

Open-ended Working Group on Ageing

Seventh working session

New York, 12-15 December 2016.

The seventh session of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWGA) on **strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons** was convened from 12 to 15 December 2016 at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The session was opened by the Chair of the Working Group, Mateo Estrémé (Argentina).

The United Nations recent projections show that between 2015 and 2030, the target date for the Sustainable Development Goals, **the number of older persons in the world is expected to grow by 56 per cent from 901 MILLION TO 1.4 BILLION.**

On Tuesday, 13 December, the report of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons was presented by Rosa Kornfeld-Matte. In this report, the Independent Expert assesses the implementation of existing international instruments with regard to older persons while identifying best and good practices and gaps in the implementation of existing laws related to the promotion and protection of the rights of older persons. The report also provides an analysis of the human rights implications of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002.

Two thematic panels (panel 1 on recent regional developments and initiatives concerning the human rights of older persons and panel 2 on human rights dimensions concerning older persons in recent policy developments and initiatives in multilateral processes) were organized and followed by interactive discussions.

Most delegations expressed common opinions with relation to the future work of the Open-ended Working Group in the sense of focusing the debate on areas where further protection of the human rights of older persons is needed, as well as issues of relevance to older persons and elements that need to be better addressed by the international community in order to allow older persons to fully enjoy their human rights. In that sense, there were some areas that were mentioned across interventions such as :

- equality and non-discrimination (discrimination on the basis of age)
- neglect, violence and abuse (ageism)
- autonomy and independence
- accessibility, infrastructure and habitat (transport, housing and access)
- access to justice
- social protection and social security (including social protection floors)
- economic security
- right to work and access the labour market
- education, training, life-long learning and capacity building
- participation in the public life and in decision making processes

-social inclusion

-contribution of older persons to sustainable development

-long term and palliative care

The Chair concluded that the Bureau will hold consultations with the Member States in order to select two of the following three clusters to be the focus areas for their discussions during the eighth session of the Working Group : 1) equality and non-discrimination 2) neglect, violence and abuse 3) autonomy and independence.