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July 15, 2024

Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield
United States Mission to the United Nations
(via email)

Dear Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield:

I write on behalf of the NGO Committee on Ageing in New York at the UN to praise the ongoing work at the 14th Open Ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWGA) to address the protection of the human rights of older persons. At the recent meeting concluding on May 24, the United States provided valuable leadership as a member of its Core Group and a substantive decision was adopted. It contains several recommendations based on the intercessional work that took place between the 13th and 14th OEWGA sessions.

We urge the United States to insure that the recommendations be reported at the 78th General Assembly and action taken. We would particularly welcome as a way forward that 1) any further action must include the full, effective and meaningful participation of older persons, their representative organizations, civil society and national human rights institutions; 2) the General Assembly request the Human Rights Council to establish an intergovernmental working group to draft a comprehensive internationally legally binding instrument on protection of the human rights of older persons. Please do not hesitate to be in touch with me if you have any questions.

Thank you.

William T. Smith Ph.D.

William T. Smith
Chair