

Virtual debrief meeting following the 58th session of the Human Rights Council (HRC58)

Date and time:	Wednesday 30 th April 2025, 15:00-16:15 CEST
Location:	Zoom
Participants:	<p>This debrief meeting is targeted particularly at members of GAROP and the NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva, as well as any other NGO interested in following the work on the rights of older persons at the HRC. We also welcome the active participation of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs).</p> <p>Representatives of the five governments on the core group on the rights of older persons in Geneva, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the UN Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons are also invited as speakers and to participate throughout the meeting.</p>

Background

The Open-ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWGA) successfully concluded in 2024 with the adoption of decision 14/1 and the subsequent General Assembly resolution 78/324. On 3 April 2025, UN Member States in the Human Rights Council in Geneva adopted a landmark [resolution 58/13](#) to create a new intergovernmental working group to draft an international legally binding instrument (UN convention) on the human rights of older persons. This milestone is the culmination of many years of advocacy and campaigning by older persons, civil society and other advocates around the world. The evidence compiled over this period has demonstrated that the best solution to the deficiencies and fragmentation in the international human rights system is a dedicated convention.

A new UN convention will have a positive impact on the lives of older persons around the world today, and all of us as we age in the future. It will provide greater clarity and essential guidance to States on how to better promote and protect older persons' rights. It will help eliminate ageism and age discrimination and ensure that older persons can seek redress for violations of their rights. This important political decision brings us closer to making enjoyment of these rights a reality. The next steps at the UN level will be to determine how the new intergovernmental working group will be resourced and organised. The full, meaningful and effective participation of civil society in this new process, especially older persons and their representative organisations, will be essential. It is vital that this drafting process is as inclusive and transparent as possible.

Co-sponsors: GAROP and the NGO COA Geneva are co-organising this briefing as part of our ongoing work together to promote a strong presence by civil society organisations in the Human Rights Council (HRC) and Geneva-related human rights processes and to ensure effective engagement with other key stakeholders.

Objectives of the meeting:

- To reflect on the significance of the adoption of resolution 58/13
- To clarify the next steps and upcoming opportunities relevant to older persons' rights in the HRC
- To ensure the success of the initial phase of the new intergovernmental working group

Registration:

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/EgGdsk_tReGflqem6cG2Zg

Working language: The meeting will be in English.

Audience: Please note that we are not planning to record this meeting.

Contact:

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- Chair of the NGO COA GVA, Alejandro Bonilla Garcia, ngoageing@gmail.com

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Time (CEST)	Session
15:00-15:05	Welcome Alejandro Bonilla Garcia (Chair of the NGO COA GVA) Ina Voelcker, GAROP Co-chair - Moderator
15:05-15:30	Reflections from representatives of the Geneva core group on the human rights of older persons H.E. Mr. Carlos Mario Foradori, Permanent Representative of the Argentine Republic to the UN in Geneva Minister-Counsellor Andre Simas Magalhaes, Permanent Mission of Brazil to the UN in Geneva H.E. Mr. Muhammadou M.O. Kah, Permanent Representative of the Republic of The Gambia to the UN in Geneva (TBC) H.E. Mrs. Kristine Leilani R. Salle, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the UN in Geneva

	Charge D'affaires, Petra Trkov, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovenia to the UN in Geneva
15:30-15:35	Reflections from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Chitralekha Massey - Chief, The Rights of Older Persons Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures and Right to Development Division
15:35-15:40	Reflections from the UN Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons Dr Claudia Mahler (TBC)
15:40-15:45	Reflections from the Global Alliance for National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) Anna Chabiera, Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights, Poland (TBC)
15:45-15:50	Reflections from an advocate and campaigner for the rights of older persons Elijah Mwega, KARIKA Kenya and GAROP Steering Group member
15:50-16:10	Open discussion with participants Facilitated by the moderator
16:05-16:15	Closing remarks Rose Gahire, GAROP Co-chair