

OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON AGEING
1-4 August 2011

**STATEMENT BY THE FEDERATION OF ASSOCIATIONS OF FORMER
INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS (FAFICS)**

The Federation of Associations of Former International Civil Servants (FAFICS) advocates the recognition of the value of older persons as a rich and indispensable human resource.

FAFICS, comprising 50 member Associations of Former International Civil Servants from all UN system organizations located in all regions, besides looking after pensions and health plan benefits of its retiree membership, is also active in advocacy in promoting the principles, policies and programmes of the United Nations system and the international civil service.

Because the ageing population is increasing, efforts must be made to avoid the under- and non-involvement of this important segment of society. As stressed by the FAFICS President in his statement to the April session of the OEWG, FAFICS disagrees with the often stated assumption that employment of the elderly deprives the young of employment, when in reality, the employment of both the elderly and the young can be, and should be, complementary. Employment policies should ensure that they protect the dignity of older persons, avoid discrimination and are applied equitably.

Modern development initiatives recognize that the ageing population is a rich reservoir of knowledge, experience and expertise and that the elderly can also play an active role in actions aimed at helping other members of society (e.g., through education, humanitarian efforts, and care of special groups).

FAFICS is aware that the contribution of the ageing population to economic and social development is under-appreciated. Measures to meet these concerns have not been adequately addressed to date. FAFICS therefore supports those governmental and non-governmental organizations that have proposed the establishment of a comprehensive and binding international instrument on the elderly to address these pressing issues.

FAFICS reiterates its support to the work of the Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing and looks forward to its contribution towards establishing an international instrument for the strengthening and protection of the rights of older persons.