



**AGE Platform Europe and BAGSO Oral Statement at
United Nation's General Assembly Open-Ended Working Group for
the purpose of strengthening the protection of human rights of
older persons**

Speaker: Dr Heidrun Mollenkopf

Item 7. Discussion on the way forward

6 April 2023

Distinguished Chair, Delegates and colleagues,

On behalf of AGE Platform Europe and BAGSO, I speak today. The 13th session comes to a close. As the previous ones, it has demonstrated that until now we are not treated as equals when we are getting older. And this behaviour is neither viewed as wrong and harmful nor condemned as unjustified and unlawful treatments by international law.

Remember: A convention would not be about saving the old. It is about enabling **each of us** to transition seamlessly from one stage of our lives to the next, without being discriminated because of our age.

Therefore, we recognise the efforts of Chile and the cross-regional core group to provide a platform for an open exchange among member states through the proposed draft decision. We stand ready to support the co-facilitators and participate in the informal consultations. This we expect to happen in a transparent and democratic manner to ensure meaningful participation by civil society in all its

diversity as well as other stakeholders, for instance also through regional meetings. We have lived experience and expertise, and hence, our participation in the informal intergovernmental meetings will be fundamental.

At the same time, we cannot ignore that we are disappointed it took 13 sessions to find such a way forward, 13 long years for older persons around the world whose rights are not adequately respected, protected and guaranteed.

We therefore expect the group to immediately start their work.

And we call on states to support this draft decision and we reiterate our call for a convention as the only means to definitely render visible and tackle the deep structural ageism that makes rights diminish in the course of our lives.

Thank you.

Listen to the statement on UN WebTV:

<https://media.un.org/en/asset/k14/k146f5m5kh?kalturaStartTime=2685>

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