

## **Draft concept for GAROP side event at OEWG10**

**‘Our Voices, Our Rights!’ – What older people say about the normative elements of their right to autonomy and independence**

**Official name of organisation submitting application:** Age International

**Moderator:** Dr. Emem Omokaro, Dave Omokaro Foundation, Nigeria

**Panel of activists:**

- Bertha Kijo, Good Samaritan Social Service Trust, Tanzania
- Ferdoushi Begum, Resource Integration Centre, Bangladesh
- Herbert Baryayebwa, Uganda Reach the Aged Association
- Ishwari Swar, Ageing Nepal
- Rose Gahire, NSINDAGIZA organisation, Rwanda
- Heidrun Mollenkopf, Vice-President of AGE Platform Europe
- Constanza Daniels, Fundacion Oportunidad Mayor, Chile

**Sponsors:** OHCHR, NGO Committee on Ageing – New York, Government of Rwanda (TBC), Government of Tanzania (TBC)

**Preferred dates and times (in order of preference):**

1. Monday 15<sup>th</sup> at lunchtime
2. Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:30-12:45
3. Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> at 11:30-12:45
4. Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> at lunchtime

**Details of event:**

This event will officially launch the new ‘Our Voices, Our Rights’ report from the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People. The report presents the findings of a recent consultation with over 1,000 older women and men in ten countries across Africa and Asia. Using a new methodology designed specifically for this process, older people shared their views about a number of key aspects of their right to autonomy and independence. They talk about how important these rights are to them, how much freedom they have to exercise them, and how important it is that these rights are officially recognised by their governments and the UN.

The event will take the form of a moderated and lively discussion with five older activists who were involved in conducting the consultation in their countries. They will share the insights they gained when talking to older people in their communities and underline the key recommendations on normative elements of the right to autonomy and independence that emerged from these discussions. Advocates from the European and Latin American regions will also react to the findings of the report and share reflections on this from their own contexts. This event will play a crucial

role in bringing the voices of older people themselves into the heart of the discussions about the content of a new international legally-binding instrument at the 10<sup>th</sup> session of the OEWG.