



**Statement to be delivered by the Group of Friends of Older Persons
Briefing by the Secretary-General
on the progress in the implementation of recommendations of the “Our Common
Agenda” report**

United Nations Headquarters in New York
August 4th, 2022

Thank you Mr. President,

I have the pleasure to speak on behalf of the members of the “Group of Friends of Older Persons” at the United Nations in New York: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Qatar, Slovenia, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, Türkiye, Uruguay and my own country Chile.

Mr. President,

We thank you for conveying this important space to share our views of the implementation of the Secretary General’s report “Our Common Agenda”.

Considering the disproportionate impact of the pandemic that older persons have been experiencing -in addition to the structural barriers and lack of normative protection that makes them prone to violence, abuse, neglect and all forms of discrimination- we want to present a forward looking view on how we can ensure they have a place in the present and long-term initiatives fostered by this Organization. ¹

¹ Statement of the GOFOP, 2022 HLPF

Firstly, we take note of the proposal to convene a Summit of the Future to create the conditions for a sustainable, equitable and inclusive future. When thinking of long-term approaches, we want to highlight that by 2050, the number of persons aged 65 years or over worldwide is projected to be more than twice the number of children under age 5 and about the same as the number of children under age 12.² Therefore, we deem relevant that the considerations regarding this Summit, as well as the implementation of the initiatives of Our Common Agenda, respond to future demographic trends and incorporate that information into policies and planning.

Second, as for the informal consultations on the resolution that will establish a United Nations Youth Office, we welcome the inclusion of references to intergenerational cooperation, which is key to face the present and future challenges of our world. We agree with the Secretary General's Report Our Common Agenda in that "we have the capacity to think for the longer term more than ever before."³ Therefore, we encourage the strengthening of intergenerational solidarity and reciprocity between the generations in order to ensure social cohesion and inclusion of all individuals of society regardless of their age.

This is particularly relevant considering how changes in the age distribution of population can have major implications for labor markets, households, social protection, education and health care, and in that regard we must address ageism and other issues that affect persons throughout their life course, in particular those they face when they age, included but not limited to addressing the intersectionality of age discrimination⁴

Aging is an unavoidable process that becomes even more relevant when we undertake a life course approach: the youth of today will be the older persons of tomorrow. We must highlight the importance of said approach to all the UN System policies and programs.

² World Population Prospects 2022: Summary of Results, pg. ii

³ Our Common Agenda – Report Of The Secretary-General, pg.44

⁴ Statement of the GOFOP, 2022 OEWGA on Ageing

While doing so, it is important to emphasize that older persons are not a homogeneous group, and in order to be truly inclusive, we must target public policies to address such heterogeneity.⁵

Third, we recall the final summary of the Our Common Agenda consultation process dated May the 20th of this year. We note with appreciation the item that states that “the UN Secretariat will develop a policy that puts people at the center of all its actions”. In that regard, we want to recall the importance of including older persons in such actions, and we hereby assure you of our full support and willingness to contribute to such an endeavor.

As a first step, we encourage the United Nations System to further deploy the Inter-agency Group on Ageing to build upon the complementary elements of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the United Nations Decade on Healthy Ageing, the Madrid Action Plan, as well as the Our Common Agenda report. The interlinkages between these frameworks can be found in terms of the meaningful engagement and participation of persons of all ages; building capacity for integrated action across sectors; linking stakeholders to share experience and learn from others; and strengthening data, research and innovation in order to better respond to the needs of people. ⁶

Lastly, Mr President,

This Group of Friends remains committed to engaging constructively with other Member States and the UN system in order to advocate for the rights of Older Persons, as we are convinced that a way forward that considers a life course approach to inclusion, participation and solidarity is one that not only older persons can benefit from, but also the society as a whole.

⁵ Statement of the GOFOP, 2022 HLPF

⁶ Statement of the GOFOP, 2022 OCA Consultation Dialogues

Thank you,