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AGE Platform Europe Oral Statement

UN Intergovernmental Working Group on Older Persons

'Catalogue of Rights': 29 October 2026

Distinguished Chair, delegates and colleagues,

I am speaking on behalf of AGE Platform Europe, the largest regional network bringing together more than 100 organisations of older persons, and our member organisations BAGSO, OLD' UP and JNF 50 Plus. As founding member of GAROP, we also align with its statement and discussion paper, which includes a draft list of rights as a basis for reflection on the content of the forthcoming legally binding instrument (LBI).

We would like to highlight two priorities for the catalogue of rights.

First, the treaty must build on existing international human rights standards without lowering or undermining the level of protection already established. It must establish legally binding obligations that uphold existing protections and strengthen them wherever necessary. It should clarify how established human rights apply in older age and address the gaps in law and practice that have left older persons insufficiently protected.

Second, the treaty must provide a comprehensive catalogue of rights that reflects the interconnected and interdependent nature of all human rights and the realities of older persons' lives. In doing so, it should draw inspiration from the approach of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which clarifies how human rights must be realised in the context of disability.

The treaty must address both longstanding and emerging challenges, ensuring that older persons can enjoy their rights in a rapidly changing world. Particular attention should be given to the human rights implications of digitalisation, including the use of artificial intelligence, across all areas of life. The treaty must ensure that technological

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developments do not reinforce ageism, create new forms of discrimination or exclude older persons from essential services and participation in society.

It should also recognise the significant risks that climate change poses to older persons and require States to take effective measures to protect their rights in the face of climate-related hazards and emergencies.

We call on States to ensure that the catalogue of rights is firmly grounded in existing international human rights standards while developing specific provisions to address the systemic and structural barriers that prevent older persons from enjoying their rights on an equal basis with others. The treaty must not only reaffirm existing rights but ensure that older persons can effectively enjoy them in practice, on an equal basis with others and in a changing world.

Thank you.

For more information

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