

## **Vietnam Association for the Elderly (VAE) Statement, 16<sup>th</sup> July 2015**

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**6<sup>th</sup> Session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing  
UN Headquarters, New York, 2015**

Mr Chair,

I am honoured to attend the meeting to speak the voice of Vietnamese older people.

At present Vietnam is in an ageing period, with 9.4 million older people, consisting of more than 10 per cent of the population. The Vietnam Association for the Elderly with 7.4 million members is the biggest organisation of Vietnamese older people.

Vietnamese older people totally agree with the resolution 69/146 on ageing of the General Assembly. This is big progress, a new step to consider the importance of ageing. Vietnamese older people also want to contribute to the process of developing a legal framework and convention on the rights of older people.

It is time Member States of the UN have to appreciate the life of each person during 20-30 years at the end of life. And we have responsibility to protect the poor and disadvantaged older people.

Mr Chair, we have asked many young Vietnamese people if they want to live a long time, healthily, safely and cheerfully. The answer is “yes” but when we ask “How will you achieve this?” almost all answered, “We are not interested.”

So I think increasing awareness on ageing is very necessary but it is not enough. We need law and policies for older people. And on a global scale, we need a legal tool to protect the rights of older people. That means a convention on the rights of older people is critically necessary. But above all older people need an efficient and feasible convention so we have two main requirements:

1. The convention should be suitable with characteristics and context for all countries, for example their economies, culture, ethnicities.
2. The convention should include sanctions and concrete guidelines.

A convention on the rights of older people is necessary, but efficient implementation is more necessary.

I hope the convention will be approved very soon because many older people can't wait for a long time. The convention on ageing will provide an opportunity not only for older people today but for all of you in the future.

Thank you.