**Stakeholder Group on Ageing**

**Statement for Open Working Group 11th Session:**

**Response to Working Document on Goals and Targets**

**5 May 2014**

We commend and fully support the universal approach of the current Working Document in line with the commitment to ‘leave no-one behind’. We acknowledge that it is a complex process to come up with goals and targets that will allow all stakeholders to move forward.

The world’s population is both growing and ageing in all regions and countries at an unprecedented rate, particularly in the developing world, from over 800 million now to over 2 billion in 2050. But issues raised by population ageing have not received the attention they merit within development processes. Ageing has been neglected in MDG programmes and earlier Rio processes. The Madrid Plan of Action on Ageing, adopted at the 2nd World Assembly on Ageing in 2002, has yet to be fully implemented and been rarely mentioned here.

Member States should be as disappointed as we are that barely a quarter of people over 60 have income security, that many millions lack decent health care and access to essential services, and that age discrimination, fear and violence in old age are widespread.

The litmus test of the new framework is that it supports all people of all ages in our fast changing world up to and beyond 2030. This is why the effect and impact of changing age and structures of populations must be given central consideration in discussions of all potential goals and targets. This is why we assert:

* The current language ‘for all people’ must be strengthened so that all goals and targets are clearly inclusive of *‘all people of all ages’*.
* The framework must further the human rights principles of universality, non-discrimination, equality, participation, empowerment and accountability, and promote and address the rights of all people, including older persons.
* Poverty among older people must be eliminated, with the support of nationally appropriate universal social protection floors and decent work and retraining opportunities in older age;
* The goal of ‘healthy life at all ages for all’ must prioritise action on emerging health challenges, particularly non-communicable diseases, and deliver increased healthy life expectancy;
* Action on gender must be inclusive of women of all ages, crucial if we are to tackle the gender **and** age discrimination over 400 million women face in older age;
* Quality education and life-long learning must be for all ages;
* Proof of universality (“leaving no one behind”) requires data collection, reporting and analysis on targets and indicators for all people of all ages, with data disaggregated by age, gender and other variables.

The new framework must respond to all ages, including older persons who wish to age with dignity, security and in full possession of their human rights. **This is why we urge Member States to adopt the wording *‘all people of all ages’* wherever possible in the goals and targets.** This will help to ensure that all people, irrespective of their age, are reached and will enable all stakeholders to recognise and address the specific issues resulting from population growth and ageing.