

VIII Session of the OWG on Ageing
Paraguay's Inputs

1. Equality and Non-discrimination

Legislation

- In Paraguay, the rights of older persons are specifically recognized. In this sense, there are constitutional guarantees and specific standards of protection for older persons' rights in place.
- Article 57 of the National Constitution of the Republic of Paraguay states that older persons have the right to comprehensive protection and that families, society and state institutions must promote their wellbeing through the provision of social services that fulfils their needs regarding nourishment, health, housing, culture and leisure.
- Article 88 of the National Constitution specifically prohibits any kind of discrimination based on age, sex, ethnic origin, religion, social status or political position.
- In Paraguay, Law 1885 (2002) is intended to safeguard the rights and interests of older persons living in the country. The Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare, through the Division of Older Persons, is the institution in charge of its implementation.
- In this regard, the Ministry provides the following services:
 - Care homes for older persons, where comprehensive care attention is offered, including housing, nourishment, medical, social and psychological services, as well as leisure activities.
 - Community centers for older persons, as an alternative for day time care of people older than 60 years old.
 - Community food centers, where food is provided to older persons living in poverty.
- Law 1885 states that older persons have the right to be treated with dignity and that they must not be discriminated against in the exercise of public or private functions.
- It also states that older persons have the right to be afforded priority in health care, housing, nourishment, transportation, education, leisure and occupation.
- In addition, Law 1885 establishes that older persons enjoy the full exercise of their civil, commercial and labor rights on an equal footing.
- Since 2010, the Government of Paraguay is implementing the "National Plan of Public Policies for Older Persons" which aims to promote and protect the human rights of older persons and to support their social inclusion and participation in public life.
- The main social protection programme of the Government of Paraguay is called "Tekopora", which is a conditional cash transfer programme. It targets households in extreme poverty with pregnant women, widowed parents, elderly and or children up to 18 years old, as well as indigenous families.

- Additionally, since 2010, the Government is executing the “Program of Food Pensions for Older Persons”, which provides non-contributory cash transfers to individuals of 65 years old and up living in poverty.

2. Neglect, violence and abuse

- In Paraguay, the rights of those living in long-term care institutions are covered by specific standards, including older persons. The Ministry of Public Health and Social Wellbeing is the institution in charge of setting up those standards.
- The National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture is a state institution established in 2011, following the provisions of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. As part of its functions, it carries out visits to public and private care homes for older persons and other similar care institutions in order to verify the living conditions and the respect of the human rights of older persons who stay there.
- The most frequent violations and abuses committed against older persons in these types of institutions include the lack of: personal documentation; trained personnel to assist with the specific needs of older persons; appropriate food; adequate leisure programmes and community activities; acceptable accommodations; and sufficient medical attention.
