STATEMENT BY
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OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON AGEING
NEW YORK, 14 - 16 JULY 2015
Mr. Chair,

At the outset, we would like to welcome the holding of the sixth meeting of the Open Ended Working Group on Ageing and thank our colleagues from Argentina, the UN Secretariat and the Bureau for preparing this session. Austria supports the work of the Open Ended Working Group and its efforts to strengthen the protection of the human rights of older persons by assessing the implementation of existing international instruments and identifying possible gaps.

Austria aligns itself with the statement of the EU.

Mr. Chair,

Having participated in every session of this working group, Austria remains determined to promote and protect the human rights of older persons through both domestic measures and the UN system.

In this regard we were pleased that the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, Ms. Rosa Kornfeld-Matte, visited Austria this year. During her 10-day visit she met with governmental representatives, non-governmental organizations and others working with and on the issue of older persons.

After her visit, Ms. Kornfeld-Matte said that she was particularly impressed by the number of studies commissioned by the authorities to assess the situation and needs of older people in the country. She stated that the Federal Plan of Older Persons was a good example of how research can feed into effective policy planning and how the voices of older persons can be successfully integrated into the political decision-making process on matters which might affect their interests through the Senior Citizens Council.

She also noted that in some areas like access to facilities, financial services (such as loans, mortgages and insurances) more efforts are needed.

Against this background, Austria is interested in this year’s session, in particular in the recent policy development and initiatives concerning the human rights of older persons as well as proposals, measures and best practices by other member states how to contribute to promoting and protecting the rights and dignity of older persons. Furthermore, we are looking forward to hearing about the inclusion of older persons in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Thank you for your attention.