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| **REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN**  **Paix – Travail – Patrie**  **\*\*\*\*\*\***  **MINISTERE DES AFFAIRES SOCIALES**  **\*\*\*\*\*\***  SECRETARIAT GENERAL  \*\*\*\*\*\*  DIRECTION DE LA PROTECTION SOCIALE DES  PERSONNES HANDICAPEES ET DES PERSONNES AGEES  \*\*\*\*\*\*\* | **REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON**  **Peace – Work – Fatherland**  **\*\*\*\*\*\***  **MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS**  **\*\*\*\*\*\*\***  GENERAL SECRETARY  \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL PROTECTION OF PERSONS  WITH DISABILITIES AND THE ELDERLY  \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* |

**10TH SESSION OF THE UN OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP**

**ON AGEING**

**CAMEROON’S CONTRIBUTION**

**ON THE FOCUS AREAS**

***Yaounde, January 2019***

**GUIDING QUESTIONS FOR THE FOCUS AREA OF THE 10TH SESSION OF THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON AGEING:**

**EDUCATION, TRAINING, LIFE-LONG LEARNING AND CAPACITY BUILDING**

**NATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

1. **In your country/Region, how is the right to education, training, lifelong learning and capacity building at old age guaranteed in legal and policy frameworks?**

* The Cameroon Constitution of 18 January 1996: *“The nation protects the youth, women, older persons and persons with disabilities…”;*
* Decree n° 2005/254 of 7 July 2005 laying down the conditions for the implementation of law n°2004/016 du 22 July 2004 on the creation, organization and functioning of the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms.
* Decree n°2017/383 of 18 July 2017 organizing the Ministry of Social Affairs (MINAS). As mission, it requires MINAS to put in place and follow up national and international legal instruments for the protection of older persons.

**Availability, Accessibility and Adaptability**

1. **What are the key issues and challenges faced by older persons in your country/Region with regard to the enjoyment of all levels of quality education, training, lifelong learning and capacity building services?**

The economic situation of older persons does not favour access to quality education, training, lifelong learning and capacity building, for the latter, in most cases, no longer have the means to undergo professional or even cultural training.

1. **What steps have been taken to ensure that education, training, lifelong learning and capacity building services are available and accessible to all older persons, adapted to their needs, suited to their preferences and motivations, and of high quality?**

* The Ministry of Social Affairs has put in place a project dubbed “Maison des Ages” which is a place for education, information, intergenerational exchanges and leisure for older persons;
* Decree n°2005/254 of 7 July 2005 creating the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms, in its Article 5(1), requires this institution to ensure the “development of a culture of respect of human rights and freedoms trough the sensitization, education, information and organization of related seminars, in collaboration with the national and international bodies concerned”;
* The partnership convention of 25 May 2005 between the Ministry of Social Affairs and the African Computer Institute for the training of persons with disabilities and other target populations including older persons in ICTs.

1. **In your country/Region, are there studies and/or data available on the right of older persons to education, training, lifelong learning and capacity building?**
2. The Cameroon Constitution of 18 January 1996: *“The nation protects the youth, women, older persons and persons with disabilities…”;*
3. Decree n° 2005/254 of 7 July 2005 laying down the conditions for the implementation of law n°2004/016 du 22 July 2004 on the creation, organization and functioning of the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms.

**Equality and non-discrimination**

1. **In your country, is age one of the prohibitive factors for discrimination in relation to education at old age?**

In Cameroon there is no discrimination against access of older persons to education.

**Accountability**

1. **What mechanisms are necessary or already in place for older persons to lodge complaints and seek redress for denial of their right to education, training, lifelong learning and capacity building?**

The existing mechanisms are ensured by:

* Courts of First Instance and High Courts;
* The Ministry of Basic Education;
* The Ministry of Higher Education;
* The Ministry of Social Affairs;
* The National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms.

**GUIDING QUESTIONS FOR THE FOCUS AREA OF THE 10TH SESSION OF THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON AGEING: SOCIAL PROTECTION AND SOCIAL SECURITY**

* **National legal framework**

1. **What are the legal provisions in your country that recognize the right to social security and social protection, including non-contributory old age benefits? Do they have a constitutional, legislative or executive foundation?**

