

# ACCESSIBILITY, INFRASTRUCTURE AND HABITAT (TRANSPORT, HOUSING AND ACCESS)

*Submission by:*

**UNIVERSAL PEACE AND VIOLENCE AMELIORATION CENTRE**  
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## SUBSTANTIVE INPUT

**THE CHAIR OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
STRENGTHENING THE PROTECTION OF THE HUMAN  
RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS**

### **FOURTEENTH WORKING SESSION**

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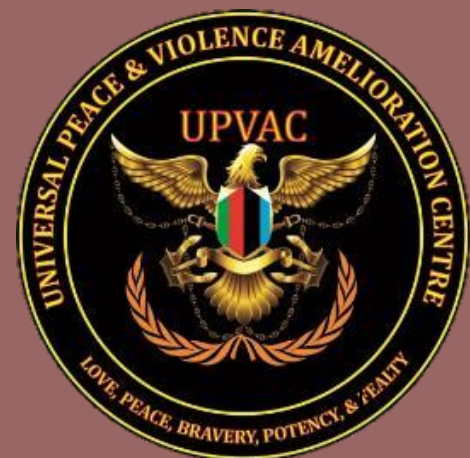
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# 1. National Legal and Policy Framework:

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### National Legal and Policy Framework in Nigeria:

- Nigeria's Constitution recognizes the right to adequate housing, although specific provisions targeting older persons may be lacking. The Constitution further guarantees the right to access and enjoy the physical environment, transportation, information, and other facilities and services on an equal basis with others. The National Housing Programme and other infrastructure development initiatives aim to ensure accessibility for older persons in both urban and rural areas
- The National Policy on Ageing includes provisions for programs that enable older persons to live independently and be included in their communities as they age. Initiatives such as community-based support services and healthcare programs are aimed at facilitating the social inclusion and independence of older persons in Nigeria.
- The National Policy on Ageing acknowledges older persons' right to adequate housing, including land, property, and inheritance. Additionally, the Older Persons (Rights and Privileges) Act provides legal protection against discrimination in matters of inheritance and property ownership for older persons.

### National Legal and Policy Framework in Bangladesh:

- The Bangladesh National Housing Policy recognizes older persons' right to adequate housing, including land, property, and inheritance. Additionally, the Maintenance of Parents Act 2013 safeguards older persons' rights to maintenance and inheritance from their children.
- Bangladesh's Disability Rights and Protection Act 2013 ensures accessibility for older persons to the physical environment, transportation, and other facilities and services on an equal basis with others. Initiatives such as the Ashrayan Project focus on providing housing and livelihood support to vulnerable groups, including older persons, in both urban and rural areas.
- The National Policy on Older Persons in Bangladesh includes programs aimed at enabling older persons to live independently and be included in their communities as they age. Efforts such as community-based healthcare services and social protection programs aim to enhance the quality of life and social integration of older persons in Bangladesh.

## 2. Challenges and Barriers

### Challenges and Barriers in Nigeria and Bangladesh:

- Lack of enforcement mechanisms and awareness regarding the rights of older persons to accessible infrastructure.
- Insufficient investment in infrastructure catering to the needs of older persons, such as accessible public transportation and age-friendly housing.
- Urbanization trends leading to the neglect of rural areas, exacerbating accessibility issues for older persons living outside urban centers.

## 3. Data and Research

### Data, statistics and research availability in Nigeria and Bangladesh:

- Limited availability of disaggregated data specifically focusing on older persons' accessibility needs.
- Lack of comprehensive research on the challenges faced by older persons in accessing infrastructure and habitat.
- Existing data often lacks granularity, hindering effective policy formulation and implementation.
- Research initiatives by government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and academic institutions may provide some insights into the challenges faced by older persons in accessing essential services and facilities.
- However, there is a need for improved data collection mechanisms and standardized indicators to effectively monitor and address older persons' rights to accessibility and infrastructure at the national level in Nigeria and Bangladesh.

## 4. Equality and Non-Discrimination

Measures to be taken to eliminate ageism, ageist stereotypes, prejudices and behaviours that hinder older persons' rights to accessibility, infrastructure and habitat (transport, housing and access) in Nigeria and Bangladesh includes:

- Awareness campaigns and educational programs with aim to challenge ageist attitudes and stereotypes perpetuating discrimination against older persons.
- Policies promoting intergenerational dialogue and community engagement to foster understanding and respect for older persons' rights to accessibility, infrastructure, and habitat.
- Incorporation of older persons' perspectives in urban planning and infrastructure development to promote inclusivity and address age-based discrimination in public spaces and facilities.
- Legal frameworks prohibiting age discrimination in employment and access to services will contribute to fostering a culture of equality and non-discrimination for older persons.

## 5. Remedies and Redress

Some Mechanisms that are necessary for older persons to submit complaints and seek redress for denial of their rights to accessibility, infrastructure and habitat (transport, housing and access) in Nigeria and Bangladesh includes:

- Establishing dedicated mechanisms within existing legal frameworks to address complaints related to accessibility and infrastructure for older persons.
- Strengthening legal aid services and community support networks to assist older persons in seeking redress for violations of their rights.
- Enhancing public awareness of existing avenues for redress to empower older persons to assert their rights effectively.

Mechanisms already in place in Nigeria and Bangladesh includes:

### Nigeria:

- Legal Aid Services: Existing legal aid services provide older persons with assistance in navigating legal processes and seeking redress for violations of their rights to accessibility, infrastructure, and habitat.
- National Human Rights Commission: serves as a mechanism for older persons to lodge complaints and seek redress for discrimination or denial of rights related to accessibility, infrastructure, and habitat.
- The Nigeria “National Senior Citizens Centre”: established pursuant to the National Citizens Center Act 2017 with mandate to identify the needs of senior citizens and to cater for them. It is the first distinct national corporate body with focus on social inclusion of senior citizens in sustainable development and the improvement of the quality of living and well-being for self-fulfillment.
- Community Advocacy: Community-based advocacy groups and civil society organizations offer support and advocacy services to older persons, facilitating their access to justice and redress mechanisms.

### Bangladesh:

- Older Persons' Welfare Committees: Community-level committees and forums address grievances related to accessibility, infrastructure, and habitat for older persons, providing a platform for complaints and redress.
- Legal Aid and Advice Centers: Government-established legal aid centers offer older persons legal assistance and guidance in pursuing remedies for violations of their rights, including issues related to accessibility and housing.
- Human Rights Commission: Bangladesh's Human Rights Commission provides a mechanism for older persons to file complaints and seek redress for violations of their rights to accessibility, infrastructure, and habitat, ensuring accountability and protection.