August 1, 2014

United Nations General Assembly
Open-ended Working Group on Ageing
United Nations Headquarters
New York, New York 10017

Dear Friends and Esteemed Delegates:

As Mayor and on behalf of the City of Chicago, I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to all of those gathered for the 5th Session of the United Nations Open-ended Working Group on Ageing, and write to endorse the Chicago Declaration on the Rights of Older Persons (Chicago Declaration).

Released at the closing of a two-day international elder law & policy conference held at The John Marshall Law School in Chicago, Illinois, the Chicago Declaration is a working product of scholars, advocates, and policymakers from more than a dozen countries. It supports the Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing, which was established by the United Nations General Assembly by Resolution 65/182 on 21 December 2010, and the conclusion of its first, second, third, and fourth sessions. The Chicago Declaration builds upon the principles proclaimed in international human rights covenants and previous declarations promoting the rights of older persons.

The Chicago Declaration seeks to advance, promote and provide a basis for the development of a comprehensive international convention for the protection of older persons, which in turn will redress the profound social disadvantage of older persons and promote their equal participation in the civil, political, economic, social, and cultural life in both developing and developed countries.

With its history of advocacy for social justice, the City of Chicago wholeheartedly endorses the Chicago Declaration on the Rights of Older Persons.

Sincerely,

Mayor

[Signature]