* Cameroon has ratified several international Conventions pertaining to social protection/security, as seen it the Preamble of its Constitution.
* Cameroon, a member of the ILO since 1960, had to adapt its legislation to international standards following C102 - Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (n° 102. This adjustment of the legal framework of social protection was done through:
  + Law n°67/LF/07 of 12 June 1967 establishing a code of Family Benefits;
  + Law n° 67/LF/08 of 12 June 1967 establishing the National Social Insurance Fund (NSIF) as an autonomous body in charge of managing the family benefits scheme;
  + Law n°69/LF/18 of 10 November 1969 establishing a pension scheme for old age, invalidity and death pensions. Under this scheme, funding was provided through social contributions collected from both employers and workers;
  + Ordinance n°73/17 of 22 May 1973 on the organisation of social insurance which entrusted to the NSIF, as part of the general policy of the Government, the service of various benefits provided by the legislation of social protection;
  + Law n° 77/11 of 13 July 1977 on the compensation and prevention of industrial accidents and occupational diseases, which entrusted the NSIF with the coverage and management of occupational risks, thereby repealing previous legislation resulting from Ordinance 59/100 of 31 December 1959 which entrusted the management of these risks to private insurance companies.
* Decree n° 2014/2377/PM of 13 August 2014 laying down the terms of and conditions for being part of an invalidity and death pension insurance scheme, which today allows self-employed workers and those of the informal sector to register and prepare for retirement.
* Decree n° 2016/072 and its annex fixing the rates of social contributions and the limits of remuneration applicable in the areas of family benefits, old age, invalidity and death pension insurance, industrial accidents and occupational diseases managed by the NSIF;
* Decree n° 2018/354 on the reorganization and functioning of the NSIF;
* Decree n°2005/320 of 8 December 2005 and decree n°2017/383 18 July 2017 organizing the Ministry of Social Affairs with respect to ensuring the implementation of government policy on issues of prevention, assistance and protection of socially vulnerable persons and drawing up a National Policy Document on the Protection and Promotion of older persons;
* The Civil Code prescribes the compulsory feeding of descendants by their parents/grandparents in case of necessity.
* **AVAILABILITY**

1. **What steps have been taken to guarantee universal coverage, ensuring that every older person has access to social security and social protection schemes including non-contributory, contributory and survivor old age pensions, to bring about an acceptable standard of living at old age?**

**Answer 2** :

* Decree n° 2014/2377/PM of 13 August 2014 laying down the conditions for coverage provided to voluntary old age, invalidity and death insurance scheme;
* The ongoing implementation of the universal health coverage which consists, according to the WHO, in ensuring equal access of all individuals, according to their needs, to complete quality health services.

1. **What steps have been taken to ensure that every older person has access to social protection schemes which guarantee them access to adequate and affordable health care and support services for independent living at old age?**

* **Answer 3**:

People entitled to old age and invalidity pensions have a 50% reduction on health bills issued by health facilities of the NSIF.

**ADEQUACY**

1. **What steps have been taken to ensure that the levels of social security and social protection payments are adequate so that older persons can have access to health care and social assistance?**

**Answer 4:**

* People entitled to old age and invalidity pensions have a 50% reduction on health bills contracted in health facilities of the NSIF;
* The replacement rate for old age pensions is set at 30% of the RMM with the possibility of earning 1% per additional year. We find that the average replacement rate is 37%;

**ACCESSIBILITY**

1. **What steps have been taken to ensure that older persons have adequate information on available social security and social protection schemes and how to claim their entitlements?**

**Answer 5** :

Access of older persons to social security is eased by the multiplicity of proximity social security services for older persons’ pensions. Concerning social protection, there exist operational social services in Districts and other basic administrative units which offer services to older persons (hospitals, police stations, courts, schools).

1. **Does the design and implementation of normative and political framework related to social security and social protection benefits include an effective and meaningful participation of older persons?**

**Answer 6** :

* Older persons were involved in the elaboration of the National Policy on the Protection of Older Persons. This involvement saw them visiting other older persons in all the ten Regions of Cameroon to exchange with them and take note of their needs and expectations.

**EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION**

1. **Which are the measures adopted to ensure equal access of older persons to social protection, with special attention to groups in vulnerable situation?**

**Answer 7** :

* Special care is taken to ease identification of old/invalid persons through field visits of NSIF agents for door-to-door identification and payment of pensions;
* The NSIF has branches dedicated to health and social action. For instance, in 2017, CFA 152.209.797 francs were allocated to this branch. Such social actions include: payment of scholarships to orphans, payment of medical bills, and provision of farming tools, etc, of which beneficiaries include older persons.

**ACCOUNTABILITY**

1. **What mechanisms are in place to ensure that social security and social protection schemes are effective and accountable?**

**Answer 8**:

* Social services and of proximity social security ;
* Exoneration of medical test bills;
* gerontology services in government hospitals ;
* Training courses for qualified personnel in the areas of geriatrics and gerontology.

1. **What judicial and non-judicial mechanisms are in place for older persons to complain and seek redress for denial of their right to social security and social protection?**

**Answer 9**:

Judicial mechanisms: Ordinance n°73/17 of 22 May 1973 organizing social security, amended by Law n° 84/006 of 4 July 1984, creating a Litigation Commission at the level of each region that is charged with resolving disputes in the social security domain. Moreover, there exists a Reprieve Committee at the NSIF that serves the same purpose.