

STAKEHOLDER GROUP ON AGEING
STATEMENT TO THE APRIL 23rd 2015 SESSION
INTERACTIVE STATEMENT ON IMPLEMENTATION AND FINANCING

Excellencies. My name is Abla Mehio Sibai and I work in the Centre for Ageing Studies in Lebanon. My work focuses on the poorest and most excluded people impacted by crisis in the Middle East region. Today I speak on behalf of the Stakeholder Group on Ageing, which represents the interests of over 800 million older people globally.

The admirable goals which have been set out in the course of this process can be achieved only if the requisite means of implementation are provided. Our recommendations for MOI are the following:

- Visible, substantial and sustainable increases in public funding to meet the needs of older people and other marginalized/vulnerable populations backed up with accountable, transparent and accessible budgets.
- In particular, national and global commitments to fund the design, implementation and extension of social protection floors
- Ensure voice and presence of older persons and persons with disabilities in all FFD, SDG and climate negotiations
- Ensure contributions from older people and others in budgets, plans, training and response mechanisms for humanitarian, national disaster management and climate policies.
- Strengthen and improve global and national statistical and reporting systems to disaggregate data not only by gender but also by age and disability
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I see daily the effect of chronic societal conflict, crisis and insecurity on older people, children and youth, women and people with disabilities. I see daily struggles for recognition, for regular income, for health systems that respond to chronic illness and NCDs, for food security, for water, for sanitation and modern energy services, for accessible transport, for community services, for age friendly infrastructure and housing and for opportunities for decent employment and life-long learning. I see how people of all ages are impoverished and excluded. This can and must change to realize your promise to 'leave no one behind.'

We have an unparalleled opportunity to end the reality of discrimination, missed opportunities and marginalisation faced by millions of older persons, persons with disabilities, and others worldwide. Let us redouble our collective will to make this happen. The world is watching.

Thank you