

Senior Citizens Association of Zambia (SCAZ) Statement, 16th July 2015

6th Session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing UN Headquarters, New York, 2015

Thank you, Chair, for giving me this opportunity to say a few words to this important UN Open-ended Working Group on Ageing.

I come from the Senior Citizens Association of Zambia in the Republic of Zambia.

Although the National Policy on Ageing was produced as far back as 2008, it was only approved in 2013 by Cabinet. It has yet to be launched and implemented.

We strongly believe that once the policy is launched, it will be used as a guiding instrument not only for the Government committing itself to the plight of older persons but also for the purposes of allocation and expenditure of public resources. Having a policy on ageing will also assist in enhancing the mainstreaming of ageing issues in national development. The policy will further pave the way for legal reforms that could enhance the realisation of other rights of older persons and create an environment that takes consideration of the ageing population.

Additionally the policy will facilitate the domestication of international conventions relating to the older persons such as the UN convention on the rights of older persons which is being discussed now.

We believe that the United Nations convention on the rights of older persons will be the most effective way to ensure that all people, now and in the future, enjoy their human rights in their older age on an equal basis with others.

We salute the American-Caribbean effort for coming up with a legal instrument for the protection of the rights of older people. We also salute the African effort for coming up with a Protocol to the African Charter on the rights of older persons in Africa.

We believe that these instruments could inform discussions for drafting an international convention on the rights of older people.

I thank you.