



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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ORAL STATEMENT

1st session of Intergovernmental Working Group on the Human Rights of Older Persons

Item 4 – Focus Debate on treaty monitoring arrangements

The Greek National Commission for Human Rights has consistently advocated, since 2014, for a legally binding instrument on the human rights of older persons. We remain committed to this objective and welcome the commencement of the drafting process for a comprehensive LBI.

Such an instrument could provide guiding principles, codify existing standards and enhance the visibility of older persons by reinforcing the shift from viewing them as vulnerable groups in need of protection to recognizing them as rights-holders and active members of society, entitled to exercise their rights on an equal basis.

In our view, the Convention would benefit from clear State commitments as a foundation for effective implementation. This could include addressing ageism and intersecting discrimination, ensuring access to long-term care and quality health services, promoting independent living, and responding to emerging challenges, including digital inclusion and artificial intelligence.

To support implementation, the Convention could also benefit from an independent and effective international monitoring mechanism as part of its institutional framework.

The LBI should preserve and complement the protection afforded by existing UN core human rights treaties, particularly the CRPD. At the same time, it could build on the experience of existing treaty bodies while taking into account the financial and institutional realities facing the UN human rights system.

In this regard, consideration could be given to establishing a dedicated body of independent experts with a mandate comparable to those of other treaty bodies and adequate resources. Such a mechanism could help ensure the consistent interpretation and implementation of international standards relating to older persons.

Beyond State reporting and individual communications, we would welcome further discussion on ways to address systemic issues more effectively. States may also wish to reflect on the contribution that national human rights institutions can make in identifying systemic patterns of violations.

Consideration could also be given to accessible urgent-action procedures and to ensuring the meaningful participation of older persons and their representative organizations throughout implementation and monitoring.



International monitoring is likely to be most effective when supported by strong national implementation. Paris Principles-compliant National Human Rights Institutions can play an important role in implementing and monitoring the Convention, provided they are equipped with the necessary legal mandate, capacity and resources.

The Greek National Commission also aligns itself with the statements delivered by ENNHRI and GANHRI on the remaining agenda items.

Geneva, 16 July 2026