



Cuban Association of the United Nations

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The Cuban Association of the United Nations (ACNU) was established on May 30, 1947, is a non-governmental organization registered in the registry of Associations of the Republic of Cuba that groups on a voluntary basis to natural and legal persons genuinely interested in knowing and participate in the management of the United Nations. Promotes knowledge and popular understanding of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the nature, functioning and activity of the United Nations System. Groups 117 organizations of Cuban civil society.

It has a special consultative status with ECOSOC since 1999. Affiliated with the Department of Public Information (DPI). He has observer status with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification since 2003 and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change since 2004. He is a member of the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA, for short) in English) and belongs to its Executive Committee since 2003 and to the NGO Conference in consultative relationship with the United Nations (CoNGO).

ACNU'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE FOCUS AREAS OF THE X SESSION OF THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON AGEING:

Social protection and social security (including social protection floors)

National legal framework

1. What are the legal provisions in your country that recognizes the right to social security and social protection, including non-contributory and contributory?

The Constitution of the Republic of Cuba recognizes security and social assistance as constitutional rights. As regards the state, security, the family, the elderly, the population, adequate protection, the social security system, the general social security system, the social assistance system and the special regimes, with its specific legislations.

Law No. 105 of Social Security of 2008 and its Regulation regulated and fundamental provisions related to social security and its application for all Cubans, including the elderly and their particularities.

Availability

2. 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 ensure an adequate, standard of living in older age?

The Social Security System is the total responsibility of the Cuban State, which guarantees its universality in coverage. Protection is guaranteed by virtue of monetary benefits, in services and in kind.

Among the actions implemented to facilitate the collection of contributory and non-contributory old-age pensions ensuring that all those involved are benefited, the State has increased and increased the number of places to collect monetary benefits. And in those cases that can't be witnessed before the collection point, they have been paid at their homes by the postman or social worker assigned for that purpose and hired by the municipal work departments.

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

The social security system establishes that everyone has the right to have their health treated and protected, as a consequence of the provision of free medical and hospital

care, in the network of medical service facilities of polyclinics, hospitals, prophylactic centers and specialized treatment. Social programs in health complement the guarantees offered by the Social Security System.

Social services such as the family care system, social assistance at home, the payment of the service of grandparents' homes and homes for the elderly, among others, enable a better development of the potentialities of the elderly as fundamental actors of society.

Adequacy

4. What steps have been taken to ensure the levels of social security and social protection payments are adequate for older persons to have access to an adequate standard of living, including adequate access to health care and social assistance?

Older people have the same access to equal conditions than the rest of the population through Social Assistance.

In Cuba, medical care is universal and free for all, so older people are also included. In addition, the social worker evaluates in determined period of time the family's economic situation of the pensioner in order to revalue their pension according to their needs.

Accessibility

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

The Ministry of Labor and Security has a Communication Strategy and communicative action plans through which it provides information about the rights that older people have and the services provided to them.

It also has a Population Service Office that processes complaints, approaches and consultations of the population.

6. The design and implementation of normative and political framework related to social security and social protection benefits included an effective and meaningful participation of older persons?

The normative and political framework related to the security and social protection of the elderly have been endorsed by participatory surveys, population censuses, civil and health records, studies and investigations of Cuban statistics systems, research centers and other specialized institutions in gerontological care. Based on this, specific databases are generated to establish different classifications that make it possible to

have greater precision for the projection and design of social programs and to make the care work for the elderly more effective.

Equality and non-discrimination

7. Which are the measures adopted to ensure equitable access by older persons to social security and social protection, paying special attention to groups in vulnerable situation?

Social assistance has services that have benefited families where older adults coexist, aimed at raising their quality of life, keeping them in their usual environment. Among them is the program of Social Attendees at Home and the Multidisciplinary Team of Gerontological Care, of the National Plan of Attention to the Elderly. Both focus on providing specialized care to the elderly, paying special attention to those in vulnerable situations.

These programs facilitate the personal care of the elderly and people with severe disabilities in conditions of vulnerability or who live alone and are dependent to perform daily activities.

Accountability

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

The Ministry of Labor and Social Security is responsible for proposing, directing and controlling the policy of the State and the Government, among others, in matters of social security and social assistance.

The National Institute of Social Security, attached to the Ministry of Labor and Security Social, guarantees the service to the beneficiary population of social security, ensures the correct planning, administration and control of social security expenses, of the material and human resources destined for that purpose, as well as administers the budget that annually the State intended for social security. For the development of its work, it has provincial and municipal subsidiaries.

