5th Open Ended Working Group on Ageing

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OEWG on ageing and its mandate

- Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWGA) was set up in 2010 by the UN General Assembly Resolution 65/182
- Mandate: *to "strengthen [...] 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".*
- Annual prolongation of the mandate by the UNGA Third Committee resolution
- Managed by UN DESA and meets annually in New York
- 5th Session: 30 July – 1 August 2014
Thematic focus of discussion

- In the past years the following themes were discussed:
  - age-discrimination, autonomy, independent living, healthcare, life in dignity, social security, access to resources and abuse and violence.

- In 2014 thematic focus was more narrow:
  - Provision of long-term care; prevention of elder abuse, including sexual and financial abuse; legal and financial matters concerning end of life questions

- Recurring discussion: is there a need for a new international human rights instrument on the rights of older persons.
Convention on the rights of older persons?

- Arguments in favour:
  - Normative gaps
  - Protection gaps in real life situations
  - New human rights instrument could provide more information and monitoring of rights
  - Awareness raising

- Arguments against:
  - No normative gaps
  - Focus on implementation of existing instruments -> MIPAA
  - More can be done under existing Human Rights obligations
  - Existing Human rights mechanisms to give greater attention to the rights of older persons in their work
Related developments

- Ms Rosa Kornfeld-Matte (Director of Chilean National Service for Ageing) as Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons (May 2013)

EU's engagement with the 5th OEWG

- Process managed by European External Action Service and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs;
- Invited input from line ministry/service
  - pensions, health and long-term care policies and interventions need to be designed in such a way that they make human rights of older persons effective
  - building bridges between social policy makers and human rights actors;
- Plenary intervention: a presentation of the joint Commission-SPC report on adequate protection against the risk of long-term dependency;
- Side-event: EU-funded initiatives on monitoring care of older persons from a human rights perspective.
Project on Human Rights of Older Persons in Long-Term Care

- Grant to European Network of National Human Rights Institutions
- Project duration: January 2015 – December 2016
- Objectives:
  - Clarify applicable human rights standards
  - Identify trends and raise awareness of the human rights situation of older persons in care in Europe
  - Make recommendations to improve human rights situation and introduce HRBA to social policy
  - Spread good practice and experience among NHRIs, and increase recognition of their role
ENNHRI Project - Scope

All human rights relevant to older persons in long-term care

Taking into account:

- Residential care (emphasis) and home care
- Abuse of older persons in care
- Diversity of older persons
- Human rights of care staff
- Impact of the economic crisis
- Age discrimination
- Developments at the OEWG on Ageing
Project Activities

1. Desk-based research
2. Pilot Group Monitoring (RO, HR, DE, HU, BE)
3. Recommendations
4. Awareness-raising
5. Evaluation and Follow-up

Advisory group including: Scotland, SK, IE, NL, Northern Ireland and civil society organisations;

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