



On the occasion of the 61<sup>st</sup> 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 live**
- **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**

**CoNGO Committee on Ageing, New York  
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