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AGE Platform Europe Oral Statement

UN Intergovernmental Working Group on Older Persons

'Elements relating to implementation, monitoring and international cooperation': 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.

We welcome an early discussion on the provisions concerning implementation, monitoring, enforcement and accountability. While remaining open to discussing the specific design of the monitoring mechanism, we wish to highlight five key principles to guide further work on this part of the LBI.

First, the LBI must establish a dedicated monitoring body. Without one, the rights of older persons risk remaining marginal within a system that has yet to develop the necessary expertise. Existing treaty bodies cannot be expected to fill this gap or provide the sustained, specialised guidance needed to clarify States' obligations.

We fully support mainstreaming older persons' rights across the human rights system. However, adding responsibilities to the existing overstretched bodies is not necessarily the most efficient option to achieve this. A dedicated Convention and monitoring body would provide the expertise, visibility and guidance needed to advance mainstreaming across the system.

Second, national and international monitoring must receive equal attention and reinforce each other. Strong national monitoring can support independent international oversight and make State reporting lighter and more effective. This requires independent and adequately resourced national bodies mandated to promote, protect and monitor the rights of older persons.

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Third, the LBI must ensure effective enforcement and access to remedy. This involves accessible individual and collective complaints procedures and adequate investigative powers.

Fourth, systematic data collection and analysis, including age-disaggregated data, must be central to monitoring. As highlighted by the UN Independent Expert and seen in our own work in the EU, age limits in surveys continue to exclude older persons from official statistics. Data gaps are even greater for marginalised groups, such as people living in institutions and those facing intersecting forms of discrimination. The LBI must address these gaps.

Fifth, and most importantly, organisations of older persons must have a meaningful role in implementation and monitoring. Article 33 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities offers an important precedent. Their participation must be an integral part of the monitoring framework. This requires investment in awareness-raising, human rights education and capacity-building, so that older persons and their representative organisations can understand the LBI, claim their rights and participate effectively.

Thank you

For more information

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