

Guiding questions for the thirteenth session

Focus area 2: Social Inclusion

The Scope:

Social inclusion is a precondition for the ability of older persons to exercise multiple human rights. Social inclusion is the process of improving the terms of participation in society for people who are disadvantaged on the basis of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, or economic or other status through (1) enhanced opportunities, (2) access to resources (3) voice and (4) respect for rights.¹ From a human rights perspective, achieving social inclusion requires addressing the discriminatory structures that have led to exclusion, deprivation of resources and lack of opportunities identified in multiple international human rights instruments.

On one hand, the full social inclusion of older persons lays upon removing existing barriers and, on the other hand, on the adoption of measures that actively promote their inclusion. As such, the achievement of social inclusion is realized through the exercise of human rights that have already been or will be analyzed by the Working Group. These guiding questions are therefore geared towards addressing exclusively those areas that have not been, nor will be, addressed in other sessions of the Working Work.

The following focus areas and their impact on the social inclusion and/or exclusion of older persons have already been covered by the Working Group:

- Equality and non-discrimination
- Neglect, violence and abuse
- Autonomy and independence
- Long-term care and palliative care
- Social protection and social security
- Education, training, lifelong learning and capacity building
- Access to justice
- Right to work and access to the labour market
- Economic security
- Contribution of older persons to sustainable development

The following focus areas and their impact on the social inclusion and/or exclusion of older persons may be covered by the Working Group in a forthcoming session:

- Participation in the public life and in decision-making processes
- Accessibility, infrastructure and habitat (transport, housing and access)

The guiding questions:

- What are the legal provisions, policy frameworks and/or measures in your country that explicitly focus on older persons who are marginalized on the grounds of their sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, economic or other status? (*This may include addressing older populations on frameworks dedicated to other marginalized groups such as women, persons with disabilities,*

¹ UN DESA (2016) Report of the World Social Situation 2016

migrants, minorities, homeless people etc.; or addressing marginalized groups within frameworks devoted to older persons)

- What legal age limits exist in your country that prevent the full and equal participation of older persons in societies in areas such as employment, education, healthcare, financial goods and services, or others?
- What measures are in place, if any, to ensure that older persons in institutions segregated from their communities -such as institutional care systems or prisons- can continue participating in their society?
- States have an obligation to use maximum available resources to progressively achieve the full realization of economic, social and cultural rights. What is the share of national public expenditure budget targeted to older persons as a distinct group?