

OLDER PERSONS 3 MINUTE HABITAT PLENARY STATEMENT

Your excellencies, members of delegations, colleagues and participants,

I am speaking to you today on behalf of the General Assembly of Partners' Older Persons Partner Constituent Group representing the more than 900 million persons 60 and older, 57% of us already live in urban areas. This figure will increase significantly, particularly in low and middle income countries.

We as older persons experience the consequences of the accumulation of discrimination throughout our lives and face barriers to the enjoyment of our rights. The only basis for discrimination that is still accepted and enshrined in legislation and policies is ageism. It will eventually impact us all as we grow older.

With this in mind, it is necessary that the New Urban Agenda hears and takes into account our voices, protects and promotes our rights in older age and reflects both our contributions and our concerns.

And it does. From 3 references in the zero draft, to 27 substantive references to ageing in the final document, it gives us assurance that not only will our rights be taken into account in urban planning and budgeting but more importantly, the New Urban Agenda calls for all older persons to be active participants in urban decision making, implementation, monitoring and accountability.

Our participation in the General Assembly of Partners, a civil society coalition, has greatly enhanced our visibility and has strengthened our voice. We are very grateful for this opportunity and look forward to engaging as older people in the implementation and monitoring of the New Urban Agenda.

Thank you.