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 Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
 political, economic, social and cultural rights,
 including the right to development**

Written submission by the Republic of Korea: National Human Rights Commission of Korea *

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat of the Human Rights Council hereby transmits the communication submitted by the National Human Rights Commission of Korea on behalf of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions' Working Group on Ageing, reproduced below in accordance with rule 7(b) of the rules of procedures described in the annex to Council resolution 5/1, according to which participation of national human rights institutions is to be based on arrangements and practices agreed upon by the Commission on Human Rights, including resolution 2005/74 of 20 April 2005.**

Written statement of the National Human Rights Commission of Korea for the 48th session of the Human Rights Council:

Interactive Dialogue with Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by the older persons, 21 September, 2021

The Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions' (NHRIs) Working Group on Ageing consists of nine NHRIs from El Salvador, Kenya, Georgia, Germany, Nigeria, Peru, Poland, and the Philippines with the Republic of Korea as chair.

At the outset, we thank the Independent Expert, Dr. Claudia, for her relentless efforts to promote the human rights of older persons for many years since her inauguration. Her report to the Human Rights Council this year highlighted how ageism and age-discrimination negatively impacts on the enjoyment of human rights of older persons.

As indicated in the report, older persons suffer from deeply-rooted ageism every day everywhere. No matter what they have contributed to the society, they are often neglected and excluded from the social discourse although they compose the society in a large portion and still support the community in various ways. They face ageist attitude when using health care service, tend to experience violence and abuse more often, have limited access to labor market, and are exposed to hate speech on social media. There are countless examples of age discrimination towards older persons which we take for granted. Not to mention intersectionality such as ableism, sexism, racism, and sex orientation combined with ageism, older persons confront multiple discrimination on a daily basis.

Although the reality of older persons are hostile, they are not properly protected at home and abroad under the current judicial system due to lack of relevant legislation.

In this context, we, align ourselves with the recommendations by the Independent Expert.

Enactment of Anti-discrimination law is one of key elements to prevent ageism. Member States, which does not have such law yet, should accelerate forging a comprehensive Anti-discrimination act.

In addition, the adoption of an international instrument to highlight the lack of legal protection systems is vital to provide a universal minimum standard to uphold the human rights of older persons because existing international human rights instruments are not providing adequate protection.

Therefore, the GANHRI Working Group on Ageing calls upon Member States to support a convention on the human rights of older persons and actively engage in drafting it at the Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing.