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The Secretary General's Synthesis Report Seen Through an Age Lens

The Stakeholder Group on Ageing welcomes the Synthesis Report of the Secretary-General on the Post-2015 Agenda, *The Road to Dignity by 2030: Ending Poverty, Transforming All Lives and Protecting the Planet*. We deeply appreciate the thoughtfulness and attention paid to the issues of sustainable development and the concerns of older persons. The framework must be for all people, of all ages and abilities, and must therefore promote life course approaches alongside policies that promote intergenerational justice and solidarity to deliver the vision of equality and universal approaches.

Framework

The synthesis report recognises the importance of respecting the 17 goals and suggests these could be brought together in a framework that has Six Elements: People, Dignity, Prosperity, Justice, Partnership and Planet.

People

We are pleased that population ageing is recognised as a key demographic trend. By 2030 there will be more people in the world over the age of 60 than under the age of 10; and that this demographic trend will continue so that by 2050 close to a quarter of the world's population will be aged 60 or more. Under this element we applaud the call for universal access to affordable healthcare and the recognition of the burden of non-communicable diseases and we note the call to eliminate violence against and exploitation of women. Older women often experience discrimination both on the basis of their gender and their age. We would remind all that "Women" by definition should be inclusive of older women.

Dignity and Prosperity strong on ageing

The Dignity element includes older people in relation to income inequality and inequality of opportunity with a clear indication of the importance of removing barriers to ensure their full participation.

Prosperity,

Under this key element older people must be included along with other specific groups to have access to decent work, social protection and financial services to ensure they have inclusive economic prosperity and success. Older people report time and again that a secure income is crucial

to their dignity. We are pleased to see their voices recognised and consider this to be positive and promising as a key agenda for the future.

Human Rights and Universality

It is noticeable and important that the free, active and meaningful engagement of civil society as advocates of the voice of older people is highlighted under the key element of **Justice**. We will need to study this mention together with the emphasis given to the importance of respecting human rights as a base for development.

The **Partnership** element of the framework includes all the good principles of universality, integration of human and development rights and the environment, collaboration, private public partnerships, accountability and transparency. Older people are present and vocal in national regional and global actions towards this goal.

Age-friendly data collection

Data disaggregation by age must include not just children and people up to age 49, as many current development surveys still do. The important principle that no goal or targets should only be considered 'achieved' unless they are met for all income and social groups, including older people is essential. We therefore welcome the commitment to this aspiration, along with many references to the need and importance to disaggregate data by age, and the vision to fill key data gaps. It commits the sustainable development agenda to truly 'leave no one behind' and be inclusive of people of all ages.

What next?

Overall, the Secretary General's report will be a very good reference document as the global endeavour to secure an age friendly post-2015 framework continues towards September 2015, when UN Member States will commit to a post-2015 development agenda.

The Stakeholder group on ageing is working in solidarity with people of all ages and abilities to ensure that the framework is inclusive and universal. We are committed to ensure that the presence of and voices of older people are seen and heard by governments, so that no older person will be left behind by the framework, and stand ready to support efforts to make this a reality.

Further information:

Sylvia Beales, HelpAge International sbeales@helpage.org

James Collins, NGO Committee on Ageing New York, jcoll152@gmail.com