**Multi-stakeholder meeting on rights of older persons, 30 August 2022**

**Age International Statement – Session 3: Strengthening coordinated actions for the protection of the human rights of older persons**

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We are here because older people are being treated differently by others in society and this has created conditions in which we are discriminated against on the basis of our age, and our rights are being ignored and violated as we get older.

This morning we are discussing how to strengthen coordination for the better protection of the rights of older persons.

The international human rights system has demonstrated throughout its history that the realisation of rights is greatly facilitated by the creation of specific human rights treaties that help to articulate how the protection of human rights can be achieved across different aspects of our human experience. The roles of Independent Experts and Special Rapporteurs also greatly enhance the realisation of these rights, and their role should be supported and enhanced. While the overall process is not perfect, it represents the best efforts of both governments and civil society to strive towards a more just and equitable world.

A human rights convention for the rights of older persons would strengthen coordinated action through three key functions. These are not theoretical, but reflect the direct experience of existing human rights conventions, including most recently CRPD:

* + First – Awareness-raising: creating a convention is a process that helps strengthen awareness amongst all sectors of society about these rights. It is a continuous process that includes awareness raising at individual and institutional levels.
  + Second – Legal certainty: a legally binding convention would help articulate how human rights should be protected in later life, providing the legal language necessary to strengthen national legislation as well as providing guidance to Member States, multilateral organisations, and civil society.
  + And Third – Accountability: a legally binding convention and ensuing monitoring mechanisms would be useful tools for strengthening engagement between governments and civil society, and help provide civil society with further recourse, leading to the development of more effective policies and laws; a convention would also help establish clearly throughout the UN, the human rights treaty body system, and other multilateral organisations, that there is a duty to take older persons’ rights fully into account.

Only a legally binding convention can provide the authority, clarity and universality necessary for improving coordination across and between governments, the multilateral system and civil society.

My question to the panel: TBC