



**Statement on normative elements of autonomy and independence
and long-term and palliative care
for the 10th Session of the UN OEWG on Ageing
by AGE Platform Europe**

Mr Chair,

We very much support the fact that this group addresses the normative elements of the focus areas it discusses the previous year, and we thank the work of OHCHR and UN DESA. These discussions are the logic step in view of fulfilling its mandate.

Mr Chair,

With regards to autonomy and independence, the 9th session revealed the multiple barriers older people face, which include substituted decision-making practices and care and support services that isolate people and prevent them from making decisions, among many others.

We believe that a right to autonomy and independence should enable older people to lead independent and autonomous lives in line with their wills and preferences, on an equal basis with others, and without discrimination of any kind. This includes the right to support for full participation in society, to make independent choices and have them respected and to keep control over all aspects of life. It also includes the right of older people to equal legal capacity. States should be obliged to make a concrete reality out of this right, including by ensuring access to support for decision-making. They should also seek to ensure equal opportunities for older people to participate in their communities.

Mr Chair,

With regards to long-term care and palliative care, problems of quality and access to services are widespread across Europe and globally, as the 9th session showed.

It is therefore essential to recognise older people's right to care and support, and also to palliative care.

A right to care and support should enable older people's access to affordable, quality and holistic care and support services, adapted to individual needs and promoting wellbeing, autonomy, independence and community inclusion, without discrimination.

The implementation of this right should include obliging states to ensure prior consent in access to care, ensure older people have control over their care and support at all times and to fund social protection schemes to make care affordable and truly accessible.

Regarding palliative care, in view of the gaps it should be recognised that older people have the right to it, regardless of their age and health condition, without discrimination, and it should be accessible in all settings.

Mr Chair,

We believe it would benefit everyone in this group, especially states, to reflect the key elements in our discussions in an outcome document. We therefore support your proposal in this regard.

Thank you.