

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,

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

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,*

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

Lebanon

The legal provisions in Lebanon has signed and ratified: the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), The Convention on the Elimination of All Types of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).

Kenya

The constitution of Kenya, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the African Charter of Human and People's Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women, the UN Plan of Action on Ageing among other international and regional instruments

Syria

In Syria, there is a lack of social protection laws for elderly.

Palestine

The Palestinian Basic Law amended in 2005 recognizes a set of rights for Palestinian citizens including the right to social and health security services, and disability and old-age pensions; right to adequate housing; right to work; right to participate in political life; and right to a clean environment.

- 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?

Lebanon

Lebanon does not have framework that prevents the participation in society by older persons.

Syria

60

Kenya

Kenya holds a retirement age of 60 years and 65 years for persons with a disability, for academic staff of public universities and research scientists, their retirement age is guided by relevant legislation and guidelines.

- 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?

Palestine

N/A

Lebanon

N/A

Syria

N/A

Kenya

The National Policy on Older Persons notes the need for older persons to receive reasonable care and assistance from their families and the state.

- 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?

Kenya

N/A

Palestine

N/A

Syria

N/A

Lebanon

N/A

