



Government of Canada  
Permanent Mission of Canada  
to the United Nations

Gouvernement du Canada  
Mission permanente du Canada  
auprès de l'Organisation des Nations Unies

Note 0026

The Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and has the honour to respond to note DESA-13/00400 of 28 March 2013.

Canada is committed to protection and promotion of human rights of older persons and recognizes that there are diverging views on the subject of normative gaps. While we remain supportive of the continued consideration of the issue, we also want to stress the importance of focusing our efforts where consensus exists.

Canada has participated in several working groups on aging in which implementation, monitoring and information gaps have been discussed. The outcome of these discussions serves as a good indicator as to where the focus should be placed. As a party to numerous international human rights treaties Canada believes that we do not need to wait for a Convention to implement the current, binding human rights of all persons including older persons, without discrimination of any kind. It is also important to remember that not all seniors face the same challenges because vulnerability is not determined by a person's age alone.

Furthermore, while A/RES/67/139 was adopted by the Third Committee, the voting results (which consisted of an overwhelming number of abstentions) suggest that there is insufficient interest and support among UN members to draft a new UN Convention on the rights of older persons.

In closing, Canada is strongly committed to working domestically and within the international community to promote and protect the rights of older persons. While DESA's short deadline for turnaround of feedback did not permit a more detailed response, Canada hopes that the forthcoming meeting of the OEWG will provide a useful forum to advance the discussion.

The Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat the assurances of its highest consideration.



NEW YORK, 6 May, 2013