



National Statement delivered by Mr. Jawad Ali, Minister, during Interactive dialogue with the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons
57th HRC Session
13th September 2024

Mr. President

Pakistan thanks the Independent Expert for the report and for shedding light on a critical challenge faced by the older persons.

We agree that autonomy is crucial for older persons, but current arrangements often undermine their ability to make decisions due to cultural norms and assumptions about cognitive decline.

We have a collective responsibility to enable the people of all age groups, including older persons, to participate in all forms of activities, including social, economic, and cultural fields.

Older persons should be provided with an enabling environment allowing them to live independently or with their family while retaining their autonomy.

It is equally important to work towards eliminating all drivers of discrimination, including on the basis of age.

Mr. President

Pakistan has long advocated for ensuring access to relevant tools to enhance accessibility for older person in form of providing assistive products or other digital and non-digital tools.

Enhancing access to such tools also improves their ability to understand and exercise their rights in a meaningful manner.

We therefore appreciate the Independent Expert for highlighting the issues faced in particular by older persons with disabilities, who are even in more need of our assistance and support for full participation in society.

We request the Independent Expert to continue to incorporate the important role of accessibility tools and assistive technology in her future work.

Thank you!