United Nations Population Fund

**Multi-Stakeholder Meeting on the Rights of Older Persons**

**August 20-21, 2022**

**UNFPA Statement**

Thank you, Chair,

UNFPA welcomes the Multi-Stakeholder Meeting on the Rights of Older Persons. The international community has been discussing for several years the need to strengthen the International Human Rights Framework and the effective implementation of international human rights norms, standards, and obligations in order to ensure the elimination of ageism and the promotion and protection of the human rights of older persons in all their diversity, without any form of discrimination.

As evidenced in many regional and global reports, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the gaps in older persons’ human rights protection, amplified pre-existing inequalities rooted in ageism and age discrimination, and revealed gaps in the availability of age-specific data.

As a data-driven agency, UNFPA supports governments in collecting age and gender-disaggregated data and provides a gender lens to identify particular vulnerabilities faced by older women in all aspects of life, including in the context of pandemics, emergencies and development cooperation. This includes ensuring the inclusion of older persons in sexual health programmes, and the prevention and elimination of gender-based violence, in a context in which intersecting discrimination based on gender, disability and socioeconomic status is compounded by ageism. Additionally, UNFPA supports the strengthening of social protection systems and the delivery of targeted, person-centred and integrated programmes that are responsive to the needs of older people, including in the context of demographic change, such as population ageing, to ensure ageing with dignity.

In collaboration with other UN sister agencies, UNFPA champions the UN Decade for Healthy ageing, which inter alia, aims to change the narrative around ageing and ageism. The organisation ensures creating participatory and enabling environments raising awareness on intersectional discrimination and vulnerabilities while empowering older persons to influence social dialogue on healthy ageing, older persons’ rights and the elimination of ageism.

UNFPA further commits to working with States, older persons’ organisations, and other stakeholders to strengthen global normative and policy frameworks as well as national targeted responses to address the needs and rights of older persons and foster more inclusive, equitable, resilient and age-friendly societies.

I thank you.