

Question for the Plenary of the UN Open Ended Working Group on Ageing

Good afternoon (morning) Mr. Chair. Thank you for the opportunity to address the Member States.

I am Dr. Laurent Marcoux, President of the Canadian Medical Association. I am speaking this (morning/afternoon) on behalf of the International Longevity Centre Canada.

I'm proud to stand before you today and highlight that improving seniors care is a priority for Canada's doctors.

I am pleased to participate in the International Longevity Centre's Canada's Side-Event, *A North-South Discussion of Long-Term and Palliative Care, Autonomy, and Independence*.

The discussion at this event will emphasize that Canada is not alone in struggling to meet the needs of its aging population.

In Canada, a wealthy country in the global context, our health system is already struggling to meet the needs of our aging population.

We are at the forefront of a major demographic shift. And we know this is a shared experience.

The focus of the 9th Working Session on Autonomy and Independence and Long term and Palliative Care further emphasizes the global nature of the challenge ahead.

The International Longevity Centre Canada strongly supports the call for a new United Nations Convention on the Rights of Older Persons.

Globally, we have learned from the experience of the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child, which has demonstrated improvement in the lives of children. The Executive Director of UNICEF has reported that the UNCRC “has produced significant results, helping save and transform the lives of children”.

On behalf of the International Longevity Centre Canada, I respectfully request that Member States address the following question: for your country, given our knowledge about the positive impact of UN Conventions on lives of rights' holders, are there barriers to supporting the adoption of a UN Convention on the Rights of Older Persons?

This question has only one objective and it is with the greatest respect that I am asking it – its main objective is to find the answers so that all Member-States support and endorse the adoption of a Convention on the Rights of the Older Persons.

