



NSINDAGIZA ORGANIZATION

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**Oral Statement presented by Mr. Elie MUGABOWISHEMA,
President of NSINDAGIZA Organization, Rwanda at the MGoS
Official Event during the HLPF 2023**

14th July 2023



Fight for the rights and welfare of older persons, www.nsindagiza.org



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“No SDG will be considered met unless met for all”

From the beginning of the SDGs, we all understood that all actors will be mobilized to unite their efforts to ensure that no one is left behind, as no SDG will be considered met unless met for all.

This bold commitment gave hope for those who were at risk of being left behind, including older persons, persons with disabilities, children, women, etc.

In Rwanda, we have a National Forum for Children, National Youth Council, National Women’s Council and the National Council of Persons with Disabilities. These forums coordinated by national secretariats serve as platforms to advance voices of their constituencies, sharing of learning expertise and sustain impactful advocacy actions.

Despite the above progress, rights of older people are lagging behind. While NSINDAGIZA Organization in collaboration with other few Human rights institutions, have worked closely with the Government to have the first National Older Persons’ Policy approved by the Cabinet in May 2021. The Government and older people organizations are struggling to resource its implementation. The SDGs cannot be achieved if rights of older people are not resourced, technical competencies advanced and improvement of research and availability of disaggregated data on older people.

The Government of Rwanda showed its political will by prioritizing older persons for the COVID19 vaccination where the most priority was older people, the approval of the National Older Persons’ Policy and the ratification of the Protocol to the African charter on Human and peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Older Persons. I’m calling upon the international community to come in, financially and technically supporting these initiatives for further steps in developing countries, supporting the civil society in contributing to just, equal, peaceful and sustainable societies if we want to leave no one behind.

As I close, I quote this young person saying: “I prefer dying before I get old instead of facing all the issues in old age”.

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