



2016 ASEM Expert Forum
on Human Rights of Older Persons

Chair's Statement

15-16 June 2016, Seoul, Republic of Korea

1. The ASEM Expert Forum on Human Rights of Older Persons was held on 15–16 June, 2016, in Seoul, Republic of Korea, by the National Human Rights Commission of Korea. In the forum, 200 government representatives, scholars, experts from NGOs and NHRIs and representatives from international institutions shared information on the activities of international organizations and national governments regarding the right to

health of older persons and the eradication of elderly poverty, and to discuss measures to develop the Madrid International Action Plan on Ageing and future cooperative measures for the promotion and protection of the human rights of older persons.

2. During the forum, participants agreed on the need for the establishment of policies and institutions aimed at promoting Healthy Ageing, Active Ageing and Successful Ageing in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and that such policies and institutions should be based on a human rights perspective, in order to guarantee the dignity of older persons.
3. Participants have confirmed that amidst population ageing in all countries and regions, many older persons are faced with common problems including poverty, suicide, discrimination, abuse, negligence and social exclusion due to physical, psychological and economic difficulties, and that there is a need for provision of long-term care as well as diagnosis

and measures to be made and taken at the appropriate moment for dementia.

4. Participants have reaffirmed that poverty and inadequate long-term care, among other factors, are directly related to the survival of older persons and that older persons are entitled to the right to adequate living conditions and long-term care, as prescribed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and it was agreed that therefore there is a need for countries to establish institutional foundations for public medical care, long-term care and income support, and universal social protection floors.

5. In a bid to establish such institutional foundations, the provision of long-term care and social protection, a guarantee of income in old age including public and private pension, facilitation of Active Ageing, and the creation of an old-age-friendly environment were discussed and a need for collaboration among diverse stakeholders including the

academia, civil society organizations and private sector, efforts of respective countries and international cooperation was emphasized.

6. There was a consensus that despite diverse efforts from the international community to implement the Madrid International Action Plan on Ageing, in order to practically enhance the life of older persons, there is a need to review and assess the implementation status of existing international action plans, and to establish a detailed and practical plan during the 3rd World Assembly on Ageing expected to be held in 2022.

7. Participants agreed that sharing policies and experiences on exemplary practices, spreading the importance and seriousness of the human rights of older persons and discussing measures for international coordination and cooperation are essential means to promote and protect the human rights of older persons and that there is a need for a forum to continue to publicly discuss this issue.

8. It was emphasized that when international coordination and exchanges among nations are actively carried out through the connections among the UN, UN-affiliated institutions, the EU, ASEAN, international NGOs and GANHRI, activities for the promotion of human rights of older persons can be more effective and widely spread to every corner of the world.

9. It was discussed that there is a need to establish the ASEM Ageing Center as a pivot to host forums for public discussion, strengthen international and regional ties, monitor international trends, accumulate and share related data and information, raise awareness of the importance of the human rights of older persons and to promote the implementation of detailed and practical measures for cooperation.

10. Lastly, participants of the ASEM Expert Forum on Ageing appreciated the National Human Rights Commission of Korea's role in providing the forum for discussion, and asked the Commission to make continuous efforts for the practical implementation of projects discussed during the forum, and confirmed that the National Human Rights

Commission of Korea will continue to promote this discussion by hosting an ASEM international conference on the human rights of older persons next year.