

GUIDELINES III

Preparing oral statements for the OEWG session

For those OEWG-accredited members who will be attending the OEWG sessions in New York, there are a number of things that you can do now to prepare for the session itself. It is always useful to start planning and researching oral interventions in good time. The guidelines below are based on observations and feedback from GAROP members, Member States and UN colleagues and may help your preparations.

<p>Role of NGOs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role that NGOs play in the formal OEWG sessions is seen by all stakeholders as an important one. • The OEWG sessions have shifted emphasis on to a more substantive debate around specific areas of rights. NGOs should urge their governments to participate actively in this substantive debate. It is also vital that NGOs bring their own substantive inputs and recommendations to the debate to ensure the success of the sessions. • NGOs are uniquely positioned to bring the voices of older people themselves and civil society into the OEWG debates. We have the ability to hold governments to account in the formal session debates.
<p>Impact</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral statements should be concise and focused on the specific topics being discussed on the agenda. This is particularly important as speaking time is becoming more limited for NGOs. • Statements should aim to bring substantive content and be as concrete as possible in terms of how a new convention could most usefully articulate the specific areas of right. • A powerful statement should include concrete evidence from your national context about how older people are denied their rights in this specific area (rather than broader information such as population data). • This evidence could include any gaps in legislation or service delivery, or examples of older people reporting that they are being excluded from the services that they need.
<p>Timing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statements should not be longer than two minutes when read aloud. This is around 250 words depending on how quickly you speak. It is worth practicing reading the statement out and timing yourself with a stopwatch or on your mobile phone. • You should factor in enough time to read slowly and clearly to ensure the fullest and most accurate translation by the interpreters. • Note that the OEWG Chair can be very strict with time and sometimes stops speakers in the middle of their statements if they exceed this time limit.

Practicalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The exact process for registering to speak during the different panels at the OEWG session may vary from one session to the next. This will be communicated by the UN team and the GAROP Secretariat in due course.• You are expected to bring 15 hard copies of your statement to hand to the interpreters. If you think that you may make small changes to your statement to respond to certain aspects of the debate then add the words 'CHECK ON DELIVERY' to the top of the printed copies.• You can email your statement to rafeh@un.org afterwards to be added to the Papersmart portal.
Mentoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If you are attending the OEWG session for the first time and would like to be connected to another GAROP member who has participated in previous sessions in order to receive support and guidance, please contact the GAROP Secretariat in the first instance.