OEWGA decision 13/1**[A/AC.278/2023/L.1/Rev.1](https://undocs.org/A/AC.278/2023/L.1/Rev.1), adopted by consensus at OEWGA 13th Session last year as well as the intersessional work led by t**he Co-facilitators in order to** consider the existing international framework of the human rights of older persons and the identification of possible gaps and how best to address them. We expect that the proposed **intergovernmental negotiated recommendations** to be considered at the 14th session of the OEWGA and to be presented for consideration by the General Assembly **will acknowledge the number of evidence showing existing gaps** like lack of protectionin areas related to ageism and age discrimination, equality and non-discrimination, violence, neglect and abuse, autonomy and independence, long-term and palliative care, social protection and social security, educationand many others **as well as open the way for drafting a content of the new UN convention on Human Rights of Older Persons.**

In this context we reiterate the still relevant appeal that NHRIs, CSOs, and older persons themselves should be involved at each stage of the process and their informed and meaningful participation should be assured.

Thank you very much.

**National Human Rights Institutions**

1. Albania: People’s Advocate Institution
2. Australia: Australian Human Rights Commission
3. Belgium: The Federal Institute for the protection and the promotion of Human Rights
4. Bosnia and Herzegovina: Institution of the Human Rights Ombudsman
5. Cyprus: the Commissioner for Administration and the Protection of Human Rights
6. Egypt: The National Council for Human Rights
7. El Salvador: Procuraduria para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos
8. Ethiopia: Ethiopian Human Rights Commission
9. Finland: Finnish Human Rights Centre
10. Georgia: Public Defender’s Office
11. Germany: German Institute for Human Rights
12. Guatemala: Procuraduría de los Derechos Humanos
13. Honduras: National Commissioner for Human Rights of Honduras (CONADEH)
14. Korea: National Human Rights Commission of Korea
15. Malasia: Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM)
16. Malawi: Human Rights Commission
17. Morocco: National Human Rights Council (CNDH) of Morocco
18. Philippines: Commission on Human Rights
19. Poland: Commissioner for Human Rights
20. Portugal: Provedor de Justicia
21. Serbia: Protector of Citizens of the Republic of Serbia
22. Slovakia: Slovak National Centre for Human Rights
23. Slovenia: Human Rights Ombudsman of the Republic of Slovenia
24. Thailand: National Human Rights Commission of Thailand
25. Ukraine: Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights