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Conference Abstract

## **The best national programs protecting the rights of persons aging with disabilities**

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### **Abstract**

Experience has shown that the most effective national programs for enhancing the rights of a marginalized population are those that are both developed and implemented by organizations that represent those individuals. In the case of individuals ageing into, and with, a disability, there is a strangely absent alliance between disability organizations and those representing the elderly. This is strange because they have so much in common and there is a clear strategic value in their joining forces, especially in light of the powerful provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). I explore the historically salient reasons for this -- misconceptions about disability and about ageing -- and make suggestions -- based on the model of disability found in the WHO's International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) -- that would help to address these misconceptions, and perhaps facilitate a robust alliance between advocates for the elderly and persons with disabilities. In light of this resolution, I conclude with a few additional success criteria for national strategies for rights protection.

### **Keywords**

**ageing, disability, alliances, international classification of functioning, disability and health**

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Presentation available from the [FICCDAT Growing Older conference site](#)