

ILC Global Alliance Submission - Margaret Gillis UN lead –

It is imperative to compare different country experiences of LTC and caring in order to understand older persons' needs and wants, normative gaps and inequity. Using its unique international membership of academics and research institutions, NGOs, and policy advocates, the ILC-Global Alliance is embarking on two large scale studies to do just that. The first will systematically compare LTC systems in high, mid and low income countries highlighting the scope to adopt good practice examples in fostering availability, accessibility, quality, accountability and affordability. The second project recognizes that while caring is demanding both physically and mentally, there is some documented evidence, that some circles of care find the circumstances enriching. The research is designed to describe what constitutes a positive caregiving experience as well as identify the personal, relational and public policy factors which may contribute to this positive experience. These collaborative studies will not only elucidate the components of these successful care interactions but also share this knowledge with both policymakers and civil society to develop interventions and training that offer the best support to all involved. Of course, these studies will take a human rights based approach with a strong focus on gender, bearing in mind that most of the care is provided by women of all ages in all societies and that men should increasingly be part of this equation. ILC GA would be happy to discuss how the right to long term care can be addressed in a convention.

In my role as President of ILC Canada, I want to congratulate Canada for “opening the door” to supporting a convention. We urge you to walk through!