

United nations General Assembly
78th session Third Committee
Interactive Dialogue with the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all
human rights by Older Persons, Ms. Claudia Mahler
28 September 2023

Thank you, Mr Chair,

Slovakia aligns itself with the statement (to be) delivered by the representative of the European Union and wishes to add some additional remarks in its national capacity.

The President of Slovakia Ms Zuzana Čaputová in her last week's address to the General Assembly stated and I quote: "We need to wake up. We are not battling an external threat. This is not a meteor heading for Earth. This is an existential crisis that we created – and we alone must solve".

We therefore welcome that your current report is focused on the rights of older persons in the context of climate change-induced disasters as the pressing issue the international community is facing today.

The consequences of the climate change such as heat waves, wildfires, floods, hurricanes or droughts have a detrimental effect on older persons who are vulnerable to climate change-related impacts for a number of reasons. This includes worsening of the well-being and the life quality, as well as a significantly higher mortality risk in extreme weather and a negative impact on physical and mental health of older persons. These particularly relates to older persons with disabilities and older women who are among those most affected by climate crises and its consequences.

We fully share your view that laws and policies for disaster preparedness, response and recovery must be consistent with human rights, including the principles of equality and non-discrimination, and take the particular needs of older persons in all their diversity into account.

Mr Chair,

Slovakia gladly joined the consensus in adoption of the resolution on identification of possible gaps in the protection of the human rights of older persons during the last session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing. We support Brazil and Portugal as the co-facilitators of the process in their effort to submit proposed intergovernmental negotiated recommendations regarding the existing international framework of the human rights of older persons and possible gaps, and options on how best to address them. In this regard we seize this opportunity to encourage the co-facilitators to take the topic being discussed into account.

Madame Independent Expert,

Also taking note of the recent remarks of the Secretary General concerning the climate crisis according to which „humanity has opened the gates to hell,, , which short-term measures must the international community urgently adopt to mitigate negative consequences of the climate crisis on older persons?

Thank you.