

Association Camerounaise pour la Prise en charge des Personnes Agees (ACAMAGE)

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Guiding Questions for the focus areas of the IX Session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing: Autonomy and independence

- 1) your country/region, how is the right to autonomy and independence of older persons defined in legal and policy frameworks?

The national policy document for the protection and promotion of older people is not ready yet.

- 2) What other rights are essential for the enjoyment of the right to autonomy and independence by older persons, or affected by the non-enjoyment of this right?

I think that all the human rights are necessary to older persons for the enjoyment of the right to autonomy and independence. But the essential ones are the rights to participation, dignity, decision making, good health.

- 3) What are the key issues and challenges facing older persons in your country/region regarding autonomy and independence? What studies and data are available?

The great number of Older people here are poor financially and are located in rural areas. They are also in poor health, abused and neglected almost everywhere. Their children can hardly take care of them as they are jobless and furthermore, older people are the one taking care of grandchildren. Some of their children have means but does not find necessary to take care of their old parents sometimes due to intergenerational conflicts ; also, a great range of families have become nuclear. Older women are highlighted and are very often accused of witch, and abused.

- 4) What steps have been taken to ensure older persons' enjoyment of their right to autonomy and independence?

The national policy document on the protection and promotion of older people is not ready. And we do hope will be effective soon. NGOs as well as civil society has been campaigning for the enjoyment of older people's rights, also attending OEWGA sessions in New York and struggling for the UN Convention for the rights of older people

5)What mechanisms are necessary, or already in place, for older persons to seek redress for the denial of autonomy and independence?

Institutionally, our technical ministry has a directorate for the rights of older people

- 6) What are the responsibilities of other, non-State, actors in respecting and protecting the right to autonomy and independence of older persons?

NGOs and civil society are working with families in creating awareness, but lack funding to do more