Chairperson, distinguished delegates,

On behalf of the 88 A-status\(^1\) NHRIIs of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), it is my honor to address this 14th session of OEWGA.

I would like to emphasize the crucial role that National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIIs) play in protecting and promoting the rights of older persons.

As champions of human rights, NHRIIs are called to advocate for those often left at the margins.

Across all regions, NHRIIs have led efforts nationally and internationally in advocating for improved policies and legislation on older persons. Our work brings a human rights perspective to discussions on ageing, striving to transform societal views to recognize older persons not merely as recipients of care but as active rights holders.

Chairperson,

GANHRI and our regional networks are committed to engaging with the OEWGA, the Human Rights Council, and other relevant UN bodies to ensure that the needs and rights of older persons are fully recognized and addressed at the international level.

This year features unprecedented involvement, with a record number of NHRIIs participating at OEWGA in a single session.

We welcome the historical consensual adoption of decision 14/1 and the involvement of NHRIIs in identifying gaps and recommendations for the protection of older persons.

In parallel with the OEWGA negotiations, GANHRI has conducted extensive consultations with our membership and our dedicated working group on the rights of older persons. This process has identified best practices, some of which you have heard during this session.

\(^1\) For more information on membership Please see: https://ganhri.org/membership/
However, it has also revealed significant gaps in the national and international protection of older persons, including the lack of specific data, challenges in policy integration, and the absence of a targeted, legally binding international instrument for their rights.

In light of these findings, we are eager to build on this momentum by urgently developing and implementing a robust General Assembly resolution to address these gaps.

I am pleased to announce as well that GANHRI, together with OHCHR, UNDP and with co-sponsorship of the permanent missions of Georgia, Germany and the Republic of Korea will host a side event on May 24th at 1:15 PM on room CR11 to delve deeper into our ongoing work and explore effective strategies for NHRIs to advocate for older persons’ rights.

We invite all stakeholders to join us.

I thank you for your dedication to advancing the rights of older persons and for your continued support of the work of National Human Rights Institutions worldwide.