**Statement**

**By**

**The delegation of Egypt**

**The Fifth Session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing**

**agenda item 4: Existing international framework on the human rights of older persons and identification of existing gaps at the international level**

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**Mr. Chairman**

**I align my remarks with the statement by Libya on behalf of the African Group.**

**Since the establishment of the Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing in 2011, the first four substantive sessions have discussed the international legal framework for the protection of old persons and the promotion of their human rights, including the need for strengthening an international legal instrument for that purpose as well as the overall situation of human rights of older persons worldwide.**

**The discussions showed an agreement among member states on the shortcomings and challenges to the enjoyment of human rights by older persons, and the urgent need to address them. However, there was no agreement on how to address these challenges and shortcomings, particularly on establishing a new comprehensive and integral international legal instrument for older persons.**

**Mr. Chairman**

**Ageing is a global phenomenon according to the UN reports. Egypt believes that ageing issues are among the major issues that need to be addressed in the Post-2015 development agenda as no one should be left behind. In line with the strong African position supporting the elaboration of a UN Convention on the Human Rights of Older Persons, Egypt stresses the need for an international legal instrument for older persons that ensures and promotes the full realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms of older persons without any discrimination on the basis of age. The instrument should also ensure the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against older persons, with special attention to older women, the poor, those with disabilities or chronic diseases, or those without families. It shall also stress the following elements:**

1. **The need for changing the perception on the linkage between age and the ability of older persons to work, highlighting the contributions they can make to their societies in different aspects of life as agents for development.**
2. **The importance of mainstreaming their concerns and needs in the national strategies and development initiatives to enable them to participate fully in society without discrimination.**
3. **The indispensable role of the family in the provision of care to older persons.**

**Mr. Chairman**

**Customs, traditions and religious values play an important role in shaping human and family relations in Egypt. The contributions of older persons to their families and societies are important with regard to the transfer of their long accumulative life experiences to the new generations. The unprecedented participation of older persons; females and males, from all social backgrounds in the parliamentary and presidential elections over the past three years gave an important example to their families, particularly the new generations on good citizenship and positive participation.**

**In this regard, and in consistency with the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, Egypt’s new constitution responds to the needs and rights of older persons. Article (83) of the Constitution mandates the State to guarantee the economic, social and cultural rights of the older persons, provide them with appropriate pensions to ensure them a decent life, and enable them to participate in public life. The State shall also take into account the needs of older persons in its planning for public facilities. The Constitution stresses also the State’s obligation to provide older women with care and protection, establish a comprehensive health insurance system covering all Egyptians, and guarantee them the right to comprehensive health care with quality standards.**

**National efforts are in place to address the challenges facing older persons, including the following steps:**

1. **The Center for Science and Elderly Care is a governmental think tank affiliated to Cairo University established in 2001, with a view of conducting studies and research on all aspects of care provided to older persons. It is currently working on developing a national plan of action consistent with the global plans of action on aging, including the Madrid Plan of Action, as well as on establishing a specialized National Council for Older Persons.**
2. **The Centre for Ageing and Associated Diseases is affiliated to the Egyptian University of Science and Technology in order to design and conduct molecular, genetic, cellular, and behavioral research to investigate ageing and associated physical and mental disorders , foster collaborative efforts to enhance clinical, social, and economic research on ageing, with a goal of improving the quality of life of the Egyptians. Its activities will be operational soon.**

**Mr. Chairman**

**I conclude by stressing the strong role of the family for the protection of the human rights of older persons. Although many older persons need nursing and special medical care, special care shelters cannot and should not be a substitute to the family.**

**I thank you, Mr. Chairman.**