



United Nations General Assembly Open-ended Working Group for the purpose of strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons

Eleventh working session

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**Guiding Questions for Defining the Normative Content of the Issues Examined at the Tenth Working Session of the Open-ended Working Group:
Education, Training, Life-long Learning and Capacity-building**

Definition

1. What are the definitions of the rights of older persons to education, training, life-long learning and capacity-building in the national legislation in your country? Or how should such a right be defined, considering existing national, regional and international legal framework?

Education in Kyrgyzstan is based on the principles set out in international treaties and covenants, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the principles of democracy, the humanist values of the people and world culture. In Kyrgyzstan, the right to education is guaranteed by the Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic "On Education" and other legal acts.

There is no specific provisions of the right to education in old age in the country - the state invests efforts in education only during the first 20 years of human life.

Scope of the right

2. What are the key normative elements of the rights of older persons to education, training, life-long learning and capacity-building, including such elements as availability, accessibility, acceptability and adaptability? Please provide references to existing standards where applicable.

The mechanisms concerning the right to education and vocational training exist for all citizens regardless of age.

Kyrgyzstan is a party to the following major international instruments:

- Hamburg Declaration on Adult Learning, adopted at the V International Conference on Adult Education (Hamburg, July 1997).

- Resolutions of the Sofia Conference on Adult Education (Sofia, Bulgaria, November 2002) indicated that government should make education a visible for all ages and make it part of its policies and practices in the field of lifelong learning.

- Agreements on Cooperation in the Field of Knowledge Dissemination and Adult Education of the CIS Member States.

- Decision "On the development of the adult education system and educational activities in the CIS member states" adopted at the VIII Conference of Ministers of Education of the CIS member states (May 12-13, 2003, Moscow, Russia)

- Concept for the Development of Adult Education in the CIS Member States, approved by the Council of Heads of Government of the CIS on 25 May 2006

- Plan of action for the implementation of the Concept for the Development of Adult Education in the CIS Member States of 22 May 2009.

Law of the Kyrgyz Republic "On Education" introduced in 2003 the concept and the corresponding article № 24 on additional adult education.

State obligations

3. What are the measures that should be undertaken by the State to respect, protect and fulfill the rights of older persons to education, training, life-long learning and capacity-building, regarding the normative elements as provided above?

For the further reform it is necessary to consider the employment situation, education and pension system. The reforms should be implemented gradually in order to ensure the financial sustainability of the system, relieve the burden on official enterprises and avoiding any risks related to the financial situation of the pensioners. In this regard, it is necessary to form a comprehensive and interconnected transformation of all components of the pension system. There is a need to improve pensions by eliminating administrative costs associated with the system of distribution of pensions and compensations.

The key issue is to build cooperation and expand training opportunities for the elderly at the state level, expanding the opportunities for cooperation.¹

Special considerations

4. What special measures and specific considerations should be considered in developing the normative content of the rights of older persons to education, training, life-long learning and capacity-building?

Training and education of older persons contributes to personal and professional development, promote greater interaction among older persons within their societies, communities and immediate surroundings. It promotes sustained and inclusive economic growth, therefore it represents an essential tool for reducing poverty, improving health and well-being and promoting sustainable education system.

Information and communication technologies have great potential to improve older persons' access to a wide range of learning opportunities and to promote equity and inclusion. They include variety of innovative opportunities for lifelong learning, reducing dependency on traditional formal education structures and allow individual learning methods.

5. How should the responsibilities of non-State parties such as private sector be defined in the context of the rights of older persons to education, training, life-long learning and capacity-building?

The private sector should respect the right to education. It is in its interest to take an active approach to the development of its employees at all ages. Elder employees with many years of experience should be given the opportunity to improve their skills, because finally they represent positive investment for a company with potentially higher performance, regarding their advantage in experience in the field, compared to younger employees.

Implementation

6. What are the best practices and main challenges faced by your country in the adoption and implementation of the normative framework on education, training, life-long learning and capacity-building for older persons?

In the Kyrgyz Republic NGO Adra_Kyrgyzstan organises the "University of the Third Age" . The university includes 10 faculties that train 300 elderly citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic. Also, the Kyrgyz Association for Adult Education (13 organizations in Bishkek and the regions of the country) actively participate on education of older persons.

¹ Program of the reform "Belchu Bolshu bilim. From Kaltyrich or Im" Kadam

