SOCIAL INCLUSION

(FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A POSSIBLE INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ON THE PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS)

Submission by:
UNIVERSAL PEACE AND VIOLENCE AMELIORATION CENTRE
Organization in Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC) *since 2019*

NORMATIVE CONTENT

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

UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORLK
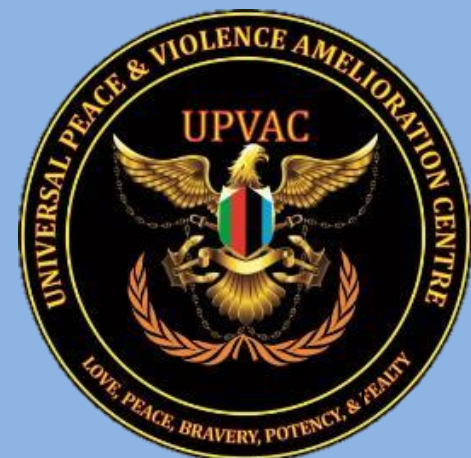**20-24 MAY 2024.**

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1. Definition:

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- In Nigeria, key human rights related to older persons' social inclusion are defined in national legislation, including the Constitution, which guarantees equality and non-discrimination. However, specific definitions of social inclusion for older persons are lacking in legislation, necessitating alignment with international frameworks such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.

- While in Bangladesh, older persons' rights to social inclusion are recognized in national legislation, including the Constitution and various policies promoting equality and non-discrimination. However, specific definitions of social inclusion for older persons are lacking, necessitating alignment with international human rights standards and frameworks.

- It is hereby necessary to define social inclusion in line with relevant existing national, regional and international legal frameworks to be fundamental in ensuring the rights and well-being of older persons. It encompasses their ability to participate fully in society, access resources and opportunities, and maintain meaningful connections with others.

2. Scope of the Right

Existing national standards emphasize older persons' right to take part in cultural life and be included in the digital sphere. Additionally, policies aim to ensure older persons' independence and inclusion in the community, including those living in institutions. However, gaps exist in ensuring older persons' participation in intergenerational policies and access to prompt remedies for violations of their social inclusion rights in both Nigeria and Bangladesh.

3. State Obligations

The States should undertake measures to respect, protect, and fulfill older persons' rights to social inclusion by enacting legislation and policies that promote their active participation in cultural, digital, and community life. This includes ensuring access to education, healthcare, social protection/social services, and supportive environments and networks to enhance older persons' social integration and well-being, while enabling older persons to live independently and be included in the society.

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4.   Special Considerations

Special measures should be considered in addressing the diverse and unique needs and challenges of older persons, including those living in rural areas, with disabilities, or facing socio-economic challenges. Efforts should focus on promoting intergenerational solidarity and combating ageism and ensuring older persons' access to social services without discrimination in all spheres of life.

5.   Implementation

Nigeria faces challenges in adopting and implementing relevant human rights to ensure the social inclusion of older persons. Good practices include establishment of the National Senior Citizens Centre (NSCC), the NSCC Stakeholders Consultative Forum, Community-based initiatives that promote older persons' active participation in decision-making processes and cultural activities. However, challenges persist in addressing systemic barriers and ensuring equal access to social services and opportunities for older persons.

Also, Bangladesh has made strides in adopting policies and programs to promote the social inclusion of older persons, including community-based initiatives and advocacy efforts. However, challenges remain in addressing systemic barriers and ensuring equal access to social services and opportunities for older persons, particularly in rural areas and marginalized communities. Efforts to strengthen implementation mechanisms and address gaps in policy implementation are essential to enhance older persons' social inclusion and well-being.