

Mongolia national input for the VIII Session of the OEWGA

“Equality and Non-discrimination”

1/ Building legislative environment

The Constitution of Mongolia guarantees equality for older persons or peoples of all ages in “Article 14. 1. All persons lawfully residing within Mongolia shall be equal before the law and the courts” and forbids discrimination explicitly on the basis of age in “Article 14.2. No person shall be discriminated against on the basis of ethnic origin, language, race, age, sex [gender], social origin and status, property and assets, employment occupation and official position, religion and conscience, conviction and opinion, and education. Every human being shall be a legal person.”

On 27 January 2017, the Parliament of Mongolia adopted the Elderly Law serving as a legal base to protect and promote rights and social protection for older people and improve their social and economic participation.

Also, in line with the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (2002) and Shanghai Implementation Strategy: Regional Implementation Strategy (2002), the National Strategy on Population Ageing has been implemented by the Government of Mongolia since 2009 to protect and promote rights and development of older people.

2/ Changing retirement age and related

In Mongolia, males aged 60 and females aged 55, who paid their dues to pension fund for more than 20 years, are entitled for old age pension.

Older persons who at present comprise 7 percent of Mongolia’s population will constitute 25 percent of the population by 2050. In other words, the percentage of people aged over 60 is expected to be doubled by 2028 and to be tripled by 2040.

Thus, in relation to growing number of older people and increasing longevity, the Government has recently initiated a pension reform encompassing changes in retirement age and pension remuneration.

3/ Building employment opportunity for older persons

Strategies to improve the livelihood of older people including providing them with employment opportunities and enhancing quality and access to health services are being implemented. For example, with increasing number of older people who want to exercise employment, the Elderly Law of Mongolia contains provisions to create a national database for elder’s employment and help them to place at workplaces, support elders’ business activities through small loans, business incubation and training and re-training activities. More specifically, annual programs to support employment of elder people approved by the National Employment Council will be implemented at central and local government levels and the Government funded “Program for development of senior experts’ counselling services” has started in 2017.

4/ Bettering health and financial services for older people

The Government of Mongolia has been taking systematic measures to improve public services for older people including health, infrastructure and financial services.

Elderly Development Centers aimed at providing a variety of services for older people including information and counselling, employment support, food supplements, daycare and visiting and other services have been established in local settlements. Moreover, Elderly cabinets are opened in local clinics to promote healthy ageing and develop rehabilitation and geriatric services.

In order to improve opportunities for the elderly to participate in social life, there are entitled to travel by the public transport for free.

Amount and frequency for retirement benefits, such as refund for prostheses cost, issuance of discounted vouchers for rehabilitation facilities and enrolment for funeral allowances, have been increased. Pensions of elder people will be adjusted to inflation and exchange rates, as well.

System of distributing pensions through the state owned bank branches has been changed; elder people are now entitled to choose banking institutions upon their preferences.

People aged above 65 are now entitled to two times money grants per year; moreover, interest rates for pension loan were decreased from 18 to 15 percent.

5/ Some outstanding issues

Elderly population is facing a number challenges that prevent the full realization of their rights. For example, the key challenge is financial security of older persons. Traditional support of adult offspring and other relatives to elder people is rapidly shrinking due to declining family sizes and increasing out migration. In addition, with widespread unemployment and underemployment in the country, it is increasingly more difficult for older persons to find productive employment and earn their own income.

Elderly people are being increasingly affected by alcoholism, crimes and violence which continue to be evident due to social problems such as unemployment and poverty. It is important to note that considerable part of the violence victims in the shelter are elderly people above 60.

As range of statistical data produced by the NSO is limited, there is a need to improve availability of statistics disaggregated by gender and age and other old age-related criteria.