



PERMANENT MISSION OF HUNGARY
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

**General Discussion of the Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing
on
“ Measures to enhance
the contribution of Older Persons to Social Development”**

5 July 2017

Intervention by

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Permanent Representative**

Mr. Chair, Excellencies, Dear Colleagues,

First of all, I would like to thank the Chair, the Bureau of the Working Group and the Secretariat for their excellent work in organizing this session.

We align ourselves with the statement made by the European Union.

Hungary is committed to the promotion and protection of the human rights of older persons. A country with an ageing population, we consider the elderly valuable members of the society as active workers, care-providers, volunteers and important sources of knowledge, experience, and key contributors to social development, as recognized by the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing as well.

Therefore, senior citizens' financial security, physical-mental health and well-being, active ageing and inter-generational connectedness are all important policy goals of our Government. The recent reforms of the pension and healthcare systems aim to better address the needs of older persons.

The principles of intergenerational interdependence, solidarity and reciprocity are enshrined in our Constitution, spelling out the elderly as a social group that shall be protected, and stipulating the obligation of adult children to take care of their parents if they are in need.

Older persons are represented towards the Government on a high level by the “Senior Council”, an advisory body channeling in their interests and proposals in the elaboration of government decisions. Headed by the Prime Minister, the Council includes academics, doctors and leaders of social institutions or civil associations.

In order to facilitate older person’s participation in public life, the Government promotes various local and civil society initiatives. For instance, the “Senior-Friendly Municipality Award” is given to local authorities actively engaged in improving the community life of elderly citizens. This June, a Good Practice Conference was organised for municipality leaders to exchange ideas in this regard. The “Prize for the Elderly” is awarded to experts for their outstanding work for older persons, and there is an increasing number of senior training centres providing life-long learning opportunities, free of charge, for the elderly. The Government also funds intergenerational programs of civil society organisations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We all are still facing challenges in ensuring the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of older persons. However, through the effective implementation of relevant conventions as well as the 2030 Agenda, it is possible to take measurable steps towards that end.

We look forward to the Working Group’s discussions on ways to achieve this aim, with special regard to this year’s topics on “equality and non-discrimination” and on “violence, neglect and abuse”.

Thank you for your attention.