

Session 4, statement by Mr Filip Hamro-Drotz, Confederation of Swedish Speaking Retired in Finland (SPF), Finland

* We appreciate the recent UN resolution and report concerning human rights for older persons. **Also we support strongly the creation of a Convention on the rights of older persons. It is needed not only by older persons but by society as a whole. It should be adopted without delay**

* Our key message is that **the Convention should include also legally binding involvement of civil society by regular consultations with NGO's** concerning the rights for older persons.

* It would be welcomed to **initiate this framework at three levels:**

**** At international level UN should upgrade in its agenda regular consultations with NGO's concerning older persons, ideally to be handled by the High Commissioner for human rights or the Independent Expert**

**** At national level the governments should be expected to reach out to the grass-root stakeholders, fostering dialogue and regular consultations with civil society/NGO's. This would be facilitated by opening easily accessible points for complaint. Ideally an official ombudsman would be nominated to handle older persons concerns**

**** Also at regional level this framework should exist: in Europe regular consultations with AGE-Europe and other NGO's - concerning equal treatment of older persons should be strengthened and ideally handled by the European Union**

We are convinced that this framework would efficiently promote the rights of older persons, recognize them as asset in society, dampen ageism and the risk for older persons to be left behind.