

Statement submitted by the International Federation on Ageing
Second Session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing
4th August 2011

Madam Moderator, on behalf of the International Federation on Ageing, a membership-based organisation comprising non-governmental organisations, government, business, academia and individuals in 71 countries; these agencies are members because they are committed to the interests of the older people. IFA is a founding member of the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People a social movement

The IFA is honoured to be an observer at the Second Working Session of the Open-ended working group with the opportunity to provide such interventions. We regard this as a privileged position.

We have gained tremendously from the diversity of views from members' states and with that a deeper understanding of their current positions in regard to the protection of rights of older people in their respective countries.

The Panel sessions have also offered the occasion to examine the similarities and differences experienced by older people in developed and less developed countries – in fact older people living in poverty for example is a global problem. It is however clear that in some regions of the world the plight of older people are indeed responded to in a more comprehensive manner, yet as we learned from this session at that of the first working session the mechanisms are neither universal nor accessible.

The IFA deeply appreciates the work of the Open-ended working group on such a critical yet complex subject – their work has been comprehensive, substantive and thoughtful. The continuation of this Open-ended working group is welcome – the national, regional and international knowledge gaps remains indefinable but one that must be filled.

The IFAs position in respect to the manner in which global rights of older people are achieved lies in the development of a new human rights instrument, vis a vis a Convention. It does however responds positively to the proposal of a number of member states of a special rapporteur working in parallel to understanding how best to full protect the rights of all people globally rather than regional responses which in fact create fragmentation within and across countries.

However in accepting the proposition of a Special Rapporteur, this cannot be a substitute for the work toward full protection of the rights of older people which we strongly believe lies in a new international human rights instruments in the name of a Convention.

Madam Moderator, in closing the IFA wishes to reconfirm our commitment to work in partnership with all UN agencies, member states, academia and our members to contribute legitimately and with a strong voice to assure the rights of older people are protected not adequately but fully and in a sustainable manner.

Thank you.