

ENNHRI intervention delivered by the Public Defender of Georgia to the Human Rights Council 52nd Session

March 2023, Geneva

General Debate on Item 3

Written statement on the summary report of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the multi-stakeholder meeting on the human rights of older persons

On behalf of the Public Defender of Georgia as well as on behalf of ENNHRI, the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions, in our role as co-chair of the ENNHRI Core Group on the Human Rights of Older Persons, I would like to express our gratitude to the Human Rights Council for including the important issue of the human rights of older persons on the agenda here today. This follows the renewal of the mandate of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, Dr. Claudia Mahler, in September 2022 and, before that, the request to the High Commissioner for Human Rights to organize a multistakeholder meeting, which took place in August 2022 in Geneva.

The multi-stakeholder meeting was an excellent platform to discuss pressing issues regarding the violations of the rights of older persons, as well as gaps in international law frameworks and existing monitoring mechanisms. We would like to highlight that during this meeting many participants called for a new Convention on the Human Rights of Older Persons. We welcome the informal contribution to this discussion by 20 member states, as they expressed their direct support for a new Convention.

We urge other member states, as well as the European Union (EU), to join this group to support a new, binding instrument on the human rights of older persons. In addition, we encourage EU Member States to also bring attention to this matter at the Council of the EU Working Party on Human Rights (COHOM), and to advocate for increased attention to the human rights of older persons at the regional level.

We welcome the OHCHR report following the multistakeholder meeting ([A/HRC/52/49](#)) and call for the ideas presented during this meeting to be reflected in another substantive resolution on the human rights of older persons. This resolution would consolidate the ongoing process of

strengthening the human rights of older persons as one involving truly meaningful participation. Additionally, we advocate for further opportunities for NHRIs, civil society organizations, and UN bodies to continue to discuss, under the auspices of the Human Rights Council, in the form of another multistakeholder meeting the necessary content of a new Convention.

