

Human Rights Council – 42nd session

Clustered Interactive Dialogue with the Independent Expert (IE) on the rights of older persons

11 September 2019

Australian Statement

Australia thanks the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons for her report and presentation.

Australia welcomes the continued discussion on ways to design and improve our existing international human rights architecture to ensure the promotion and protection of the rights of older persons, particularly in humanitarian settings.

Australia recognises older persons' experiences of disasters and humanitarian crises can be different to other groups in their communities, due to physical, sensory and social reasons.

These challenges are often compounded when they intersect with other potential vulnerabilities or inequities, such as gender, a disability, health issues, or caregiving responsibilities.

Australia also recognises that older persons play important roles in disaster risk reduction, conflict prevention, and post-crisis management, bringing a wealth of experience, knowledge and influence to on-the-ground humanitarian action.

Australia supports international and local humanitarian organisations to take a comprehensive victim-centred approach when supporting people affected by armed conflict and disasters, including older persons. We require our humanitarian partners to collect age, sex and disability disaggregated data in order to identify and target those in greatest need, during a crisis.

We also expect humanitarian agencies to be accountable to the people they are assisting, including by ensuring the participation of older people in decisions affecting the assistance that they receive.

This approach ensures all community members are heard and enabled in response efforts, and no one is left behind.

We would like to ask the Independent Expert: *Can you share any good practices in responding to the unique needs, vulnerabilities and capacities of older persons in humanitarian situations?*

245 Words