Mr. Chairman,

Please allow me to congratulate you on your chairmanship of this and past sessions of the Open-Ended Working Group and for Argentina's commitment in advancing this subject in the United Nations.

Mr. Chairman,

As we are all aware, the rapid growth of the world population of older persons is one of the most significant current demographic trends. Many countries face challenges stemming from the rising numbers of their elderly. Currently, above 20 million persons are aged 60 and over in Brazil. They account for roughly 11% of the Brazilian population.

To ensure that Brazil adequately attends to the needs of older persons, we have modernized our legislation and implemented specific public policies. The Brazilian Statute of Older Persons, the National Health Policy for Older Persons and the National Plan for Active Ageing incorporate the provisions of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and its Political Declaration. Our institutional framework tackles the needs of the elderly from a perspective of their being subjects of rights instead of assisted citizens.

Brazil has adopted an inclusive and participatory approach on the discussion of the rights of elderly persons, following a similar model to the one applied to youth and persons with disabilities, among other relevant groups. Our National Council for the Rights of Older Persons - directly linked to the Secretariat for Human Rights of the Presidency of the Republic - is integrated by representatives from civil society as well as government officials. It is responsible for monitoring the implementation of policies, assessing the
progress achieved and providing the Government with inputs on how the challenges regarding policies for older persons can be met.

Mr. Chairman,

Brazil commends the work of Ms. Rosa Kornfeld-Matte of Chile as Independent Expert of the Human Rights Council on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, whose second report is awaited with great expectation.

From Brazil's perspective, however, the international framework related to ageing still lacks a crucial element – notably, a treaty. As indicated in reports by the United Nations High Commissioner's Office and of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, there is a clear gap with regard to the human rights of older persons in existing international frameworks. Explicit references to ageing and the rights of older persons in core international human rights treaties are still scarce. The consolidation of the human rights of older persons into a specific and legally binding document would address the "regulatory dispersion" of these rights, strengthen their monitoring and realization, and foster national policies to better define the responsibilities of States.

A first and significant step towards an international legally binding framework was the adoption, on June 15th, of the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons. Brazil was one of the first countries to sign it. We urge all other countries in the Americas to do so. It is a comprehensive document, which contains detailed provisions on the protection and promotion of the human rights of older persons and on the duties of States in ensuring those rights. This is an important achievement in our Inter-American Human Rights System, and we hope, similarly to what we observed regarding the rights of persons with disabilities, that this regional process will contribute to create momentum for the negotiation of a universally applicable convention within the United Nations.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I would like to stress the importance of including older persons in the Post-2015 development agenda. The SDGS have currently references to older persons on Goal 2, Target 2.2 (food security, on the nutritional needs of older persons); and Goal 11, Targets 11.2 (safe, affordable and accessible transport systems for older persons) and 11.7 (accessible green and public spaces to older persons). Nevertheless, many other goals are relevant to older persons, such as Goal 1, Target 1.2 (reducing poverty by half of people of all ages) and Goal 3 (health and well-being for all at all ages). It will be particularly important to ensure that the indicators for the Agenda, which are still in their early stages of elaboration, disaggregate data by age, to ensure visibility of the rights and needs of older persons in the implementation of the Agenda.

I thank you.