



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

### Twenty-fourth session

Agenda item 3

### Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

#### Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council\*

**24/20.**

#### **The human rights of older persons**

*The Human Rights Council,*

*Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,*

*Guided also by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and other relevant human rights instruments,*

*Reaffirming the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,*

*Recalling General Assembly resolution 65/182 of 21 December 2010 on the follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing, in which the Assembly established an open-ended working group for the purpose of strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons by considering the existing international framework of the human rights of older persons and identifying possible gaps and how best to address them, including by considering, as appropriate, the feasibility of further instruments and measures,*

*Recalling also Human Rights Council resolution 21/23 of 28 September 2012 on the human rights of older persons,*

*Acknowledging the work of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing for the purpose of strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons,*

*Bearing in mind the Political Declaration and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing of 2002, and all other relevant General Assembly resolutions,*

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\* The resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council will be contained in the report of the Council on its twenty-fourth session (A/HRC/24/2), Part One.

*Taking note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing<sup>1</sup> and of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the human rights of older persons,<sup>2</sup>

*Recalling* general comment No. 6 of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on the economic, social and cultural rights of older persons, and other relevant documents by treaty bodies,

*Conscious* that older persons represent a large and growing segment of the population and that greater attention is needed to the specific human rights challenges affecting them,

*Concerned* at the multiple forms of discrimination that may affect older persons and at the high incidence of poverty among this particularly vulnerable group, especially older women, persons with disabilities, persons of African descent, individuals belonging to indigenous peoples, persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, rural persons, persons living on the streets and refugees, among other groups,

*Recalling* Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1, on institution-building of the Council, and 5/2, on the Code of Conduct for special procedures mandate holders of the Council, of 18 June 2007, and stressing that the mandate holder shall discharge his or her duties in accordance with those resolutions and the annexes thereto,

1. *Recognizes* the challenges related to the enjoyment of all human rights that older persons face in areas such as prevention of and protection against violence and abuse, social protection, food and housing, employment, legal capacity, access to justice, health support, long-term and palliative care, and that those challenges require in-depth analysis and action to address protection gaps;

2. *Acknowledges* the report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the consultation on the promotion and protection of the human rights of older persons,<sup>3</sup> which summarizes the issues discussed at the consultation, including age discrimination, access by older persons to work, adequate health services and social protection, protection from abuse, violence and neglect, long-term care and the situation of older prisoners;

3. *Calls upon* all States to promote and ensure the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for older persons, including by taking measures to combat age discrimination, neglect, abuse and violence, and to address issues related to social integration and adequate health care, bearing in mind the crucial importance of family intergenerational interdependence, solidarity and reciprocity for social development;

4. *Encourages* all States to conduct their age-related policies through inclusive and participatory consultations with relevant stakeholders and social development partners in the interest of developing effective policies creating national policy ownership and consensus-building;

5. *Decides* to appoint, for a period of three years, an Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, with the following mandate:

(a) To assess the implementation of existing international instruments with regard to older persons while identifying both best practices in the implementation of

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<sup>1</sup> A/67/188.

<sup>2</sup> E/2012/51.

<sup>3</sup> A/HRC/24/25.

existing law related to the promotion and protection of the rights of older persons and gaps in the implementation of existing law;

(b) To take into account the views of stakeholders, including States, relevant regional human rights mechanisms, national human rights institutions, civil society organizations and academic institutions;

(c) To raise awareness of the challenges faced in the realization of all human rights by older persons, and to ensure that older persons receive information about those rights;

(d) To work in cooperation with States in order to foster the implementation of measures that contribute to the promotion and protection of the rights of older persons;

(e) To integrate a gender and disability perspective into his/her work, and to pay particular attention to older women, persons with disabilities, persons of African descent, individuals belonging to indigenous peoples, persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, rural persons, persons living on the streets, and refugees, among other groups;

(f) To assess the human rights implications of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing;

(g) To work in close coordination, while avoiding unnecessary duplication, with the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing, other special procedures and subsidiary organs of the Human Rights Council, relevant United Nations bodies and the treaty bodies;

6. *Requests* the Independent Expert to report annually to the Human Rights Council and to present his/her first report at its twenty-seventh session, with a view to presenting a comprehensive report at its thirty-third session;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the above-mentioned comprehensive report of the Independent Expert is brought to the attention of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing, in accordance with paragraphs 1 and 3 of General Assembly resolution 67/139 of 20 December 2012;

8. *Calls upon* all Governments to cooperate with the Independent Expert, and invites them to provide him/her with all the necessary information related to the mandate;

9. *Decides* to continue consideration of the question of human rights of older persons at its twenty-seventh session.

*35th meeting  
27 September 2013*

[Adopted without a vote.]