9. 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?

Law No. 83, "Law of the General Prosecutor's Office of the Republic" establishes that the prosecutor attends to citizens' claims about alleged violations of their rights, acting in the face of infractions that violate constitutional rights and established guarantees.

They can also go to the offices of Attention to the population of the different territorial demarcations (municipal and provincial) of the affiliates of the National Institute of Social Security corresponding to their place of residence. It also happens with the social assistance offices distributed among the country.

ACNU'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE FOCUS AREAS OF THE X SESSION OF THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON AGEING:

Education, training, life-long learning and capacity-building

National Legal Framework

1. In your country how is the right to education, training, life-long learning and capacity building in older age guaranteed in legal and policy frameworks?

In Cuba, education is a right for all and for all life. Hence, population aged 60 and over has different levels of schooling. Among them, highlight 48.5% with primary and secondary basic level, 20.1% with medium level and 7.1% with university level (2012 Population Census) and the forecast marked tendency in the percentage increase with the university level.

This right is covered to the functions of the ministries and policies of the country, that guaranteed the right to education, training, life-long learning and capacity building in our old people.

Highlights, the University of Havana's Resolution No. 73 of the 2000, which founded the creation of the Chair of the Mayor Adult, which is considered as Cuban's university of the elderly.

Availability, Accessibility and Adaptability

2. What are the key issues and challenges faced by older persons in your country with regard to the enjoyment of all levels of quality education, training, life-long learning, and capacity building services?

The stigmas that still exist in society about the importance and potential to learn for the elderly is the main challenge to face. The image of old age prevails from the Geriatric point of view on Gerontology, particularly in the mass media and in the projects dedicated to the elderly.

The idea of old age is assumed in the social ideology as disease or invalidism. Therefore, there is not always the ideal understanding of the importance of education in older adults.

3. What steps have been taken to ensure that education, training, life-long 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?

Cuba has a National Program of Education directed to the elderly, known as University Chairs of the Elderly, which has an extensionist type and is attached to all the Higher Education Centers of the country. Said program constitutes the Cuban modality of the so-called third-age universities, but not as a university career, but as a cultural and scientific-technical improvement program, designed according to the diagnosis of their needs and interests.

It is totally free for students and it has more than 3000 professors and specialists from various institutions, who work voluntarily to support the entire faculty system. It does not require a previous school level and its enrollment comes from all sectors of society. Any older adult can go to one of their classrooms and register in their modules.

The country has the existence of 19 University Chairs of the Elderly in the province, 550 branches or municipal classrooms and more than 125,000 elderly people benefited in its basic course (Ministry of Higher Education 2018). Each of these institutions operates under its own Rectoral Resolution.

There are also other training alternatives with national coverage such as those that are linked to the Ministry of Culture in each locality with craft workshops and cultural promotion in traditions and heritage.

4. In your country are there studies and/or data available on the access of older persons to the right to education, training, life-long learning and capacity building in older age?

There is a lot of research on the access of older people to education. These studies have shown significant levels of improvement in the perception of quality of life and the cognitive, affective, motivational and social development of older adults who participate in national educational programs.

Regarding the statistical availability, the National Office of Statistics ONEI, is the institution in charge of the pillar of information in the country. It publishes annually the Statistical Yearbook of Cuba. It has an annual, public and accessible frequency through the national network, showing among its data those related to education indicators, disaggregated by age group and gender.

Equality and non-discrimination

5. In your country, is age one of the prohibited grounds for discrimination in relation to education in older age?

In Cuba, age does not constitute a factor of discrimination. Older people can enter university undergraduate and graduate education. In the case of the undergraduate, they do it in the blended modality called course by encounter which does not have any difference, except for the schedules, with the regular day course.

Accountability

6. 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?

In Cuba, education is a constitutional right and as such is given that treatment. It is not common for people to be denied this right. However, Law No. 83, "Law of the General Prosecutor's Office of the Republic" establishes that the prosecutor attends the claims of citizens on alleged violations of their rights, acting in the face of infractions that violate constitutional rights and established guarantees.

They can also address the National Directorate of the Chair of the Elderly, as well as the corresponding addresses of the educational entities of which they intend to enter and claim any problem that hinders the full enjoyment of their right to education, training or other.