



World Union of
Catholic Women's
Organisations



Human Rights Council

60th Session

8 September – 8 October 2025

Agenda item 3: ID with the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons

Joint Oral Statement delivered by New Humanity of the Focolare Movement

Mr. President,

New Humanity and the co-signed NGO's would like to express our appreciation for the report presented by the Independent Expert, which highlights a worrying situation faced by much of the world's population: the older persons. Of particular concern is the conclusion that, "social protection systems tend to fail to meet the needs of older persons in most countries" and that "pensions are frequently insufficient to ensure an adequate standard of living".

In our view, respecting life at every stage also means protecting and supporting the elderly. They are a valuable asset to society as a whole. It is crucial to prevent their marginalisation and ensure they receive adequate social protection.

The role of the family as the primary carer must be reinforced, while recognising the responsibility of the state and civil society to provide resources and support networks. For that, we welcome the references in the report to the important role families play in caring for dependent older persons.

We would also like to acknowledge the vital contribution of cultural and religious associations, which provide material, emotional, social and spiritual support. These associations are key players in ensuring the comprehensive protection of older persons.

Finally, we fully agree that "older people are rights holders, contributors and valuable members of society", and we will be constructively engaging in efforts to develop an international legally binding instrument to ensure the rights of older persons, including their social protection.

Thank you, Mr. President