



MALAYSIA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**STATEMENT BY
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PERMANENT MISSION MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**GENERAL DEBATE OF THE IX SESSION OF THE OPEN-ENDED
WORKING GROUP ON AGEING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
THE UNITED NATIONS
“MEASURES TO ENHANCE THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF
THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS”
CONFERENCE ROOM 4
UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS
NEW YORK, 23 JULY 2018**

Madame Chair,

We congratulate Argentina in assuming the Chairmanship for the Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWGA), other Bureau Members and the Secretariat in convening this session.

2. At the outset, Malaysia wishes to align ourselves with the statement delivered by Egypt on behalf of the G77 and China, and El Salvador on behalf of the Group of Friends of Older Persons.

3. We noted that the theme this year ‘Measures to enhance the promotion and protection the human rights of older persons’ highlight the spirit of the Agenda 2030 centred on Sustainable Development Goals – Leaving No One Behind, and on the need to create international environment that could promote the SDGs implementation.

4. Social inclusion is a transversal pillar of the SDGs, meaning that the progress towards each of the goals should benefit everyone on an equal footing such as the SDG 16: building inclusive and just societies, inclusive of older persons.

Madame Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

5. The selection of the two issues as agreed in the Seventh Session of the Working Group namely: Autonomy and Independence; and Long Term and Palliative Care, are timely for Member States to have substantive discussions which will lead to concrete outcomes.

6. The unanimous adoption of the General Assembly resolution 72/144 adopted in 19 December 2017, underscores our unified stance to have adequate measures to enhance the promotion and protection of the human rights and dignity of older persons. It also includes to have best practices and lessons learnt, which recognize that greater attention is needed on the challenges affecting older persons.

Madame Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen,

7. To date, among the various efforts undertaken by the Government of Malaysia through cooperation across agencies are as follows:

- 7.1 The National Health Policy for Older Persons formulated by the Ministry of Health in 2008, recognised older persons of diverse background in exercising their rights to have a prosperous life, being respected and contribute to the country's development;
- 7.2 The Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development provides welfare and social support for the long-term care needs of older persons under the guidance of the National Policy and Plan of Action for the Older Persons (2011-2020);
- 7.3 Malaysia also strengthens existing legislations to protect older persons namely the Domestic Violent Act 1994 (amended in 2017) to provide better protection to abuse victims including older persons and to rehabilitate family institutions;
- 7.4 The National Advisory and Consultative Council for Older Persons was also created and chaired by the Minister of Women, Family and Community Development. Members are appointed from the relevant ministries and agencies, academicians, NGOs as well as individuals or experts with special interests on ageing issues;

- 7.5 Malaysia hosted the first Asia Pacific Ministerial Forum of Management of Social Transformations Programme of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) held on 22 and 23 March 2017 in Kuala Lumpur. The theme of the Forum was “Building Inclusive Societies” with the sub-themes on ageing, women and social innovation;
- 7.6 Malaysia also co-hosted a side event of the 56th Commission of Social Development entitled “Meeting the Specific Needs of Older Persons Facing Poverty – Challenges and Opportunities for Social Policymaking on 2 February 2018 in New York; and
- 7.7 The newly launched National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) on 1 March 2018 also focused on the rights of vulnerable people: women, children, older persons, people with disabilities and refugees.

Madame Chair,

8. My delegation hopes that this Session will serve to further strengthen our collective measures to continue developing effective strategies and responses for the protection of older persons, even in the face of unprecedented challenges, particularly on Autonomy and Independence and Long Term and Palliative Care.

9. Malaysia will continue to provide the support to the Working Group on Ageing in fulfilling its mandate of strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons.

Thank you.

(5 minutes)