On the occasion of the 61st session of the Commission on the Status of Women

WOMEN OF ALL AGES CALL UPON GOVERNMENTS AND POLICY-MAKERS TO:

RECOGNIZE THAT

• OLDER WOMEN WORK

• OLDER WOMEN CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE ECONOMY

• OLDER WOMEN COUNT AND MUST BE COUNTED

• OLDER WOMEN MUST NOT BE LEFT FURTHER BEHIND

• POVERTY IN OLD AGE HAS A STRONG GENDER DIMENSION

OLDER WOMEN ARE:

• The majority of older persons over 60, who are increasing at unprecedented rates

• Unrecognized as being productive and having value

• Farmers, entrepreneurs, mentors, educators, doctors, lawyers, domestic help, nurses, care givers, street vendors, consumers, investors, artists, leaders, and are valuable contributors to their families, communities and the national economy

• Also among the poorest and least educated, having suffered cumulative effects of discrimination throughout their life course

• At higher risk of abuse and violence – physical, verbal, sexual, psychological or financial – and the consequences are often more severe

• In some countries, persecuted as witches and scorned when widowed
Older women demand:

- An end to age discrimination and ageism
- Inclusion in discussions of women’s economic empowerment
- Protection of their human rights
- Measures to prevent them from falling into poverty
- Recognition of their unpaid care work
- Access to life-long education and training opportunities
- Entitlement to social protection
- A life of dignity and security, free from violence, exploitation and abuse
- Collection and analysis of data on the informal economy, disaggregated by sex and age beyond the age of 59.
- Meaningful participation in decision-making about their lives
- Policies and opportunities for economic empowerment

LIFE IS NOT OVER WHEN YOU REACH 60 YEARS OF AGE!

LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND MEANS INCLUDING ALL PEOPLE OF ALL AGES

FROM CRADLE TO GRAVE

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