



# The Uganda Reach The Aged Association

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## Submission on Social Protection and Social Security ( including Social Protection Floors) to the UN Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing by Uganda Reach the Aged Association

### 1. Definition

The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda under the National Objectives and Directive Principles of state policy stipulates as follows:

Objective VII "The state shall make reasonable provision for the welfare and maintenance of the aged" Chapter four of the constitution provides for the protection and promotion of fundamental human rights and freedoms. In particular the constitution joins the state to take affirmative action in favor of marginalized groups. The constitution further provides that a public offices shall upon retirement receive such a pension as is commensurate with his or her rank, salary and length of service.

There are specific laws that provide for various aspects of social protection and they include the Pensions Act (Cap. 286.). The National Social Security Fund (Cap222) among others. At Regional level Articles 7, 8,9,10 and 11 of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa emphasize the right to social protection of older persons.

### 2. Scope of the right

Older persons have a right to social protection and social security without discrimination based on age or any other ground so that they can live with dignity and fully participate in society. In this regard, chapter four of the Uganda constitution, the National Council for Older Persons Act, the Equal Opportunities Commission act and the National Policy for Older Persons provide for the right to social protection and social security.

#### a) Availability of Contributory and non-contributory scheme for older persons.

In Uganda, the following legislation and policies provide for contributory and non-contributory schemes. These include the National Social Security Fund Act, The pensions Act, The National Policy for Older Persons, The National Social Protection Policy and the Equal Opportunities Act.

#### b) Adequacy of benefits to guarantee older persons access to an adequate standard of living and access to health care

Older persons have a right to social protection and social security measures that are of a high value, quantity and quality and for a full period of life for adequate standard of living. The National Social Security Fund Act, The Pensions Act and the Social Assistance grants extended to older persons' in Uganda provide for the promotion and protection of older persons rights

**Vision:** A dignified self-fulfilled poverty-free ageing Uganda

**Mission:** To champion the realization and preservation of a dignified quality of life



- c) Accessibility including older Persons coverage by Social Security Systems, eligibility criteria and affordability of contributions. The existing standards in Uganda is the National Social Protection Policy, The Pensions Act and the National Social Security Fund Act.
- d) Equitable access by older persons to the enjoyment of the right to social security and social protection paying special attention to groups in vulnerable situation. The existing standards include the Pensions Act, the National Social Security Fund and the Uganda Retirement Benefits Regulatory Authority
- e) Participation of older persons in the design and administration of social security system. The existing standards in this regard include the National Social Security Fund, The Uganda Retirement Benefits Regulatory authority and the National Policy for Older Persons.

### 3. State Obligations

States parties shall take effective and appropriate measures to;

- i) Ensure social security and social protection schemes are universally available.
- ii) Ensure that older persons have access to information on all aspects of existing social security and social protection schemes including eligibility and qualifications
- iii) Ensure delivery mechanisms for social security and social protection measures are adopted so that they are accessible and affordable for all older persons.
- iv) Ensure older persons have access to support in application processes for social security and social protection measures without delay, including older persons without identity documentation.
- v) Ensure that older persons have access to effective compliant and appeal mechanisms to seek redress for practices that deny their right to social security and social protection

### 4. Special considerations measures

- i) Processes and procedures of accessing pension's should be decentralized
- ii) Legislative measures should be taken to enable individuals to prepare for income security in old age
- iii) Legislative measures that facilitate the rights of older persons to access services from state service providers should be taken
- iv) States should promote the principle of participation of older persons in all matters that affect their live.

5. Public Private Partnerships ( PPP) should be promoted as the private sector complements government efforts in the promotion and protection of the rights of older persons

### 6. Implementation



- i) The best practices include involvement of older persons in social protection and social security schemes to ensure that their rights are always upheld
- ii) To develop tailor made social protection and social security programs as older persons face different risks in various regions in the country
- iii) The main challenge is negative ageist stereotypes and prejudices about older person's ability to participate in matters that affect their lives
- iv) Inadequate funding to programs that promote the rights of older persons
- v) Lack of trained personnel in gerontology

Yours Sincerely

  
Frederick Ouma Bwire  
Chief Executive Officer



