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Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
-olitical, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by the International Longevity Center Global Alliance, Ltd., a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[26 August 2016]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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Written Statement by the International Longevity Center Global Alliance on the Report of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons (A/HR/33/44)

1. The International Longevity Centre (ILC) Global Alliance (GA) is a consortium of independent member centres in 17 countries. Its mission is to help societies to address longevity and population ageing in positive and productive ways through developing ideas, undertaking research and creating fora for debate and action, in which older people are key stakeholders.
2. The ILC GA welcomes the report of the Independent Expert (IE) with its assessment of current legislation and practices that serve to protect and promote the rights of older persons in several countries and its analysis of substantive gaps in many areas. Based on our research within and between ILC GA member countries¹, we wish to express our concurrence with this analysis and with the IE's conclusion that existing national and international legal frameworks are inadequate to ensure the full enjoyment of human rights by older people.
3. There are many proven good practices in all areas and in many countries to enable and support older persons, but these practices are not widely implemented. Well-supported empirical evidence of effective, efficient and cost-effective practices consistently faces institutional resistance and low prioritization.
4. Issue-focussed policy initiatives (e.g., elder abuse, support for care and carers, poverty, housing,) typically fail to address root causes, and are limited in time and budget. They are reactive responses to urgent needs that lack sustainability and have limited impact – if impact is measured at all. These initiatives are not founded on the premise of enduring and comprehensive human rights.
5. Several ILC GA members have participated in policy declarations to advance care² and to promote gender equality in response to the longevity revolution³. As authoritative and evidence-based calls for action embracing both more and less developed nations, these declarations recommend broad inter-sectoral policy responses that are firmly rooted in a human rights framework incorporating the principles of equality, dignity and accountability and engaging every sector and every member of society. A human rights foundation is essential to protect ageing persons who become unable to defend their own rights due to frailty, disability or social isolation. ILC GA therefore supports the IE's affirmation that as the world population continues to age, the human rights dimension of ageing becomes an ever-growing concern.
6. Analyses of ILC GA member countries, which have adopted comprehensive national legislation enshrining the rights of older persons⁴ show that they have succeeded in increasing the awareness of and respect for older persons, in promoting consensus regarding their human rights and in establishing enduring and encompassing goals against which policy progress can be measured.
7. The ILC GA endorses the call on Member States to make better efforts in good faith to determine how to strengthen the protection of the human rights of older persons, and to consider proposals for a new international legal instrument. We call upon the Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing to constructively collaborate to this end by bringing forward, studying and refining elements of such an instrument.

¹ <http://www.ilc-alliance.org/index.php/reports>

² (http://www.ilcbrazil.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/rio_declaration_English.pdf)

³ (<http://ilcbrazil.org/international-forum/charter-on-gender-and-ageing-2014-gender-equality-in-an-ageing-world/>)

⁴ Brazil and Dominican Republic

8. The ILC GA also recommends that the Human Rights Council renew the mandate of the Independent Expert to support a continued focus of discussion regarding the human rights of the fastest-growing segment of the world's population.
