



United Nations General Assembly 78th Session, Third Committee, Interactive Dialogue with the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by Older Persons, Ms. Claudia Mahler, 28 September 2023

Malta Statement delivered by Ms Emma de Gabriele, Youth Delegate

Chair,

Malta aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union on behalf of its Member States.

At the outset, let me reiterate Malta's support for the mandate of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons and thank Ms. Mahler for her insightful presentation.

Madame Independent Expert,

Your report comes at a pivotal moment as we witness an escalation in climate-related disasters, including floods, droughts, and wildfires. It is evident from your findings that these disasters have a disproportionate impact on the health and social wellbeing of older persons, as they experience unique challenges in securing adequate support and assistance in the face of climate-change induced disasters.

We take note of your assessment that the current international human rights framework fails to provide sufficient protection for the rights of older persons in the context of climate-induced disasters.



We concur with your evaluation that legislation and policy concerning disaster preparedness, response and recovery should be age-sensitive and gender-responsive. These measures must be specifically tailored to the unique needs and conditions of older persons, who are a diverse group that includes individuals experiencing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. These policies should incorporate best practices for disaster risk reduction, as well as climate mitigation and adaptation. They also need to be flexible to accommodate various types of climate-related disasters.

We support your recommendation that States should facilitate and promote the efforts of local communities and civil society organisations to support older persons before, during and after climate-induced disasters.

An age-responsive approach to emergencies necessitates that older persons are afforded meaningful opportunities to participate in all stages of disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. Their voices should be amplified in data collection, law and policy formulation, and decision-making processes. We particularly acknowledge the vital role of older women in building capacity for climate adaptation, mitigation, and disaster risk reduction.

Madame Independent Expert,

In your report you emphasised that older persons should receive information that is accessible and easy to comprehend on climate change-induced disasters.



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Can you provide some examples of best practices of any awareness-raising campaigns that we can draw from?

I thank you.