



Input to the forward-looking substantive discussion on “the Right to Work and Access to the Labour Market” and “The Access to Justice” in the context of the protection of the human rights of older persons, for the XI. Session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing in April 2020

1. UNOPS is a United Nations resource for services and solutions across peace and security, humanitarian, and development efforts. Its mission is to help people build better lives and countries achieve peace and sustainable development. While UNOPS can expand capacity towards achievement of all the sustainable development goals, the focus is based on partners’ demand and the needs of people and countries.
2. In relation to its implementation activities, UNOPS supports the **protection of the human rights of older persons through two main avenues:**
 - a. The first avenue is through projects implemented by the organization on behalf of its partners which explicitly target the themes of older persons’ access to the labour market and access to justice.
 - b. The second avenue is broader and includes all projects that UNOPS implements, as the organization aims to embed sustainable implementation approaches across the three mutually reinforcing dimensions of sustainability: equitable economic growth, social justice and inclusion, and environmental respect.
3. The focus on social justice and inclusion, this includes exercising due diligence, respect for human rights and rights-based approaches, and ensuring equitable access to project benefits, with particular emphasis on protecting and promoting the needs of the most vulnerable, including older persons.
4. **Inclusive Infrastructure** is a key area of activity for UNOPS. It underpins sustainable development, as people depend on it for access to food, water, and healthcare, but also for access to their livelihoods and judicial services.
5. Inclusive infrastructure means that it is responsive to all end-users’ needs – including older persons – when it is planned, designed, constructed, and managed to ensure that the services that it provides are accessible to everyone. To ensure this, **inclusive stakeholder engagement** at each phase of the infrastructure lifecycle is key, and one of the most fundamental actions we can take. It should include sharing information with interested actors, understanding their expectations and needs through end-user needs assessments, and receiving feedback on the results of a project.
6. The **end-user needs assessment** at the beginning of a project is very useful for providing deeper insight on specific requirements of those who will be using the infrastructure, including identified vulnerable groups such as older persons. These needs can then be effectively addressed through the implementation of an action plan and incorporation into the design of the infrastructure to ensure that all may access its services and therefore access their livelihoods and judicial services.
7. UNOPS stands **ready to collaborate further** for the purpose of developing concrete guidance and standards for infrastructure that is inclusive and serves the protection of the human rights of older persons.