



General Assembly

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Human Rights Council

Twenty-first 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*

21/23.

The human rights of older persons

The Human Rights Council,

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,

Recognizing that older persons face specific vulnerabilities and challenges in the enjoyment of all human rights, that current international initiatives on the matter have been insufficient and that enhanced measures are needed without delay,

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

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing¹ and of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the human rights of older persons,²

Recalling general comment No. 6 of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on the economic, social and cultural rights of older persons, as well as 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,

* The resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council will be contained in the report of the Council on its twenty-first session (A/HRC/21/2), chap. I.

¹ A/67/188.

² E/2012/51.

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,

1. *Recognizes* the challenges related to the enjoyment of all human rights that older persons face in areas such as prevention 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. *Notes with appreciation* multilateral, regional and subregional initiatives aimed at the promotion and protection of rights of older persons, including discussions on possible normative standards;

3. *Calls upon* all States to ensure the full and equal enjoyment 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. *Calls upon* all States to enhance their existing mechanisms related to the protection and promotion of human rights for older persons, including by adopting, as appropriate, legal or other dedicated mechanisms;

6. *Encourages* all States to raise awareness of the challenges facing the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, and to ensure that older persons receive information about those rights;

7. *Invites* existing special procedures and encourages treaty bodies, within their existing mandates, to pay attention to the human rights of older persons;

8. *Encourages* all States to consider including in their national reports, to be submitted for the universal periodic review, information on the human rights of older persons;

9. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to organize, in Geneva, an intersessional public consultation on the promotion and protection of the human rights of older persons, with the participation of States Members of the United Nations, relevant international organizations, United Nations agencies and stakeholders, in order to receive information and share good practices on the matter;

10. *Also requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to present a summary report of the above-mentioned consultation to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-fourth session;

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

*38th meeting
28 September 2012*

[Adopted without a vote.]