**OHCHR’s Multi-stakeholder Meeting on the Human Rights of Older Persons**

***Statement on actionable recommendations***

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As our world is plagued by the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and conflicts, it triggers the urgent need to increase our attention to the respect, protection, and promotion of older persons' rights. Older persons have a multi-faceted vulnerability to physical and emotional abuse, isolation, and various forms of discrimination.

Given the above facts, the lack of a dedicated international instrument for older persons continues to be a pressing issue in the promotion and protection of their rights. Regionally, although there is the African protocol on the rights of older persons, due to the small number of countries that have ratified the protocol including Ethiopia, it has not yet entered into force.

Hence, we should insist on the adoption of a dedicated and comprehensive international normative instrument on older person rights to strengthen the protection of the human rights of older persons. It is also important to advocate for the ratification of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Older Persons and enhance its implementation at regional level.

Apart from governmental institutions and international agencies, older person’s organizations play a vital role in the promotion and protection of human rights of older persons. The international and Ethiopian experience shows the number of non-governmental organizations working on the rights of older persons is significantly very small. Speaking of Ethiopian experience, older persons’ organizations suffer from institutional and functional capacity limitations – including poor organizational structure, limited finance and infrastructure, inadequate leadership skills, acute dearth of qualified personnel, unavailability of focused capacity development programs, and limitations in adopting innovative and best-practice operational methods and approaches. Besides, many of them operate on a charity model which is far from advocating for their own rights.

Therefore, efforts should be redoubled to strengthen these organizations and expand their accessibility.

*Thank you!*