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Substantive inputs on the focus area of the 11th session of the General Assembly Open-ended Working Group for the development of a possible international standard on the protection of the rights of older people to “Education, Training, Life-long Learning and Capacity Building”.

Introduction- Education is the process of facilitating learning or the acquisition of knowledge, skills, values, beliefs, and habits. Educational methods include storytelling, discussion, teaching, training, and directed research.¹ Education gives us knowledge of the world around us and changes it into something better and develops in us a better perspective . It helps us build opinions and have points of view on things in life. The elderly should not be deprived of the opportunity to be educated on age ground. The purpose of education is to open up the mind of the elderly and prepare them to face the technological advancement of the 21st century.

Background- Adult education at higher age can play an important role in the preservation of autonomy and in the encouragement of social participation in ones later life. Hence, from both an individual and societal perspective, it is important to promote the educational activities of the elderly. Active elderly people with positive perceptions of self and ageing maintain their mental and physical fitness levels, participate in community associations and politics and engage in intergenerational dialogue

Challenges Regarding Education, Training, Life-long Learning and Capacity Building - As people age, they participate less and less in further education. This is due not only to individual learning habits but also to the lack of learning opportunities in different Nations. In Countries that are primarily comprised of people with low standards of living and low education and/or migration backgrounds, there is a lack of sufficient educational structures which hinders participation in adult education programs. Nigeria’s Minister of Education has expressed concern over the country’s high rate of illiteracy, saying some 60 million Nigerians or 30 percent of the population, cannot read or write. The Minister of Education, Adamu Adamu, said this on Thursday at the opening of the 2017 Nigeria’s Annual Education Conference held under the titled: ‘Achieving Inclusive Education through Innovative Strategies’. According to the minister, Nigeria will not achieve its development aspirations until it checks the high level of illiteracy. it is regrettable that in the 21st century over 30 percent of the population are illiterate, the elderly included.

Remedies and Accountability - New challenges, useful activities and well-being at an older age require individual activities and the utilization of personal creativity. In general, at an older age, issues of everyday life are met by potentials and competencies, which allow for an autonomous and socially participative life. These potentials can be developed and supported by local educational programmes. Unfortunately, many barriers impair educational access for the elderly including exterior barriers, such as suitable educational institutions and programmes for

¹ Wikipedia

the quality of life of the elderly people, strengthen their continual education, coordinate and implement permanent educational programs. The classes will focus on promoting activity discovering talents, developing hobbies, involvement in volunteering and working for the society. This programme will enhance their capacity, helps them to make new friends which will counteract loneliness and exclusion and help them to develop intellectually and comprehensively. Adult education makes the elderly self sufficient and provide wisdom and ability to cope with age related limitations and control over their own lives. They preserves and even develop cognitive skills and adaptive abilities which enables the elderly to exercise their mind and memory and provides orientation in the changing social reality and become an opportunity to initiate and sustain social contacts. These educational activities will foster self recognition, self acceptance and maintain positive thinking that will improve the quality of their life which in turn will prevents social marginalization of the elderly. Above all, it will help and enhance their ability to adapt to the requirement of everyday life and the everyday social problems.

Conclusion - Therefore, it is important to support the potential of older people to lead active and participatory lives through education and to recognize the benefits of their knowledge, experience, and competencies. Education not only creates prerequisites for participation in different fields of social life; it is also the first step toward an active process of ageing. Therefore, we are in support of research focusing on the equality or inequality of opportunities for older people to participate in adult education that also takes into account regional and individual differences. Older people must be given more chances to learn if they are to contribute to society rather than be a financial burden, learning needs to continue throughout life.