

**14th session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing
Guiding questions for the focus area on participation in public life and
in decision-making processes**

National and local legal and policy framework

1. ¿What are the national and local legal provisions and policy frameworks in your country that guarantee (...)”.

The Social Protection Program for the Elderly (Colombia Mayor) is administered by the Administrative Department for Social Prosperity (Social Prosperity), and seeks to increase the protection of older persons through the delivery of an economic subsidy, in such a way, it seeks to guarantee a decent life and equal conditions for this population, in order to contribute to the construction of a non-exclusive, peaceful, comprehensive society that guarantees the human rights of this population of special protection. Equality and non-discrimination is reflected in the application of the criteria for admission and permanence in the program.

The following are the regulations with the guidelines for the development of the program:

- Political Constitution of Colombia 1991, Art. 46: The State, the Society and the family are responsible for the protection and assistance of the elderly and must promote their integration in the active and community life. The State shall guarantee them comprehensive social security services and food subsidies in case of indigence.
- Law 100 of 1993 "Whereby the comprehensive social security system is created and other provisions are issued", norm which regulates comprehensive social security in Colombia, which seeks the enjoyment and quality of life through the progressive compliance of plans and programs that the Colombian State and society develop to provide comprehensive coverage of contingencies, especially those that undermine the health and economic capacity, of the inhabitants of the national territory, in order to achieve individual welfare and community integration.
- Decree 1833 of 2016 by which the rules of the General Pension System are compiled.
- Decree 1690 of 2020 "Whereby Article 5 of Legislative Decree 812 of 2020 on the administration, execution and operation of the Social Protection Program for the Elderly – Colombia Mayor -, the sales tax (VAT) compensation scheme, of the Solidarity Income Program and other provisions are regulated".
- Legislative Decree 812 of 2020 "Whereby the Social Registry of Households and the Cash Transfer Platform are created and other provisions are issued to meet the needs of households in a situation of poverty and economic vulnerability throughout the national territory within the state of Economic, Social and Ecological Emergency".
- Resolution 1370 of 2013 "Whereby the Operating Manual of the Social Protection Program for the Elderly, now Colombia Mayor, is updated".

2. What steps have been taken to ensure participation in public life and in decision-making processes without discrimination?

The purpose of the Social Protection Program for the Elderly - Colombia Mayor is to protect the elderly against the economic risk of the impossibility of generating income, thus granting an economic subsidy for those adults who are homeless, do not have a pension or live in extreme poverty. In this way, it is evident that the program Colombia Mayor has the ultimate goal of safeguarding the human and fundamental rights of the elderly population.

Data and research

3. ¿What data and research are available regarding older persons' participation in public life and in decision-making processes? Please indicate how national or sub-national data is disaggregated by sex, age and inequality dimensions, and what indicators are used to monitor older persons' participation in public life and in decision-making processes.

The National Public Policy on Aging and Old Age includes a strategic area regarding inclusion and citizen participation. In addition, the health system in Colombia includes instances of citizen participation and oversight through which all Colombians can monitor and impact compliance with the right to health (Resolution 2063 of 2013), which despite existing and being regulated, the participation and impact of older persons must be reinforced and qualified.

Equality and non-discrimination

4. ¿What are the challenges and barriers that older persons face regarding participation in public life and in decision-making processes, including the impact of intersectional discrimination and inequality based on age, gender, disability, race, ethnicity, migratory status and other grounds?

Regarding the process of Design and Articulation of Policies, Programs and Projects, Colombia has developed a "Differential Approach Guide: Guidelines for the Attention to the Older Adult Population of 2021", which presents the situation of older adults in Colombia, characterizing and analyzing them in relation to poverty and the violations caused by the armed conflict, a document that may serve as a guide for this important issue.

Accountability

5. ¿What judicial and non-judicial mechanisms are in place for older persons to complain and seek redress when their right to participate in public life and in decision-making processes is violated?

In accordance with this commitment, with Law 2055 of 2020, the Colombian State has approved in its constitutional and legal framework, the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons, ratified in September 2022 before the OAS. Under this framework, older persons have the right to participate in political and public life on equal terms with others and not to be discriminated against on the basis of age.