

NGO CoA – News

UPDATE on efforts to elaborate a convention to protect and promote the rights of older persons

The General Assembly Open-ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWGA), which held its seventh session from 12-15 December 2017 to discuss the protection of the human rights of older persons, ended on an encouraging note !! At all the previous six sessions, Member States held extensive discussions on a wide range of issues affecting older persons – discrimination, social security and social protection, right to health, violence and abuse, discrimination and access to work, age and social exclusion, access to justice, autonomy, demographic issues, etc. etc.

At the seventh session, the Chair (Argentina) of the OEWGA concluded the meeting by announcing that:

1. The OEWGA must move forward to comply with its mandate to strengthen the protection of the human rights of older persons, including consideration of an international instrument.
2. He will consult with the Bureau, Member States and civil society on “elements” that can be discussed at the eighth session, to be held in July 2017, for possible inclusion in a convention, such as:
 - a. Equality and non-discrimination
 - b. Violence, neglect and abuse
 - c. Autonomy and independence
3. Civil society must participate actively

ACTIONS REQUIRED:

1. **NGOs that will be attending the OEWGA meeting should start preparing for their participation in discussions on those topics.**
2. **NGOs at the national level should be contacting national authorities to urge them to provide instructions to their government representatives who will be attending the OEWGA – NGOs should provide information and analyses to their national authorities in support of the eventual drafting of a convention.**

WATCH THIS SPACE FOR UPDATED INFORMATION ON ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN BEFORE THE NEXT MEETING OF THE OEWGA IN JULY 2017.