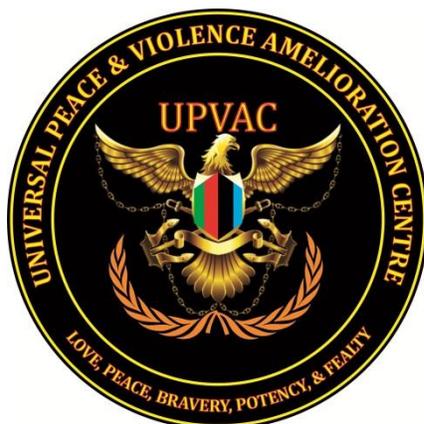


Submission by:

UNIVERSAL PEACE AND VIOLENCE AMELIORATION CENTRE
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NORMATIVE CONTENT:

**“SOCIAL PROTECTION AND SOCIAL SECURITY
(INCLUDING SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOORS)”**

**THE CHAIR OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY OPEN-ENDED
WORKING GROUP FOR THE PURPOSE OF STRENGTHENING THE PROTECTION
OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS**

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Preamble/Definition

Social protection consists of policies and programs designed to reduce poverty and vulnerability by promoting efficient labour markets, diminishing people's exposure to risks, and enhancing their capacity to manage economic and social risks, such as unemployment, exclusion, sickness, disability and old age. Social protection systems that are well-designed and implemented can powerfully shape countries, enhance human capital and productivity, reduce inequalities, build resilience and end inter-generational cycle of poverty. They empower people to be healthy, pursue their education, and seek opportunity to lift themselves and their families out of poverty. Social protection systems also protect the ageing population.

Social security is a government system that provides monetary assistance to people with an inadequate or no income. Social protection and social security is asserted in (visit articles for further reading):

Article 22 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) 1948,

Article 9 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966,

Article 11 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, 1979,

Article 28 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2006

Scope of the Right

Older persons have the right to social security and social protection without discrimination, so they can live with dignity and fully participate in society. This will also promote inclusiveness and active aging among older persons.

Rights for older persons further involve the right to:

- i. ensuring an adequate standard of living, income security, access to health care, medication and assistive devices, and access to care and support services for autonomous and independent living in older age,
- ii. appropriate and acceptable preferences for their needs,
- iii. information on all aspects of schemes, including eligibility and qualification,
- iv. unconditional, autonomous use of income from schemes,
- v. participate in contributory or non-contributory pension schemes,
- vi. participate in the design and administration of the social security system.

State Obligations

State parties shall take effective measures to respect, protect and fulfill the rights of older persons. They shall ensure social protection and social security:

- i. schemes are universally available and in place to tackle the relevant risks and contingencies older persons face
- ii. access to information on all aspects of schemes, including eligibility and qualification
- iii. access to support in application processes for social protection and social security measures without delay, including older persons without identity documentation
- iv. delivery mechanisms and measures are adapted so they are accessible and affordable for all older persons without discrimination
- v. appeal and access to effective complaint mechanisms to seek redress for practices that deny older people's right

Special Considerations

Special considerations should be for older persons in areas of:

- Contributory Pension Scheme should be encouraged and practiced at all levels.
- Provision of monetary assistance to people with an inadequate or no income.
- Welfare or Social Safety Net Policy should be encouraged in all States.
- Government needs policies that will incorporate the elderly and ensure that they will feel valued and connected in their old age

Responsibilities of non-State parties should be that of corporate social responsibility. Private sectors should collaborate with government or communities to ensure social protection and social security for older persons at all levels.

Implementation

Best Practices in Nigeria:

In Nigeria, social protection strategy and social security strategy have been drafted by the National Planning Commission (NPC), and the National Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF).

Challenges

Nigeria spends a relatively low proportion of its budget on the social sectors, with education and health accounting for only 12% and 7% of expenditure, respectively (Hagen-Zanker and Tavakoli, 2011). Even within the social sectors, as in other key sectors such as the economic and agriculture sectors, there has been limited prioritization of the poor.

Despite the drafting of social security strategy by the NPC and NSITF, neither strategy has generated sufficient political traction to progress past the draft stage, despite a chapter committed to social protection in Nigeria's most recent national policy implementation plan, the Vision 20: 2020.

Ensuring Social Protection Floor

Nigeria does not have an articulated and comprehensive national social protection system, and does not have appropriate institutional mechanisms to provide support to the poor and vulnerable. For example, the existing Pension System, which provides a degree of social protection, but does not capture the majority of the workforce including the self-employed in the informal sector.

In Nigeria, the agencies rendering social protection services include the National Pension Commission, saddled with the responsibility of ensuring effective management of pensions; the National Health Insurance Scheme, which renders health-related services and the Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund which administers the Employees Compensation Scheme. These programs have limited coverage thereby creating wide social protection gaps in Nigeria. Among these are students' protection, aged, maternity, family support and unemployment benefits. (Source: National Employment Policy- Nigeria).