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**Statement**

**Age Demands Action** addresses the issue of the world's ageing population.

By 2050, one in every five people worldwide will be over the age of 60. We must prepare for this radical demographic shift.

Older persons are among the poorest and most marginalised in society today, but they offer an enormous potential for development tomorrow. To ensure that this potential is fulfilled requires action.

That is why older persons worldwide are together calling for a package of social pensions, affordable health care and anti discriminatory legislation and practice. Governments must recognize the critical role of older persons in caring for people living with HIV and AIDS, and orphaned grandchildren, and offer greater support. In emergency situations, older persons need equal access to food, shelter and medical care, which must be accounted for in humanitarian responses.

With the support of the international community, we can create a society in which all older people fulfil their potential to lead dignified, healthy and secure lives. But to realise this vision, we must act now.  
**Age Demands Action.**

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