



### **Statement by Esther Wamera; Representative of HelpAge Kenya**

Mr. Chairman, I am honored to represent HelpAge Kenya, All Saints Cathedral Association of Seniors Citizens and associations of older persons in Kenya in this 6<sup>th</sup> Session in declaring our full support for the establishment of an international instrument on the rights of older persons.

Mr. Chairman, I am a living testimony on discrimination of older persons; my late husband, passed on whilst in my hands on a hospital queue due to professional negligence emanating from prejudice against older persons whereby states and governments underrate the right of older persons to the highest attainable standard of health and health care services among other fundamental human rights.

Mr. Chairman, it is indeed very shameful that countless of my peers live in abject poverty with many more living in fear after being subjected to discrimination and all forms of abuse including rape and killings due to accusations of witchcraft.

The mere fact of the lack of an international instrument on rights of older persons makes governments to continue to treat the Madrid International Plan of Aging and subsequent elaborate UN Principles on Older Persons as mere rhetoric and hence subjecting older persons to the risks of anarchy, dependency, discrimination and disorder.

Mr. Chairman, it's time for UN member states to establish a compelling - binding international framework for states and governments to account and commit to fulfilling the unique human rights of older persons. The establishment of a robust international instrument and subsequent regional and country specific frameworks will address these unique rights and needs.

Thank you.